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GREENKEEPER

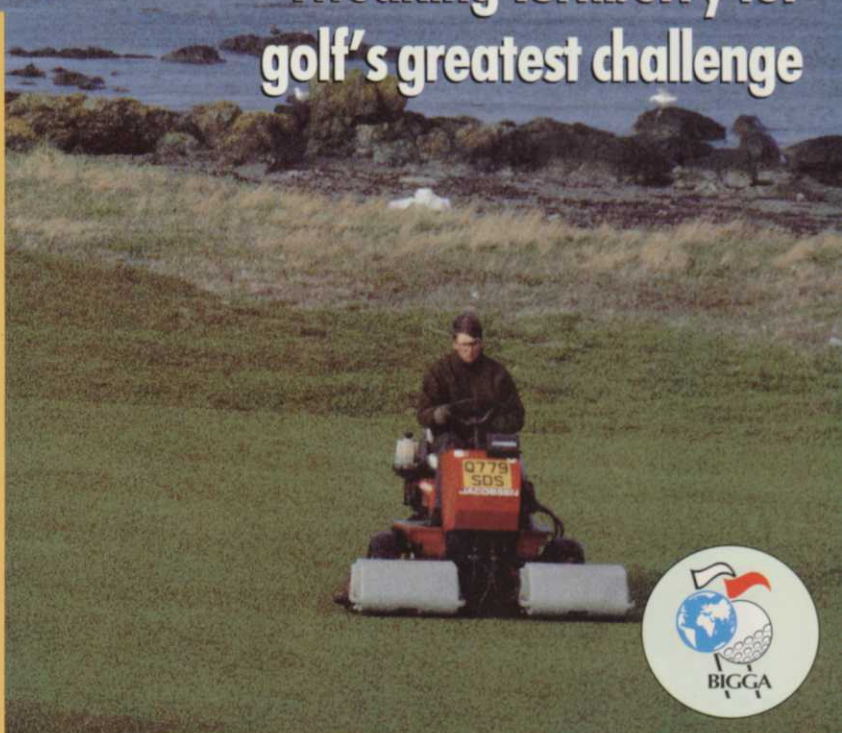
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Neil Kinnock with BIGGA's Bill Lynch at an awards ceremony where Greenkeeper International picked up a coveted prize – see inside!



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Contact us at Aldwark Manor,
Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF

EDITOR

Chris Boiling

Tel: 0347 838581 • Fax: 0347 838864

DESIGN/PRODUCTION EDITOR

Tim Moat

Tel: 0904 610611 • Fax: 0904 643074

SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER

Bill Lynch
Tel/Fax: 091 413 7218

SENIOR ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

Carol Dutton

Tel: 0347 838581 • Fax: 0347 838864

SALES AND MARKETING ASSISTANT

Louise Lunn

Tel: 0347 838581 • Fax: 0347 838864

PRINTING

Hi-Tec Print, Unit 7, Universal Crescent,
North Anston Trading Estate,
North Anston, Sheffield S31 7NZ
Tel: 0909 568533 • Fax: 0909 568206

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GREENKEEPER International

JUNE 1994

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Education and training: the future

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John Crawford's end of term report

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Andrew Carnegie would have approved

The philanthropist's Highlands castle is now in the hands of the de Savary family – and the opening of Britain's first links course in 40 years is now only weeks away.....**Pages 31-37**

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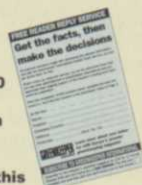
Cover

Turnberry, venue for this year's Open Championship, plus our man Lynch and a special VIP...

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BIGGA's training programmes forge ahead

As I write, our new Education Officer, Ken Richardson, is settling in, making contacts and hopefully beginning to see the wood from the trees in terms of greenkeeper education and training. I am sure that with his training background he will have much to contribute to both our own training programmes and to the development of education generally within the profession. Indeed much is happening on the education front. You will read elsewhere in the pages of this issue of the re-structuring of our annual management courses. This is an exciting development providing members with the opportunity whilst pursuing a course at Aldwark Manor to move towards a nationally recognised qualification. As part of our review this year we will be looking at the Master Greenkeeper Certificate to see if any amendments are necessary to the certification scheme after four years of operation. The status of the certificate continues to be enhanced and I remain impressed by the determination of members to obtain the certificate. As in any examination procedure there are referrals but a referral only seems to reinforce the determination of a member to reach his goal and this surely augurs well for his and the profession's future. Recent comment indicates that those referred are not clearly advised on aspects where they need to show improvement. Ken Richardson is aware of this criticism which will be rectified in future. There will be very real benefits in the years ahead for those recognised as Master Greenkeepers as indeed there will be for their profession and Association.

We will be looking to link the Management Courses with the Training Manual and to examine the feasibility of doing likewise with the Master Greenkeeper Certificate thereby demonstrating a coherent and logical approach to greenkeeper education in broad terms.

Training initiative

In discussion with the GTC we have agreed on the need for a local training initiative and greenkeepers will thereby be presented with a choice of educational pro-



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

vision. Whilst the detail remains to be finalised this local training is likely to be both college or centre based and incorporate a travelling roadshow. There is much administrative work to be undertaken and there will need to be substantial financial provision by the GTC. However I am optimistic that this initiative will commence in September 1995.

Field Guide

Members will have recently received an on course field guide for the major diseases and pests of fine turf which can be incorporated within their Training Manuals. This is yet another development emanating from the Education and Development Fund and offering practical benefits to greenkeepers. This fund is now in its third year, is firmly established and a vital source in terms of financing future educational projects. Continued support of the fund at all levels is extremely important.

This year will see two further training videos produced. The first will be made commercially with BIGGA backing and advice and will feature mowing tech-

niques. The second will be independently produced and financed by the Education and Development Fund and will feature golf course preparation. Our new library at Headquarters will become accessible for these and future training videos as well as books and will represent a valuable training medium.

Ecology debate

Discussions are ongoing with regard to the production of a practical guide to the ecological management of the golf course and a decision will shortly be taken on the direction in which this will proceed. Again financing will be provided through the Education and Development Fund. Ecological management is very much a current topic and concern and as an Association we must be at the forefront in leading the debate on behalf of the profession.

Needs analysis

There is concern at the lack of knowledge at Headquarters of educational developments at Region and Section level and here I see a key role in future for the regionally based Education Conveners. Our Education Officer will be seeking an early meeting with the Conveners essentially to carry out a 'needs analysis' exercise. There must be better coordination in future and indeed common standards and structured programmes implemented at Region and Section level. Any observations or comments you have will be welcomed by Ken Richardson who will seek to canvass a broad spectrum of opinion on the way ahead.

Conference venue

There has been much debate in recent months on the future timing and location of our National Education Conference. The recent conference at the University of Warwick more than maintained the standards of previous conferences and the enthusiasm of delegates continues to be most marked. Over the last year or so your Board of Management members have been made aware of pressures from within the membership to hold the Conference during the BTME in Harrogate.

I am equally aware of the views of many regular conference attendees who would prefer the conference to continue to be held separately in a university location. Having given in depth consideration to this matter your Education Sub-Committee has recommended that the 1995 Conference be held during the BTME replacing the Workshop programme over the Monday and Tuesday. This will be on a trial basis for 1995 and the situation will be reviewed thereafter. The Conference will be held in the Majestic Hotel adjacent to the Exhibition Halls and this hotel will now become the official Headquarters hotel for the BTME. Additionally we will of course be running the usual Seminar Programme during the Exhibition and here the format will remain unchanged. We are currently planning an exciting speaker programme over the five days and volunteers to present a paper at either the Conference or Seminar Programme will be given every consideration – but please hurry up and let us have your name. Look out for early news of BTME '95 in the BTME Newsline which will be closely followed in September by a new-look programme and booking form.

So there we have it – much is happening in greenkeeper education and with the review underway future initiatives are already being discussed. Members can rest assured that, in accordance with our founding objectives back in 1987, the development of greenkeeper education and training will continue to be our first and foremost consideration.

BIGGA Staff Profile SAMANTHA COLLINS (Sami) Clerk/typist

Maybe it's because she went to school in Colorado for a year, or maybe it's just because she likes American rock music, but Samantha Collins (or Sami as she prefers to be known) is a big fan of the US of A.

When she's not handling the subscriptions database for Greenkeeper International, answering the telephone or involved in secretarial duties, you'll find Sami in a pair of Levis dancing to "Sweet home Alabama" in her favourite bar. Sami's also a computer whiz and before joining BIGGA worked for several computer companies. "Have a positive attitude – it makes life worth living," she says, philosophically.



Greenkeeper dies in mower accident

A part-time greenkeeper has died in a horrific accident involving a mower.

It is believed that 60 year old Ronnie Mitchell's anorak drawstring became entangled in the ride-on mower's driveshaft, dragging him into the machine. Although the blades missed him, his head and chest were crushed in the narrow gap between the blade arms and the wheels.

The engine was still running when a colleague at the Bradley Hall Golf Club, Greetland, near Halifax, found him.

A single man, Mr Mitchell had been the head greenkeeper there for 30 years until he retired two years ago.

NEWS

Taking over



David Halford, a senior lecturer at Myerscough College near Preston, has taken over the late John

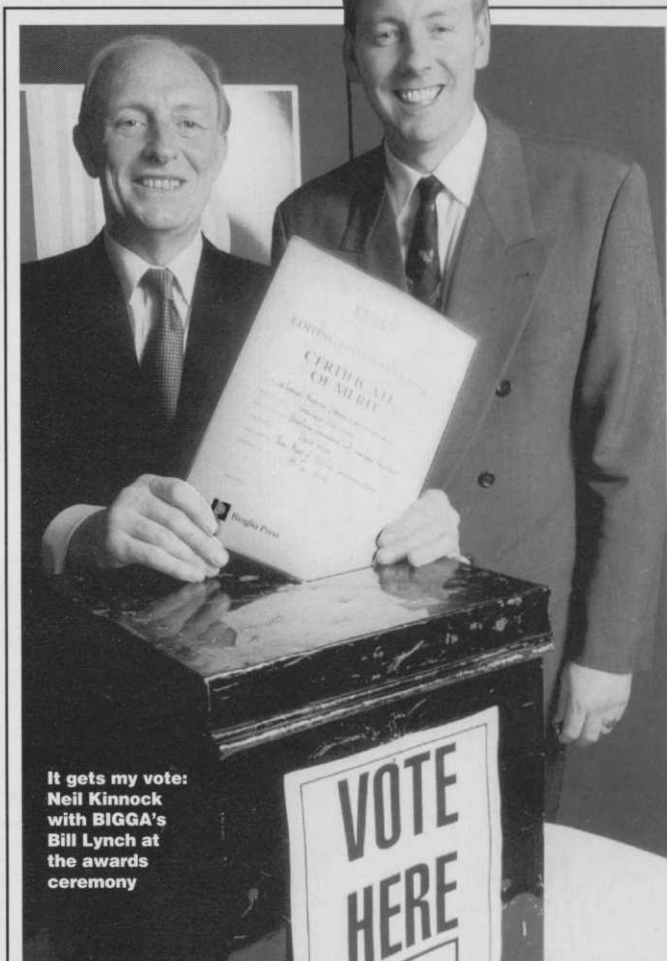
Shildrick's job as secretary of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association. David says it will be a hard act to follow: "John was, to all intents and purposes, the heart of the Association. I will endeavour to maintain the standards he set but it will be difficult."

He will administer BTLIA affairs from an office at Myerscough which has its own golf course equipped with virtually every example of sprinklers used on UK golf courses.

Waste not...

Wessex Water is selling bags of dried human sewage to golf courses as fertiliser. The odourless pellets are made from sludge that used to be pumped into the Bristol Channel. The company says that, unlike chemical fertilisers, it can be used quickly while the course is still in use and it does not make the grass grow too fast.

The East Sussex National Golf Club has started giving golfers information sheets which show pin positions and Stimpmeter readings before they tee off.



It gets my vote: Neil Kinnock with BIGGA's Bill Lynch at the awards ceremony

Highest praise for BIGGA magazine

Your magazine, Greenkeeper International, is "superb". We're not blowing our own trumpet, it's official. Judges in the prestigious Editing for Industry Awards, which are organised by the British Association of Industrial Editors, called it "a remarkable magazine", "which hits the mark spot on".

Competing against publications backed by mega-rich companies, Greenkeeper International won a Certificate of Merit alongside Esso's "Update". The winner was "Aspect" from British Gas.

At a presentation in Edinburgh, former Labour leader Neil Kinnock presented the certificate to BIGGA's sales and marketing manager Bill Lynch. Mr Kinnock commented that he had seen the magazine before at a golf course in his Welsh constituency – and was able to recall an article in it from three years ago!

The judges took our description of the magazine – "Self-supporting through its advertising content and recognised as an industry leader" – and added: "Therein lies the perfect appraisal of this remarkable magazine. Jam-packed with full colour ads and till-jangling small ad section providing a healthy platform for well-written, informative and genuinely interesting features that guarantee appeal even wider than the captive audience of greenkeepers. It is very difficult to fault such a superb magazine which hits the mark spot on in a specialist market."

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Muirfield's course manager, Chris Whittle, is heading back to his roots to take over the head greenkeeper's job at Royal Birkdale. Chris hails from nearby Formby and started his greenkeeping career at Formby GC in the early '70s after a spell in a bank. He is looking forward to returning to Merseyside after nearly six years at Muirfield.

Twelve-handicapper Chris, who has just turned 40, will take over when Tom O'Brien retires in October. He beat nearly 60 candidates to the job of keeping 18 new greens on the Open Championship course.

■ Work has started on a new 18-hole parkland course at Walton, near Wakefield. Waterton Park Golf Club, set in 200 acres, is designed by the Simon Gidman/Chapman Warren partnership with input from Yorkshire's international touring pro Gordon J Brand. It will open for play in September '95 with membership restricted to investors.


■ Barry Neville, a former Student Greenkeeper of the Year, has been appointed deputy head greenkeeper at Stanmore Golf Club, Middlesex. He was previously first assistant at Whitehall Golf Centre.

■ John Houston, 37, has left Royal Blackheath GC to take over the course manager's position at Fulwell Golf Club, Hampton Hill, Middlesex. He takes over from the late Hugh MacGillivray.

■ Work on a full nine-hole, double tee course has started at Rustington Golf Centre, near Littlehampton, West Sussex. The centre, which is close to Ham Manor, already has a nine-hole par 3 course and a 30-bay driving range. Four greenkeepers will look after the site. Head man is 24-year-old Stephen Payne.

■ Bill Sibley has taken over as Sisis Equipment's area representative for Kent, Sussex and Surrey. He is married with a son of three and newborn twin boys.





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NEWS

Pocket-size guide to pests and diseases is launched

A new all-colour pocket-sized guide to help greenkeepers identify major diseases and pests of fine turf is now available from BIGGA. And thanks to the Association's Education and Development

Fund, which is supported by members of the Golden and Silver Key Circles, it's free.

The guide is designed to be used out on the course in all weathers with each sheet plastic coated. Alternatively it can be incorporated within the GTC trainign manual. Diseases covered include fusarium patch, anthracnose, take-all patch, fairy rings, thatch fungi, red thread, seedling diseases, and insect pests.

Future guides in the series will cover dry patch and disorders, turfgrass weeds and grass identification.

The first guide was prepared by a BIGGA working group comprising Geoff Yelland of Rigby Taylor Ltd, Gordon Irvine of Mill Ride Golf Club, Mike Drinkall of DowElanco Ltd and Neil Baldwin of Service Chemicals plc.

Cameron's story

A computer glitch meant that the final paragraphs of our Stockley Park feature last month were missing. Here's a recap of course manager Cameron McMillan's story, including the missing lines, with our apologies.

Then, last June, when Stockley Park opened, the father-to-be moved round the M25 – and was impressed with what he found: the flat landfill site had been turned into a pretty country park with some of the newly-made hills giving excellent views of the City in one direction, Windsor Castle in another and Concorde taking off in another.

Director of golf Peter Oosterhuis, 46, joined Stockley Park in the winter. The site has a lot of potential and he believes he could see 45,000 rounds a year being played there in a few years. But he's unlikely to see any of his customers from the Riviera Country Club. These included Dean Martin, James Garner and Columbo star Peter Falk, whom he once had to tell to play quicker.



A touch of Florida in Sussex

A 'Florida style' course has opened in Sussex. The Cathedral course at the new Chichester Golf Centre, Hunston, boasts huge rolling greens, big expanses of water, winding streams, trees and enormous bunkers. There are long holes like the 605-yard 5th and spectacular holes like the par 3 15th with a bank of Portland stone behind the green and a small lake in front.

Consultant Jack McMillan MBE, pictured centre, and owner Brian Langmead, far right, joined the greenkeeping team at the opening for this photograph.

Award-winning Bridie's 'brilliant' time in America

Bridie Redican, the first woman greenkeeper to carry off the coveted Toro-PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, has returned to Ireland after her sponsored trip to the USA. And she has joined the newly-formed greenkeeping team at the Adare Golf Club, a new Robert Trent Jones 18-hole design being constructed close to Shannon Airport on the south-west coast.

Recalling her recent experiences in America, Bridie, pictured right, says she was "knocked for six" at the size of US greenkeeping budgets – and greenkeeper's salaries. They're about double what they are here.

Describing her six weeks turf management course studies at the University of Massachusetts as "brilliant", Bridie teamed up with the only other female (an American) attending the residential course "to reduce the odds. There were two of us (women) and over 60 male greenkeepers!"

After completing her studies, Bridie visited the Toro Mower Division's complex at snowbound Minneapolis, before flying to the Californian sunshine.

In addition to touring the Toro Irrigation Division's offices and production lines at Riverside, south of Los Angeles, Bridie spent a day looking over golf courses in Palm Springs.

"The Toro-PGA scholarship

really is the chance of a lifetime – I would urge any young greenkeepers to work hard at their college work to ensure that they are nominated for this year's (October) finals at Aldwark Manor," she said.

Organised by BIGGA, the Student Greenkeeper Award is sponsored by Lely (UK) Ltd, Toro mower distributors and the European office of Toro Irrigation – plus the PGA European Tour.



EUROPEAN OUTLOOK

Vigilance needed

Golf has been lumped in with other sports as the Committee for European Normalization tries standardising natural sports surfaces. Of course this is crazy, but fortunately deliberations are going at the sort of pace that would make the slowest golfer look like Harry Weetman.

'Our' man there, Eric Shiel of the Joint Golf Course Committee, says: "A lot of time has been taken up trying to get agreement among different nations on 'standards for test methods', therefore there has been no direct impact on the game of golf so far. But watch must be kept upon these non-golf boffins since, for example, when deciding a test method for 'ball roll' I had to tell them that the Stimp meter had been used in golf for over 40 years, something they knew nothing about. Otherwise they would have invented something else to be used for all sports."

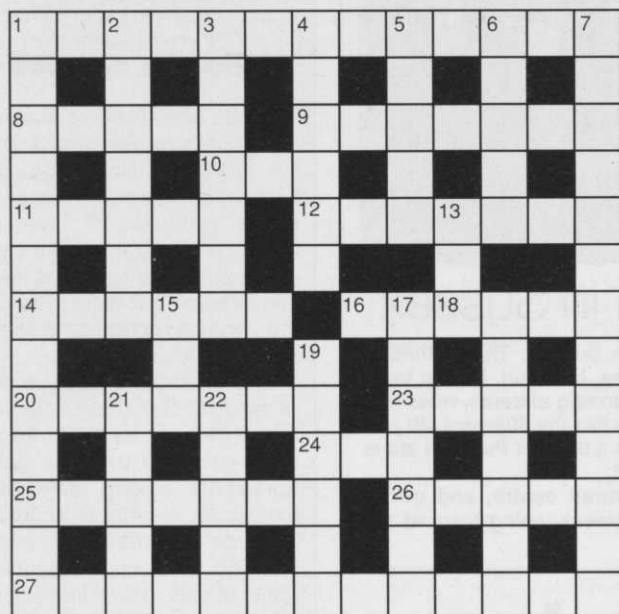
In addition to ball roll, imminent standard test methods being developed which will impact on golf include: organic matter, particle size, determination of thatch depth, sward height and ground cover, saturated hydraulic conductivity, water infiltration rates and angled ball behaviour. Thankfully it was decided that golf did not need a test method for a vertical ball bounce, so at least that was eliminated.

■ The European Golf Association Ecology Unit management committee, which met for the first time recently in Brussels, is putting together a document detailing the positive environmental attributes of golf courses. The director, David Stubbs of Environmental Golf Services, says it will be for distribution to the golfing community and will serve to counter opposing claims about the environmental impact of the game. A long-term scientific study is also to be undertaken comparing the impact of golf courses before and after construction and/or reconstruction.

The EGAEU is funded by the R&A, the PGA European Tour and the European Golf Association.

GREENKEEPER'S CROSSWORD

Compiled by Mark G Smith, assistant at Frilford Heath GC



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1GC, Oxfordshire, 1987 English Amateur Championship venue, set to become 54 holes in July 1994 (8,5)
- 8 Red figures on a scoreboard, indicate what of a player in relation to par (5)
- 9 Regulate staff or a machine (7)
- 10 Ping 2, a range of clubs made by Karsten Engineering (3)
- 11 (L..... Baccata) the Yew tree (5)
- 12 Lily (L. Lilium Candidum) (7)
- 14 The USA's opponents in the Ryder Cup (6)
- 16 To defeat heavily, particularly in Match Play (6)
- 20 Collective name for the users of a Golf Course (7)
- 23 Formulations of different genera and/or cultivars of grass (5)
- 24 plant (L. Mesembryanthemum Crystallinum) (3)
- 25 Surname of the 1984 USPGA Champion (7)
- 26 Mediate, USPGA Tour Professional (5)
- 27 Core surrounded by a solenoid which operates sprinkler valves when current is passed (13)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Usual destination after the thirteenth green (10,3)
- 2 Alphabetic filing aid (7)
- 3 Starts a machine (5-2)
- 4 Me care cuts up a type of grass inflorescence (anagram) (6)
- 5 Keenly sharpened edge or skill (5)
- 6 Surname of the 1973 US Masters Champion (5)
- 7 The name of the 5th hole on the Old Course, St Andrews (4,6,3)
- 13 Unit of electrical resistance (3)
- 15 Commencement of a round (3)
- 17 Plants known as 'Thrift' or 'Sea Pinks' of which (L. Alpina) is one variety (7)
- 18 Nationality of 25 Across (7)
- 19 Country Club, Columbus, Ohio venue of the 1950 USPGA Championship (6)
- 21 Quench hot metal in oil (5)
- 22 Court danger by playing close to bunker (5)

★ Solve the crossword puzzle and you could win either a BIGGA blazer (worth £87.95) or £50 in cash! Send completed entries to: Crossword Competition, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NE

Closing date June 24, 1994. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win the prize. Photocopy your entry if you don't want to cut up your magazine.

These are the answers to last month's crossword.

The winner will be announced next month.

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Education and training: the future



BIGGA's new education officer Ken Richardson examines the impact of NVQs and SNVQs on greenkeeper training and introduces the agenda for this autumn's management courses

BIGGA has the education and training of greenkeepers as its first priority. This, the first of a series of articles, describes the structure of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs). Subsequent articles will describe the role that NVQs/SVQs are having and, will continue to have, on greenkeeper training.

Why NVQs/SVQs?

In an attempt to improve the skill levels of British workers and to improve the quality reputation of British manufactured goods, the Government instigated a review of vocational training in 1985. From this review it was apparent that major changes were required in vocational training and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) was formed to set up the framework for NVQs/SVQs.

What are NVQs/SVQs?

Traditional courses led to academic qualifications by testing candidates on what they knew and not what they could do. NVQs/SVQs measure what a person can do ie. candidates for an award must demonstrate their ability to perform certain work related tasks and have a command of the knowledge underpinning those tasks. There are five levels of NVQ/SVQ. These are:

- (a). **Level 1 (Craft)** Competence in a range of routine or predictable activities.
- (b). **Level 2 (Craft)** Competence in a significant range of work activities, some of which are complex or non-routine. Teamwork may often be a requirement.
- (c). **Level 3 (Supervisory)** Competence in a broad range of work most of which is of a complex or non routine nature. There may be considerable personal control and

guidance of others is often required.

(d). **Level 4 (Management)** Competence in a broad range of complex technical or professional activities with a substantial degree of personal responsibility, responsibility for the work of others and responsibility for the allocation of resources.

(e). **Level 5 (Management)** Competence involving the application of a significant range of fundamental principles and complex techniques. Very substantial personal autonomy and significant responsibility for others. Planning, design, diagnosis and evaluation are also required.

Each level of NVQ/SVQ is made up of a number of units which set out what the candidate must be able to do and to what standard. Standards are set by Industry Lead Bodies (ILBs). The ILB for greenkeeping is the Industry Lead Body for Amenity Horticulture. NVQs/SVQs are awarded by awarding bodies such as City & Guilds and SCOTVEC.

Accredited Prior Learning

Accredited prior learning (APL) provides routes for recognition of achievements from all types of learning which may be in the classroom, at the workplace or through experience. Evidence of prior learning, once accepted, can be used towards the award of an NVQ/SVQ. Therefore, experienced greenkeepers could gain NVQs/SVQs without the need to attend college.

Benefits of NVQ/SVQ

The introduction of NVQs/SVQs has already changed greenkeeper training. The key to NVQs/SVQs is that they benefit everyone concerned with greenkeeping: greenkeepers, employers and golfers. Having a better trained workforce means better golf courses.

Supervisory & Management Courses



Following the introduction of the Greenkeepers Training Committee Training Manual, the format of this year's supervisory and management courses has been changed. The supervisory section of the Training Manual is designed to lead to the award of an NVQ/SVQ Level 3 in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) and/or the GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision.

The 1994 series of BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses has been designed to meet the underpinning knowledge requirements of Level 3 Units 1001 to 1013. BIGGA courses are open to all greenkeepers who need to improve their supervisory and management skills. The courses cover:

Week 1, Managing People Module 1

This week covers units 1005, 1006 and 1007 and deals with team building skills, interpersonal skills, time management and staff appraisal, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

Week 2, Managing People Module 2

This week covers units 1008, 1009, 1010 and 1011 and deals with assertive communication, influencing skills, grievance and discipline, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

Week 3, Managing Operations and Resources

This week covers units 1001, 1002, 1003 and 1004 and deals with planning and organising, communicating with others, dealing with accidents, maintaining a safe and healthy environment, suggesting improvements, solving problems and relating costs to employers' objectives and golfers' requirements, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

Week 4, Managing Information

This week covers units 1012 and 1013 and deals with collecting and recording information, giving advice, presenting information to others, communicating clearly, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

Weeks 1 and 2 will include outdoor practical exercises and delegates should bring suitable casual, outdoor clothing. Protective clothing will be provided.

The courses are not cumulative and delegates can choose to attend one or more weeks so that over 1-4 years all the underpinning knowledge requirements of Level 3 could be met. All course delegates and employers will receive an end of course

Management Courses Autumn/Winter 1994: TIMETABLES

Week 1 • October 24-28 1994

	9am - 12noon	1.30pm - 4.00pm	4.30pm - 7.00pm
Monday	Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch	Managing People - Module 1	Way forward for Greenkeeper Education
Tuesday	Managing People - Module 1	Managing People - Module 1	Managing People - Module 1
Wednesday	Managing People - Module 1	Managing People - Module 1	
Thursday	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping
Friday	Doing it my way James Kidd	Open Forum	Delegates depart after lunch

Week 2 • October 31-November 4 1994

	9am - 12noon	1.30pm - 4.00pm	4.30pm - 7.00pm
Monday	Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch	Managing People - Module 2	Way forward for Greenkeeper Education
Tuesday	Managing People - Module 2	Managing People - Module 2	Managing People - Module 2
Wednesday	Managing People - Module 2	Managing People - Module 2	
Thursday	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping
Friday	Doing it my way Walter Woods	Open Forum	Delegates depart after lunch

Week 3 • November 7-11 1994

	9am - 12noon	1.30pm - 4.00pm	4.30pm - 7.00pm
Monday	Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch	Managing Operations and Resources	Way forward for Greenkeeper Education
Tuesday	Managing Operations and Resources	Managing Operations and Resources	Managing Operations and Resources
Wednesday	Managing Operations and Resources	Managing Operations and Resources	
Thursday	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping
Friday	Doing it my way David MacIndoe	Open Forum	Delegates depart after lunch

Week 4 • November 14-18 1994

	9am - 12noon	1.30pm - 4.00pm	4.30pm - 7.00pm
Monday	Delegates arrive at BIGGA HQ for lunch	Managing Information	Way forward for Greenkeeper Education
Tuesday	Managing Information	Managing Information	Managing Information
Wednesday	Managing information	Managing Information	
Thursday	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping	Computers in Greenkeeping
Friday	Doing it my way Christopher Kennedy	Open Forum	Delegates depart after lunch

summary. This could be used to provide evidence for NVQ/SVQ assessors.

Attendance at each year's course qualifies for eight credits towards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

The cost per week, including accommodation, all meals and tuition fees is £420 + VAT for BIGGA members and £475 + VAT for non-members.

GTC GRANTS

As these supervisory and management courses are approved by the Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC), golf clubs with mature head greenkeepers who have never attended a college course, may be eligible to claim a grant of £150 per delegate per week from the GTC. Further details of the grant and an application form may be obtained from the GTC, Ald-

wark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO6 2NE Telephone 0347 838640.

■ To reserve your place, complete the postcard in this magazine and return it to BIGGA, together with a deposit of £100 + VAT (total £117.50). The balance will be due for payment no later than October 1, 1994. If a delegate cancels his booking prior to the course, he will be liable for the payment of the total cost unless the place can be filled by another delegate. In order to provide a high level of instructor/delegate interaction, each course is limited to 12 delegates - so book early.

If you have any queries or need more information, call Ken Richardson, BIGGA education officer, on 0347 838581.

Westurf '94



St Endoc's Steve Evans, right, winner of our Westurf wordsearch competition, receives his £50 voucher from BIGGA chairman John Millen

Michael Bird reports from Bristol on the best-yet Westurf event

More than 2,000 visitors gave April's Westurf exhibition at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol, the best ever attendance in the event's six year history.

Organised by the South West and South Wales region of BIGGA, this year's Westurf also attracted 73 exhibitors, the highest number since the event was established in 1989.

Region administrator, Gordon Child, commented that the increasing number of national and regional companies wishing to take stand space at Westurf reflected recognition of the quality of the attendance.

Apart from all golf clubs, event secretary Marion Child also invites sports clubs, local authorities and others involved in turf care throughout the area. "The formula appears to work," said Mr Child. "We now have a well established exhibition for the south west of the country which attracts excellent support from greenkeepers, groundstaff and others involved in the turf maintenance industry."

"Furthermore, all trade exhibitors appeared extremely satisfied with the day. And if they are pleased, we have to be pleased also."

All profits resulting from Westurf are used for the benefit of greenkeepers in BIGGA's South West and South Wales region. Areas in which money has been used in the past include helping with visits to the BTME at Harrogate and the organisation of seminars, workshops and other educational events for members.

The importance placed on Westurf by manufacturers and dealers means that a number of products receive their first public airing at the event.

The words and pictures below highlight some of the latest ideas and innovations aiming to attract the attention of machinery buyers at the exhibition:



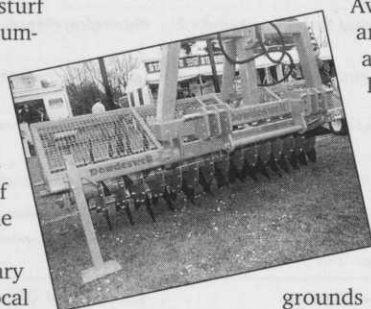
Designed for powered grooming and sweeping of turf and other firm, level surfaces, the Pro-Sweep from Pro-Seed

Equipment Ltd

has three independently-floating heads giving a maximum working width of 3.05m (10ft).

Suitable for both cosmetic and practical purposes, the polypropylene brushes require an oil supply of about 20 litres/min (4.5gal/min) taken from a tractor of 25hp or more. The brushes can be angled to provide a windrow-

ing action and have adjustable rear rollers for accurate setting of working height and brushing intensity. Transport width is 2.03m (6ft 8in) and price in the region of £2,500.



Available in 1.8m and 2.4m (6ft and 8ft) widths, DOWDESWELL Engineering's new Titan turf slit is suitable for use on fairways, approaches, practice

grounds and other

turf areas requiring regular aeration. Designed for tractors of 35hp or more, the Titan shown here is fitted with 200mm (8in) blades and hydraulic depth control. This uses a tractor linkage lock-out frame and a double-acting hydraulic ram to control depth and help penetration in tough conditions. A ballast version with weight tray is also available as are 254mm (10in) slitting blades and a rear full-width roller. Price from £1,895.



Latest attachment introduced for use with Toro's Workman 3000 turf vehicle is the Top Dresser 1800, distributed by Lely (UK) Ltd.

The imple-

ment has a capacity of 510

litres (18 cu ft) and a spread width of 1.5m (5ft), giving effective coverage across the vehicle's full wheelbase. Drive to the conveyor at the base of the hopper is hydraulic with chain and sprocket connection to the delivery brush. A remote hydraulic control enables the operator to engage or disengage drive instantly.

Price, including remote control, is £4,245.



New from Long-Equip is the RL F-M 1501 fully tractor-mounted flail/scarifier collector with 1,100 litre (39 cu

ft) capacity hopper.

Driven by the tractor's power take-off, the unit has a working width of 1.5m (5ft) and is suitable for tractors of 28hp upwards. It requires a single hydraulic flow to operate the hopper tipping mechanism.

Ideal for working in both open and awkward areas, the F-M 1501 can be fitted with scarifying, heavy-duty twisted or back-to-back flail blades in minutes, enabling cutting, scarifying and leaf collection to be carried out by one compact unit. Updraught is assisted by 18 wind paddles fitted to the heavy-duty rotor. Price is £4,495.



Replacing the Ransomes Motor 350 is the Commander 3500DX, a five unit, 3.5m (138in) cut machine designed for all-

round, high

output work on short

and longer grass areas according to the cutting units fitted.

The mower can be specified with Magna 250 (254mm diameter, six knives and rear roller) or Sport 200 cutting units (197mm diameter, eight or 11 knives, front and rear rollers).

Standard features include a 51hp four cylinder diesel engine, hydrostatic transmission with on-demand two or four wheel drive and articulating wing units. Workrate is 3.2 ha/hour (8 acres) at 7.5mph. Price, with eight knife Sport 200 cutting units, is £32,325.



The Jacobsen Workhorse System Vehicle's one tonne payload is said to be the best of any turf utility vehicle in its

class. A choice of 34hp

petrol or 23hp diesel engines can be specified, linked to a four speed transmission driving the rear axle through high and low ranges. The engine is front mounted and there is power steering, hydraulic PTO and quick-pitch coupling for a range of Jacobsen attachments including a tipping cargo box, top dresser, sprayers and a fertiliser spreader. Other manufacturer's implements such as aerators and a core harvester can also be accommodated. Price of the petrol model is £13,230.

Turfgrass Management

Books from  Lewis Publishers

Management of Turfgrass Diseases

2nd edition

Joseph M Vargas Jr, Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA

Written by a leading international lecturer on turfgrasses, the 2nd edition of *Management of Turfgrass Diseases* has been completely revised and updated, to include the latest information on maintaining a healthy turf and identifying turf diseases. Other topics include cool and warm season grasses, growing conditions and new diseases. With 72 colour photos and over 100 figures, this is an essential handbook for all greenkeepers and superintendents.

1994 • 336pp • Hb • ISBN 1 56670 046 9 • £52.50

Golf Course Management and Construction

Environmental Issues

James C Balogh, Spectrum Research Inc., Minnesota, USA; **William J Walker**, Walsh & Associates Inc., California, USA

This book is an excellent introduction to the concepts of 'non-point source' environmental impacts of turfgrass management. Technical and scientific research on the environmental effects of turfgrass maintenance is summarised. In addition to golf courses, there is also a discussion of turfgrass systems for residential and commercial lawns and parks.

1992 • 976pp • HB • ISBN 0 87371 742 2 • £61.00

Landscape Restoration Handbook

Donald Harker, The Earth Fund, Kentucky, USA, et al

Develop a natural landscaping programme for turf as an alternative to intensive management. This book explains how to obtain the following benefits from natural landscaping or ecological restoration:

- water quality improvement
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- chemicals reduction
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1993 • 640pp • Hb • ISBN 0 87371 952 2 • £65.50

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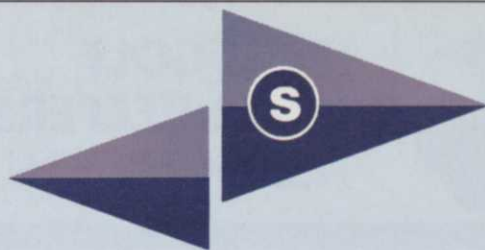
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IRISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

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Last November, nearly 800 people – greenkeepers, golf club committee members, course managers, course designers, county council and corporation parks superintendents, developers, sports groundmen, students, etc. – attended the first ever **Irish Turf Maintenance Exhibition.**

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John Crawford's year as chairman of BIGGA came to a close at the National Conference. He told Greenkeeper International what it's like being in the hot seat

End of term report



John Crawford has helped promote the status of greenkeepers through 33 years of membership with SGGA/SIGGA and BIGGA. During those years he has held numerous offices:

1981 – appointed to the Central Section committee
1983 – appointed chairman of the Central Section
1984 – appointed secretary of the central section
1989 – appointed to the board of management
1992 – appointed chairman of the Scottish Region
1993 – appointed chairman of BIGGA

Being chairman of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association was an honour which I did not set out to achieve, but one which I certainly took great pride in.

I see the chairman's role outside board of management meetings as one of being 'PR' or 'front man', attending the various events which are organised in conjunction with our trade sponsors and any section/region events to which he is invited.

It is my opinion that not enough of the sections/regions extend an invitation to the chairman to attend their events, while appreciating that someone who is working full-time would find it difficult to attend them all during his year in office, at least the invitation should be extended.

What were the highlights?

The highlights of my year were too numerous to mention but obviously being chairman during the most successful BTME so far, attending the numerous functions and events to which I was invited and the GCSAA show in Dallas, even though I was somewhat apprehensive about wearing a kilt for the first (and last?) time in my life, are all events of which I will have many fond memories.

What were the worst moments?

There were one or two low points during the year, which I would rather not go into, but hopefully they were not to the detriment of the Association.

What did you learn during your year?

I certainly learnt there are still too many different views amongst the members as to what the Association is about and what the board of management are attempting to achieve on their

behalf. This can be changed with the improved communication which is now taking place through Greenkeeper International and with members of the staff from HQ attending more section and region events.

How much time did it take being chairman?

If the past chairman told the incoming chairman how much time was required during his term of office he would probably resign on the spot! It is something you want to do for the Association and are willing to sacrifice your own time freely. I reckon it took between 60-70 days, not counting section and region events in Scotland.

Did it help being out of work?

Being unemployed for part of my year of office made it easier for me to attend more functions/events than I would have felt comfortable doing if I had still been in employment, but it certainly did nothing for my self-confidence.

How do you see BIGGA's future?

Although the Association is growing slowly, there are still too many greenkeepers who are not members, which is disappointing as the benefits which can be derived from being a member are numerous. We must also endeavour to get every member to present a more professional image, ie. dress and self presentation.

Improved communication with employers needs to be achieved (a difficult task with some golf clubs) to inform them of what the benefits of their staff being members can mean to the club, ie. better education opportunities.

I feel that in the not too distant future the chairman will not come from within the board of

management, due to the amount of time involved in dealing with Association matters, perhaps he may well be a well known retired greenkeeper or someone associated with the greenkeeping/golf world.

What will you do now?

Hopefully I can find employment which will allow me to return to greenkeeping and try to continue with life as before – if not, who knows what lies ahead?

Any final messages?

Yes, I would like to say a special thanks to everyone who gave me their support during my year as chairman – the members, fellow board members, Neil Thomas and all the staff at HQ, every company that gives superb support to the Association and last but not of all Ailsa, without whose wholehearted support and encouragement it would certainly have been a totally different year altogether.

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OPEN

Chris Boiling talks to Turnberry course manager George Brown to find out what's in store for contestants in this year's Open Tournament

George Brown has been in greenkeeping for 40 years. He started at Princes, Sandwich, straight from school at the age of 15. He was there nine years. "When I went there I was the boy with 11 groundstaff. When I left nine years later I was still the boy...I thought I could do better for myself."

His next job was as the greenkeeper/pro at nine-hole Alton, in Hampshire. "Someone bet I could do it, I didn't think I could, but I applied for the first job that came along, it happened to be Alton and I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was fantastic experience. The members were very kind to me."

He stayed for three years with one tractor and one mower. He'd cut the greens, then go and cut the tees. Then give a lesson.

He went back to Princes as the gaffer and stayed for five years. Then in 1979 he joined Broome Park Golf and Country Club near Canterbury to oversee its construction and stayed on as golf manager – which meant running the whole complex, including the bars and restaurants.

In January '86 he moved to Turnberry to prepare for the Open. Eight years later he is still there and preparing for his second Open.

Having been a pro and Kent amateur champion, we wondered if he'd ever thought about going further on the pro side. "No, I made so much money when I was 24 I decided I'd made enough to pull out of it," he jokes. "No, seriously, I had no training as a pro, I did it as a bet." He now plays off 4.

Who can forget the 1977 Open, with two of the sport's all-time greats, Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus, in peak form deciding the championship on the 18th green? Who can forget the 1986 Open, when Greg Norman battled against the wind and rain to claim his first major title?

Turnberry is hoping for an equally memorable tournament this year when it stages its third Open. And course manager George Brown is hoping for conditions and scores somewhere between the two earlier events.

In 1977 when Tom Watson won with a four-round aggregate of 268, it was hot and dry. In '86, Norman shot his level par 280 amid gale-force winds.

George Brown wants Turnberry to be a fair challenge – a stiff breeze and sunshine would be ideal with the top players shooting 67s and 68s. Without a breeze he reckons they could shoot low 60s, like Mark Hayes in '77 and Norman in '86, or even a 59. With too strong a wind many of them will struggle to break 80. Planning to be fair is going to be a problem.

"It's very difficult to set up a links fairly because if they play it how it is today, with no wind, they will shoot low 60s or even something silly like a 59. There's nothing wrong with that. We don't mind them doing that but if it weakens the course too much then some people may say it's not good enough to hold the Open.

"It's a question of getting the balance, that's what we're looking for at the moment."

That's why there have been a few minor modifications to the course.

"These golfers are so good now, they hit the ball so far, you have to keep making a few changes to keep up with them," explains George, 55, a top amateur player in his younger days.

The main differences from '86 are new bunkers on the opening two holes and 17th and wider fairways.

"After the '86 Open we thought the first fairway was a wee bit too narrow. Some of the top-class players were hitting an iron off the tee, even as low as a 4 iron, which we didn't think was the right way to start a championship. So, after a bit of thought and discussion and professional advice from an architect, we widened the fairway to the left and put two bunkers there to make it a challenging tee shot, and we tightened up the greenside bunkers. You can still lay up short of the bunkers if you have a head wind. If there's no wind or a back wind then you can easily carry them or there's a 20-yard gap if you fancy threading the ball through the middle. So it's a much fairer hole."

There are also two new bunkers on the second. "We thought the second hole was a wee bit weak so we added bunkers left and right to tighten up the tee shot. Again there's about an 18-20-yard gap if you fancy taking a chance. It'll make the players think for the Open, especially if there's a back

**'It's just like when the mother-in-law comes over for tea
it's just that little bit extra effort'**

TO IDEAS

wind, whether to hit a wood or lay-up with an iron."

The bunker that was out in the rough on the par 5 17th – "which no-one ever seemed to go in" – has been filled in and a new one built on the edge of the fairway to catch a slightly wayward tee shot. "I think this will play a major role in the eventual winner of the Open Championship. Again there's 18-20-yards on the left if you fancy driving past it.

"Par 5s on links courses in the summer can play short, but this bunker may make them think."

Wider fairways

All the fairways are a few paces wider. "The criticism from the '86 Open was the width of the fairways. They were too narrow. One of the most vigorous growing seasons we've ever had made the rough very dense and to add salt to the wounds we had horrendous weather for three out of the four days," recalls George.

More obvious differences between Turnberry when Norman first won a major and when he returns in July to defend his Royal St George's triumph are the new £4.5m clubhouse (opened by the Duke of York last June), the new leisure centre annexe to the hotel, and the fact that the 360-acre site, two courses and three-storey hotel have been taken over by a golf-orientated Japanese company.

Preparing for two years

George Brown and his team of 18-20 staff have been preparing for the Open for the last couple of years. But because it is attached to a 132-room, five-star hotel, it has to be kept in tiptop condition 52 weeks of the year anyhow. They have ongoing maintenance programmes

so that when the Open comes around "we don't have to do a lot different.

"It's just like when the mother-in-law comes over for tea on Sunday, it's just that little bit extra effort."

They have revetted 90 percent of the 66 bunkers over the last two winters (the other 10 per cent were done three years ago and do not need redoing). They will top-dress more frequently to ensure a smooth surface and step up their divotting programme (using caddies and paying them with free rounds on the Arran course).

"Presentation is the key. We're looking for perfection. But it doesn't matter how many hours we work or what jobs we do, at the end of the day there'll still be a few jobs we'd wish we'd done or hadn't quite got round to. It's like a garden, you never actually finish."

But he has had more time to prepare for the 123rd Open than he did for his first one in '86. He took over as Turnberry's course manager seven months before the championship following the death of Russell Brown. George said he seemed to spend most of his time trying to track down underground services and eliminate damage. But now he has detailed plans to help him.

The condition of the fairways, tees, greens and bunkers was great in '86. "Hopefully it will as good, if not in better, in '94," he says.

But don't expect it to look all green and lush. George does not believe that green is necessarily beautiful. "In early summer and autumn when the fairways and whole golf course is green and striped it does look rather beautiful. But when you have a dry spell for a week or two and the wind gets up off the sea, it can go very dusty and strawy and looks unkept at times. There's nothing wrong with

that, links are supposed to be fairly natural and fiery and supposed to have firm fairways. But now we have a new watering system, installed a couple of years ago, and hopefully with proper management we'll be able to strike the balance of not making it too lush and green and not making it too strawy and dusty and looking unkept. I see my role here as trying to keep a balance and keeping it links condition – firm and fast – but presented nicely."

In 1988 Turnberry was taken over by the Japanese company Nitto Kogyo which owns about 30 courses in Japan and several more in America and has just opened The Oxfordshire near London. All of their other courses are green and heavily watered.

"I see my role here as trying to keep Turnberry traditional," George reassures us. "This is the first links course that Nitto Kogyo have owned and it would be very easy for me with my irrigation computer to press a few buttons and step up the water and I have the budget to pile on the fertiliser to make it green and lush, but I refrain from doing that. We don't want a course like '77 where it is a struggle to keep grasses alive during the drought season, but then we don't want to be like American courses where you play target golf on soft, holding greens. I look at my role as trying to keep it 'down the middle', if you pardon the pun – traditional but well presented."

George says his new bosses have been very supportive. They have renewed most of his machinery and provided a new 10,000 sq ft maintenance facility with spacious 'bothy', showers, drying room, soil bays, purpose-built chemical stores, and a proper workshop with grinders and hydraulic lift for his full-time mechanic.

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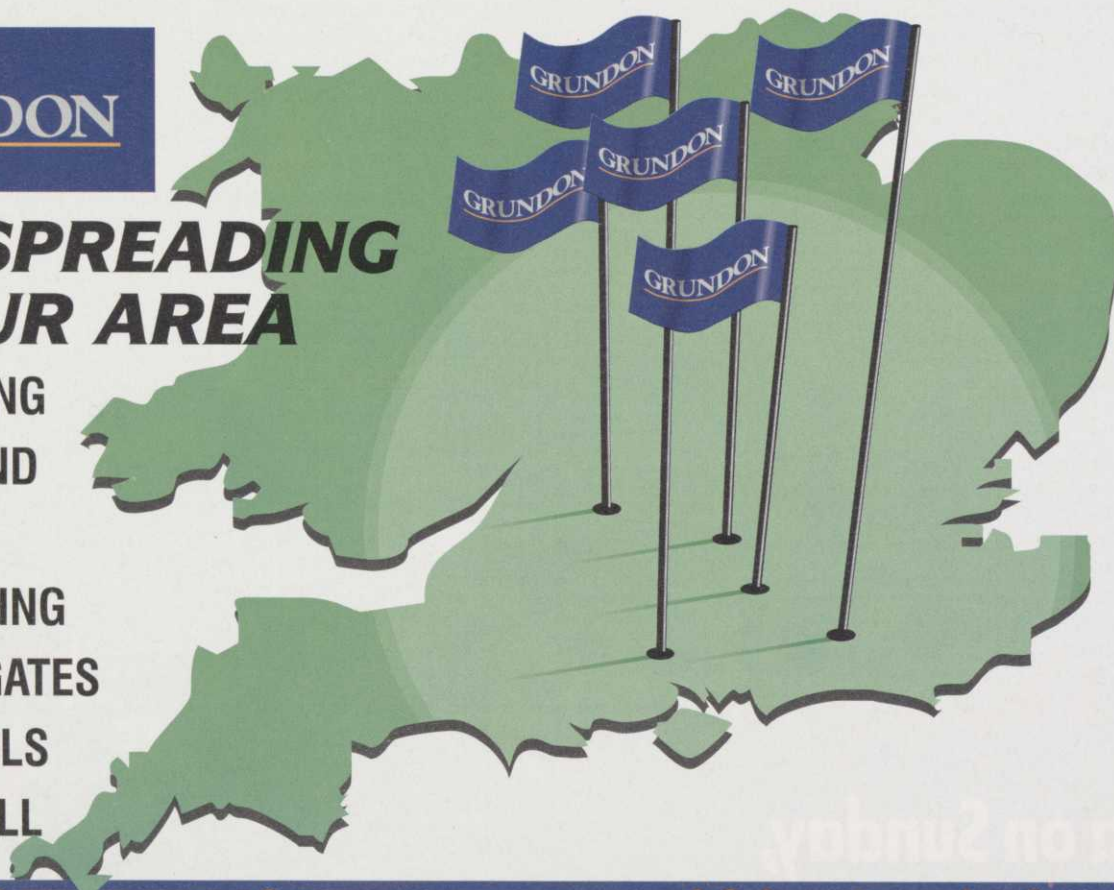
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The new clubhouse at Turnberry, officially opened last June by the Duke of York

Sand blow

One of the biggest problems in recent years has been sand blow. For four or five years running in January or February ferocious winds from the Atlantic blew sand from the beach up over the 30-40ft dunes protecting the course and upto 50 yards inland. "You couldn't stand anywhere near the sixth green or 7th tees, the sand would almost cut your face to pieces. We've had as much as 2-3ft of sand on the 7th tees." Which, as you can imagine, destroyed the tees, and didn't do much to enhance the 6th and sometimes 5th greens. The greenstaff have wasted a lot of time shovelling and sweeping sand off the course. "Two years ago the whole squad spent two weeks pushing sand, got it all cleared up, then three weeks later it was back again, which is rather soul destroying." One year they even resorted to using a helicopter which hovered over the 6th green to dry the sand, making it easier to brush off without damaging the greens.

They tried planting marram grasses, but they disappeared with high tides. Then last year they installed snow fences (500 yards worth) in short sections pointing out to sea like groyne. It seems to have done the trick. "This is the first year in six years that we haven't had any sand blow, so we're pleased with that. And we're going into the summer with the 6th green and 7th tees looking quite good for a change. That was my only concern..."

Shaping up

The contractors moved in at the beginning of April and started laying the cables for the tented village which will be sited on the practice area between the two courses. This means the second hole of the Arran course becomes the practice ground with a grandstand and the 18th green on the Arran is used for additional putting practice. Grassy hol-

lows near it are to be turned into practice bunkers and the green extended.

The course closes at the end of June for final preparations – divotting, seeding, top-dressing etc.

Between now and then George will be involved in many meetings with the R&A, BBC and various contractors. He will be working closely with the contractors in planning the sites for about 39 static cameras, the routes for the grandstand erectors, the water and electricity pipes and the digging of big holes for septic tanks.

"It makes the day go round and it keeps us all occupied. Greenkeeping is just one part of it," he says in his usual laid-back manner.

During Open week he will be getting up at 3.30am to phone the Met Office at 3.40 – and plan his cutting regime accordingly. If it is going to be hot and windy he may leave the grass on the greens slightly longer, "otherwise it will be like putting on glass."

The week after the Open is more of a problem for George. "When the Open's finished, all the contractors etc want to do is get their material away from here onto the next site. Obviously

they're not so careful taking it down as they were putting it up. That's when most of the damage can be done to the ground, especially if we turn away."

Once the Open is over, George can start planning the other big jobs that need doing, like additional landscaping around the clubhouse and upgrading the Arran course in readiness for the 1996 British Amateur event which will be played over both courses – qualifying on the Arran and the finals on Ailsa.

"It's one big merry-go-round," says a contented George, who also has a big personal golfing date to look forward to – his debut in the British Seniors in August, along with St Andrews' Walter Woods.

George Brown on bunkers

"If you get in a bunker there is no written rule that you're supposed to get up and down for two or that you can hit a 5 iron out. Sometimes you will have to hit a sand iron and be content with 10-60 yards. If you get in a bunker it should cost you a half to one shots.

"Bunkers are not just visual things, they're here for a purpose."

MAIN MACHINERY AT TURNBERRY

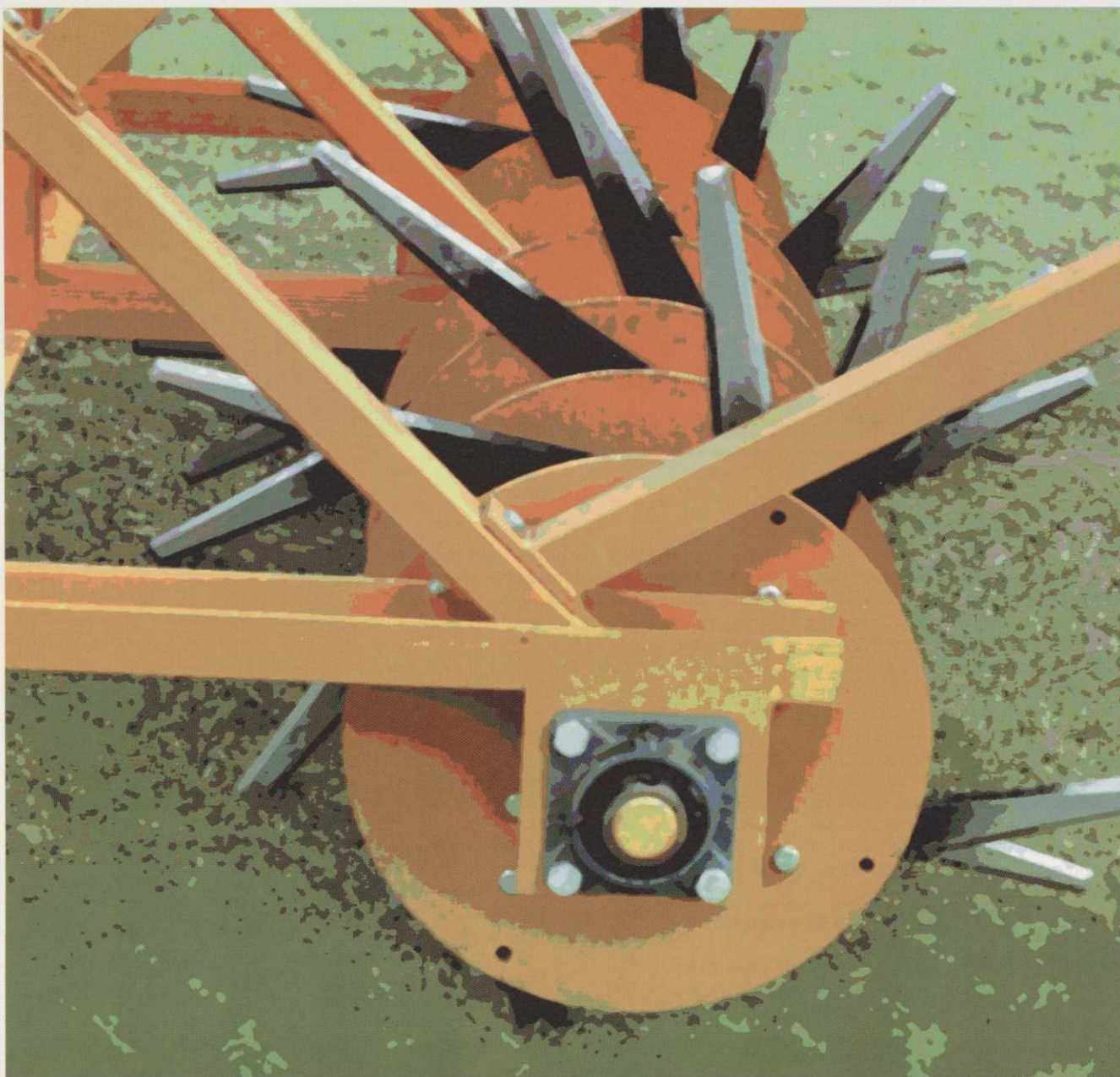
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Constructor is given golf course in settlement of six-figure debt

Golf course constructor Brian D Pierson has opened his own course. Run by eldest son Mark, Hamptworth Golf and Country Club, on the edge of the New Forest, was given to the Piersons to settle a six-figure debt by the original developers, Hamptworth Park Leisure, who had a 125-year lease on the land.

The Piersons started building the course in 1991, then stopped halfway through when the developers' money ran out. Eighteen months of negotiations later the company which has built more than 180 golf courses worldwide took over the whole project, scaling down the plan for a grandiose clubhouse.

Laid out over 175 acres, running in and out of the 700-acre English Nature-managed Langley Wood, Hamptworth has the potential to become one of the best courses in the south-west.

Newly-appointed head greenkeeper Keith Hill-Jones says he wants to make it *the* best course in the area in the next couple of years.



Mark Pierson, Robert Key MP and Brian Pierson

Based on a Philip Sanders design, it measures 6,500 yards off the back tees and features several intimidating, tree-lined tee shots, some monster bunkers and a par 5 of 582 yards.

Water hazards are provided by the River Blackwater as it meanders through the course, which was opened last month by Salisbury MP Robert Key. Other hazards are natural too – plenty of trees and hedges and only 19 bunkers.

Greens are built to Jim Arthur specifications. The 9th and 18th holes finish on a double green guarded by a massive bunker which one over-enthusiastic writer described as being "as big as the Isle of Wight".

One of the most daunting holes is the 360-yard 14th which doglegs slightly to the right once you have driven through an avenue of trees that may make even the best players consider using a 4 iron.

Construction of a 6,500 sq ft clubhouse is planned for next year.



Hamptworth's double green – the 9th and 18th

FLYING DIVOTS

■ If you want to see an Etesia UK Ltd product in action, for example the new RKE pedestrian rotary mower with grass collection, then Spencer Southall is the man to contact. The 24-year-old table tennis champion has been appointed demonstrator for the Ross-on-Wye company. Tel: 0462 490190



■ More than 220 companies are booked in at the Landscape Industries show June 8/9 at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

■ The Greenkeeping Supply Company has been set up by Liam Galway. He will be supplying course furniture from Tacit, Patissons and Standard Golf, as well as clothing and tools. Tel/fax: 0245 248880.

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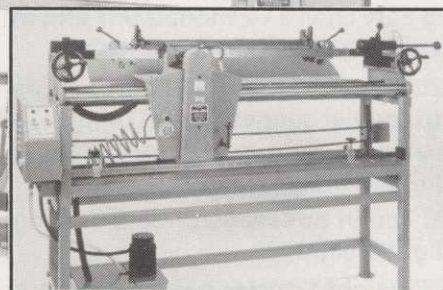
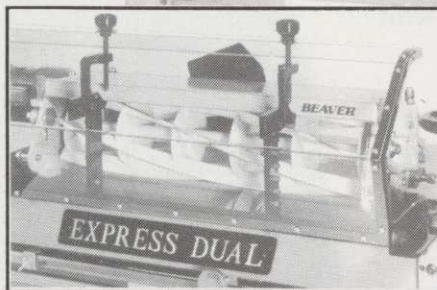
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Grass seed shortage is on the cards, warns supplier

There could be a shortage of some types of amenity grass seed and a firmer price pattern during the next few months, warns Derek Whelbourn, wholesale director of Johnsons Seeds.

The situation, he claims, has arisen through a combination of factors. "The weather has meant that

this year's spring trade has been later, causing trading over a longer period," he says. "This has helped to clear what initially was an apparent surplus and now replacement stocks of seed are urgently needed for filling empty spaces in merchants' premises."

Additional factors which have contributed to the stock shortage are: considerable exports of seed from Europe to the USA; and lower seed production acreage in Europe and the UK than in previous years.

"The combination of factors has occurred at a time of the year when replacement stocks are not easily available," said Mr Whelbourn. "New crop seed will not be available until the autumn trading is well under way, meaning that the balance of the spring trade and the coming autumn trade will have to be supplied out of current stock. During the late spring and early summer it is almost certain there will be a shortage of certain types of grass seed, leading to an inevitable hardening of prices."

New courses to open near Gatwick Airport

Two new golf courses are being built near Gatwick Airport. The 18-hole Duxhurst Estate course, on a mature parkland site south of Reigate, is to be laid out as a 6,250-yard par 71 course with comprehensive practice and teaching facilities.

Architect Howard Swan says it will feature modest remodelling of the natural terrain and have some water features on the lower parts of the land. Work began mid-May with full play scheduled for late spring '96.

The Horne Park Golf Academy at nearby Horley, also designed by Swan, is a 2,700-yard nine-hole par 34 course with range, chipping and bunker areas. Continental Landscapes are constructing the academy and ISS are supplying the Toro irrigation equipment. Horne Park is likely to open its doors later this year, with the course in play mid-'95.

Castle Combe bought

Castle Combe Golf Club in Wiltshire has been bought by the son of a local hotelier. Danny Pecorelli, whose father Guiseppi owns the nearby Manor House Hotel, is believed to have paid £2.5million for the course which cost £8million to build in 1991. Pecorelli plans to run the Peter Alliss/Clive Clark-designed course in the same way as his other club - Mannings Heath in West Sussex where a second 18 holes is under construction.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Arcot Hall Golf Club's Ian Duncan, 32, is off to Germany to take over the head greenkeeper's job at Sennelager (British Army) Golf Club.

■ McNab Sports Supplies of Kinross have appointed Neil Mitchell as area representative to cover golf clubs in Fife,



Tayside, Grampian and Highland regions. Neil previously worked for Perth and Kinross District Council as a greenkeeper, looking after golf courses, bowling greens and cricket squares. In 1989 he was awarded the title of Young Groundsman of the Year. Tel: 0577 864198.

■ The Whitbread Group of Hotels, whose golf courses include Forest of Arden, St Pierre, Dalmahoy, Meon Valley, and Tewkesbury Park, has been renamed the Country Club Hotel Group.

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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SOUTH WEST

"An excellent show." "The best yet." "Very worthwhile exhibiting."

Just some of the remarks made about Westurf from both visitors and the trade alike, who were there in even greater strength this year. I am sure those sentiments would be echoed by the majority who took time out to visit the exhibition at Long Ashton Golf Club on April 27. On a day spoilt only by the occasional shower, the range of machinery and accessories on display was extensive with what appeared to be record gate attendances, judging by the full car park.

Westurf's success is again largely down to the unrelenting enthusiasm and organisation of Gordon and Marion Child, whose planning for 95's event will no doubt be starting again in the near future. Our thanks go to them, Long Ashton as hosts, the many section members who helped prior to the event and on the day, too numerous to mention all by name, but in particular Robin Greaves. Finally, thanks to the trade and yourselves for visiting.

A less than average attendance played at Chippenham Golf Club on April 21 in what was the Spring Tournament and section's Hayter Qualifier. Those who played around a compact little venue were treated to a course and greens in excellent condition, especially considering the earliness of the season and previous winter conditions. Course manager Chris Sealey and his staff take the credit for the conditions which made for an enjoyable round.

Thanks are extended to Hayter, the sponsors again this year, for their participation and prize funding, to Chippenham GC for hosting the event, to the steward for a first-class meal and to greens chairman Andre Waring for his generosity in providing the wine and the "contagious" joke that, hopefully, Chris took in good faith.

The next two fixtures for '94 are the section match v the secretaries on June 28 and the summer tournament at Filton GC on July 27.

KEVIN GREEN

NORTH EAST

Firstly let me welcome more new members to the section: P Jackson and D Little of Backworth GC, K Hope and C Seedhouse of Gosforth GC, J Devlin of Wearside GC; G Frater of Alston Moor GC.

The following new members prefer to be in the North East section rather than the Cleveland section: Y Carmichael of Eaglescliffe GC, R Ord of Castle Eden GC, K Varley of Crook GC, A Savins of Catterick Garrison

EVENTS DIARY

June 8-9: BALI Trade Show, Stoneleigh

June 29: Southturf, Turf Care Trade Exhibition, Motspur Park, south west London

July 14-17: Open Championship, Turnberry

August 1-3: National Tournament, Dartmouth Golf Club, Devon

September 6-8: Saltex (previously IoG) Trade Exhibition, Royal Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire.

September 22: Hayter Challenge Final, Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate

November 9-10: Scotsturf, Ingleston, Edinburgh

December 1: Scottish Region North Section one-day conference at Craibstone Estate, Bucksburn, Aberdeen

January 25-27, 1995: BTME '95, Harrogate International Centre

GC. Should they wish to be transferred they should get in touch with Gary Munro on 0642 785195.

C Wayman from South Shields has been transferred from Cleveland to North East.

The total membership including trade is now 114 and there are still greenkeepers not in BIGGA yet.

The spring competition at South Moor GC was well attended and our thanks go to the committee for granting us the courtesy of this fine moorland course and of course to Tommy Fenwick, the head greenkeeper, for the fine condition of it.

Our thanks also go to Hamish McFie for presenting the prizes to the winners of each category in the Hayter Challenge and to the following companies for donations to the prize table: Ryton Gravel Co, TurfCare, Shorts of Whitburn, Supaturf, Swarland GC, Warkworth Village GC and South Moor GC.

Best gross was David Cuthbertson's 76 on home soil. Best nett was Brian Udberg of Tynemouth GC. Best assistant's nett score was Barry Wilson of Stocksfield GC.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

CLEVELAND

Stressholme GC, Darlington, has opened a new driving range and we welcome their three staff, who maintain the course and range, as new members. They are Liam Appleby, Martin Corner and Terry Hepplestaal.

Teeside GC is hoping to build a new greenkeepers' shed.

BIGGA's vice-chairman Barry Heaney was among the guests who turned up at Eaglescliffe GC for my 30-year service dinner. A trophy has been named in honour of long service, and Cleveland BIGGA presented four engraved wine glasses. I thank you all sincerely for your good wishes and I shall continue as your section chairman with pleasure. Thanks to Ian Holleran and Gary Munro for organising the event and to George Malcolm for his excellent speech.

BRUCE BURNELL

AYRSHIRE

Our thanks go to Thornhill GC for allowing us to use their course for our spring outing. The course was in good condition, especially considering that the whole place had a covering of snow the week before our visit. Our thanks to head greenkeeper Hunter Tarbett for preparing a good test of golf, and to the catering staff for first-class fare.

The golf itself was of the mixed variety, the early season scaffs, shanks and missed putts being interspersed with the odd good (or lucky) shot, but overall the scores were fairly good, and the excellent turnout of over 40 members had a great time.

Results: scratch - Keith McCartney, Dumfries Gal-loway, 73; 1st class - 1, William McMeikam, Turnberry, 75-9-66; 2, Ian McNab, Dumfries County, 75-4-71; 3, Bob McKay, Prestwick St Nicholas, 82-9-73; 2nd class - 1, Duncan Gray, Mitchell and Struthers 83-10-73; 2, Paul Rae, Brunston Castle, 91-17-74; 3, Jimmy Johnstone, Turnberry, 91-16-75; 3rd class - 1, Steven Knaggs, Dumfries County, 97-25-72; 2 Jim Paton, West Kilbride, 94-19-75; 3, Gary Crosbie, Dumfries County, 98-22-76; new member - Jason Buxton, Bogside, 97-24-73; trade - Kevin Brunton, Souters, 73; Texas scramble - 1, Ian McNab, John Kinder, Keith McCartney, Robert Bruce 60-4; 2, Kevin Brunton, Jimmy Johnstone, Bob McKay, Dougie Drain.

Movements this month are Steven Fraser from Annanhill to the head greenkeeper position at Caldwell GC, and new to the section is Colin Higginbottom as head greenkeeper at the Crighton Royal GC in Dumfries.

Finally, the new video produced by BIGGA called Keeper of the Green is available on loan, on request from headquarters or section secretaries.

DUNCAN GRAY

NORTH WEST

The annual tournament between the North West and North Wales sections, played at Oaklands GCC, was halved. Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers or interest, both teams could only field a team of 12, instead of the required 16, but competitively nothing was lacking. The course, which is reasonably new and has great potential, played long in gale-force winds but both teams mastered the wind and played good golf.

On the other hand I played what was supposed to be a friendly game with Andy Hardie from Gem Professional who told me he had not played since last summer but hit the ball like a pro. I did manage eventually to wear him down and beat him 4 and 3, but the wind and the undulations certainly took its toll on both of us. An unlikely pairing of Bill Merritt and Jane Ryan played a great game with Bill sinking a 10ft putt on the 18th green to win, and his partner Jane on her hands and knees, with her head buried in a grass mound not daring to look.

An excellent meal followed the golf, paid for by Gem Professional who sponsored the day. Many thanks to them and to Oaklands GCC for their hospitality and for allowing us the courtesy of their excellent course.

The next section golf is the summer meeting on Monday July 25 at Stockport GC. Soup and sandwiches between 12 and 1pm and tee off from 1.30pm. Applications in writing to Paul Pearce, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1HX, enclosing a deposit of £10 by July 18.

I would like to welcome any new members to the NW

Southturf on course for successful debut

Southturf is set to make its mark on the trade show calendar when it makes its debut on Wednesday June 29, 10am-5pm at Motspur Park in south-west London.

Organised by the South-East region of BIGGA, more than 35 companies have already booked space with many more promising to be there.

But this event is going to be more than just an exhibition. As well as being able to view the latest machinery and products, there is an education marquee where the colleges will be available to discuss courses, and a turf clinic where leading agronomists and greenkeepers will analyse your hole plugs (so bring a sample with you). The Greenkeepers Training Committee will be on hand to answer questions regarding greenkeeper training. There will be a special exhibit of weather recording equipment. Outside a

charity golf clinic is to be staged. Greenkeepers will be able to have their swings analysed by a PGA professional in exchange for a small donation. The pavilion will be open all day for refreshments. But best of all, parking, entrance and catalogue are free.

Anyone connected with the turf trade can attend but greenkeepers are actively encouraged because the purpose of the event is to raise money to improve the service that BIGGA members in the south-east receive and to

increase the number of education events at both section and regional level. But to achieve these aims, it is important that as many greenkeepers as possible turn up on the day to prove to exhibitors that the event is worthwhile.

To get there, follow the AA signs. Further details are available from David Wood on 0342 850875 or 0850 162401.



section and hope you will come along to the events arranged during the year and meet your fellow greenkeepers. A number of members of the NW section have not renewed their membership this year, and I would be interested to know the reason why. Is it too expensive? Has your golf club failed to pay your subscriptions? Or are their other reasons? Your views may help make the Association better. Please write to me at Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool L18 3HU or phone me on 051 7245412.

BERT CROSS

SURREY

Our Spring Tournament/Hayter Qualifier took place at Malden GC. Thanks go to A Bradshaw and his staff for turning out the course in such good condition and thanks also to Malden GC. The results are as follows: 1, R Christie, 139 on countback; 2, D Walder, 139; 3, P Careswell, 141; 4, J Rigg, 141; nearest the pin - M Lincoln Smith; best am - A Locke; best pm - D Wyborn; scratch - S Haynes; trade - D Seales.

Events to look forward to include England v Scotland at Leatherhead GC on July 13 and the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale GC on August 11.

Congratulations to Brian Gibbs on his appointment as course manager at the new Park Wood golf complex in Westerham, Kent. Many congratulations also go to Effingham GC's Peter Broadbent and his wife on the birth of their baby, Samantha.

Ted Stiles of the Drift Bridge GC reports that they have been victims of an arson attack, and that 95 per cent of the club's equipment was lost in the fire. This included all the machinery that Ted had overhauled during the winter. Head greenkeeper Paul Weston and his staff would like to convey their thanks to all parties involved in the loan of machinery which enabled the club to continue working.

DAVID GIBBS

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Our congratulations go to Gordon and Marion Child who once again superbly organised this year's Westurf trade show at Long Ashton GC, Bristol.

Also our thanks to all the companies that took trade stands and to all of you who turned up on the day, making the show such a success.

The abuse of the membership card for free golf or reduced green fees by some of our members was brought to the attention of your section committee recently. Although the membership card doesn't mention how many rounds should be played per annum, members must remember that the card is a privilege and should be treated as such. Anyone who abuses the card will put the privilege of courtesy golf at risk.

As a guide I would suggest that members shouldn't use their card for courtesy golf more than five times in any year, the less the better. Clubs will always have the right to refuse any member a courtesy round. Members should always ring the club they wish to visit well in advance as common courtesy.

RICHARD WHYMAN

MID ANGLIA

Neil Thomas, the executive director of BIGGA, visited the section in March. By all accounts he gave a detailed insight into where BIGGA is going, including details to be included in the review.

Our first golf event of the year was at Harpenden GC, Herts. The weather was kind and the 46 members enjoyed the day, although I'm not sure if anyone enjoyed a 36-hole medal. Our thanks go to Harpenden for their hospitality and to Stewart Boyes and his team for preparing such a neat course and excellent greens for the time of year. We wish Harpenden a successful centenary year.

As is usual in a medal event, low handicap golfers filled the first three places, Jon Moorhouse of Brocket Hall, playing off 6, won with a total of 144. Ronan McKewen of Arkely was second playing off 4 with 148. Third was David Forsyth of Mid Herts with 148 also, playing off 6. Congratulations to our winners and to all players who qualified for the regional final.

Unfortunately, the BB&O section whose turn it is to stage the regional final have failed as yet to come up with a venue or date. As soon as this is known, it will be conveyed to all qualifiers. Anyone who can't make the date should let Gerald or myself know so that reserves can be drafted in.

Our thanks go to Rigby Taylor for providing the prize table and members of the trade for donating raffle prizes. Two other prizes were awarded, one for the longest drive which went to David Forsyth, the other nearest the pin which was won by J Burton.

The next golf fixture is the Summer Tournament at Bampton GC, Huntingdon on July 26.

Finally, Mentmore GC will be the venue for the Autumn Tournament, to give Neil Whittaker a break from hold-

Around the Green



ing the event every year. The date will be confirmed in a later issue.

PAUL LOCKETT

EAST MIDLANDS

Our section's Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier was held at Sherwood Forest GC. Thirty-nine took part in the competition on a very scenic and well maintained course. The category winners were: 0-9 - P Tatlow, 10-18 - A Foulds 19-28 - G Robson, and trade and associates - M Franklin.

A thank you should go to everyone at Sherwood Forest for offering their courtesy and hospitality at such short notice. Also thanks to all the trade for their kind donation of prizes for the day, especially Hayter and Erringtons of Leicester, and a special thanks to all the section committee members for their valuable work on the day. Hope to see you all at Wellingborough GC on September 28. I would also like to take this opportunity of wishing all the section's qualifiers the best of luck in the Hayter regional final.

This month we welcome the following new members to our section: Stephen James, Brian Hill and Mark Longmate, all from Grassmoor Golf Centre and Gordon Smith of Breadsall Priory Golf and Country Club.

ANTONY BINDLEY

SCOTTISH EAST

The section's Spring Tournament took place over Gullane No2 on April 12. Glorious sunshine greeted the 60+ competitors who recorded some fine scores in an attempt to qualify for the Hayter finals. The course was in its usual great condition, and our grateful thanks go to Paul Sago, Willie Robertson and their staff. Thanks also go to the catering staff for their first-class meals and the Gullane GC for the courtesy.

The match committee, at the end of a long day, had some work to do separating the leaders, which eventually went to countbacks. See the list of qualifiers below.

Our patrons prize this year went to I Thomson of Provan Chemicals with a nett 64. Our grateful thanks to our patrons who do so much for us over the year and are ever-present at our tournaments and social events. There were 13 companies represented and, as they know, we are always delighted to see them.

Other guests included Bill Lynch of BIGGA and the Hayter representatives. Gordon Moir, our Scottish chairman, also graced our company and presented the prizes to the winners.

Our next tournament is the summer half-day event at Lothianburn GC on June 8.

All members will be receiving the new fixture card which includes dates for tournaments, lectures and social events. Our thanks go to Steven Dixon for this excellent piece of work. Our only hope is that the events published will be supported.

Our annual quiz night was held at the Black Bull on April 27. A very good attendance was recorded. An attendance such as this makes the organisation worthwhile. Forty people sat down to do battle for the quiz trophy, and the eventual winners were Stewart & Co for the second year running. The runners-up were Three Ladies and a Tramp. Medals will be presented at the annual dance. We hope to see the same crowd and more at the Skittles night on May 13.

Congratulations to Billy Hudson who has moved from Liberton GC to Newbattle as first assistant and to Paul Bowden who has moved from Newbattle to work with Sports Turf Services.

WILLIE BLAIR

LONDON

I would like to thank Porters Park GC for allowing us to hold our Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier at their course. We were made most welcome and the course was in excellent condition - Martin Smith and his staff have done a great job. I would also like to thank Peter Phillips and the catering manager for allowing us to use the club facilities.

The overall winner was John Jackson from Wanstead GC and his score of 34 points proved how tough Porters Park is off the back tees. The qualifiers are listed below and the other winners were: nearest the pin - Pat Swinn and Colin Forde; longest drive - Andrew Toomey.

I would also like to thank the trade for supporting the

event and helping out on the day.

Another popular event was once again organised by Jamie Bennett. The venue was the Bracknell indoor circuit and the event was the RPK Superkart Challenge. The racing was excellent and the final resulted in a win for Jamie Bennett. In second place was the past champion, Cameron McMillan, and third was Murray Long. Many thanks, Jamie, for organising the event.

TONY DUNSTAN

EAST ANGLIA

Our first outing of the year was the Hayter Tournament at Rochford Hundred GC in Essex. The clubhouse is probably the oldest in the country and was once the home of Anne Boleyn, which accounts for us playing like headless ducks.

The course itself was in good condition thanks to 'HE' Wells and his men, I only hope he can keep his head. The pot hunters are listed elsewhere, but the longest drive went to Mike Verley - 2ft 6in, only one on the fairway; nearest the pin went to Stuart McGeer - 300 yards, it was a big green. Keith Hackett won the guest prize - a whistle and a red card! All prizes were presented by Henry VIII or Dick Jones Cpt. Our thanks to the trade - Rush Brooks Kings, Parkers, Does, Sisis, Rigby Taylor and especially Mike Lincoln-Smith of Hayters for a super day. Thank you Rochford Hundred for having us.

As you may know, Steve Freestone has finally gone to Australia. He used to enjoy his days out and I'm sure he will be missed. Eaton is not the same. Life goes on however and his younger brother Paul is my first assistant. He will be playing golf soon.

Uncle Bob Chesham says to remind you about a Grounds and Greens seminar at Newmarket Racecourse on July 12 and 13. Topics include drainage and aeration, renovation and communication. All good stuff. Speakers include Martyn Jones, John Philp and Duncan McGillivray.

Funny things committees. A greenkeeper I know spent 20-odd years bringing a course up to scratch. He struggled for 15 years with a total of four men. He finally got an extra man and the course turned the corner. All looking good, rave reports. One of his men, his first assistant left, a simple task to replace him, to keep the course up to scratch you would think. Not so. Back to four men. Greenkeeper not happy. members not happy. The amateur dramatic society strikes again.

MICK LATHROPE

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

The visit to Ibrox Stadium, home of Glasgow Rangers, turned out to be a great success with over 60 members present (Fergus McCann and Co failed to appear, although there was someone wearing a Celtic tie). I won't be disclosing the names of the members who got the date wrong and turned up the day before, but a photograph of one of them appeared in an earlier edition of GI. to be fair, he did return on the correct day with a bit more colour in his face than usual.

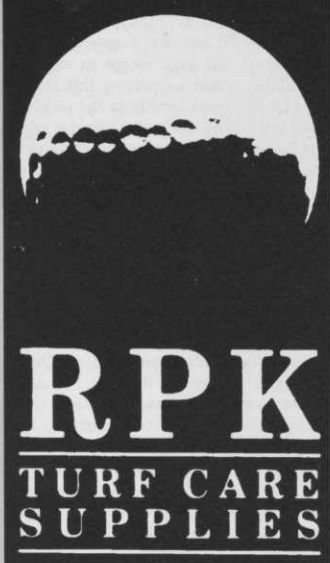
Pitch superintendent Allan Ferguson and his staff gave us a full tour of the stadium and an insight into the problems of having to produce a pitch for Premier League football in just six weeks from date of sowing, not an easy task. Thanks to everyone at Ibrox for the hospitality which was extended to us.

Following the super attendance at Ibrox, the Spring Tournament at Monifieth Links was another successful event with over 70 members and guests enjoying a day away from work (judging by some of the scores some may have wished they had stayed there). Although the weather was very blustery, it remained dry and everyone completed their round with the main prize winners being: best scratch - J Ellis, Glenbervie, 82; best nett - W Whitfield, Stirling, 77; 1st class - 1, J Duncan, Aberdeen, 78; 2, T O'Connor, Carnoustie, 79; 2nd class - 1, A Robertson, Grangemouth, 80; 2, A Wade, Hags Castle, 80; Stewart Quaich - W Whitfield, J Easton, Stirling, 160; Patrons prize - K Brunton, Souters, 76; Two-ball foursomes - J Clark, J Easton, Stirling, 32; Guest - K Younger, Stirling, 84.

Our sincere thanks go to Bill Jarret and his staff for having the course in such excellent condition so early in the season, the clubhouse staff for the first-class meals and service throughout the whole day, Monifieth Links secretary Harry Nicholl for all his assistance and for sorting out the mix-up in our tee times and to Hamish McFie for presenting the prizes.

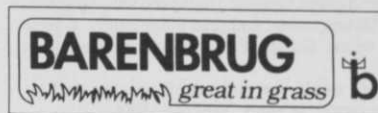
Shift of power? Two trade members who are on the move are Central Section committee member John Yeats and his colleague Les Westwater from Sisis in Falkirk who have joined Power Shift in Dundee. Best wishes to you both and every success in the future.

With interest increasing in section events, it is intended to organise a wider variety of subjects, so please make an effort to complete and return the questionnaire which was circulated to every member earlier this year, or drop me a line with your choice of subjects.



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We are hoping to organise an inter-club five-a-side football tournament later in the year, so if anyone has any budding stars on their staff, fill in the form when it arrives and get in training for the big day. Fuller details will be circulated soon...

JOHN CRAWFORD

NORTH WALES

110 members and guests played in our Spring Tournament over the new layout at Carden Park near Chester. The winners were as follows: Lesco Cup for best nett, donated by Richard Campey - Terry Adamson, 76; runners-up, decided by countback - Pat Valentine, Ian Buckley, Chris Davies, Alan Gillies, all with nett 77s; guests - 1, JC Harris, 76; 2, G Perks, 77; 3, D Postles, 78; High-speed Rose Bowl for best gross - Ian Farrall, 83; nearest the pin - Val Wickens.

During the day John Garner, the ex-Ryder Cup player, entertained visitors with his very humorous golf show. We extend our grateful thanks to John whose efforts helped raise £345 for the Fight Leukaemia in Chester Charity. On a personal note I would like to wish John and Melanie all the best in their new venture at St Mellion.

The event was also the section qualifier for the Hayter Challenge, with the top three in each handicap section going forward to the regional finals at Worsley GC on July 20.

Prizes were donated by the following companies and once again we would thank the trade for their continuing support: Richard Campey, Highspeed Oils, Gem Professional, Manmersteeg, Bathgate Silica Sands, Walker Brothers, Acorn, Carden Park and last but not least Hayters plc.

In closing I would like to thank all my greenstaff for yet another incredible effort - well done lads.

ANDY CAMPBELL

NORTH SCOTLAND

Another batch of new members as the recruitment drive continues. First up is Hugh McLatchie's newly qualified assistant Aileen Snowden, followed by Kevin Halley, apprentice at Ballater, and E J Auldhouse, an assistant with Perth and Kinross District Council. Transferring into the section we welcome George Asher and Philip Don from Kemnay, William Caswell from Dundee, Brian Strachan from Aberdeen and Elmwood students Peter Dunning of Kirriemuir and David McRitchie of Forbes. A

Around the Green



few more of last year's members have rejoined, but there is still some to go.

A big thank you must go to David Golding and his colleagues at the GTC who have given the section a grant for our one-day conference in Aberdeen this December. This will enable us to reduce the entrance fee by £2 per person to the benefit of all.

A North member currently making a name for himself in another sport is Kingussie's assistant Michael Clarke. He is captain of the all conquering Kingussie shinty team, who are yet again winning just about everything this year. Now we know how he hits the ball so true and straight at section outings.

Tain assistant John Urquhart is the latest member to join the North District golf team, albeit as a trialist, but he performed well and if his early season scores and pounding of the Tain practice ground are anything to go by he will soon get his debut proper. With so many members in various district teams, I am trying to flx up a challenge match against the North District to see how we fair. Club members could be forgiven for thinking we spend more time golfing than working, I just put it down to natural ability!

The North section will be well represented in the greenkeeper support team at this year's Open Championship at Turnberry. Gordon Mckie, Paul Murphy, Gordon Moir and I will be there to fly the flag. I'm sure it will be a great success and, as usual, George Brown will have the course in excellent condition.

IAIN MACLEOD

SOUTH WALES

The south Wales section's Hayter Qualifier and Spring Tournament was held at Newport GC, Rogerstone. The course was in superb condition, presented to an extremely high standard by Robert Johnston and his team, the weather couldn't have been better and the evening meal was excellent. What more could you ask for? A better attendance perhaps!

Robin Boyes of Hayter's presented each category winner (results below) with a superb set of cut-glass crystal brandy glasses. Winner of the Cardiff Cup was Andrew Jenkins, nett 70. Robert Johnston took the Waycott Shield with a 73 gross and Ted Thompson won the John O'Gorman Cup with a nett 71.

Trade winner with a nett 68 was Terry Adamson. Our sincere thanks to the trade again for their wonderful support, namely Avoncrop, Farmura, Hayters, Gem Professional, Ted/Chriss Hopkins and Colin Murphy. Thanks also go to John Pemberton from BIGGA HQ for putting himself on the hot spot, to Grayham Harris the captain and to the staff and caterers of Newport GC who all ensured a magnificent day was had.

The 'Birds' annual golf and demonstration day was held at Royal Porthcawl GC. The weather again was fine, albeit a little breezy, and the event was well attended. Thanks go to Roger and Jeff Bird for ensuring this long-standing, enjoyable event remains firmly attached to our fixture card each year. Westurf. What more can one say? The show that

goes from strength to strength. By 10.30am we'd run out of catalogues and by 11am we needed extra car parking space, so I'd say that numbers were definitely up on last year. It was good to see so many faces from the South Wales section supporting this regional event, something that has been lacking in the past - well done! It's this kind of backing that will allow the region to continue to subsidise our education programme both now and in the future. The section would like to thank Gordon and Marion Child for all their hard work and effort in organising a truly magnificent exhibition.

Lastly, congratulations to Mr and Mrs Andrew Philips on the birth of their baby boy. Unfortunately, Andrew missed the Hayter Qualifier because of the untimely arrival of the youngster - better luck next year!

NORTHERN

Our Spring Competition and Hayter Qualifier was played at Bingley St Ives GC, Bingley. The sun shone for us, the course was in excellent condition, the food was first-class, and everyone that took part had an excellent day. I must thank head greenkeeper Joe Baxter and his team for preparing such an excellent course under such adverse weather conditions. I must also thank St Ives GC for allowing us the use of their course and their beautiful new clubhouse, which had only been open three weeks.

The results: 9-hole stableford - 1, David Collins, Pontefract GC; 18-hole medal - Div 1: 1, Garry Potter, Skipton GC; 2, David Spurden, Ganton GC; 3, Mick Hannan, Moortown GC; Div 2: 1, John Waite, Temple Newsam GC; 2, Arthur Baxter, Bingley St Ives GC; 3, Graham Oxley, Scarcroft GC; Div 3: 1, Alan Gamble, Pannal GC; 2, Dennis Cockburn, Silsden GC; 3, Les Kirkbright.

Once again big thanks to all the sponsors, namely Norman Sheddin (Aitkens) for looking after the cards for us and for donating a prize table, also to Andy Law (Martin Brothers), Clive Heginbotham (ICI) and our main sponsor Hayter for their donations to the prize table. Thanks also go to Gerald Brady of Rhone-Poulenc for donating the prize for the nearest the pin once again.

Robert Gee, who was on the committee of the Northern section, has left us and Yorkshire to take up the position of course manager at Faithlegg GC in Eire. The course is a par 72 championship course. Robert says that he would like to thank the section, especially Bob Lupton for training and educating him, and for being such a good friend over a number of years. Robert, all I can say, as I usually do, is may all your problems be little ones.

I have also heard that Larry Murcott, formerly of Macclesfield GC has now joined Mid-Yorkshire GC. New members to welcome include Graham Green of Ganstead Park, John Mullany of Bradley Hall and Raymond Price of Grange Park.

PAT MURPHY

SOUTH COAST

Our Spring Tournament was held at the Test Valley Golf Club. After weeks of unsettled weather we had a super day except for a swift torrential shower during the morning, one of those that by the time you seek shelter the rain has stopped but you're soaked anyway. Nearly 40 played so this was a good turnout for the first outing of the year.

Test Valley has only been open for two years and is maturing fast. Laid out on the lines of the great old links courses of Scotland and Ireland (Ballybunion was what Eammon Darcy, the consultant, had in mind). Bunkers are a particular feature of the course. These certainly caused the most comment over dinner!

Our thanks go to Nicholas McDonagh, the president and owner for the courtesy of the course also to Andy Blackwell and his team for the presentation of the course. But, of course, there's more to the day than the golf and Kevin West and the catering and bar staff looked after everyone really well.

We would also like to thank our sponsors Huxleys Grass Machinery and Jim Fry our president, who was unable to be with us. Also our raffle prizes were donated by Avoncrop, Jenman Engineering, Romsey Garden Machinery and Sta-Brite. My apologies if I have left anyone out.

This was the first tournament organised by Bob Cully and Mark Webb. Well done to both of them. It's a good job that members like Bob and Mark come forward to take on these tasks or nothing would happen.

Results were as follows: Tregunna Trophy - Joe Newman; Rosebowl - Paul Fitzjohn; Rophy Cup - Paul Jackson; Denyer Cup - Shaun White; Nita Stimson Trophy - Gordon Payne; Christopher Fry Trophy - Robert Crouch.

Our next tournament is at Southwick Park on August 15. Will previous trophy winners please remember to bring their silverware with them or, if you can't make it, give it to the organiser prior to the event.

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SUSSEX

Our '94 season started with the superb venue of Willingdon GC down on the south coast at Eastbourne. Peter Negus and his staff as usual presented the course in superb condition.

The day started at 7.30 for breakfast in the clubhouse, and it seems strange how everybody turns up on time when there's food about! Being such a good turnout, two tees were utilised and the first pair of triples went off from the 1st and 10th at about 8.15am.

We had to struggle for most of the morning with sea mist which kept rolling in from the Channel and then laying in the bowl from which the course was originally built. The sun finally shone at around midday, and what with the beer at lunchtime and another 18 holes of hill-walking, I'm not sure what caused all the red faces! Perhaps it was the scores!

Stefan Antolik did a brilliant job as tournament organiser both before and during the event, and a special thanks to his wife who, I understand, did all the typing. As promised, Stefan cut handicaps by 5 for anybody who put in a late entry which, as it happened, included two prominent members, namely Messrs Barr and Day, so if it can happen to them it can happen to anyone, so be warned!

The sponsors for the day were John Shaw Machinery (morning medal) and Rigby Taylor (afternoon stableford) with the medal round going towards qualifying for the Hayter Challenge. Many thanks to the companies involved.

The results: medal - 1, Bill Francis; 2, Martin Private; 3, Duncan Haste; trade/guests - D Bell; stableford - 1, Chris Reed, 2 Robert Hudson; 3, Peter Ray; trade/guests - S Wood

Members of the Sussex branch would like to take this opportunity to thank Willingdon GC for the courtesy of the course, to the catering staff for looking after us so well, and to Peter Negus and his lads for their hard work.

Finally, the next golf function is at Ham Manor on July 14. Entry is limited to 50 with priority given to members, with any remaining spaces allocated to guests on a first-come, first served basis. So get your entries in fast!

MARK WILTON

SHEFFIELD

The last winter lecture of the season was given by Supreme Mowing who provided us with a delicious light

Around the Green



lunch followed by an interesting demonstration of a grinding machine. Our thanks go to Supreme Mowing and to Paul Wakefield and Steve Burgin for giving us the lecture, for their hospitality and their time. There were 25 members present.

The new lecture season starts in October but I look forward to seeing you all at our summer competitions.

Our Spring Tournament was held in glorious weather and playing conditions at Worksop GC. We would like to thank Worksop GC for allowing us courtesy of the course and making us all very welcome. Also our thanks go to the steward and his staff for an excellent meal and service, and to Barry Lax and his staff for providing a course in such excellent condition, even though I heard that some Worksop groundstaff members were four-putting on some greens. I'd also like to thank Barry Heaney for organising the whole day and to all the trade members who contributed to the prize table.

The winners were: 1, Barry Heaney, 38pts; 2, Matin Scothern, 38; 3, Steve Currie 37.

Finally, I would like to welcome back to our section Kevin Caples of Crookhill Park GC who has been working out of the area for the last few years.

IAN COLLETT

HAYTER QUALIFIERS

NORTH EAST: 0-9 - B Wilson, D Cuthbertson, J Hutton, res - C Parkinson; 10-18 - B Udberg, J Johnson, D Street, res - S Thompson; 19-28 - T Harrison, J Rippon, M Harvey, res - T Mooney.

SURREY: 0-9 - R Christie, D Langheim, S Haynes, R Glazier; 10-18 - D Walder, P Careswell, J Rigg, A Locke; 19-24 - A Bradshaw, I Smith, M Roberts, P King

MID ANGLIA: 0-9 - J Moorhouse, R McKeown, D Forsyth, res - G Boulton, C Brook; 10-18 - J Elbourn, B Cox, C Toms, res - S Boyes, M Ellis; 19-28 - D Coleman, D Pemberton, J Blair, res - R Saunders, P Hales.

SOUTH WEST: 0-9 - N Wilson, P Godwin, M Haring, A Parker; 10-18 - S Shipley, R Greaves, D Neale, J York, P Ferragut; 19-28 - A Johnson, P Seviour, C Sealey, L Johnson, D Bougen. The regional final is at Bude GC on June 15.

SCOTTISH EAST: 0-9 - G Ferguson, G White, G Thomson, C Gilholm; 10-18 - R Dugan, J Lockerbie, C Yeaman, J Neilson; 19-28 - A Forrest, W Armstrong, D Marshall, G Stavert.

LONDON: 0-9 - John Jackson, Richard Andrews, Ian Semple and Andrew Toomey; 10-18 - Don Wilson, Russell Ling and Robert Washbrook; 19-28 - Doug Smith, Pat Swinn, Peter Dawson and Andrew Smith.

EAST ANGLIA: 0-9 - 1, Richard Pride, 72; Andy Shin, 73; Neil Chapman, 76; Michael Fance, 77; 10-18 - Ian Willitt, 66, Mike Verley 70, Sam Sylvester 70, 'HG' Wells 74; 19-28 - Jim Tims, 72, Richard Mitchell 73, Steve Millard 80, Martin Forester 82.

CENTRAL SCOTLAND: 0-9 - W Whitfield, Stirling GC, J Ellis, Glenbervie GC, J Duncan, Aberdour GC, T O'Connor, Carnoustie Links, res - N Woods, Burntisland GC; 10-18 - A Robertson, Grangemouth GC, A Wallace, Dollar GC, I Jarvis, Alloa GC, A Bange, Carnoustie Links, res - J Easton, Stirling GC; 19-28 - A Wade, Haggis Castle, M Lindsay, Scoonie GC, A Nimmo, Alloa GC, W Easton, Stirling GC, res - M Hanlon, Glenbervie GC

SOUTH WALES: 0-9 - Pat Valentine, Ian Buckley, Ian Farrall, res - Jeremy Hughes, Aled Hughes; 10-18 - Chris Davies, Les Armstrong, Chris Pringle, res - Raul Bertenshaw, Andy Davidson; 19-28 - Peter Sproston, Terry Evans, John Lloyd-Jones, res - Glyn Davies, Eleanor Barlow.

NORTH WALES: 0-9 - Andrew Jenkins, Robert Johnston, Mike Jones, Vincent Northey, Gerwyn Price; 10-18 - Peter Lacey, Douge Donne, Julian B Jones, David Gladwin, Laurence Walter; 19-28 - Ted Thompson, Bob Kitcher, Les Hallett, Dave Williams, Philip Huish.

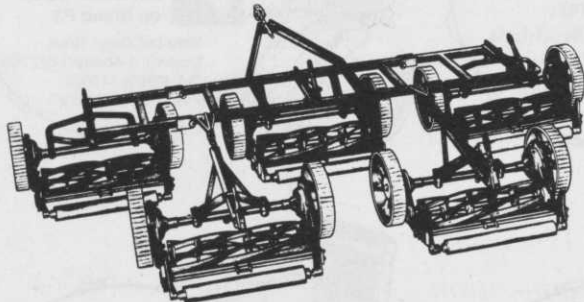
SOUTH COAST: 0-9 - Brian Newcombe 154, Joe Newman 147, Paul Fitzjohn 150, Bob Walker 152, Ted West 152, Gordon Payne 152, Mark Webb 154; 10-18 - Paul Jackson 138, Shaun White 143, Terry Patchin 148, Nick Weller 150, Andy Hill 151, Phil Wentworth 152, Bob Cully 159; 19-28 - Steven White 151, Martin Harper 156, Ted Archer 153, Robert Crouch 155, Don Friend 156, R Potter 158.

SHEFFIELD: 0-9 - B Heaney, M Scothern, S Currie; 10-18 - M Coultas, C Hopper, N Maltby; 19-28 - K Caples, C Duncan, G Brammah. The regional final is at Worsley GC on July 20.

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The 185-yard 15th. The clubhouse is being built to the left of the green

Something special

How does an architect go about creating a course, especially in an environmentally sensitive area? Chris Boiling talked to leading golf course designer Donald Steel about the Carnegie course on Peter de Savary's Skibo Castle estate, near Dornoch, Scotland.

"Heaven on earth," was how Andrew Carnegie described Skibo, his Highland castle which is now being turned into a golf and sporting club by Peter de Savary. "Heaven", "Mecca", "paradise" are over-used terms in golf magazines, but the Carnegie course, which is due to open in July, is certainly special.

It's the first links course built in Britain in the last 40 years; ➤ 33

In our April issue we reported how the farm and parkland surrounding Ramside Hall Hotel near Durham was being turned into a golf complex with course manager Roger Shaw coordinating the project. Because a greenkeeper was playing such a pivotal role and because it sounded such an exciting project, we've decided to follow it all the way through with regular updates from now until its planned opening in spring '96.

The new 27-hole golf course being built at Ramside Hall Hotel is being built by "the project management method". This is a fancy way of saying that the developer – Michael Adamson in this case – pays for each aspect of the construction work directly instead of paying through the main contractor.

But the key to using the project management method successfully is picking the right managers.

Mr Adamson and course manager Roger Shaw, who has been in charge of this project from day one, have gone for Ian Martin and Bob Hornegold, who have both been working in the industry for more than 20 years.

Work started at Ramside Hall in early March and, as we went to press, Ian Martin told us they had constructed 17 greens, 16 tee

complexes, seven lakes (ranging in size from 500 to almost 8000m sq), and 55 bunkers (greenside and fairway).

To have got these features 'constructed' basically means they are shaped up and ready for a herringbone drainage system to be installed prior to placement of drainage carpet, blinding layer and rootzone.

Once the green has been approved by the architect, Jonathan Gaunt, the drainage carpet can be spread (between 150mm and 200mm depth, 19-14mm whinstone aggregate supplied by Hargreaves) and blinded off with grit (50-75mm depth, 3-6mm whinstone aggregate, again supplied by Hargreaves). Tees will not be having a drainage carpet but will still have a herringbone drainage system and 150mm depth of rootzone.

The drainage of greens and tees is carried out by mini-trencher and linked into the fairway drainage system on the approach. MJ Abbott are the con-

tractors for this major scheme which involves the installation of over 50,000m of pipework, and they have been on site since mid-March. Nine fairways have now been drained (including bunkers) ready for mole-ploughing, so cultivation works have begun over the top – two passes of the shakaerator to relieve compaction, encourage vertical water percolation and aerate the soil, followed by power harrowing and stone picking/burying, where necessary.

The drain game

Robert Donald of MJ Abbott explains what he did at Ramside Hall:

"Standing side by side with course manager Roger Shaw and looking over what was to be the 5th fairway on a cold and horribly wet October morning, I first realised the importance that the drainage system would play in the success of this venture. The client, whom I had met earlier, had given me a verbal brief: "Robert," he said, "I want the water to flee off the land!" Here I was ankle deep in an emulsion of clay with the task set to produce a drainage proposal that suited the needs of the site and that inevitably was within the client's budget.

Consideration of the soil type indigenous to the area was a key factor in the design of the drainage system, the low permeability of the clayey subsoil led to winter waterlogging of the subsoil layer and rapid surface runoff during rain. The topsoil, however, was initially good over most of the site and consequently a great deal of emphasis was put on this fact. There was to be no contamination of the topsoil with the clay subsoil.

Another important feature of the golf course was the large and frequent areas of water in the form of lakes with occasional streams between them. Lakes only look attractive when they are full of water, however these features were also to supply irrigation to greens, tees and approaches over 27 holes. Careful liaison with the course architect, Jonathan Gaunt, ensured that the water, once removed from the land, was stored in a manner that enhanced the general aspect of the course.

The design finally proposed

and accepted consisted of an intensive piped drainage system that incorporated a network of rigid twinwall pipework between the lakes. The fairway drainage was typically 60mm laterals at 10m spacings connecting into 100mm mains. The lateral spacings were reduced in areas requiring intensification. The pipe depth is another critical factor, too deep and the cost of stone fill makes the job expensive, too shallow and the effectiveness of the drain diminishes as the hydraulic conductivity is reduced. The final depths depended on the contours of the land but could be generalised by laterals at 650mm and mains at 900mm deep. A very suitable carboniferous limestone quarried locally was used as the permeable backfill medium, 20mm single size to within 150mm of the surface and 5mm grit as a blinding layer.

The installation of the coil pipework – some 40km! – was facilitated using a 180hp continuous chain trenching machine, especially equipped for golf courses with low ground pressure tracks and a spoil conveyor, the digging boom depth is automatically controlled via a series of rams responding to a laser grading device which maintains pipe falls regardless of surface undulations. The pipe is fed into the trench as it is excavated and immediately covered with stone which is discharged from a gravel cart running parallel to the trenching machine. The spoil generated is loaded directly onto a dumper thus preventing topsoil contamination.

All the greens, tees and bunkers were connected to the fairway mains using a mini excavator, this method coping well with the inherent mounding associated with such features. Following pipe laying, the area of the fairways were mole ploughed prior to final cultivations in order to assist water movement through subsoil whilst the pipe drains were "bedding in".

To close a course for any reason is undesirable, but to close because of poor drainage is intolerable as it can lead to huge losses in revenue. Addressing the drainage question in the early stages of planning will reap benefits many years after the initial cost of installation has been forgotten."

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31 ➤ it's bounded on three sides by the estuarial waters of the Firth and has spectacular views of Struie Hill; eight of the holes lie within the Dornoch Firth Site of Scientific Interest; it's the first course owned by wealthy entrepreneur Peter de Savary; and it's a project that Carnegie himself would have been proud of.

Carnegie was a Scot who emigrated to America with his family when he was 13. There he rose from a bobbin boy in a cotton factory to become a steel magnate, and returned to his homeland as one of the richest and most successful men of his generation. He bought Skibo (a shortened version of its Celtic name, Schytherbolle, which means 'fairylane of peace') in 1898 and spent a fortune rebuilding it to entertain the likes of King Edward VII, Rudyard Kipling and Lloyd George.

It is believed that the local golf club, Royal Dornoch, invited him to become a member but because he couldn't play he built himself a nine-hole golf course where he could learn the game. He invited five-times Open champion JH Taylor to stay at the castle – and coach him. Carnegie later became vice-president of Royal Dornoch and, today, the impressive-looking Carnegie Shield is one of the big competitions on the club's calendar.

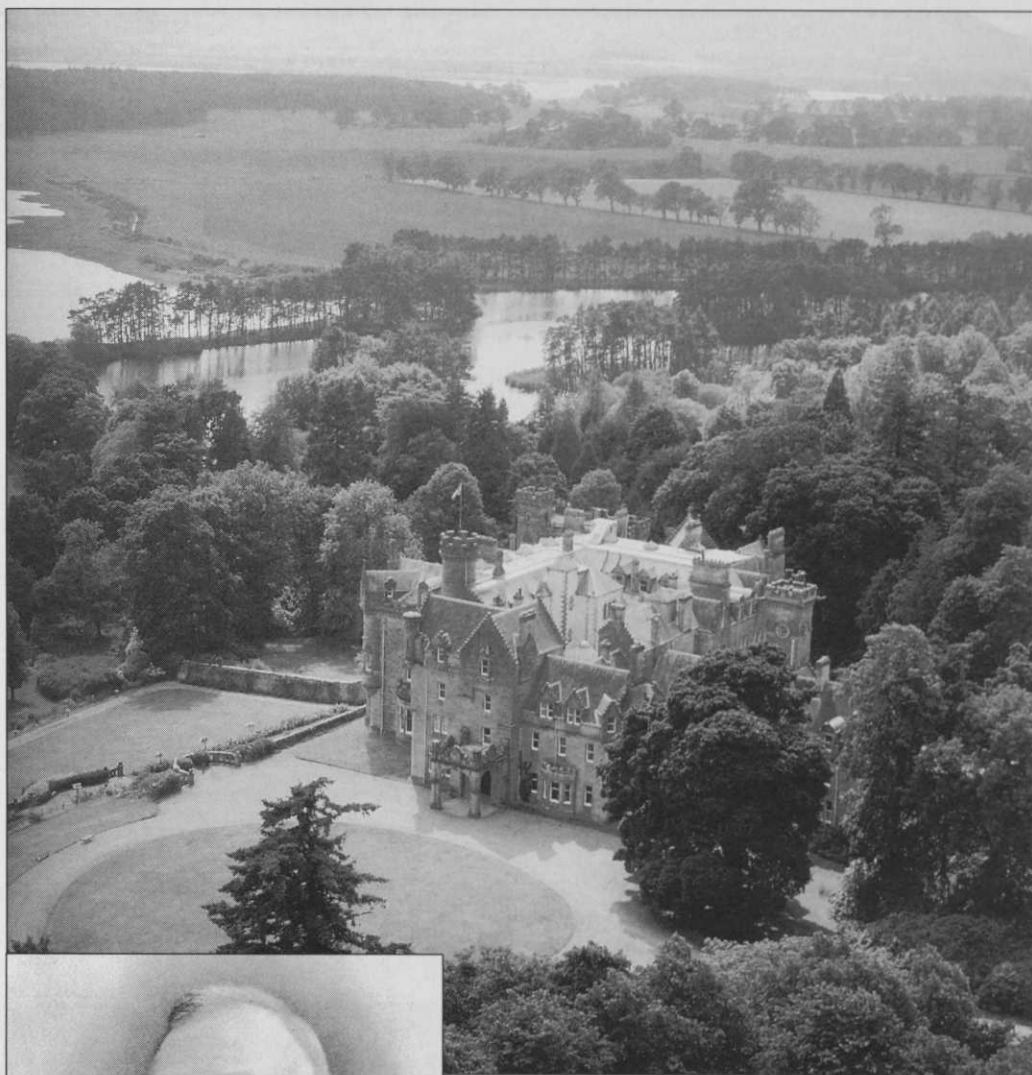
Peter de Savary is a non-golfer too, but he's not building the new 18-hole course for himself. He is turning the 7,000 acre estate into a private residential golf and sporting club with an invited international membership of about 500.

The Carnegie course at Skibo Castle will be de Savary's first golfing venture. And what a venture. The first links course built in Britain since Southernness and the restoration of Turnberry after World War II. It's not long – just 6,650 off the championship tees and 6,400 off the white tees – but there are many tough and memorable holes.

Despite some of the publicity for the club and boards outside proclaiming its "reopening", the new course, designed by Donald Steel, is nothing like the original. The only visible evidence of the original course is a grassy hollow near the 12th which was probably a bunker near the original 9th green.

When the castle was put on the market in 1989, Steel was commissioned to provide a golf course as a selling feature. When de Savary bought Skibo in 1990 he saw Steel's name on the plans and asked him to design a course for him.

When Steel and his assistants,



Andrew Carnegie, left, called Skibo 'heaven on earth'. His highland castle is now owned by the de Savary family

they worked backwards on the design of this course. Once they realised they could get three holes to the west of the clubhouse, the first hole became obvious.

They also knew they wanted to use some land on the other side of Ferry

of potential importance. They also struck a deal allowing the conservationists to come in and manage the heathland areas, which they hadn't been allowed to do for the previous 30 years and as a consequence some of the areas of good heathland had started to disappear. The conservationists jumped at the chance to stop the decline of valuable sites.

The most sensitive area was the land south of Ferry Road. Steel wanted to take the course there to add to the scenic variety, but also because he needed the space. Although the estate is on more than 7,000 acres, the golf course is on a plot of about 120 acres (200 if you include the areas of scientific interest).

Once they had received approval in principle from Scottish Natural Heritage, Steel's ecologist had to do a detailed environmental appraisal showing why the site was valuable, what plants were there, what effect the work would have on them and how the course would be built – hole by hole with particular attention to holes in SI territory. He also had to say how ➤ 35

Martin Ebert and Tom MacKenzie, are designing a new course they walk the new site as many times as possible. For Tom, who comes from Dornoch, this meant driving 11 hours home a few weeks after starting work at Steel's offices near Chichester, West Sussex.

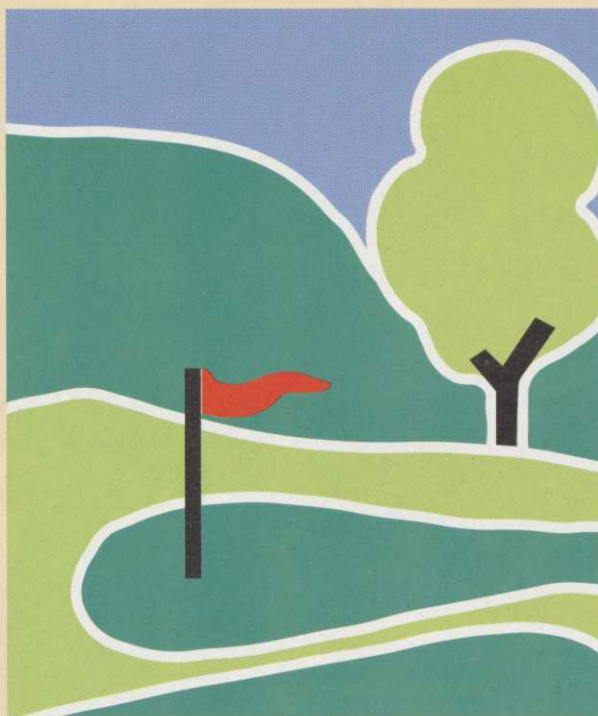
The first two things they have to find out before they start creating a course are the boundaries and the site of the clubhouse. With the Carnegie course they also had to plot the areas of scientific interest.

The site of an old steading was to be used to build the new clubhouse. Standing there, Steel envisaged a spectacular final hole, a par 5 dogleg with a drive across a bay. So, to some extent,

Road because it gave a third view of the Firth and linked the course with the beach. Another hole, the 8th, alongside River Evelix, was also obvious, according to Steel.

Before they went too far down the design road, they employed an ecologist to plot the areas of importance and grade them: prime importance, importance, and potential importance, so they knew where they could go and where they most certainly couldn't go. They also started consultations with Scottish Natural Heritage and began communicating with planners, ecologists, environmentalists etc.

They told them they wouldn't go into any areas of importance or prime importance and they would do their best to avoid areas



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33 ➔ these holes would be managed – what fertiliser would be used, how it would be applied, and what the irrigation regime would be. This is important because the lichens in these areas are very sensitive: “One application of fertiliser and they’re gone, and they’ve been there since the Ice Age,” said Tom.

Fortunately, Steel had been involved in the rebuilding of some new greens at Royal Dornoch, so they were able to take SNH there to show them how it’s possible to work in very tight areas, without damaging heather and gorse bushes around the backs of greens.

The new plan for the Carnegie course showed it would only go into SI areas with the first green, second tee, fourth and fifth holes, and sixth tee.

So with the 18th, 17th, 16th, 1st, two holes near the beach and a hole near the river in mind, the rest fell into place.

Steel doesn’t believe a good course has to be over 7,000 yards. “You pick nice tee and green positions and whatever they measure, they measure and whatever they add up to, they add up to. The belief that unless it’s 7,000 yards it’s no good is a load of poppycock.

“Carnegie is not long, but it’s



Looking back from the 5th green. The SI area on the right is marked as GUR but requires a compulsory drop

long enough for the majority of golfers. And the penalties for missing the fairway on a number of holes are quite grave.”

With this par 71 (70 off the championship tees) course, Steel wants to make golfers think. Cut-

ting off the right amount of dog-leg is rewarded with a much easier line to the green.

Mainly turfed

Work started late August/September 1992, later than

desired because of all the planning involved. Most of the fairways, greens and tees were turfed because of the difficulties of getting seed established in light sandy soil on a windy site. Lindum supplied and laid ➔ 37

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35 ➤ the turf. David Stansfield was employed as the agronomist and Brian D Pierson Ltd as the constructors.

Alick Mackay and his team of six greenkeepers and a YTS lad built the bunkers, although by modern standards there are very few bunkers on this course – “it’s difficult enough without them,” says Steel, “and they require a lot of maintenance and upkeep.”

He added: “Setting up the impossible is the easiest thing in the world, but that’s not the right way of going about things, you want to present a challenge which is achievable if people play well enough.”

Holes which caught our eye include:

◆ The short 3rd, which is played from the top of one dune across a hollow to a green set on top of another dune. Anything to the right rolls down a steep drop, leaving the player with an awkward pitch back to the green. The left side is guarded by rough.

◆ The fourth and fifth holes with their panoramic views over the Firth to the bridge and the hill all around. The fifth fairway is flanked by the beach and sea one side and heathland the other.

◆ The 8th is a long dogleg to the right, lined along the right by Loch Evelix. The more of the dogleg you cut-off by driving across the loch, the more straightforward is the second shot.

◆ There are no bunkers on the par 3 15th, just a steep drop into the water.

◆ The 18th is one of the most dramatic finishing holes on any course. A long par 5, it sweeps left around the bay from tees set on a spit of land with water on three sides. From most tees, the player must choose how much of the bay to carry and the boldness of the drive will determine how to play the second shot. Big hitters may try to reach the green in two shots but most will play into the broad approach and pitch to the large green from there. Apart from the bay, the worst thing about this hole is the fact that you know everyone in the clubhouse bar will be watching your progress to the green as the bar overlooks the entire hole.

If the club is as successful as de Savary’s other clubs, like St James’s in London, when it opens a few months after the course, then a ‘parkland’ course may also be built.

CONSTRUCTION

The bases of the greens and tees were shaped from local material. The growing medium is a 70%-30% sand to fen soil mix. On the greens it is 250-300mm deep and on the tees it’s about 150mm deep. The greens, surrounds, approaches, tees and their surrounds are turfed with a *Festuca/Agrostis* grass mix.



Donald Steel was a golf writer before he became a designer. A scratch golfer, he joined the Sunday Telegraph after leaving Cambridge University. Five years into his 30-year stint there, Ken Cotton invited him down to see his new courses at St Pierre and Ross-on-Wye, among the first courses to be built in Britain after World War II. After that they kept in touch.

When a new wave of courses was built in the 60s, Donald was asked if wanted to help out. He did, and eventually he became a partner in the firm of Cotton, Pennick, Lawrie and Partners. In 1987 he started his own firm and in 1989 he left the Telegraph, although he still contributes articles (including a new series on his 18 favourite holes) and has written several books.

Over the last five years he has built about 60 courses in 15 countries. One of the courses he is most proud of is Redtail in Ontario, Canada. Built for just over £1million it has been voted the second best course in Canada one year after opening. And Canadian journalist Lorne Rubenstein has said: “Developers should ask English architect Donald Steel to work in Canada more often. This is the only course he’s designed in Canada. It’s a peach.” He believes it could become Canada’s Pine Valley.

In this country Steel, who now

plays off 6, is best known for his work at St Andrews, where he redesigned the Jubilee and Eden courses and designed the Strathtyrum course. Other courses of his which have received widespread acclaim are Mill Ride and Portal in the UK and Vila Sol in Portugal.

His assistants, Tom MacKenzie and Martin Ebert (pictured above with Donald – Tom is on the left), are also university graduates and low-handicap golfers. Tom has a degree in landscape architecture and plays off 5; Martin graduated in engineering and plays off 4.

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Course manager Alick Mackay, 39, reckons his greenkeeping staff form the best golfing team in the country. Five of the seven staff play off single figures!

GREENKEEP

THE COLLEGES AND T

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses.

The directory shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green coded colleges are approved to train greenkeepers beyond craft level.

The introduction of vocational qualifications into industries, has caused the colleges

to re-think their training policies and the GTC will be issuing guidelines for the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be supporting.

Until the report is complete, anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeepers Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, telephone 0347 838640.

NORTH



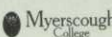
ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York YO2 3PR. Contact Christine Biglin, registrar. Tel: 0904 702121. *Full time courses:* National Certificate – Horticulture; National Diploma – Amenity Horticulture; Higher National Diploma – Horticulture (golf management options). *Part time courses:* NVQ Level 2, City & Guilds Phase III and IV Greenkeeping.



HOUGHALL COLLEGE Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan. Tel: 091 386 1351. *Full time courses:* National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship – 1 Year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option – 2/3 years. *Part time courses:* Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management Level II – Day Release; C&G Phase III Enterprise Management – Afternoon Evening. *Short Courses:* Health & Safety Legislation; Turfcare; Machinery and Mechanisation. All courses contribute towards NVQ Levels I and II.



KIRKLEY HALL COLLEGE Ponteland, Northumberland NE20 0AQ. Contact Dr Ron McParlin. Tel: 0661 860808. NVQ Level II with greenkeeping option. Day release or block release – one to two years.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE Myerscough Hall, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY. Contact Martyn Jones. Tel: 0995 640611. *Full time courses:* National Certificate in Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping – 1 Year; BTEC National Diploma in Turf Science and Sportsground Management – 3 Years; BTEC Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Technology – 3 Years (Both these courses include one year's paid industrial experience). *Part time courses:* NVQ Level II Greenkeeping; Phase III Supervisory Management; Phase IV Business Management; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation (in conjunction with BTLIA).



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BROOKSBY COLLEGE Brooksby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2LJ. Contact Paul Greene. Tel: 0664 434291. *Full time courses:* National Certificate in Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management. *Part time courses:* Day Release training to NVQ Level II in Amenity Horticulture – Greenkeeping option. The course is based around the GTC Training Manual. Short courses also available in Horticultural Machinery and Arboriculture.



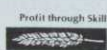
BROOMFIELD COLLEGE Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 0332 831345. NVQ Level I and Level II Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III available from September 1994.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE COLLEGE Milton Centre, Landbeach Road, Milton, Cambridgeshire CB4 6DB. Contact David Haigh. Tel: 0223 860701. Part time – Day Release over two years leading to NVQ Level II (Greenkeeping Options), including the GTC Training Manual requirements. Autumn term commences September/October 1994.



LINCOLNSHIRE COLLEGE Lincolnshire College of Agriculture, Caythorpe Court, Caythorpe, Grantham, Lincs. Contact Neil Rowbottom at Student Services. Tel: 0400 72521. Day Release NVQ Level II. NCH with Greenkeeping pending approval. National Diploma in Horticulture with Greenkeeping and Turf Management options, pending approval.



MOULTON COLLEGE Moulton, Northampton NN3 1RR. Contact Stuart Phillips. Tel: 0604 491131. *Full time courses:* BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture 2 Years; BTEC First Diploma in Horticulture with Turfcare Option, 1 year; BTEC First Diploma in Business and Finance with Horticulture Option, 1 year. *Part time courses:* NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture (Options include Turficulture (including GTC requirements), Hard landscaping, Interior landscaping and Arboriculture) – Day Release or Block Release; NVQ Level II Turficulture – Day Release. *Short courses:* Safe Lifting and Handling, Chain Saw Operation and Maintenance, Off-Road Vehicle Driving, F.E.P.A.



STAFFORDSHIRE COLLEGE Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5HG. Contact Nigel Foskett. Tel: 0785 712209. Courses offered: Craft Level NVQ Level I, II and III. Day Release. Duration: Over two years, each of weeks duration (September – June). Registration Date: Please contact the College.



WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9BL. Contact Chris Gray. Tel: 0926 651367. *Part time courses:* NVQ L1 – Greenkeeping – Day Release; NVQ L2 Greenkeeping – Day or Block Release; NVQ L3 Greenkeeping – Day or Block Release; C&G Phase 3 Year 4 – Greenkeeping Management – Day Release; IoG National Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture (proposed). *Full time course:* 2 year BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture with an option in Turf Culture. *Professional updating courses include:* Groundsmanship, Machinery Maintenance and Repair, Managing Conservation Areas, Plant Identification, Hedgelaying, First Aid, FEPA Spraying Courses, Chainsaw Courses.



BRINSBURY COLLEGE North Heath, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DL. Contact Keith Harrison. Tel: 0798 873832. *Full time courses:* New Entrant to Greenkeeping Course – 36 weeks. NVQ II Greenkeeping option plus core. Approximately a third of the course is delivered on college's and local golf course. *Part time:* Day Release to NVQ II level. Both full time and part time students with work both to the NVQ II work book and the Greenkeeper manual. NVQ Level II (National Technical Certificate) with Inst. of Groundsmanship manual may be delivered as an evening course. At present Phase III is offered in Greenkeeping Supervision and Enterprise Management. As this qualification is phased out, NVQ III and IV will be offered. ND Landscape Studies (Option – Sportsturf Management). *New courses and qualifications:* National Technical Certificate (IoG), National Practical Certificate (IoG), Intermediate Diploma (IoG), National Diploma (IoG).



HADLOW COLLEGE Hadlow College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Keith Backhouse. Tel: 0732 850551. NVQ Level II Part-time Day Release over two years with two periods of Block Release. Level II in Amenity and Groundsmanship Courses with Day Release. Centres at Hadlow, Canterbury and Maidstone.



MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE. Contact the Academic Registrar. Tel: 0483 232424. NVQ Levels I, II and III Amenity Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Specialism. Part time... one day per week for 35 weeks commencing in September.



NESCOT North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 081 394 3099/3111. NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.

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Please note that all college details on these pages were provided by the colleges themselves. Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided. Contact the colleges direct for prospectuses and comprehensive information.

SOUTH EAST



OAKLANDS COLLEGE Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 0727 850651. *Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management*: Two year part time, one day per week. Level II Year One leading to NVQ Level II. Level II Year Two leading to City & Guilds 022-4. *Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management* or NVQ Level II/III. *Amenity Horticulture and Greenkeeping Business Management*: Part time, one day per week. National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management: One year - full time. All courses commence September 1994.



OTLEY COLLEGE Otley College, Otley, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EY. Contact Student Applications. Tel: 0473 785543. *Full time courses*: BTEC National Diploma - Sports Turf Management. National Certificate in Horticulture, option in Sports Turf Technology. Part time NVQ 2 Golf Greenkeeping and NVQ 2 Groundsmanship, NVQ 3 Sports Turf Management. IoG Intermediate and Final Diplomas (Evenings). NVQ Horticultural Mechanics. FEPA Courses PA1, PA2, PA6.



PLUMPTON COLLEGE Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE. Contact David Blackmur. Tel: 0273 890454. *Full time courses*: BTEC First Diploma (Greenkeeping Option). *Part time courses*: NVQ Level II - Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Sportsturf and Sportsground Maintenance - Block and Day Release; City & Guilds Phase III - Enterprise Management, Greenkeepers Supervision - Block and Day Release; City & Guilds Phase IV - Business Management - Day Release. NCH Full time with a greenkeeping bias. (Subject to approval).



WRITTLE COLLEGE Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RR. Contact Dai Edwards. Tel: 0245 420705. City & Guilds Golf Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management (Day Release); NVQ Level II Greenkeeping, Sports Turf, Sports Ground maintenance to include BIGGA Manual (Day Release); Courses leading to NVQ III and IV available (GTC Manual); a Golf Course Management option is also included in full time three year HND landscape and Amenity Management Course. Courses for next academic year commence 4 October 1994.



CANNINGTON COLLEGE Cannington Bridwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Contact Nick Rigden. Tel: 0278 652226. BTEC First Diploma. BTEC National Diploma in Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management (inc. European Studies). NVQ Level 1 and 2 Golf Greenkeeping. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management. NVQ Level 4 Greenkeeping Management. FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off Road Vehicle Certification, Golf Course Engineers Course.



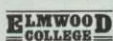
HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury House, Nr Gloucester GL19 3BE. Contact D. Kirkham. Tel: 0452 700283. Fax: 0452 700629. Courses: NVQ Level II and III in Amenity Horticulture, NVQ Level III Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, 1st Dipl Horticulture, NC Horticulture (Amenity & Decorative) Dipl Supervisory Management, ND Horticulture (Amenity & Decorative), HND Land Use (Amenity Horticulture), HND Land Use (Greenkeeping & Sportsturf Management)



SPARSHOLT COLLEGE Sparsholt College Hampshire, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF. Contact Bob Young. Tel: 0962 776441. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase III Enterprise Management (last year to be offered), City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FIPA: Short Courses, Chainsaw: Short Courses. All courses, other than Phase IV, are offered on Block release. Full residential facilities available.



DUNDEE COLLEGE Old Glamis Road, Dundee DD3 8LE. Contact Graham Carr. Tel: 0382 819021. Fax: 0382 858117. Courses offered: SVQ Units at Level I and II linked with GTC Training Manual; SCOTVEC National Certificate Modules for Greenkeeping; SCOTVEC HNC Units in Horticulture; SCOTVEC HNC Units on Golf Course Management (available as Distance Learning/Flexible Learning from October 1994). Duration of courses 36 weeks from September/October each year. Attendance full-time, block release and day release. Short courses including "Use of Pesticides" available on demand. Registration June and August.



ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB. Contact Carol Borthwick. Tel: 0334 52781. Fax: 0334 56795. Craft Level courses. Block-release and full-time, following SVQ Level II and the GTC Training Manual. Six week specialist modular programme (January/February), including Golf Course Construction, Pesticide Application and Plant Protection Procedures. Distance Learning supervisory course, with one week in College. HNC in Golf Course Management: available as full-time, day-release and distance learning, leading to final part of HND in Golf Course Management from September 1994. FEPA, COSHH and Health and Safety short courses.



KYLE AND CARRICK DISTRICT COUNCIL Burns House, Burns Statue Square, Ayr KA7 1UT. Contact J Dudgeon. Tel: 0292 281511. SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping - Day Release up to three years. Students can enrol at any time.



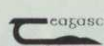
LANGSIDE COLLEGE GLASGOW Langside College Glasgow School of Horticulture, Woodburn House, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen G73 3PF. Contact Colin S Urquhart. Tel: 041 647 6300. SCOTVEC National Certificate - 3 years day release or 1 year full time. Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management - 2 years day release. SVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with Greenkeeping options plus a range of NC and HNC Horticulture programmes including G SVQ Level III. Short courses on a range of subjects including Tractor Operations and the Safe Use of Pesticides can be negotiated.



OATRIDGE COLLEGE Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, West Lothian EH52 6NH. Contact Steve Miller. Tel: 0506 854387. *Full and part time courses*: Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management; National Certificate in Greenkeeping; National Certificate Modular and Scottish Vocational Qualification Level I and II. National Certificate in Hort. Machinery. Short specialist courses - including safe use of chemicals, operation of greenkeeping machinery.



GREENMOUNT COLLEGE Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, BT41 4PU. Contact Geoff Jenkins. Tel: 0849 462114. Day Release course in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Two year course leading to NVQ - and a Certificate in Greenkeeping for those completing additional working practices/tasks as specified by the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Course runs from September-May.



TEAGASC COLLEGE Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Contact Pat Suttle. Tel: 0103531 371 636. Phase II Greenkeeping - Block Release two weeks, three times per year. Phase III Greenkeeping - Block Release, one week, three times per year.



PENCOED COLLEGE Pencoed, Mid Glamorgan CF35 5LG. Contact Peter Gillard or Richard Browning. Tel: 0656 860202. Day Release courses in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf at Introductory, Technician, Supervisory and Management Levels, incorporating the Training Manual of the Greenkeepers Training Committee.



WELSH COLLEGE Welsh College of Horticulture, Northrop, Mold, Clywyd CH7 6AA. Contact GM Wright. Tel: 0352 840 861. Fax: 0352 840 731. *Full time courses*: ND - Golf Course Construction Option - equivalent to NVQ Level III. NEBSM - equivalent to NVQ Level III. BTEC First in Landbase Golf Greenkeeping NVQ Level II. *Part time course*: Phase 3 Greenkeeping Management - equivalent to NVQ Level III. NVQ Level IV from Autumn 1993 (if available). NVQ Level I and II Greenkeeping. *Short courses*: Pesticide PA1, PA2, PA6, 1-3 day courses (training and testing); COSHH Assessments; Safe lifting and carrying; PICKUP courses.

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...And not a drop to

Cedric Johns explores the sometimes murky depths of golf course lakes and ponds

Modern day golf course architects – especially our cousins from over the Atlantic – love water, it seems. Give 'em half a chance and they'll come up with at least one spectacular hole designed to force players into making choices. A safety shot for the timid; an arm chancing drive for the bold, tempting them to smash the ball beyond the watery clutches of an in-play lake. And, as we so often see, beyond the back of the green as well...

Water hazards can intimidate club golfers and hardened pros alike. Just think back to that menacing 15th which featured so dramatically in last month's US Masters, staged at the 'garden course', Augusta National.

Apart from Olazabal, whose 30-foot, final day putt killed-off the opposition – at the 15th – and ultimately secured that prized green jacket, most of his rivals were in big trouble. How many shots did Payne Stewart drop attempting to clear those limped waters...?

But it is not only the players who have to be aware of the dangers of still waters these

days. The increasing numbers of feature lakes and off-course reservoirs appearing on our golf courses form the basis for hazards of another type: natural pollution. Greenkeepers beware...!

The relatively new concept of digging holes in the ground for in or out-of-play water storage purposes is linked directly with the use of irrigation systems.

Why? Because legislation imposed by the National Rivers Authority (NRA) insists that abstraction licences are largely conditional on the system's design being self-sufficient in terms of water consumed. This is particularly true of golf courses located in the south and south-east of the country, where water is most often at a premium in the summer months.

This is the reason why we see so many developers and golf clubs – never mind architects – investing in the construction of in-ground storage facilities.

By comparison, the more conventional, above-ground storage tanks – usually used as overnight holding points – are fast going out of fashion. They are simply not large enough to hold the vast volumes of water involved. Even built in multiples, the cost of a number of tanks would far outstrip that of a reservoir.

Based on the broad principle that only winter water, abstracted between October and March, is utilised, man-made feature lakes and off-course reservoirs are today's answer to the problem of sourcing enough water for months of high-season irrigation. A classic example of this trend is the total water management scheme implemented at The Belfry a couple of years ago. Then, a lake, capable of holding ten million gallons of water – 40 million litres for the benefit of thrusting young 'keepers clutching HNC's – was constructed behind the Derby course.

Filled and subsequently topped-up from a nearby stream, the lake actually fulfils two roles – as course manager Derek Ganning explained when I visited him prior to the '93 Ryder Cup.

Not only does this vast tract of water feed irrigation systems watering both the Brabazon and Derby courses, it is also used to overcome evaporation losses by maintaining levels of the in-play lakes dotted around the championship course.

On the club circuit, the lake featuring an island green built during the reconstruction of the Barton-on-Sea course, featured on these pages (April issue) was designed to provide

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similar benefits, albeit on a smaller scale.

So, having dug a hole and filled it, what next? A very good question. Life being what it is, the answer to one problem quite often begets another. Right! All that water adds yet another demand to the day-to-day business of golf course management...

That demand comes in the guise of water management – the important task of ensuring that the quality of water stored in-ground does not deteriorate to the point where it can represent a distinct environmental hazard.

Reservoirs and lakes are, after all, living ecological systems in which the control of algae and weed is an important factor in maintaining a natural balance between what is good and that which can be harmful – to man, wildlife and turf,

As a simple example, think of algae 'bloom'. That thick green stuff which covers the surface of many a village pond. Viewed from a distance, some may feel that it looks attractive but the truth is that its very existence causes trouble down below.

By preventing natural light from penetrating into the depths of the water, algae deprives other oxygen giving plants from thriving deeper down.

Since plantlife is an essential and natural method of releasing life-providing oxygen into the water the lack of light begins a process which, if left unchecked, will upset the balance of nature.

As oxygen levels fall, the 'bloom' dies off and sinks to the bottom of the pond. More oxygen is needed to combat the effects of decomposing plantlife yet, in reality, the reverse is happening. Allowed to develop further, the water becomes anaerobic – deprived of oxygen. At this stage all natural life in the water including fish is seriously at risk. So too is the quality of water intended for irrigation purposes.

As anaerobic bacteria begins to thrive on waste materials – dying plants, fish and even grass cuttings blown into the water from nearby fairways or greens are digested anaerobically rather than by natural means. (Fertiliser entering the water through run-off doesn't help either).

You'll soon know when this stage has been reached because noxious odours are released as a by-product. Yes, the water on your course *smells!*

Apart from the obvious; murky water clogging filters, valves and sprinklers, the bacteria present in the water also threatens both soil and turf.

Algae present in the water will build-up on soil surfaces to create a perched water table. Anaerobic bacteria can, as at least one well-known head greenkeeper in this country will testify, play havoc with fine turf...

In days of yore, many a lake or pond was left to its own devices until the stinking, slimy contents forced those responsible to take action. Then, it was mostly a question of dis-



Fountains like this – and much larger models – help water to circulate and provide additional oxygen

posing of the water and dredging the glutinous mess off the bottom and carting it away. Phew!

Latterly, chemicals have been used to control the imbalance created by neglected water. Repetitively expensive, time and labour consuming, this method has obvious limitations.

Today's answer? Aeration, the method of adding oxygen – and movement – into the water, a natural process aided by man-made equipment which helps rid reservoirs and lakes of the pernicious effects of algae, plant death, suffocating sludge and anaerobic bacteria, automatically.

Aeration, in the form of high-profile fountains, like those at The Belfry, represent one answer to the business of water management. Used as a visual feature in ornamental and in-play lakes, the effect of a single fountain is helpful but conditional on the volume of water it is attempting to re-cycle.

The larger the lake, the more fountains are required to handle the sheer expanse of water involved effectively.

Parallel to introduction of fountains, floating and submersible aspirating and diffused air systems have been developed to increase the below-surface movement of water and add high levels of oxygen on a continuous basis.

Where a breakdown in the quality of water has already taken place, air stripping systems provide an efficient method of dissolving

gases, chlorine hydrogen sulphide and other bacteria at the rate of 150 gallons per minute.

In essence, all these systems work on the basis that air pumped into a reservoir or lake assists the natural aquatic rejuvenation processes by increasing dissolved oxygen levels, providing much needed circulation and maintaining aerobic conditions.

What does that mean? Simply this; aerated water gives you the means whereby irrigation can be carried out without the fear of bacteria and the like affecting the quality of your prized turf, the balance of nature can be maintained in and around the water and irate telephone calls from the secretary's office, complaining about 'that smell' will never reach your ears.

Postscript: As this article was going to press the Daily Telegraph published a story featuring scuba diver, 23-year-old Emma Elliott-Pyle, who has obtained a contract (with a dozen golf clubs) to retrieve balls from in-play lakes. Commenting on her task, Emma was quoted as saying; "The lakes are usually pretty disgusting. I have to shut my eyes and feel about in the dark." Enough said.

●Details of Otterbine fountains are available from Golf Course Services; 0858 463153. Readers wishing to learn more about AquaScape fountains, aspirating aerators and air stripping systems should call TIL Irrigation Limited; 0425 476162.

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Judges' decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff.

★ **Peter Creary, course manager at Hatfield London Country Club, Essendon, Hertfordshire, was the winner of our May competition. A few minutes searching through these pages paid off for him - Will YOU be next month's winner?**

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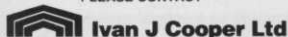


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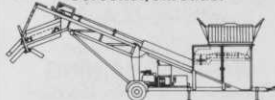
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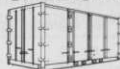


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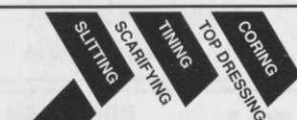
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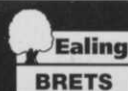
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The successful applicant for this prestigious appointment must have a sound knowledge of all aspects of greenkeeping, with particular emphasis on links turf management. A practical knowledge of the use and maintenance of greenkeeping machinery and the ability to lead and motivate staff is essential. The Course Manager will have responsibility for the maintenance and presentation of the golf course under the direction of the Captain and Committee.

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Written application with details of age, qualifications and experience to:

The Secretary,
The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers,
Muirfield, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2EG



Billingham Golf Club

invites applications for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be fully qualified and be able to show a proven record of achievement.

The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and an awareness of all relevant Health and Safety legislation is essential.

The successful applicant will also be expected to have a sound knowledge of budgetary control.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Replies in writing together with full CV to

Secretary/Manager, Billingham Golf Club Ltd,
Sandy Lane, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5NA.

by 21st June 1994

Newark Golf Club

requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

For an 18 hole heathland golf course. Applicants must be suitably qualified in all aspects of course maintenance.

Wage is negotiable dependent upon age and experience.

Accommodation is available.

Apply in writing, enclosing a CV to:

Mr JDF Cressey, Chairman of Green, Newark Golf Club,
Coddington, Newark, Notts NG24 2QX



Meltham Golf Club

invites applications for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

This parkland course requires applicants who are suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of course management. The ability to motivate and lead an established team and organise work programmes is regarded as essential.

A practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping machinery and current Health & Safety regulations is also required.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Apply in writing, with full CV to:

The Secretary, Meltham Golf Club, Thick Hollins Hall,
Meltham, Huddersfield HD7 3DQ



Settle Golf Club

require a

GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and have a practical knowledge of modern machinery.

Accommodation is not available. Salary negotiable according to experience.

Apply in first instance with full particulars to:

The Secretary, Settle Golf Club, 9 South Parade,
Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 9AX. Tel: 0729 823596

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Mr A Turbin, Grass Machinery Sales Manager
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RECRUITMENT

Holtye Golf Club – Sussex

Applications are invited for the newly vacant post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

This post is ideally suited to a young, Phase III qualified Assistant looking for a first supervisory role. The successful applicant will need to demonstrate their ability by continuing to maintain this established Heathland 9 hole course to the very high standards enjoyed over recent years.

Salary will be in accordance with age, experience and qualifications. No accommodation.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

JP Holes, Secretary/Manager,
Holtye Golf Club, Cowden, Nr. Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7ED

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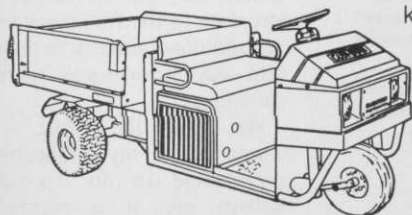
Own car. Salary negotiable.

Send CV to:

Patrick Tallack, Springfield Park Golf Club,
Burntwood Lane, London SW17 0AT

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TALKING HEADS

Everyone agrees that good communication between the keepers of the green and the users of the green is essential, but is it worth going to the extra bother of organising a presentation evening for members? Duncan McGilvray, course manager at Letchworth, reckons it is.

It is my belief that the vast majority of our present problems are due to the lack of communication and presentation of ourselves and our staff. If, as we have proved at Letchworth, this can be largely overcome, everybody – including member, committee member and secretary – is much happier and, dare I say, the greenstaff are better paid.

Giving a presentation such as the one outlined below may seem a daunting task but, if successful, makes all our other tasks much easier.

Following five years of annual course manager presentations in the clubhouse giving updates on progress, describing problems, with the assistance of invited speakers, and answering sometimes difficult questions, I believed that there was something more that could be done to get the message across regarding what the job of the greenkeeper was all about.

Then in 1992 I attended an EGU seminar on policy documents and there was the answer – Ed McCabe and Arthur King from Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club had given their committee and membership a presentation of the greenstaff and their equipment.

With great enthusiasm I returned to work the next day and planned our own presentation at Letchworth.

Firstly I asked the greenstaff what they thought. All agreed it was a good idea and suggested different set-ups to get the most from the day – even though it was scheduled for a Friday evening in the middle of summer. With that sort of backing from our staff I knew it would work. Permission from the club? No problems. Huge encouragement from our liaison officer. The treasurer even advised me to set-up a separate budget so that we could do it properly (decent PA system, cheese and wine, etc). Treasurers always know somehow that a little money spent now bears fruit way into the future.

So all the preparations were made (far too many to list) and the day arrived.

5pm: Final staff briefing. All staff including seasonal and part-time were there.

4.30–6.15pm: PA system installed and tested.

5.30–6.15pm: All relevant equipment, machinery and staff to putting green and in place for presentation.

5.30–6.15pm: Still and video cameras set up so that an accurate record of the event could be kept – all set up and monitored by our liaison officer Brian Hodder (without whom my position as course manager would be near impossible).

6.30pm: The presentation begins – and the sun was even shining.

The president of the club, who introduces all our course presentations, introduced me with his usual flair and then it

was down to a very nervous course manager.

Following my brief introduction of what the evening would hold for our members I started with our greenstaff.

The staff

I spoke about each of them in turn, probably embarrassed some, named them, went through their service history, explained about training and some of the tasks they had to carry out and the difficulties they were up against in getting some of those tasks completed with golfers on the course.

The machinery

How much it cost. I explained that they are not just lawnmowers in the same way as greenkeepers are not just grasscutters. How much the machinery costs to maintain and more importantly the costs and problems which would occur if it was not maintained.

Action demonstrations

A pin position was changed all the time a commentary was done on what the staff have to think about before a place is selected – nobody I spoke to following this demonstration had any idea how much was involved. The differences between triple and hand mowing were explained along with height of cut, hand watering, wetting agents and dry patch.

We even set up a situation on the first fairway where one of the greenstaff was cutting a fairway and an irate lady member (assistant pro with a skirt on) was trying to play the first hole.

I could then discuss the difficulties experienced by both parties and explain why – and more importantly *how* – they could be overcome in the future.

I then closed the reasonably formal part of the evening and invited all present to visit our workshops for cheese and wine and discussions with all the staff.

The workshop visit

The members were generally left on their own to look at whatever they liked with the staff on hand to answer questions – they were kept very busy and a very good atmosphere was created.

Some of the attractions were bench set-ups of vertical cutting units and back-lapping machinery. We especially took time out to show some of the behind-the-scenes administration involved, ie. year planners for competitions, holidays, maintenance schedules etc, diaries, day books, forward planners, machinery records and health and safety requirements.

When I look back, the good that was done on that one evening in June 1993 will last a very long time – the membership know much more about the work that we do, and that is no bad thing.

Much more importantly they now see the staff as highly trained, respectable, professional people.

The staff themselves got a great deal from the evening as well – they now look at our membership in a different light – not just aloof golfers who get in the way of their work.

It is a fact that the membership pay subscriptions which ultimately pay our salaries and if they know that the course is managed by trained professionals they will not argue at any time in the future regarding additional finance to maintain and improve golf course conditions.

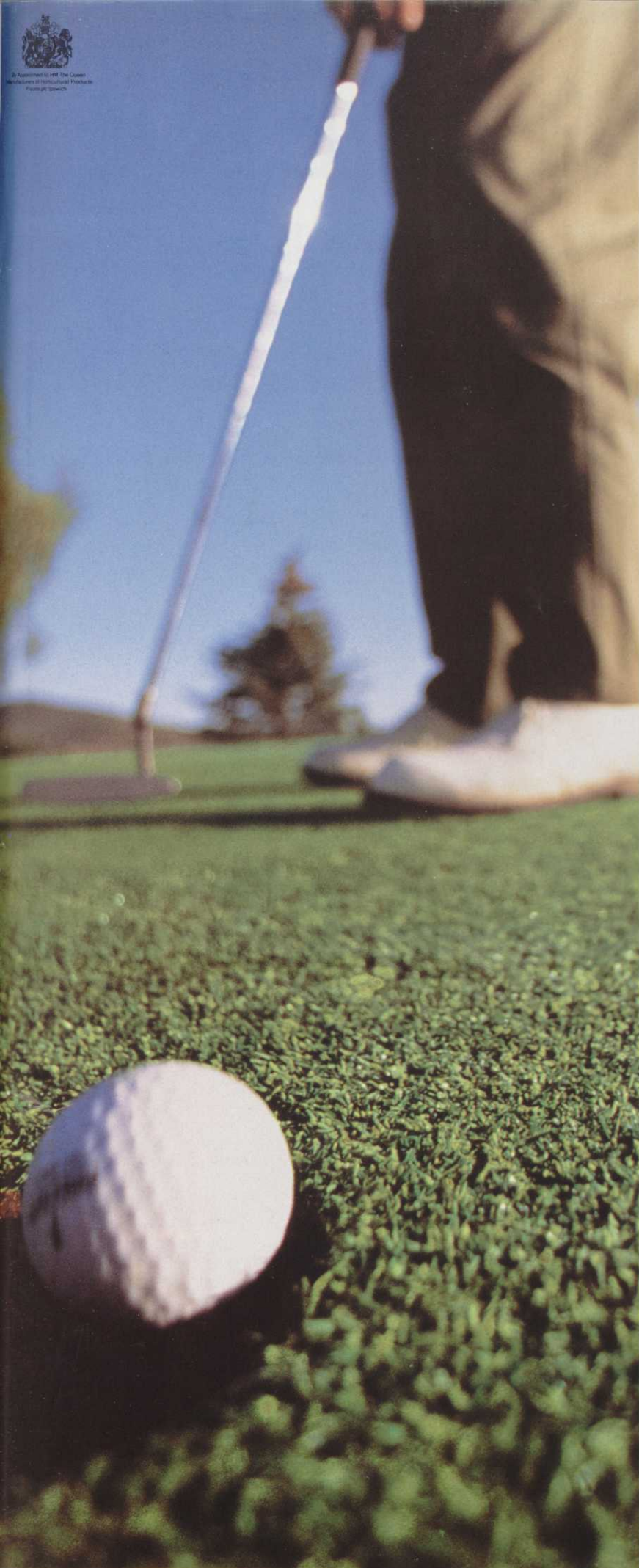
We made the effort – I would urge my colleagues everywhere to do likewise. Believe me, it is certainly worth the hassle.

● Duncan McGilvray has been at Letchworth GC for more than six years.



Above: the club president gets the members in the mood for course manager Duncan McGilvray

Left: members take a look round the workshops



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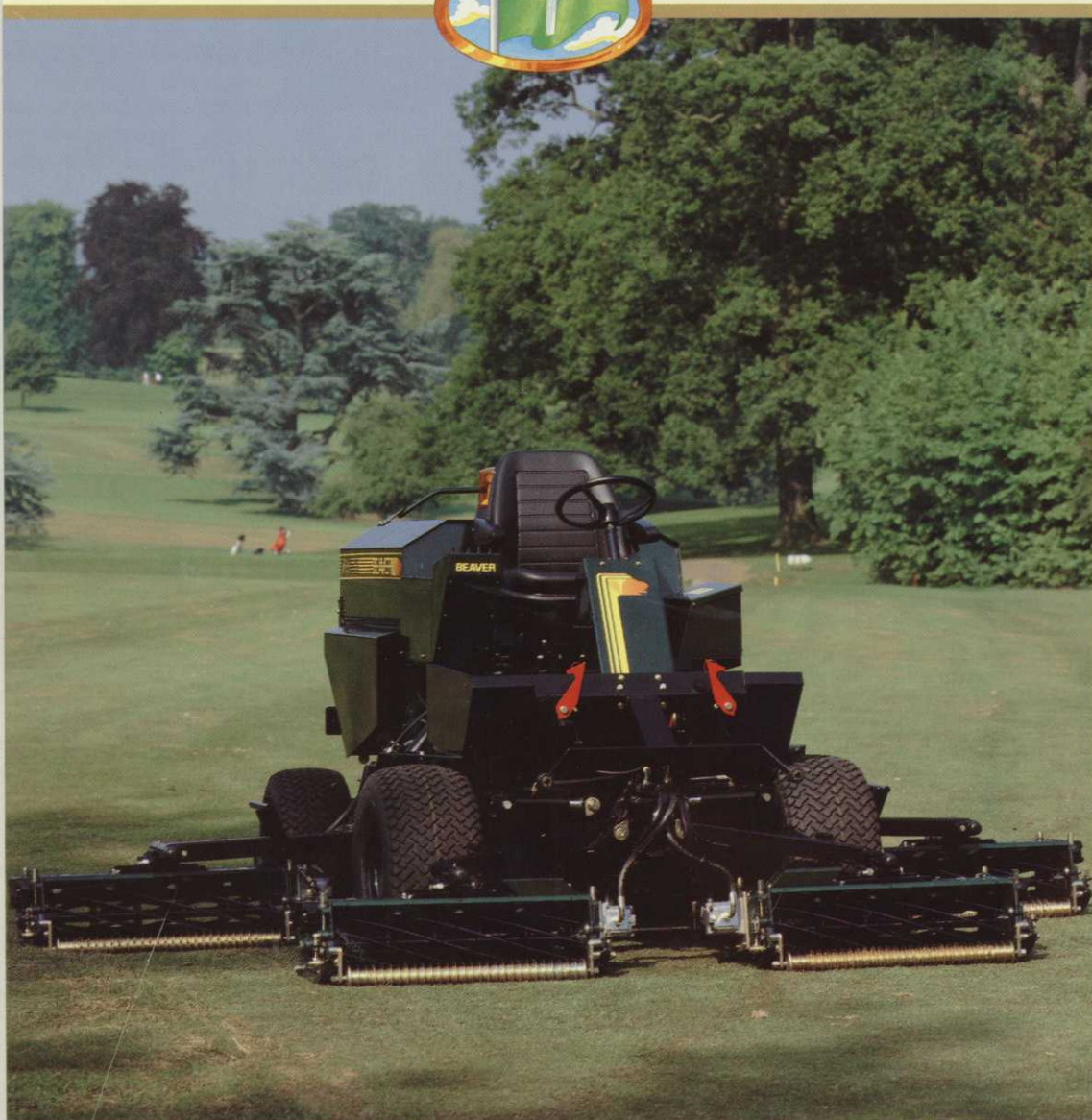
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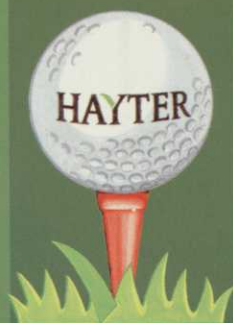
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