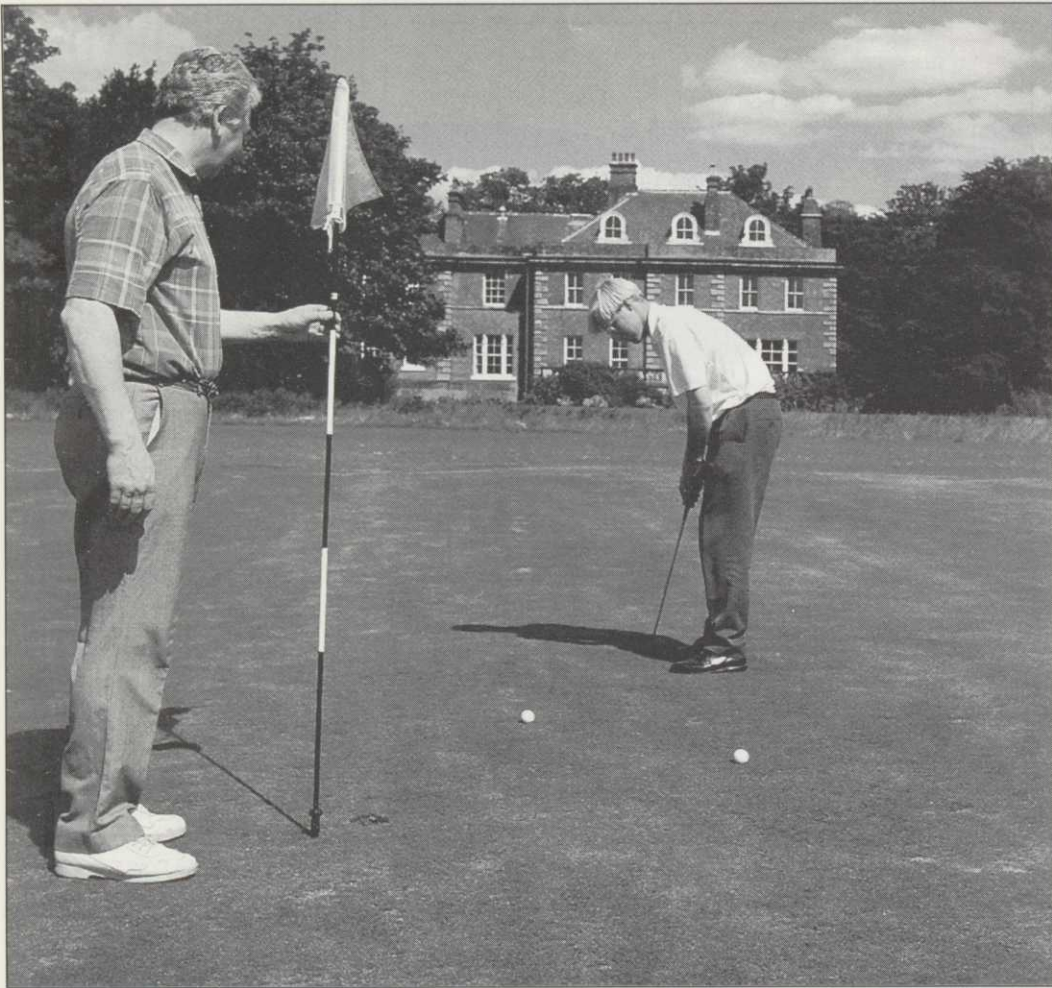


# NEWS

## New course Hirst Priory gears up for spring opening

**T**he new golf course at Hirst Priory, Crowle (between Doncaster and Scunthorpe) has a new team in place ready for its opening this spring.

The full compliment of six staff have now been appointed with Paul Wylie (Southport Old Links) joining as deputy to head green-keeper Jim Sargeant, who's been there since construction began. Allen Walker (Petercutter, Aberdeen) has been appointed as



Putt-ing in the effort to make a success of a new course: Hirst Priory opens in the spring

# STRENGTHEN



L3250



the general manager.

The 18-hole, 6130-yard course is set in a 147-acre park containing much mature woodland and an impressive Georgian house. It will have a small membership of 300-350 plus "upmarket" pay and play and society facilities.

During 1992 an original design by David Baxter was modified and construction began under the supervision of one of the directors. Before any work commenced, experienced head greenkeeper Jim Sargeant (Royal Dublin, Royal Porthcawl) was appointed to oversee the green and fairway construction. Extensive land drainage was carried out, together with the excavation of four small lakes. A Rainbird tee and green irrigation system was installed and seeding was completed by October 1992. Further tree planting was then carried out.

According to one of the directors, Mr P Fitzgerald, "The course has since been maturing well and despite the wettest autumn/winter any local can remember, there is no evidence of any standing water problems.

"The new team, with advice from the STRI, is now looking forward to an early spring to show their mettle and deliver a much needed course to the area."

## Ken wins scrum for new job

Former local rugby player Ken Robson, 32, is getting set to tackle a new job – that of head greenkeeper at Hawick Golf Club in Scotland. He moves up the ladder from assistant following the retirement of Ralph Henderson.

## Compound is back

Remember the Keep Keen Lawn Mower Sharpening Compound? Well, after an absence of seven years it is back. The Cutting Compounds Corporation is reintroducing it.

Ernest Patchett invented the product about 20 years ago. He

was cutting his lawn, wishing he could keep his lawn mower blades sharp (keen) all the time. So he ground a sharpening stone into dust and added it to a grease mixture so it would stay on the blades long enough to sharpen them. The product, which is said to work on any cutting tool where the action of cutting is metal on metal, was developed over the years and word spread far and wide thanks to the BBC World Service broadcasting news of this innovative method of sharpening lawn mower blades in seven different languages. Golf courses using it included Troon in Scotland. Then, due to a devastating fire seven years ago and other commitments, the product disappeared from the market.

Now it is back with RG Trading of Otley, West Yorkshire, handling the distribution. Telephone 0943 462380/461390.

## July seminars

Two days of seminars and a small trade exhibition are lined up for Newmarket Racecourse on July 12 and 13. The first day's topics will relate to general groundsmanship. The following day will be directed at greenkeepers. Speakers include Derek Ganning of The Belfry, Martin Jones, Myerscough College and John Philp, Carnoustie. For an invitation call Lynn Hilton at SISIS on 0625 503030.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ EAST SUSSEX NATIONAL Golf Club has launched a junior scholars' golf club membership to groom home-grown talent.

Members are being asked to help budding champions, aged 12-18, by sponsoring and introducing them into the club. Students will have to pay £150 plus VAT, with members picking up the tabs for tuition, entrance fees for tournaments "and other extras".

■ THORPE HALL'S HEAD greenkeeper, Doug Smith, has been seeing to a new development – his first child, a daughter called Jena Sharon.

■ GRASS cutting equipment supplier Etesia UK have promoted Robin Taylor to UK sales manager. He is looking to appoint new outlets in selected areas.



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