

GREENKEEPER

International

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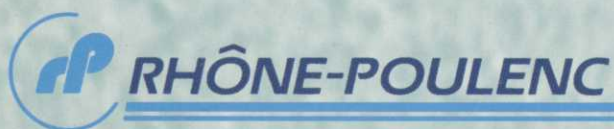
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IN A



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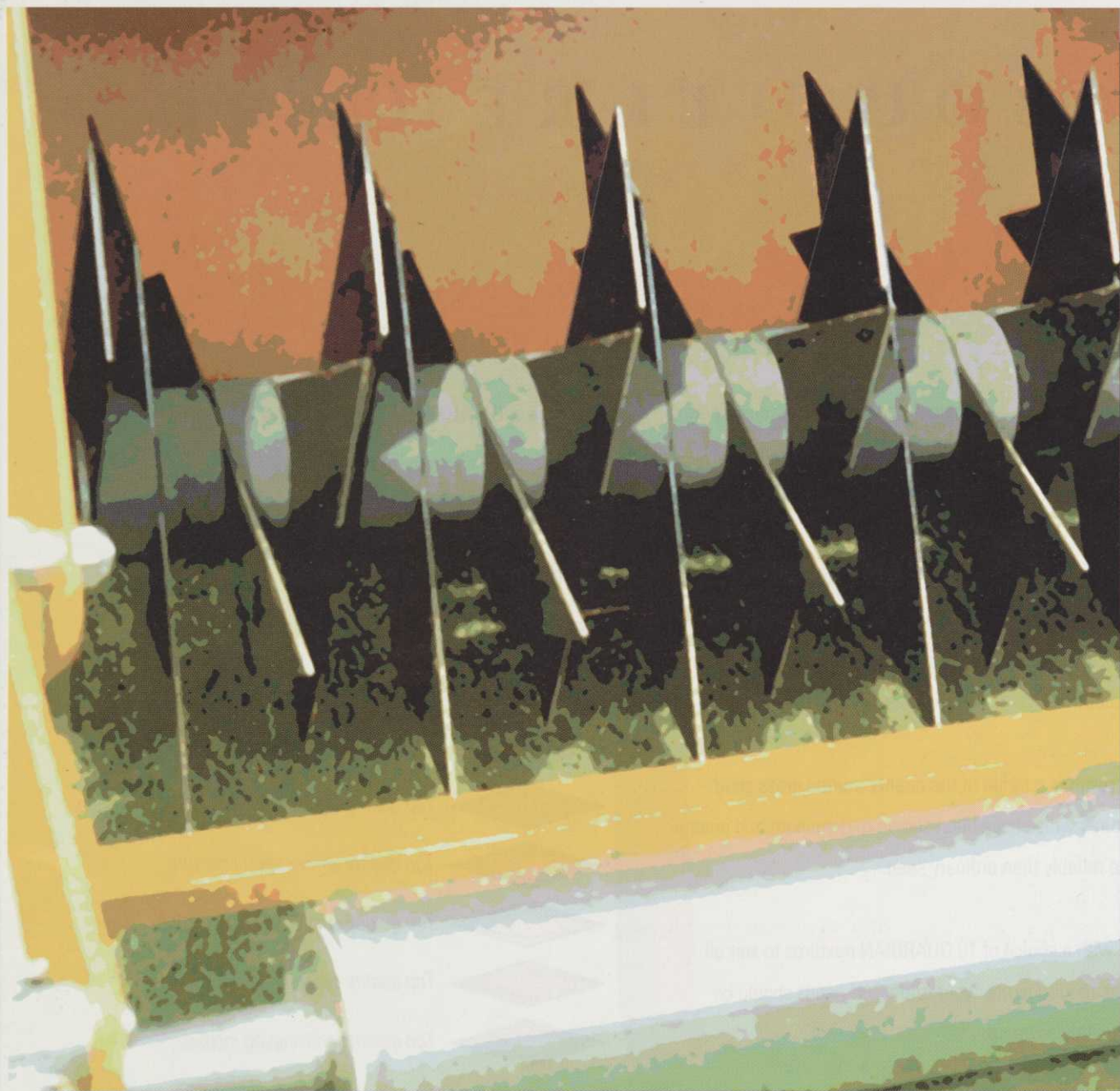
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SEPTEMBER 1994

Contents

A distant, heavenly place

Donnington Grove is more than a golf course – it's a means of strengthening Japan's cultural links with Britain. Chris Boiling



meets their course manager and learns of a company which started out as a Buddhist temple.....**Pages 20-29**

National Tournament's water hazard

When it wasn't falling out of the sky, it was causing mischief on the ground... how greenkeepers defied the elements in the BIGGA/ICI Professional Products tournament ..**Pages 10-11**

The taming of Wildwood

Wildwood used to be yellow, wet and miserable. Now this Surrey golf course is a real gem. We report on the people and the practises behind the transformation.....**Pages 15-16**

No machinery, just sheep

There's a million dollar hole in the "World's Most Outrageous Tournament" – but turf maintenance is never considered in this extraordinary New Zealand competition**Pages 38-40**

Regular features

BIGGA in focus Neil Thomas on why autumn is a season of riches and Clare Douglas offers the chance to make a name for yourselfPage 8

News A look at all that's going on, including straw sausages to reduce algae, curry to kill worms and the electric mower revolutionPages 7, 9, 36, 42, 62

Around the Green Regular updates from our correspondents. Find out what's going on, including news from the Hayter ChallengePages 30-34

Cover

Looking across Donnington Grove, past the temple, to the 14th century Gate House Tower

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ADVERTISERS' INDEX

a quick reference guide

	Ad Ref	Page
Acorn Equipment	441	50
Agriland	84	37
Amazone	116	10
Atterton & Ellis	7	26,27
Barenbrug	172	40
Bob Andrews	381	49
Boughton Loam	113	50
C&P Soilcare	46	25
Dalton Cooper	268	53
E&S Sportsground	248	51
Fen Turf Dressings	168	52
Greencare (Hardi)	439	24
Grundon	437	48
Hayters	90	44
Inturf	31	24
Irish Greenkeepers Association		
	458	16
John Deere	103	41
Kubota	86	46,47
Lely	61	38,39
Levington (Fisons)	102	63
Lindum	38	37
Mommersteeg	171	19
Multi-Core	347	25
Netlon	373	42
New Holland Ford	165	6
Pattissons	35	53
Rhône Poulenc	59	2,3, 18,43
Rigby Taylor	127	14
Risboro' Turf	386	23
Rolawn	34	17
Rufford	5	64
Savana Turf	465	62
Sisis	176	4
Standard Golf	421	50
Turf Machinery	101	53
UFB Humberclyde	466	53
Worth Draining	467	29
Zeneca (ICI)	54	22,28
Colleges		35
Buyer's Guide		54-59
Classified		59
Recruitment		59-61
Job Shop		59

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International

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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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Greenkeeper gets new job in education



BIGGA's chairman of education, Huw Parry, has got a new job – in education. Huw, head greenkeeper at Bristol and Clifton GC, has been appointed lecturer in greenkeeping and golf course management at Cannington College, Bridgwater, Somerset.

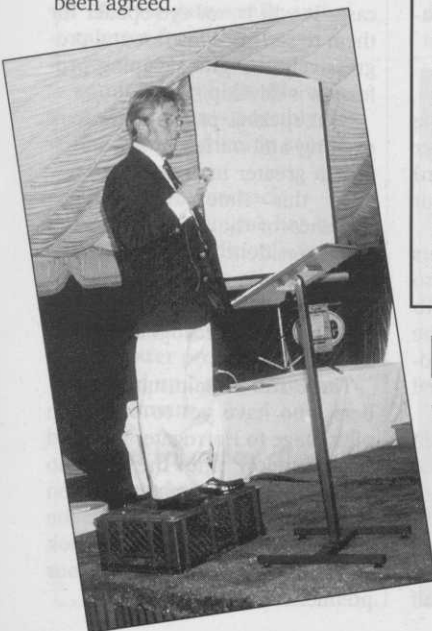
He took up his new post on September 1 after 20 years in greenkeeping and said he's looking forward to the new challenge. "With all my work in education, I see it as a natural development," he said.

As well as serving on the education sub-committee, 37-year-old Huw has also been liaison officer for Pencoed College and was on the working party that produced the GTC training manual. His father is a teacher and his elder brother is a university lecturer in New Zealand. Their subjects are history.

"I'm sad that my work on the education committee has come to an end, I've thoroughly enjoyed it, but this is an exciting opportunity and I hope it will be a role model for other colleges to get someone from industry involved in furthering greenkeeping," he said.

Race ace to buy golf course

Racing driver Nigel Mansell plans to buy Woodbury Park Golf and Country Club, near Exeter. A price rumoured to be around the £2m mark is believed to have been agreed.



NEWS



Sausage theory to reduce algae

Want to control algae growth in your course's lakes and ponds? Try a straw sausage. That's the advice from Contimex, the distributors for Christmas Tree Packaging Netting in the UK. They claim that studies have shown that barley straw packaged in netting (like a large sausage) and submerged is an effective method of controlling algae. As the straw decomposes in the water, chemicals are produced which limit and control algae growth. Fine mesh netting is recommended over large mesh netting as it contains the straw better, it is easier to handle and small fish are less likely to get gilled in it and subsequently drown. Tel: 0825 766135.

Derek has crate plans

The Belfry's Derek Ganning, pictured left, rose to new heights during Sisis Equipment's Grounds and Greens seminar at Newmarket. The previous speaker, Wembley's Steve Tingley, left the vertically-challenged course manager a beer crate to stand on while he described plans to improve the Brabazon and Derby courses in the hope of getting the Ryder Cup back there in 2001. Barkway Park GC's head greenkeeper, Ken Stewart, had a productive time at the seminar, too – he won a pocket TV.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ A workshop on Health and Safety at Work is to be held at Cannington College on October 12. The speakers are John Allbutt and Richard Newman. Price of the Westurf-sponsored event is £10, with preference for the 50 places going to greenkeeping members of BIGGA. For further details call Marion Child on 0803 844056.



■ If you want to see Hayter's range of professional grass cutting equipment in operation on your course, call newly-appointed demonstrator Tony Carr. Tony previously worked in the company's machine and plate shop.

■ Course Care claims its waste removal package is now in use in 10% of golf clubs in England and has celebrated this "major success" by becoming patrons for BIGGA's northern area.

"We are pleased to be part of the patron scheme," said marketing director John Wood. "It is our plan for Course Care staff to give lectures, attend meetings and give advice on lubrication, fuel treatment and static equipment matters. We are very much looking forward to a long and interesting relationship with BIGGA."



■ Claymore Grass Machinery have appointed Clive Pentecost as product manager for the SABO Roberine range of commercial mowers and Columbia ParCar's golf cars, utility vehicles and people movers. He will be responsible for the southern part of the UK including the west country.

■ Safeguard Business Systems has launched a system for golf clubs which combines visitor book with cash received journal, and visitor badge with green fees receipt. Tel: 0270 500921.

Why autumn is always a season to relish

The advent of autumn sees the climax of a number of our major events. Once again the final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament is upon us and this year's final will take us to Pannal Golf Club in Harrogate.

This is rightly regarded as one of North Yorkshire's finest courses and I am sure that those members who have reached the final will enjoy the experience of playing there. How successful the tournament has been again this year. The original concept of this tournament back in 1988 was as a means of establishing an identity for our newly formed regions and to encourage members to think regionally as well as in section and national terms. I believe the formula has worked and continues to do so.

Competition to qualify from section to region to national final is fierce. At the final qualifiers compete for a regional team prize which has perhaps greater significance for team members than the individual prizes. Whilst the tournament is conducted amid much bonhomie and conviviality, the underlying competitive nature of greenkeepers is very much to the fore.

The Hayter team, enthusiastically led by Kim Macfie, is extremely supportive with a keen



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

interest in golf and this contributes in no small way to the tournament's ongoing success.

The choice of Pannal Golf Club this year has special significance in that it coincides with the retirement of head greenkeeper, Alan Gamble. We look forward to Alan and his wife, Molly, joining us for the tournament banquet. Many of you will be aware of the contribution Alan has made to the cause of greenkeeper education over many years when he was a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee. He was also instrumental in the development of greenkeeper training at Askham Bryan College. We wish Alan and Molly a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Students applauded

At the beginning of October the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award climaxes with the national final at Aldwark Manor. This award has grown in significance with the expansion of greenkeeper training in recent years so much so that in 1993 for the first time regional finals were necessary to make selections for the national final. This process has been repeated again this year. Awareness of the award has increased with each passing year and students have a target to aim for which can only encourage their application and determination during their college courses.

The joint support of Toro, Lely UK Ltd and the PGA European Tour in providing three outstanding awards has been instrumental in the success of this scheme. The first prize providing an eight week educational experience in the USA including a college based course represents the opportunity of a lifetime for a student greenkeeper. It is not without significance that the standard of candidacy improves each year in line with the development of greenkeeper training.

Talking to candidates who reach the final and spend two days with us at headquarters, it is clear not only is it an experience which will serve them well for the future but it represents their first real insight of BIGGA's operations at national level and they return home with a much greater appreciation of the aims and aspirations of the Association.

Ultimate award

At the beginning of December the ICI Professional Products Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award reaches national final stage at our headquarters.

Each year five of our members come through their sections to regional finals and ultimately to the national final. As with the Toro award they return from Aldwark Manor having benefited from the experience.

It is important to recognise that the concept of this award is designed to reward the greenkeeper who has made the most out of the facilities and resources available rather than the one who might have the premier golf

course. This award involves assessments of the candidate's golf course and I feel one of the prime benefits of entering the award is the experience it gives for potential Master Greenkeeper candidates who again will have their golf courses assessed in working towards their certification.

I am aware that some worthy course managers/head greenkeepers are reluctant to enter the award feeling uncomfortable with being assessed by their peer group. They really have nothing to fear – it is a beneficial experience with assessors having a clear brief to base their assessments on the facilities and resources available to the course manager/head greenkeeper. Those who have entered have gained much from the experience and we remain grateful for the continued support the award receives from Roger Mossop and his ICI/Zeneca team.

BTME on horizon

Finally this month some early thoughts on the BTME '95. It certainly promises to be bigger and better than ever and with a major change in format in that our National Education Conference will be held on the Monday and Tuesday, January 23 and 24.

Our members need to be there in great numbers to support the companies that make the exhibition just what it is – the premier turf management event.

Bring your secretary and chairman of green with you – in many cases it will be an eye-opener for them to see just how fast and progressively the greenkeeping profession is developing.

Our speaker programmes look exciting and varied and I anticipate a greater international presence this time around. The presence of the GCSAA through their president and chief executive officer as well as a stand in the exhibition signifies increasing international recognition of BIGGA.

There still remain many members who have yet to make the pilgrimage to Harrogate. We need your support and there is no doubt that you are missing out on a great experience. Mark the dates in the calendar and I look forward to meeting you at our premier event – BTME '95.

Membership matters

BY CLARE DOUGLAS

◆ Could you be the BIGGA member who is going to win a £600 prize?

Earlier this year we advertised our grand prize draw for members who recommended two new people for 1994 membership. So far we have 64 names entered in our prize draw.

But there are 140 people who have recommended *one* member. Could you be one of these? If so, you have until September 30 to recommend *one more* person, to qualify for the grand prize draw. This will be made at the BTME in Harrogate, with the winner receiving airfare for two up to the value of £600.

So don't delay – recommend another member today!

◆ Do you have an idea for the new 1995 BIGGA sticker slogan?

Previous slogans include "Golf greenkeepers don't miss out – BIGGA's about!" and "Great golfers need great greenkeepers".

Could you do better than these? If you think you can, send us your ideas and you could win a £15 gift voucher for WH Smith.

We'll send you a voucher if it's your slogan we use for our next batch of stickers. Suggestions to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF by Monday September 26 please.



■ The Halliloo golf course, currently under construction in Surrey, has had three underground reservoirs built. The concrete reservoirs, pictured below will be able to hold a total of 20,000m³ of water. When the course opens next year the reservoirs, designed by Booth Concrete Ltd, will be invisible to golfers and will not affect the use of the ground surface.



Greens are wrecked in salt spillage

Goswick Golf Club greenstaff have been re-laying two greens after salt contaminated the irrigation system.

Authorities are investigating how salt got into the stream from which the Berwick-on-Tweed club draws its water.

Several other greens have been affected to varying degrees, but not as severely.

A river gate a mile and a quarter from the course which prevents water coming in at high tide was wedged open – possibly the work of poachers in search of salmon.

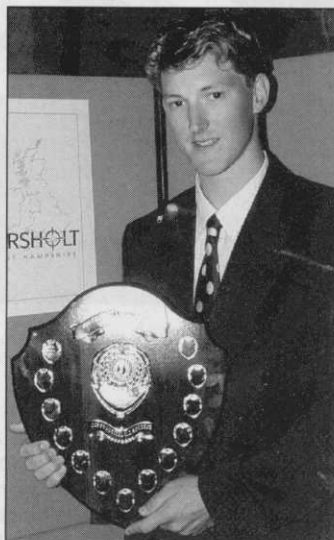
“It’s a real setback because the course has been in superb condition – we’re just praying for rain because we can’t use the irrigation system until we’re sure the salt water problem has cleared up,” said a club spokesman.

Seed founder dies

The founder of Gerson Grass Seed, Frank Gerson, has died following a short illness. He was 73.

Students collect prizes

Andrew Boyce, pictured below left, receives the BIGGA Shield for Best Practical Student at Sparsholt College, near Winchester. Andrew, from Bath, has been studying on the National Diploma Horticulture Golf Course and Sportsground Management course and hopes one day to become a course manager on a major course. His tutor said: “Andrew’s award reflects not only his ability at Sparsholt but also a creditable performance during his middle year placement at Lansdown Golf Club, Bath, as assistant greenkeeper.”



Andrew was presented with the shield at a ceremony in Winchester Cathedral, where the guests included Lord Wakeham, Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal, and Lord Sainsbury, president of the college.

At the same ceremony James Haywood of Owslebury, Hants, also pictured, was presented with the Rufford Cup for top student on the National Diploma Horticulture Golf Course and Sports Management course. He is now working at Barshaw municipal golf course and associated sportsfields in Paisley, Glasgow.



FLYING DIVOTS

■ Martin Smith, the head greenkeeper at Porters Park in Hertfordshire recently rushed to help a damsel in distress. A lady member came into his office crying, “Help me, please, I’ve had an accident on the practice ground.” But visions of another player lying unconscious after being hit by a wayward shot were misplaced. The distressed female had, in fact, got her new graphite-shafted 3-wood stuck in a tree!



■ Acorn Equipment has appointed a new sales rep for the North West. Andy Powell, formerly with Richard

Campey machinery, will be driving to courses in Acorn’s new mobile equipment van. Tel: 0378 162162!

■ A conference on vegetation and slopes (stabilisation, protection and ecology), organised by the Institution of Civil Engineers, is to be held at the University Museum, Oxford, on September 29-30. Price is £205.95. Tel: 071 839 9803/5.

■ The opening of the Brian Huggett-designed Park course at Orchardleigh, in Somerset, has been postponed until the spring. The park, one of two 18-hole championship layouts originally planned for the 420-acre estate near Frome before the receivers moved in three years ago, had been due to open late this summer.

■ Turf Irrigation Services Ltd (TIS), the UK’s largest Toro dealer and installer, has opened a new office in Beckenham near Bromley in Kent. Tel: 081 6584030.

■ Rhone-Poulenc Environmental Products has appointed two new distributors – Eden Park Ltd for London, Middlesex, Kent, East Sussex and Surrey and Driving Force Leisure for the Home Counties.

■ £500,000 is being spent improving facilities at Castle Coombe, bought recently by hotelier Guisepe Pecorelli.

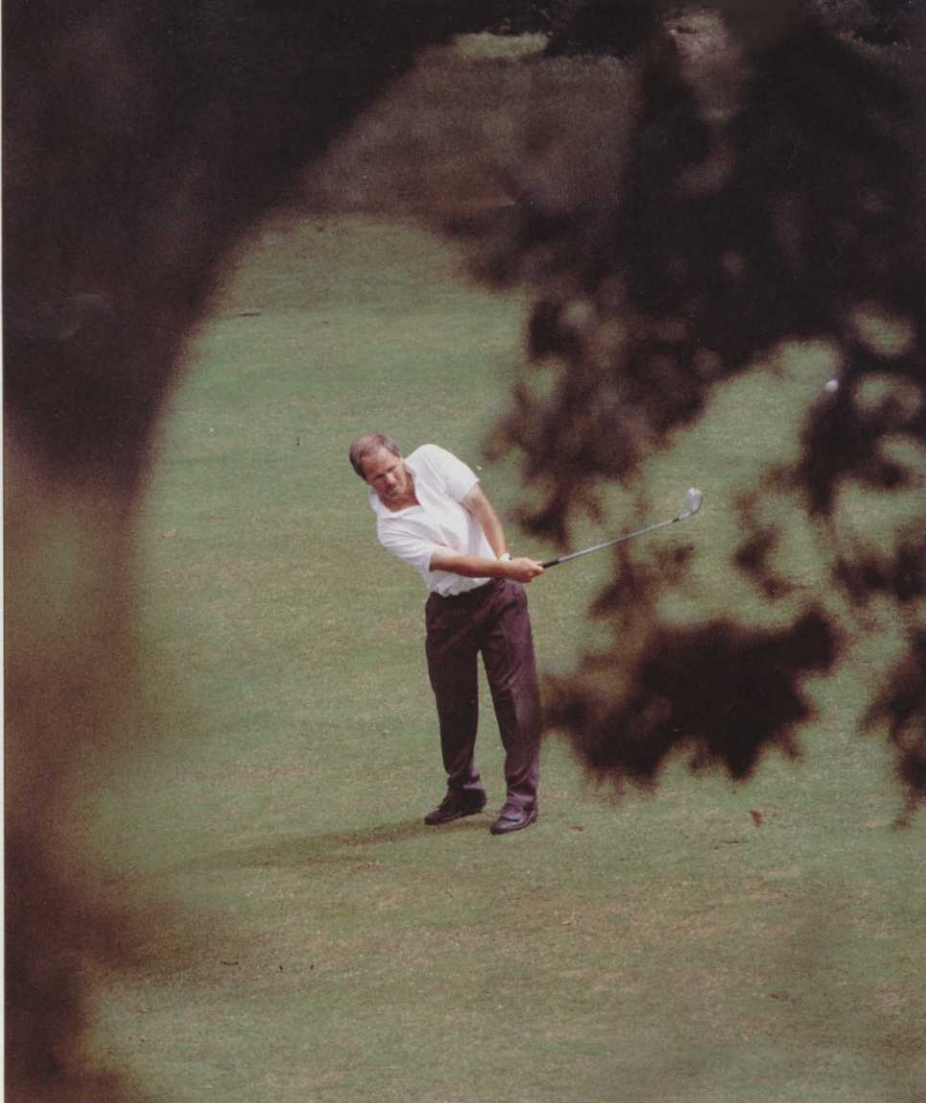


BIGGA/ICI PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

It's a helluva test. The weather was bad and I think everyone did well to get round. If low-handicappers are struggling, high handicappers have to be struggling even worse. It's a long course and a good test.

— greenkeeper Malcolm Lathan



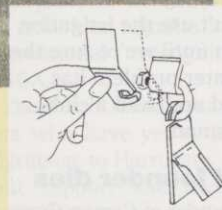
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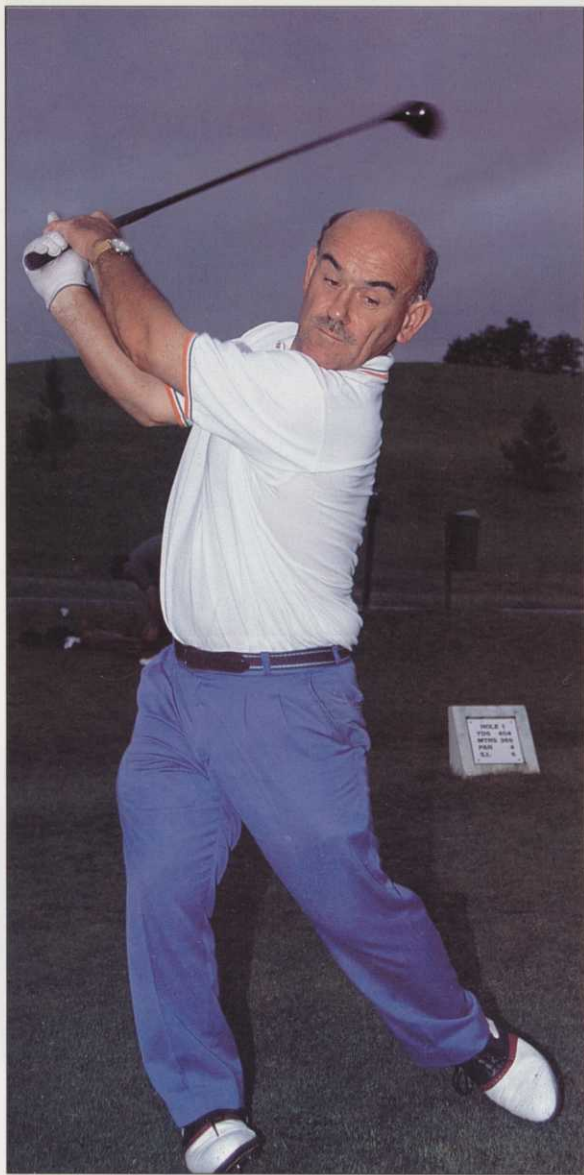
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Where quality matters.



Facing page: William Francis plays to the 4th green
Left: Getting into the swing of things - Barry Holt



The winners: from left, Mark Lewer, Kevin Yeoman, Paul Fildes, Barry Holt, Paul Loffman, Ray Wootton, Malcolm Lathan, Tony French and Bernard Emberley



Putting out on the 18th
Below, Don Major shows his injuries to a playing partner

Water course's ultimate test

REPORT AND PICTURES BY CHRIS BOILING

The water level of Dartmouth Golf and Country Club's lakes was distinctly higher following this year's ICI-sponsored BIGGA National Tournament.

There are two reasons for this:

1: It rained at some point on all three days, proving once again that if a greenkeeper wants rain he should organise a tournament. (Dartmouth Golf and Country Club had been dry for two and a half months prior to the event).

2: Greenkeepers find it easier to put the ball in a water hazard than in the cup.

The greenstaff at Dartmouth were expecting a golf ball bonanza following BIGGA's visit. Normally when they scoop the lakes they gather 200-300 balls, especially from the big lake on the long par 3 18th. Several hundred more are expected to be found next time out. From what I saw of the competition, the lakes on the 3rd, 4th and 5th were also popu-

lar targets among the 74 greenkeepers who entered this year's competition.

FIRST DAY

The competitors woke up to rain on Monday morning but it had cleared before the golfers set off on what many likened to a mountain trek. Two competitors failed to make the first tee. BIGGA vice-chairman Barry Heaney was nursing some broken ribs after falling off a wall while watering his prize-winning potatoes. Don Major was recovering from a fall down the steep bank leading from the second green to 3rd tee during practice day. He went to hospital with very badly bruised legs and hip.

Some of the older and wiser greenkeepers turned up on the first tee in a golf cart. Even Dartmouth's head greenkeeper, 29-year-old Terry Farkins, was spotted in one. The advantage of local knowledge? The pressure of hav-





BIGGA/ICI PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS
NATIONAL
TOURNAMENT



From the turf to the baize: Ray Reardon takes on Huw Parry, Roger Willars and Richard Barker

ing 74 greenkeepers traipsing over your course? "No, a bad back after playing cricket at the weekend," he tried to convince us.

A glance at the leader board at the end of the day suggested otherwise, too. 12-handicapper Terry was lying in second place after a first round 85. In first place was fellow Devon greenkeeper Mark Lewer. The 21-year-old Dainton Park first assistant was the only person to better par. Ten-handicapper Mark, competing in his first National Tournament, shot an 81 for a nett 71. He was helped by an eagle at the par 5 16th – a driver, eight iron and 2ft putt. It was downwind, but Mark is a big hitter – he won the longest drive competition, too. This was cunningly set up on the first hole.

In our tournament preview, Terry Farkins had advised competitors not to get their drivers out until the sixth hole. Most ignored this advice on the first tee – and went out of bounds. Not just on day one, but also on days two and three.

Gordon Farrington shows great interest in his prize, presented by BIGGA chairman, John Millen



The best gross score was Barry Holt's 77. With a five-handicap, this gave the powerful little left-hander a nett score of 72. Most of the nett scores were in the high 70s and 80s but, with the wind, it was a day when many people were happy to break 100.

SECOND DAY

Visibility decreased to 25 yards and the Dartmouth mountain rescue team was put on alert as the first players completed the first few holes. Organisers Gordon Child and Richard Minton decided to delay the tee-off times, meaning it would only be possible to play nine holes today and 45 in total.

While they were waiting to go out, most players tried their luck in the Vitax putting competition. Three players went round the 18 holes in 33, but Bernie Emberley, the deputy head greenkeeper at Knighton Heath, near Bournemouth, took the title on the best last six. Graham MacDonald came second and Don Major, bruised but unbowed, marked his appearance on day 2 with a third place finish in the putting competition.

When the ICI competition got under way again, the 4th hole, which was a headache during construction by former Asprin salesman Ralph Hitchens, was proving a headache again – for the greenkeepers. I knew it was the problem hole when I heard single-figure handicap players claiming the honour on the 5th with 7s and 8s. On the first day local greenkeeper Craig Earnshaw had taken 16. Today 12-handicapper Jason Bean, deputy head greenkeeper at North Foreland, Kent, took 18 – and didn't lose a ball. Without this he would have had a brilliant score as his total for the other eight holes was 39.

The 4th also proved the undoing of overnight leader Mark Lewer. "I had major problems,"

he confessed. "I had a 12 after snap-hooking two out of bounds."

The best nett score was Tony French's 33 1/2. One shot behind was Paul Loffman, first assistant at Copt Heath near Solihull.

Best gross once again was Barry Holt's 36. Surely he was on his way to repeating his '91 triumph when he won the gross and was equal first in the best nett.

THIRD DAY

Barry Holt stood on the first tee 4.5 strokes ahead of the field. *Whack!* Out of bounds. *Whack!* Out of bounds. *Whack!* Out of bounds. He walked off the first green with a 10, and never recovered from that appalling start.

"It's one of those things that happens. That's golf," he said after signing for a final round 90.

This left the door open for one-handicapper Malcom Lathan who shot 78 on the first day, followed it up with a 38 and then recorded a final day 74, the best of the third day. It meant Malcolm, the head greenkeeper at Hexham in Northumberland, had successfully defended the Netlon Advanced Trophy he won last year at Dunbar. "I started badly with an out of bounds on the first and was beginning to slip backwards but then I hit a drive, 3-iron onto the green and sank a 35ft putt for an eagle on the 9th, and got two further birdies on back nine."

The competition for the main trophy of the event, the ICI Professional Products Trophy, was a close-fought thing between Mark Lewer and Paul Loffman. In the end Loffman, a frequent prize winner since he made his National Tournament debut in '92, collected the big one, the best 45-hole nett score. Dartmouth assistant greenkeeper Kevin Yeoman, competing in his first competition, won the best nett in the 15-28 handicap range.

The scores on the final day were generally a lot lower. Whether that was due to familiarity with the course or the lack of wind and only light showers on the final day, I'm not sure. But one great thing was that the drama



Dartmouth's Kevin Yeoman, right, receives his award from ICI's Roger Mossop



Paul Loffman with the ICI Professional Products Trophy for the best nett score



Mark Lewer:
It's been a
glorious
three days

continued right to the very end. The last shot from the 18th tee, the hole chosen for the nearest the pin competition, bounced on the road in front of the green and rolled up about six inches closer than the previous best effort by Steve Wood. As they say in football: "He wuz robbed." The robber was 2-handicapper Paul Sewell.

The Jubilee Cup team prize was won by Berks, Bucks and Oxon. Barry Holt, Ray Wootton and Tony French romping home as deserved winners.

Conclusion

No one can organise the weather, but the things that were organised were organised well. The entertainment arranged by Gordon and Marion Child was excellent. One night it was snooker ace Ray Reardon taking on and thrashing three greenkeepers followed by 20 minutes of superb trick shots; the previous

night there was roulette and blackjack with guests gambling £50 of fun money. One greenkeeper is obviously in the wrong business as he turned his £50 into £8,500. Shame it wasn't for real!

The Childs and the sponsors also put together a superb prize table with colour TVs, CD player, wall clocks, mantle clocks, radios and glassware.

Some of the golf was equally superb but there were a lot of scores that will encourage other greenkeepers to take part next year. The hospitality provided by Dartmouth Golf and Country Club was also excellent.

Having entered his first National Tournament, and done well, Terry Farkins is now considering entering next year's event. "It's a good three days and the people I've met this week, I've really enjoyed their company."

Unfortunately ICI Professional Products will no longer be sponsoring the event - they've changed their name to Zeneca.

Praise for Terry Farkins and his team was unanimous. Here are just some of the comments:

Mark Lewer said: "Terry has done a tremendous job in difficult circumstances. The greens are superb. It's been a glorious three days. You couldn't wish for better organisation, even with the weather. The course has held up well. It's hard but with this sort of tournament you've got to have something hard, it's no test going to a short course, you've got to have something tight."

Bernie Emberley said: "The course is very good, especially considering its age. It's a good test. I played poorly on Monday in the wind but I've played well since then. It's a course you've got to play positional golf and the reception we've had from the staff and everyone has been very, very good. It's a lovely place."

Paul Loffman: "I thought it was very challenging. I enjoyed it and I don't think it played as long as a lot of people thought but it played very tricky. I thought it was a super layout and I think in years to come it will be a tremendous

golf course. I'd come back again and play.

"I think everyone has enjoyed the week, it's been run superbly. I've certainly had a good time.

Terry Farkins himself said: "The course has been the best it ever has been. We've had two PGA events and we had compliments from them, now it's just far superior. We had some members early on saying 'Oh you're only doing all this because the greenkeepers are coming' but we always try to produce the best standard we can within the budget that we're working to and the machinery we've got available."

Devon Garden Machinery lent him a Toro fairway and a greens mower to prepare the course for the competition and all the lads worked hard on it.

"When you've got something good you want to show it off, I believe we've got something good here. Even if it wasn't in the condition it is now, it would still be good because of the layout. Anyone who appreciates good golf will appreciate the layout."

RESULTS

45 holes: ICI Professional Products Trophy for best nett (1-14) - Paul Loffman; 2, Edwin Walsh; 3, Mark Lewer; ICI Professional Products Trophy for best nett (15-28); Kevin Yeoman; 2, Paul Fildes; 3, Paul Corfield; Netlon Advanced Trophy for best gross - Malcolm Lathan

27 holes: David Royale Cup for best nett (1-14) - Paul Loffman; 2, Mark Lewer; Pattisson Trophy for best nett (15-28) - Kevin Yeoman; 2, Paul Corfield; Toro Trophy for best gross - Barry Holt; senior division (over 55) - Edwin Walsh

Jubilee Cup for best team - BB&O (B Holt, R Wootton, T French)

Monday: Fisons Bowl for best nett - Mark Lewer; 2, Terry Farkins; 3, Ray Wootton; best gross - Barry Holt

Tuesday: Standard Golf Trophy for best nett - Tony French; 2, Paul Loffman; 3, Graham MacDonald; best gross - Barry Holt

Wednesday: William Hargreaves 'Sisis' Trophy for best nett - Paul Fildes; 2, Bernard Emberley; 3, Steve Gallier; best gross - Malcolm Lathan

Longest drive: Monday - Mark Lewer; Tuesday - Paul Sewell; Wednesday - David Wood

Nearest the pin: Monday - Gordon Farrington; Tuesday - Dennis Jones; Wednesday - Paul Sewell

Vitax Putting Competition: 1, Bernard Emberley; 2, Graham MacDonald; 3, Don Major.

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It used to be 'wet, yellow and miserable' but now Surrey's Wildwood has a superlative sward. David White reports on the transformation.

Some folk collect postage stamps, others get their kicks by hoarding harmless little items like china pigs, cigar bands, or press cuttings relating to Princess Di. One eccentric I know even has a collection of several thousand used score card pencils!

Me? I collect golf courses. I'm well advanced now into the mid three hundreds, having hacked my way through a dozen different countries, harbouring ambitions now of at least making the magic four zero zero before being called to account to The Great Handicapper. Rich variety can make any golfer choosy and, since I've played my share of 'dogs' as well as delights, it certainly makes this golfer ultra-critical.

Recently an exceptional extra was added to the score with a tasty round played at one of Surrey's newest, though by no means rawest, parkland creations; the Hawtree designed, oh-so-natural-it-looks-as-though-it's-been-there-forever course at Wildwood, situated between Guildford and Horsham. Adding more than just an extra number to my total, Wildwood seemed to me a copy-book example of how an architect's skill, coupled with artistry from the man who nurtures and cajoles its acres into early maturity – plus a healthy belt of modern technology – can set a place apart. About that, more later.

I yield to none in my admiration for the golf courses of Surrey, a relatively small landlocked patch which offers as fine a selection of strategic park and heathland courses as anywhere inland, particularly as the place is a treasure trove of classics by the likes of Harry Colt, Willie Park, Tom Simpson and J F Abercromby. They were clever blighters, those ancient land artists, for they took what nature gave them; gently massaging the old girl's contours rather than pushing and shoving them around. Thus it was easy for this seasoned observer to see from which source Hawtree's had drawn inspiration in fashioning this latest creation at Wildwood. In an age when it is all too common for architects to out-do and



The taming of Wildwood

out-spend their contemporaries in attempting to create yet another self-styled 'championship' course – especially true of many American architects, where little thought appears to be given to construction or maintenance costs – there was never a greater need for natural enhancement than at Wildwood, whose rolling acres had previously echoed only

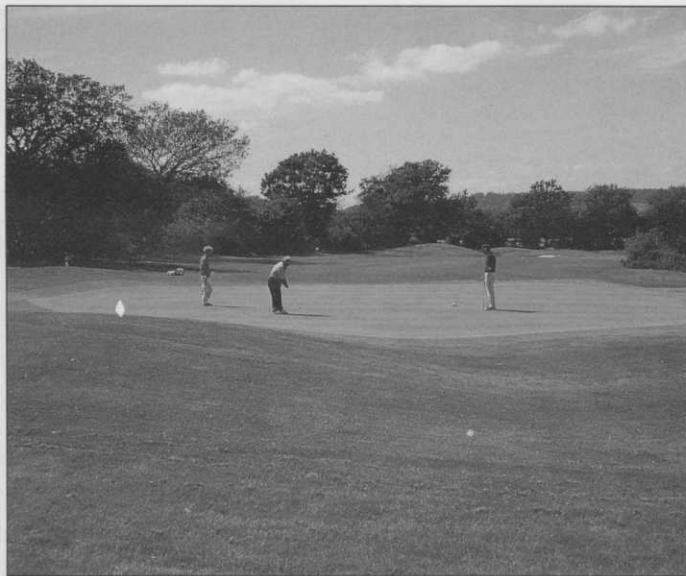
to the thunder of horses hooves. Top marks, then, for Wildwood's minimalist architecture.

While making a short list of first division architects whose work is prevalent in Surrey, it further occurred to me that the county has another claim to fame: it is the stamping ground of the most prolific family in golf today – bar none. Of course I

refer to the clan McMillan, the Surrey arm of which includes brothers Billy, Ian, Stewart, Bobby and Cameron, plus their illustrious father, Jack, now a consultant. Between them they hold something of a monopoly in managing currently or having managed in the past no less than ten per cent of all Surrey's courses. It must raise their status

still further for readers to learn that the McMillans are linked essentially with first division courses boasting first division architects.

The story began in 1990 when Jack was called upon to offer his expert advice during the formative stages of Wildwood's life. What he saw dismayed him, for much of the design and especially the construction was strictly non-kosher (in Jack's words, they were using rootzone material that would have been better used making cement). Jack was bold enough to opine that a complete un-doing and a return to the drawing board would be the club's only salvation. Courageously the owners agreed, though they knew it would be a painful and costly exercise, and thus Hawtree and Sons were called upon to remodel, re-design and in some cases relocate greens and tees, thus creating effectively a new golf course. Their model properly utilised the hitherto



untapped good of the land, while giving utmost attention to land drainage, consistency of quality materials and the following of USGA Green Section specifications for green construction.

Ask the experts; they'll tell you that the most critical time in a golf course's existence is during grow-in, that period of weaning and cajoling the infant into early maturity, at least to get it toddling.

Moving ahead to late 1992, we see Jack McMillan approaching Roger Mossop and David Siddon at the ICI (now Zeneca) Green-

keeper of the Year awards, positioning them. "Wildwood's just a baby," he told them, "and in some ways it's bucking the old tradition, with USGA spec greens sown to bentgrass, but there's a hell of a lot going for it ...and my son Billy is the course manager, he's been in charge since the seed hit the ground." Enough said.

The idea was for the Zeneca team to take a look, see just how much they could contribute to the development of the infant golf course, a learning experience for both parties if you like and, in Jack's words, "a lovely exercise for Zeneca to put their products to the ultimate test, to show how good they were and to use Wildwood as a guinea-pig, a testing ground."

Forward now to February 1993. David Siddon explains: "We've always tested impeccably, we've seen our products through many tests with the STRI and other trialists and of course we've seen how well they perform on established courses, but we'd never before had the opportunity to go with a bentgrass/USGA spec from the very beginning, to use it for our own learning curve, to work one to one with a manager of Billy's standing and on a course of Wildwood's obvious potential. We have a similar experiment under way at Slaley Hall in Northumberland, and the idea of doing the same in the south excited us.

"What their soil analysts found," said Billy, "was a somewhat impoverished course (remember, the earth had been moved around twice or even three times, which alone creates problems), one that was wet, yellow and miserable." That stated, both David and Billy were excited by the project and they both agreed, notwithstanding the harsh winter that had not yet passed, that there was everything to 'go for' and at the same time

they would not forget that the course was - is - a commercial entity. "The object of the exercise," Billy exclaimed vehemently, "is always to keep the customer satisfied."

Elaborating, Billy explained that maintaining a tidy golf course was always his goal, an integral part of that being provision of good grass cover. In the beginning this desired cover was minimal, "So we must stimulate sufficient vigour, vigour we can use to present the course - what the client will not accept is no grass cover," he emphasised. "This urging process of stimulation is not something we'll be doing forever," he added, "once we've got a manageable sward we'll likely reduce fertiliser input, but it's important that we have something good to present."

So how did something wet, yellow and miserable become the superlative sward we find today? Soil tests from every green were taken for analysis (a free service offered by Zeneca), revealing pH readings averaging around 5.0 with 4.6 being the lowest. Not surprisingly, the findings suggested also that there was very little phosphate present, that potassium levels were low and magnesium levels were very low. Phosphorus, the analysts declared, was important for root growth and energy transfer level reactions within the soil, though it was acknowledged that high levels of P might encourage *Poa annua* and a small quantity only was recommended as a remedial treatment.

David and Billy studied the analyses long and hard, discussing the findings thoroughly, each reaching the same conclusion. Their jointly planned result was a one-off programme, a plan tailored exclusively for Wildwood incorporating 'Longlife' fertiliser, 'Longlife' Fine Turf Autumn Feed with higher K levels and small amounts of Mg (5:5:15). Additionally, all tees were treated with new 'Mini-Gold' granular (31:0:0) at 30 gm/m². Wildwood's nine hectares of fairways were declared acceptable in their nutrient levels, though extra grass cover was certainly called-for this spring, 'Mini-Gold' granular at 30gm/m² coming to the rescue with exceptional results. This was the start of a long-term



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For further information contact the organisers.

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'Longlife' programme.

Fast forward now to July '93, where further analyses revealed little variation, though with pH averaging a point lower. Nothing suggested deviation from the plan and a further course of 'Longlife' Fine Turf Autumn Feed was recommended – things were coming along very nicely; there were compliments flying. "The baby is thriving," said Billy, who was beginning to feel much more relaxed, his confidence boosted.

Explaining a few subtle points, he said: "When you look at the programme you'll see we used the whole range of Zeneca products. We used conventional fertilisers, some that will give eight weeks, through to the 'Mini-Gold' that will give 10-12 weeks nitrogen release, but we used a programmed approach and used also what is classed as an autumn fertiliser in the spring."

"If you look at what they are doing you'll see that they're using a variety of our products in an interesting but totally practical way," added Roger Mossop.

"Talking practicalities," David chips in, "it's all down to setting the base; the soil analyses we provide. We're doing nothing different at Wildwood than we might do at any golf course in the UK, and we're finding more and more course managers coming over to our programmed way of operating."

Those who talk of throwing tons of money at a course might well use Wildwood as a salutary example of how not to squander, rather than how to. Billy's budget is by no means in the loads of money bracket, far from it. It is

decreed commercial sense to spend minimally for maximum output. We all made mental calculations and arrived at a sum suggesting that what extra had been spent at this critical stage amounted to little more than the cost of, say, 25 green fees. Of far greater importance though, the extra outlay could be seen reflected in quality sward, in turn encouraging paying customers to return and negating any thought of excess.

Let Billy have the last word. "Never before in my life have I had greens that I can turn on and off like these, they're so predictable. If we have a major tournament, for example the Futures Pro Tour event which we staged in March, which came to us with just three weeks notice, I can tailor the programme to fine-tune them to any given day. I often use Ultra-Green between fertiliser applications and find it quite splendid in giving the greens a quick boost, indeed when I presented the course for the Futures professionals, albeit at such short notice, its prior use as a management tool proved invaluable – an absolute Godsend. We have exceptional Penneagle bentgrass greens, praised for having a truer roll, for being more predictable and smoother, all made possible by denser growth and finer blades. The Tour players, who above all others know what they want and what they like, compared them favourably with the best in the land." A clear case, as Billy had said earlier, of keeping the customer satisfied. You can't get much better than that.

The ICI/Zeneca solution at Wildwood

1993

March: Greens treated with Longlife (5:5:15) @ 35gm/m²

Tees treated with Mini-Gold (31:0:0) @ 30gm/m²

April: Greens treated with Mini-Gold (31:0:0) @ 30gm/m²

June: Greens treated with Longlife (15:0:5) @ 35gm/m²

Tees treated with Mini-Gold (31:0:0) @ 30gm/m²

September: Greens treated with Longlife (5:5:15) @ 35gm/m²

October: Greens treated with Longlife (15:0:5) @ 30gm/m²

In addition, Ultra-Green (N:P:K) was applied to greens/tees in April,

July and August @ 20kg/hectare

1994

March: Greens treated with Longlife (8:0:0) @ 35gm/m²

Tees treated with Mini-Gold (31:0:0) @ 30gm/m²

April: Greens treated with Longlife (5:5:15) @ 35gm/m²

Tees treated with Mini-Gold (31:0:0) @ 30gm/m²

May: Fairways treated with Mini-Gold (31:0:0) @ 30gm/m²

June: Tees treated with Mini-Gold (31:0:0) @ 30gm/m²

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All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of THREE superb prizes is answer six questions. Two were published in the last issue, two appear here and the final two plus an entry form will be published in our October issue. When you have the answers to all six questions, complete the form and return it to us by October 30, 1994. *Usual rules will apply.*



MORE AND MORE new exhibitors are booking space at the 1995 BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, Harrogate, January 25-27.

Firms set to make their debut include Risboro' Turf, Nature First, Landline and Pac Organic. A significant new addition signing up for the show that brings together everyone and every product concerned with fine turf is the Institute of Golf Course Architects.

They join more than 119 other exhibitors, many of whom are taking more space at the seventh BTME. Claymore Grass Machinery, for example, has doubled the size of its stand. Other companies, including Ransomes, Hardi Sprayers, Sisis, Kings

Horticulture, and Outdoor Power Products, have increased the size of their stands following the tremendous success of the 1994 show.

Ninety per cent of the stand space at the Harrogate Exhibition Centre has now been sold.

"It's not just the fact that BTME attracts today's

and tomorrow's decision-makers, but the atmosphere is great for doing business," explains Louise Lunn, one of the organisers.

Even more greenkeepers, course managers, golf club secretaries, golf course architects and constructors are expected at next year's event because, for the first time, BIGGA is running its National Education Conference in Harrogate on the two days preceding the show.

This is in addition, of course, to the educational seminar programme which runs in conjunction with the exhibition. The extensive seminar programme includes a session by George Brown, golf course and estates manager at Turnberry on "The Open 1994". Also Dr James Beard, president of the International Sports Turf Institute, will speak about turf grass trends. These are just two examples of the learning opportunities on offer. For more details of the education programme, call Ken Richardson, BIGGA's education officer, on 0347 838581.

SEPTEMBER QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the course manager at Turnberry who will be speaking at the seminar programme in 1995?
2. Which institute will be taking a stand at BTME '95 for the first time?

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HEAVEN



It's more than just a golf course: Donnington Grove exists to strengthen cultural links between Japan and Britain, as Chris Boiling reports from 'Parasampia'

All the stationery, leaflets and scorecards from Donnington Grove, the year-old course near Newbury, carry the word Parasampia. There is even talk about changing the parkland course's name to Parasampia which, in Sanskrit, means "distant heavenly place".

Parasampia is the word the golf course owners, Shi-tennoji International Limited, use to describe their activities.

Many British greenkeepers work for Japanese bosses, but David Winterton and his team of seven greenstaff must be the only ones who work for a company which started out as a Buddhist temple.

The Shi-tennoji Temple at Osaka is Japan's oldest temple. It was founded in 593

by Prince Shotoku, the father of Japanese Buddhism. Today Shi-tennoji also runs the International Buddhist University with campuses in Hawaii, Austria and Belgium, four old people's homes, a hospital, four homes for the physically and mentally handicapped, four nursery schools, a residential home for mothers and children, two high schools and a junior school. In England it owns a co-educational boarding school near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk with the majority of pupils coming from Japan. One of the aims of the school is to increase cultural exchange between Japan and Britain.

The 18-hole 6,781-yard course, clubhouse and 27-bedroom hotel performs a similar role. "Important though the recreational

facilities are, Shi-tennoji, as a religious and cultural foundation, would not have embarked on this development were it not for the opportunities for cultural exchange," says the Reverend Zenro Morita. "As newcomers to this lovely part of England, we hope to establish many friendships between British and Japanese people, thus contributing to increased understanding and goodwill between our two great nations."

That's why, despite its appearance, it is not an exclusive club. There are 300 local members and "day members" pay just £15.

Base in cultural triangle

Shi-tennoji also run the Parasampia Travel Club whose members wanted somewhere to

ON EARTH



Course manager David Winterton by the Japanese temple at Donnington Grove Country Club

stay in the cultural triangle formed by Stratford-on-Avon, Bath and London. Somewhere about an hour from Heathrow.

Donnington Grove, a "Strawberry Hill Gothic" mansion built in about 1770, was bought in 1991 for this purpose. It is believed Mick Jagger was also interested in the property. The mansion and part of the 550-acre estate were turned into Donnington Grove Country Club, which boasts a Japanese-run hotel and a superb Dave Thomas-designed golf course. About £20 million was spent on the project, most going on the hotel with its 29 bedrooms, Japanese restaurant, Japanese baths, and saunas. About £2m went on the golf course, £1.5m went on a temple (with Japanese craftsmen flown in to construct it) and gardens, and about £300,000 has been spent on machinery.

Course manager David Winterton, 35, has

just taken on a seventh greenkeeper. In the summer he also employs two casual workers to keep the course.

There is also a full-time mechanic who runs his own show. "He has been set up to run the workshop as a separate unit," says David, "Therefore he has his own budget with a system set up so he charges his time out to the jobs he does. Parts and stock are supplied by myself. This is a trial run but is working well. Basically it is to prove that a full-time mechanic can earn his existence in a cost-effective and hopefully economical way. Each month a budget update sheet is produced by the accounts department for the workshops plus the golf course, gardens and farm. The mechanic spends 90 per cent of his time on course machinery but also works on estate/farm/garden machinery. He is good at fabrication and has good facilities with oxyacetylene, mig welder, plasma



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'All is not perfect in this distant heavenly place. As with any new course, there are teething troubles'

cutter, special benches for setting up cylinder heads etc."

The estate and gardens are groomed by a head gardener and four assistant gardeners. There is also an estate manager and three estate personnel.

The estate manager, head gardener and course manager report directly to the general manager, Mr Eiichi Tanaka. All major financial decisions are made by the directors in Japan who include Mr Juntoku Deguchi, 'The Headmaster'. They have the final say: "If they agree with whatever you want to purchase or change, then you can. But there's no bartering. If they say 'No', they mean no."

But David adds: "They have been very generous."

His budget for '94/95 is £315,000 of which £120,000 will be spent on labour, £45,000 on chemicals and fertilisers, £30,000 on water and irrigation, with the rest going on machinery, clothing, college tuition, machinery repairs and spares.

Jobs to do

It sounds wonderful so far, doesn't it? But all is not perfect in this distant heavenly place. As with any new course, there are teething troubles and several things to do to improve the course still further.

A year after opening, they have decided to replace all the woodchip buggy paths with 5mm sponge gravel. This is because, in many areas, especially on the second nine, the rain washes the woodchip away.

About 6,000m of paths were laid with hardwood walk chips

because the local council wanted the course to remain as natural-looking as possible but, as David points out: "It was a complete disaster as the woodchip did not firm down." The council is now considering the change. (The buggy path is a concession to the Japanese owners and Japanese visitors as the majority of local and day members prefer to walk the course - a mighty health-inducing 5.5 miles.)

Other work at the moment includes overseeding, hollow tining and topdressing.

Last month (August) the greenstaff began their autumn maintenance programme by overseeding greens

with a similar seed mixture to the original. The greens and tees were sown originally with British Seed Houses seed.

The greens were 40% Frida chewing fescue, 40%

Ruffilla slender creeping red fescue, 10% Egmont Agrostis and 10% Highland Agrostis. The tees were 80% fescue types, 10% smoothstalk and 10% Agrostis and are being overseeded with a similar mixture with less fescue but including a dwarf rye seed.

After hollow-tining they topdress lightly with Isolite, a product which retains moisture and releases it when the grass roots require it. They are also lightly topdressing with Biogrounds-keeper from Liquid Sod to get a true organic feed into the surface for microbial activity. This is followed by rootzone topdressing, overseeding and they keep it well watered for three weeks. "This should set the greens up well for the winter period," says David. The tees

DONNINGTON FACT
'Beau' Brummell, the famous dandy, was brought up at the mansion



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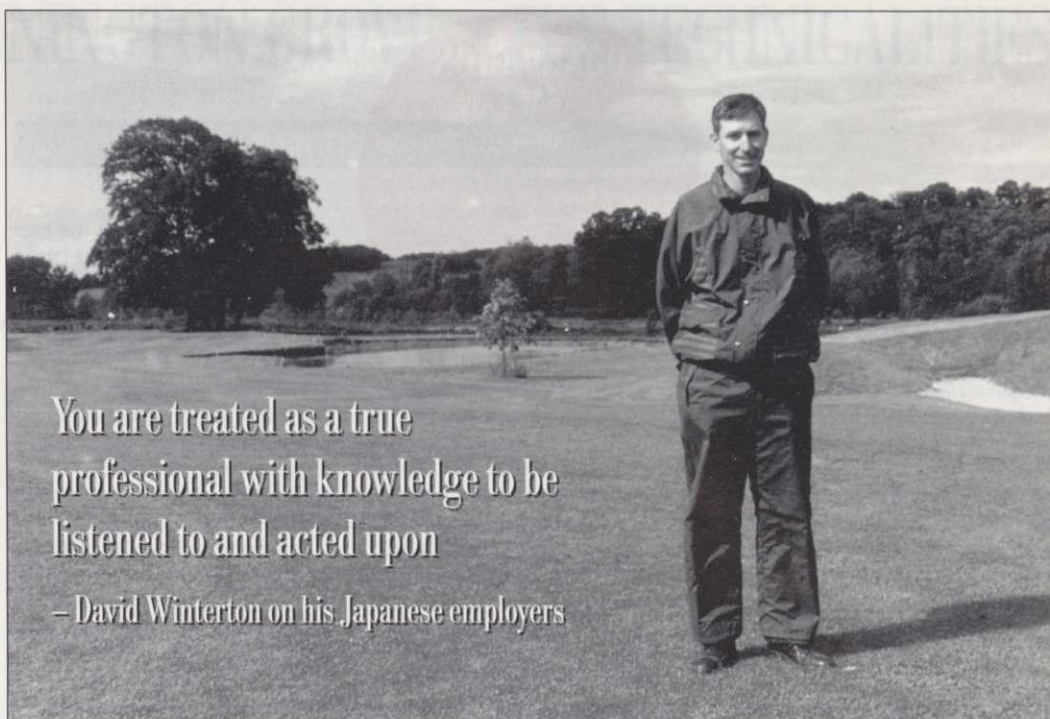
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31

will receive similar management.

Over the next three years they also hope to topdress the back nine fairways twice a year "as the levels on these are not too good," explains David. "More soil was moved during construction to create interesting designs but with poor soil it has not settled well." The 588-yard 11th was so bad they had to plough it up and reseed it six weeks before the opening of the course.

The fairways and approaches also need to be vertidraind as they are still too compact from construction work a year on. This was due to a lot of work being carried out in the adverse conditions of the winter of 92/93 causing serious loss of structure and drainage to the land in general.

About 2 ha of wild flower areas are to be created on the top course to give a variety of colour throughout the season. The mixture will contain meadow cranes bill, oxeye daisy, common knapwood, black medick, scabious, self heal, yellow rattle, wild angelica, red campion, wil-



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— David Winterton on his Japanese employers

mignonette, mixed with gorse, broom and possibly heathers. Heathers have already been planted but were devastated by rabbits, which are now being controlled.

The banks of the three small lakes on the lower course are to be planted with *Juncus effusus* 'spiralis', bulrushes, red poas, sedges, water dropworts and

yellow flags.

More trees are to be planted, too. A lot of trees have already been planted by Civic Trees (which is also looking after them on a two-year contract which finishes this winter). The sheltered belts already planted to screen the long-awaited Newbury bypass have thickened up well, so they may be able to transplant

from these onto the course.

More drainage is also required, especially to relieve the water that settles in the buggy paths which were put in after the main construction. Additional drainage is also required in front of some greens, due mainly to settlement of the land.

Another big job this winter is tee building. Many of the tees,



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AD REF 347

DONNINGTON FACT

As well as golf, Donnington Grove also offers instruction in the Japanese tea ceremony, flower arranging, Japanese cuisine, archery, origami and meditation. Attendance doesn't contribute to your Master Greenkeeper Certificate...

especially on the par 3s, are proving too small which may mean resorting to mats. David would prefer larger tees that the members could stay on all year.

A putting green near the golf shop – all 700 sq m of it – is to be built from scratch and a 500 sq m turf nursery is to be constructed on the flatter lower parkland course. This will be maintained the same as the greens and tees and will help make the course truly heaven on earth, especially for the greenstaff who are enjoying the experience of working for Buddhist bosses.

18-handicapper David has worked on a lot of golf courses since he left school in '76, but this is the first Japanese company he has worked for. After leaving school he took a two-year apprenticeship in forestry and landscape with a development corporation in Peterborough. This included working on a municipal course, Thorpe Wood, under David Walden. "I realised this was for me", he said. But he went back to school – as a grounds-

man, then went to Myerscough College and took an OND in turf-culture. One of his work placements was at Alton Meadows, another course supervised by David Walden. Then he got into greenkeeping proper with a full-time job at Thorpe Wood where he stayed for three years before moving on to help build a course at Toft House Hotel, in Lincolnshire. Once that was built he went to Ramsey GC, Cambridgeshire, to become head greenkeeper. Three and a half years later he quit to do some travelling. He got back into greenkeeping by growing in Greethan Valley GC, Leicestershire and in '92 he went to Castle Coombe for a short stint before joining Donnington Grove in February '93, taking over the final growing-in phase from Mike Bottomley. The first nine holes

opened in June '93 with the back nine opening three months later.

David says he has a great team at Donnington Grove and that he is enjoying the experience of working for a Japanese outfit. "They allow you to use your professional judgement to the full and you are treated as a true professional with knowledge to be listened to and acted upon," he said.

One thing he has noticed is that "they don't like to say 'No'. That sounds great, doesn't it? But it doesn't mean that I get what I ask for because they don't say yes either.

"But they expect perfection, especially in the way the course is presented. At times I've been struggling with the appearance of the course. We've got the machinery but the men don't stretch to it. It's not the greens and tees, but the general look – we can only manicure to a point, we just can't quite get that wonderful finish that the Japanese want. They want the best, and I like that, but they're not always willing to pay

for it. And they won't pay for it until they can see it's obvious that, yes, he needs more manpower." (Since I visited the course they've increased the manpower and machinery "to get the presentation they require").

The main areas that appeared to be suffering when I was there were the bunkers which required hand-cutting. The grass on the mounds was longer than desired and prevented the ball from rolling into the sand. David would also have liked to verti-cut more frequently. But there is only so much seven men can do in a day. With the 18 holes set in 170 acres, there is a lot of grass to manage, which is why they have been planting more trees, shrubs and wild flowers.

A couple of other differences David has noted with working for a Japanese company is that "they require a great deal of flexibility in view of working hours and they often expect the team to do other tasks when the occasion arises. But they are always fair."



KEEPING DONNINGTON GROVE – THE TECHNICALITIES

AUTUMN MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

Greens

1. Scarify to 5mm depth. Remove debris.
2. Hollow-tine greens using Sisis Varicore.
3. Topdress over holes with 2x25kg Biogroundkeeper (dried poultry manure) to increase bacteria activity in surface + 2x25kg Isolite, a Japanese product which helps to retain moisture.
4. Dragmat these products into holes – get these to bottom of holes.
5. Topdress with 90% sand, 10% peat mixture (RBL double-washed sand/Thameside peat) – 3kg/m²
6. Overseed onto topdressing with fescue/bent mix (60/40) – 30gms/m².
7. Dragmat seed/topdressing into surface.
8. Irrigate.
9. Leave uncut for two days, cut at 5.5mm after this.
10. Apply Rigby Taylor special organic N 8.0.5 0.5 + 2% Fe at 35gms/m² – a half rate

dose. Irrigate in.

11. In late September will apply Rigby Taylor organic feed – A/W2 4.4.8 + 2%Fe.
12. Apply light topdressing – 1.5-2kg/m² some time in September.
13. Raise height of cut to 6.5mm for winter.

Tees

1. Hollow-tine and remove cores.
2. Topdress – 2kg/m²
3. Overseed at 30gms/m² – mix dwarf ryegrass, creeping fescue, bent and smoothstalk.
4. Topdress again lightly – 1.5-2kg/m²
5. Apply Sierrablen autumn feed – 15.0.22 + 1%F
6. Raise height of cut to 12mm. Will rest par 3 tees by using mats.

Due to drought, many areas of fairway, semi and rough require following work:

1. Scarify thin or dead patches. Some of these patches exist

due to extensive kill of clover patches. Use Sisis Veemo behind tractor.

2. Litamiser used to sweep up debris.
3. Overseed using mechanical seeder, possibly a pedestrian overseeder.
4. Topdress.
5. Should not require fertiliser due to Sierrablen feed applied in early spring – 22.5.7 which has an 8-9 month release. If fertiliser is required, will apply Mascot Microfine 4.0.8 + 2%Fe + 2%mg.
6. Divot all fairways in late September/early October.
7. Fairway height of cut raised to 200mm.

Tee/green banks and apron

1. Scarify/overseed any bare areas due to weed kill/drought in places.
2. Topdress these areas with complete topdressing of tee banks.
3. Apply Mascot Microfine 4.0.8 + 2%Fe + 2%mg. 35gms/m²

Other autumn works

1. Prepare areas of grassland for autumn sowing of wild flower seed by a) spraying off grass with total herbicide (roundup); b) cultivate area after removing majority of grass; c) Sow wild flower seed.
2. Mark trees which have died due to drought so they can be replaced in the winter – possibly remove completely.
3. Sow seeds for wild flowers/water plants around the margins of the three lakes on the course.

Feeding the soil

Soil tests showed the lower nine holes to be nutrient rich with fairway pH of approximately 7 and greens and tees at a healthy average of 5.7. "The pH of 5.7 I will try to keep to stop take-all developing in the greens. This will be aided by applying low doses of liquid sulphur and iron every six to eight weeks," says David. *More on Page 29*

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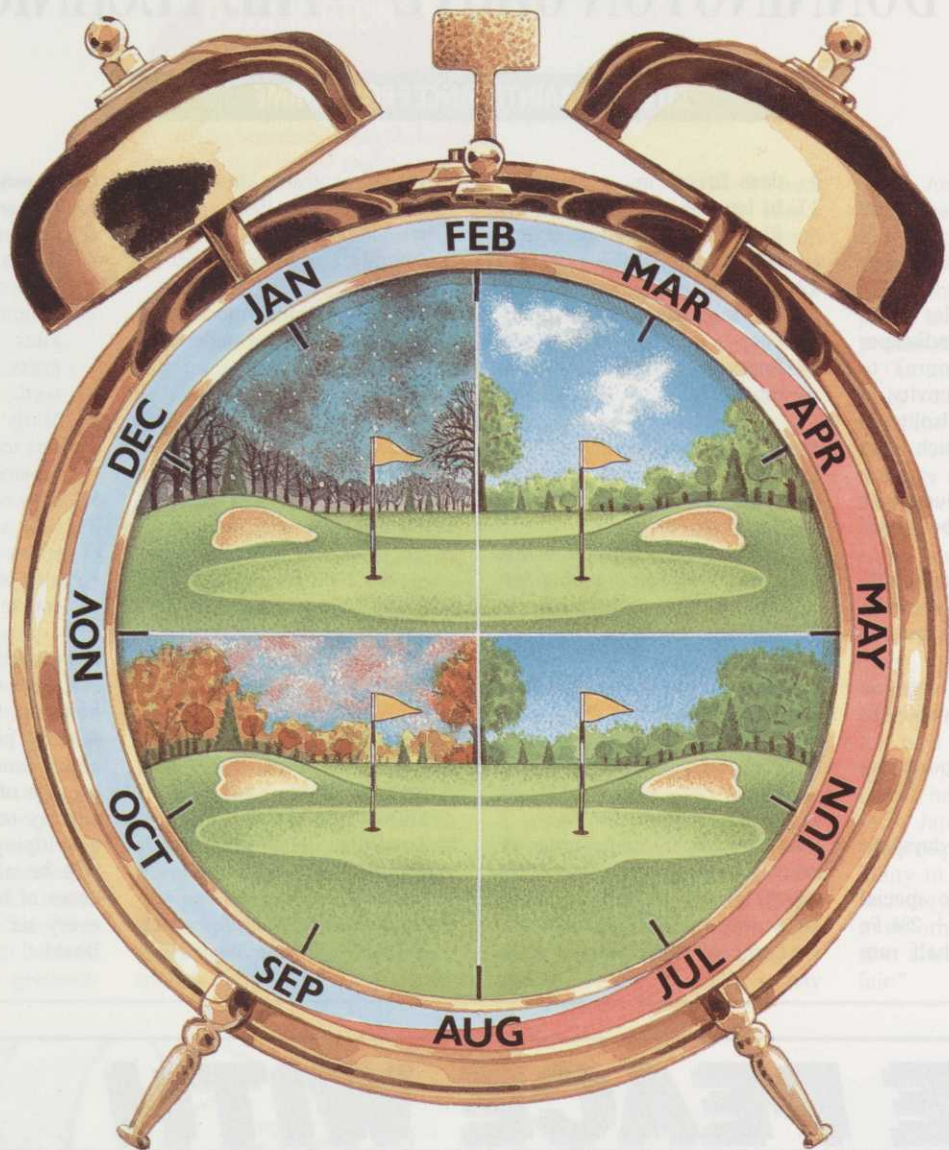
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'The majority of local and day members walk the course – a health-inducing 5.5 miles'

Nutrition of the course is as follows:

Greens – approx 350kg/ha N, 50kg/ha P and 240kg/ha K using a mixture of Rigby Taylor feeds, namely Microfine 18.0.0+6%Fe, Microfine 14.4.7 + 2%mg and Microfine 4.0.8 + 4%Fe + 2%mg. They are also spraying a Japanese product called Minox, a liquid sulphur/iron plus micronutrients. In the spring they use Farmura Portcawl and in the autumn/winter Vitax iron and nitrogen and Rigby Taylor SRD, an organic supplement containing foodstuffs for bacteria/fungi in soil profile. They are experimenting with a new Scotsturf product on two greens – 32.3.10 Drill fertiliser. A few other clubs are also trialling this product which will be marketed after analysis of data next year.

Tees – Sierrablen Mini 22.3.7 which gives "excellent results, good sward cover". In the autumn they apply slow release Sierrablen. They also spray with a sulphur/iron mixture and Farmura Portcawl.

Fairways/semi-rough – Use a new Sierrablen product, 27.5.7 – an 8-9 month release. This is spread in February to last the whole growth season. Four fairways have a different feed regime (all Rigby Taylor products) to compare the results. In the spring these receive Microfine 14.4.7 + 2%mg followed in the height of summer by a slow release liquid 18.3.6 + micronutrients, 28.0.0. In late summer they receive 15.0.10 + Fe.

Topdressing

The greens and tees topmix is 90% Roffey Brothers double washed sand and 10% peat from Thameside. Both these products were laboratory tested – the peat for pH and organic matter value, the sand for hydraulic conductivity, particle sizes, pH, lack of lime. "They work very well indeed, having been built on a gravel raft system with a grit blinding layer.

The topdressing now used is exactly the same mixture and materials as used originally. They are sourced the same, bought in bulk loads and mixed on site with



Donnington Grove's own JCB. Tildenet netting is used to establish the more difficult areas, eg banks, rabbit damage areas on the greens and tees.

Bunker sand

There are 68 bunkers on the course which required 2,500 tons of sand. Some of the bunkers are very large. One is 300 sq m and took 200 tons of sand. The sand used is Kingsley fine washed. "An excellent sand, but it requires a year to settle down properly. However, it's good after that," says David.

Irrigation

Installed by TIS, the Toro system uses a SC 3000 control panel, two main pumps plus a booster pump for the upper course. The system is designed to apply 32mm in seven days to greens, 25mm in seven days to tees, and 19mm in seven days to approaches. The greens have four and the approaches have one Toro 658 Series electric valve in head, twin speed sprinklers. The tees use 700 series. there is also a manual hose point by each tee and green.

The reservoir holds 5 million cubic metres of water, filled by extraction from the River Lambourn via a chamber pump underground. It is filled, according to the terms of their licence, between October and March.

One of the most time-consuming jobs has been lowering the sprinklers and most of the control

boxes as the ground shrunk after construction.

Cutting heights

Greens – 5mm in the summer,

8mm last winter, 7mm this winter; fairways – 20mm; semis – 1.5ins; rough – mostly 2.5in, the 5in areas are to become wild flower areas.

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AD REF 467

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

DEVON AND CORNWALL

With the summer drawing to an end we can now look forward to the beginning of our winter meeting programme which starts at Dainton Park GC on Wednesday October 26. I would like to remind you to send all your entries back to me with correct monies by the closing dates on the entry forms as meals have to be booked in advance. Also a reminder about our dress code at meetings – jackets and ties for lunch and no jeans or shorts to be worn at all. I look forward to meeting all my old friends and hopefully many new ones.

The section was saddened to learn through the magazine the passing of Ivor Scoones' wife Ann. Members would like to pass on their deepest sympathy to Ivor and his family.

RICHARD WHYMAN

LONDON

I would like to thank Barenbrug UK and RPK Turfcare Supplies for the visit to the STRI. Our group was welcomed by Michel Mulder and John Bradley from Barenbrug at Bingley. The tour started with an introduction from Dr Andy Newell and this was followed by a session in the laboratory. We were given the

EVENTS DIARY

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

chance to ask many questions on the analysis of soil and diseases and the associated problems. We also had the opportunity to see the trial ground and the tests that were in operation. The afternoon session was concluded with an excellent lunch and a chance to discuss turf problems amongst our group. The visit was very informative and beneficial.

Next month we host the regional seminar at Oaklands College on Wednesday 26th. You should have received the programme by now and I look forward to seeing you all at Oaklands. Attendance at the meeting will attract three Master Greenkeeper credits.



TONY DUNSTAN

NORTHERN REGION

The patrons scheme for companies wishing to support the region is going well. We have Highspeed (CourseCare) Ltd, Aitkens, Sportsturf and D&E Turf Maintenance as patrons. I hope members will support the companies who support us when ordering goods and services. Anyone who requires information about our scheme can call me on 0782 751851 or 0850 235554.



BOB LUPTON

MID ANGLIA

The Summer Tournament was held at Brampton Park GC, Huntingdon, and attracted an entry of 30 greenkeepers and trade members. A stableford format was played over 36 holes. This was a wise choice due to the difficulty of the course, which has many water hazards.

Although the hot weather had taken its toll on the fairways, it was good to see the greens in excellent shape and pleasing to play a course with so many interesting holes, particularly the 4th and 16th which provoked lively discussions in the clubhouse afterwards. Our thanks go to Brian Taylor, the course man-

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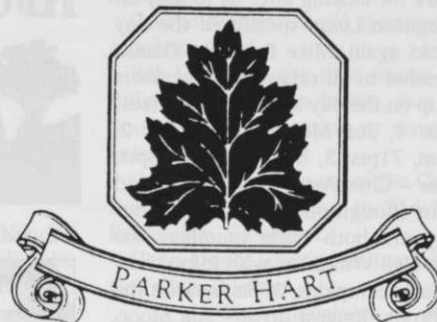
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ager, and his staff for the course and to Brampton Park for looking after us so ably on the day. Boughton Loam sponsored the day for us – thanks again, Mike Franklin. Thanks are also extended to all other trade members who turned up on the day and donated prizes.

The results: 1, Jon Moorhouse, 74pts; 2, Tony Freeman, 71pts; 3, Dick Coogan, 66pts; best am score – Chas Ayres (Lodgeway) and Mike Franklin (Boughton Loam), 31pts, but because they are both trade members the prize went to Neil Whittaker with 29pts; best pm score – Gavin Simpkins, 37pts; nearest the pin – Chris Brook; longest drive – Jon Moorhouse.

Our next golfing event is the Autumn Tournament at Mentmore GC on October 12 – an 18-hole event followed by the AGM. Preceding this on October 7 is the final of the Lodgeway Fourball Knockout.

Would all members please note a change of date for the Christmas Texas Scramble at the Family Golf Centre, Stevenage. It will now be held on Tuesday December 6 and not Thursday as published in the July issue.



PAUL LOCKETT

NORTH SCOTLAND

The first greenkeepers to take advantage of half-yearly memberships, now available, are Donald Patience from Tarbat GC, Portmahomack, and Richard Muir from Inverurie GC. I hope they will be members for many years to come.

Older members that remember Steve Donachie, a stalwart of the section for many years, may be interested to learn that his grandson, Scott Barclay, has joined the greenkeeping staff of Steve's old club, Deeside. I'm sure that if Steve were alive today he would be a very proud man.

I recently had the opportunity to play the new Carnegie course at Skibo, Sutherland, venue for the 1995 Scottish Greenkeepers Championship. The course is superb with some holes looking as if they have been there for years. It was hard to imagine that this was the land I had walked over only 18 months earlier. The scenery is breathtaking with views over the loch and distant hills, indeed along the 5th hole is an SSSI area with some very rare lichen growing in abundance. The clubhouse is nearing completion and it seems likely that another course will be constructed inland to give real variety for the customer. Alick Mackay and his staff have built all the bunkers in the traditional revetting way and they look excellent, the sand is taken from banks on the course and is a pleasure to play out of. Although it is way up north, I thoroughly recommend that Scottish region members make the effort next June to come up and play Skibo. It will be worth the journey.

Application forms for the North section's conference in Aberdeen this December are now arriving at clubs all over, but anyone who does not receive one and would like to go, please get in touch with me as I have some spare.

Tain assistant Jocky Urquhart won the Tain Club Championship for the third year running recently, making it four years in a row that a greenkeeper has won it and the next day Fortrose greenkeeper George Paterson won the Tain 36-hole Open! In fact several greenkeepers from various clubs in Scotland were playing in the tournament this year which

Around the Green



ensured a pleasant chat over a few beers after the golf.



Finally, I must mention the Open. Great course, great organisation, great fun, what a week.
IAIN MACLEOD

SOUTH WALES

Congratulations to Steve Mills on his appointment as head greenkeeper at the newly-developed Gower golf course, Cefyn Goliau Farm, Three Crosses. Steve, a former head greenkeeper of the Morrision GC for 17 years, took up his new post on the Donald Steel designed, Brian Pierson constructed 9-hole course on July 18.

Steve will work with new owner John Richards and his son Adrian at the course that is due to open in late spring/summer of 1995 and will extend to a full 18 holes later when funds permit.

Congratulations also go to Huw Parry, formerly of Caerphilly and Bristol and Clifton golf clubs, on his completely new challenge of lecturer in greenkeeping at the Cannington College, Bridgwater, Somerset.

Huw, who took up his new position on September 1, will be sorely missed by the section for he has been influential for his decision-making throughout his many terms of office. These positions have been at all levels – section, region and national, and his present standings are regional chairman, Pencoed College liaison chairman and national education chairman, but I'm sure Huw would like to be best remembered for being instrumental in the establishment of the GTC's Training Manual. On behalf of the section I wish Huw good luck with his new vocation and thank him for all of the hard work and effort that he has put into the Association over the years.

Our Summer Competition was held at Mountain Ash GC amid glorious sunshine and near perfect golfing conditions. The course was presented in superb condition and in the words of their captain, John Davies, "The course is in the best condition it has ever been." We can only echo this statement and congratulate Ceri Richards and his staff for their marvellous efforts.

It was very gratifying to be in the company of a golf club official who not only speaks so very highly of his greenstaff but who went to the trouble of purchasing gifts and presenting them on the evening in question.

Results: Winner of the Birdie Cup with a best gross of 71 was Gary Johnston, Southern-down GC; 2, Andrew Roach, Haverfordwest GC, 74; winner of the Waycott Cup with a best nett of 65 (on back 6) was Gerwyn Price, Maesteg GC; winner of the John Duncan Cup was David Jenkins also of Maesteg GC; nearest the pin – Huw Thomas, Pontardawe GC; longest drive – Alan Richards, Neath.

Our thanks to all at the Mountain Ash GC for helping to make the day so very enjoyable, especially Mr Davies, secretary Geoff Mathews, the caterers and especially the greenstaff

– well done lads.

However, when all is said and done, the day would not have been possible without the support of the sponsors Birds of Cowbridge. Our sincere thanks to Roger and Jeff Bird for their continued support and generosity in providing the prize table, absolutely first class! We were informed that the superb range of Portcawl/Walker Cup '95 merchandise was extremely "hot off the press".

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that in the early hours of July 25, Stuart Lyndsey, head greenkeeper at Southerndown GC, took his own life. Single man Steve, 29, was a Scot and keen Rangers supporter. He had been at Southerndown for over two years following a short spell greenkeeping in Canada. On behalf of the section, condolences have been sent to Stuart's mother and sister who live near Linlithgow GC, West Lothian.

PETER LACEY

NORTH WALES

Firstly an apology from yours truly to High-speed Lubricants and their representative Paul Shaw for failing to convey our thanks for their kind donation to our prize table at the Spring Tournament. The company and Paul have always been staunch supporters of our activities and I hope that this omission has not harmed our relationship.

The Board of Management has now published a review document 'Towards 2000' and the section committee will shortly be considering the contents of it. Should anyone have any ideas or views as to the way they think the Association should progress, please contact a committee member as soon as possible. This review is a worthwhile exercise and needs your input. Any recommendations for change will be put before membership at the AGM during BTME.

All members will be circulated shortly with regard to future events.

Finally, congratulations to Phil Davies of Mommersteeg, a friend of longstanding, on successfully completing his national diploma in turf culture. This is quite an achievement considering Phil's workload and the award will be formally made during the Saltex show at Windsor.

ANDY CAMPBELL

MIDLAND

Members of our section will have received a questionnaire regarding future lectures recently. If you have not returned it yet, please do so as this will enable us to put on the lectures you want.

Congratulations to Vince Lee on his move to Great Barr as assistant head greenkeeper. We also wish Vince the best of luck in the regional finals of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

It is with much regret that I have to inform members of the sudden death of Tom Kelsall. Tom, aged 63, was head greenkeeper at Stratford Oaks GC where he had been for the last seven years. Tom was always a keen supporter of greenkeeping and of BIGGA, serving on the Midlands committee. We send our condolences to his wife and family.

DEAN CLEAVER

EAST ANGLIA

Tree-lined fairways, tight lies and nippy greens welcomed 48 East Anglian greenkeep-

ers to Thetford GC for the August meeting. With the predicted storms failing to reach East Anglia, golfing conditions were good. But with such a testing course suiting the straighter hitters, scores were not exceptional except for one or two hitting the 40-point mark.

Thetford GC captain Ron Hewick and vice-captain Richard Goodenough joined in the day and at the prize giving the captain expressed his delight at being able to join in with the section, and commended the Association before, with everyone's agreement, giving praise to Ian Willett, head greenkeeper, and his staff for the condition of the course and the hard work in bringing the course round since he joined the club 18 months ago. Also, thanks Ian and Sam for the organisation.

Results: 0-9 cat - 1, A Carter; 2, M Fance; 3, R Plummer; 10-18 cat - 1, P Gould; 2, J Timms; 3, S Sylvester; 3, 19-28 cat - 1 E Hart; 2, S Millard; 3, T Huddleston; nearest the pins - 1st P Gould, sponsor RE Rushbrooks; 3rd R Plummer, sponsor Colliers; 11th S Pigott, sponsor Ben Burgess; 16th A Arbon, sponsor Sisis; longest drives - 8th M Peters, sponsor Bennets-Kubota; 13th A Turbin, sponsor Bennets-Jacobsen; guest prize won by Martin Preston. Further prizes donated by Kings, Thurlow Nunn, CMW, Patissons, Turf-Actant, Parker Hart and Rigby Taylor.

Thanks also to club professionals Norman Auther of Thetford, Ian Harris of West Middlesex and Roger Mace of Shillingly Park for their cooperation and for making contributions, along with the above, to the 27 raffle prizes.

Welcome to P Vincent, J Reluga and Golf Maintenance Ltd for becoming new members of the section.

M McGeoch has moved to head greenkeeper at Abbotsley GC and S McGeoch to head greenkeeper at Cambridge Lakes GC. Congratulations to Martin Mison and wife Tracey on the birth of their first child, Nathan.

The next meeting will be held at Gog Magog GC, Cambridge, on October 4. The Turkey Trot and AGM will be held at Aldeburgh on Thursday December 8. This is the day when everyone in the section has the opportunity to voice their opinions.

Venues for '95 are still required. If you would like to put your club forward for a June or August meeting, please contact Sam Sylvester. Finally congratulations to Sam for qualifying for the final of the Hayter Challenge at Pannal this month.

STEPHEN MILLARD

SUSSEX

Our Summer Tournament took place at Ham Manor GC. As I recall, it was the first time that our branch has had the pleasure of playing such a fine course. (Now is this due to the location or the skills of George, Jon and co? Probably the latter.)

The day started as a medal round, kindly sponsored by Farmura, followed by an afternoon stableford with prizes donated by Driving Force.

Unfortunately, due to one thing and another, I could only attend the afternoon round, and only then complete nine holes, so my apologies for the brief report. I gather from Stefan that the day went extremely well with hot sunshine from dawn to dusk (too hot for some judging by the number of no returns in the afternoon!) The food, I understand, was absolutely fabulous. Many thanks to the caterers for their excellent service and display. A

Around the Green



thank you must also go to Sue Antolik for doing the score cards and other 'small' jobs which help make the day run so smoothly. Refreshments at the halfway stage were gratefully received, thanks to Ross for the service.

Now for the results. Stefan mentioned that the winner of the medal - a bandit from Cooden Beach whose handicap has now been chopped - won a BIGGA blazer which, to the section's knowledge, is the first to present such a prize.

Morning medal - 1, Carl Whyborne, 68; 2, Bill Francis, 69; 3, Stefan Antolik; guest prize - Richard Elderfield, 65. Afternoon stableford - 1, Doug Powell, 41; 2, Mik Butrymowicz, 40; 3, Roland Hughes, 38; guest prize - Jim Spence, 35.

MARK WILTON

SHEFFIELD

Our 27-hole annual tournament, held at Tankersley Park GC, was sponsored by Yorkshire Mowers. The competition was played in glorious sunny, calm weather, the course was in excellent condition and we would like to thank Ron Graham's greenstaff who, in Ron's absence, prepared the course to a high standard. We would also like to extend our thanks to Tankersley Park GC for allowing us courtesy of their course and for making us all feel welcome. Also special thanks go to the steward and his staff who fed us well after a hard day's golf.

The winners: Foundation Trophy for best gross - S Currie, Hickleton GC, 120; Sutton Cup - M Clegg, Hallamshire GC; Taylor Cup - P Neve, Brough GC.

I would like to thank everyone who played and Barry Heaney for organising the day, though it was a poor turnout of only 22 players. I would like to thank again our main sponsor Yorkshire Mowers, as well as Brian Hurtle, sales director of Kubota, Brian Booth, Mike Brear, Steve Burroughs, Les Purdy and Peter Fell (sorry if I missed anyone) for contributing to our prize table which would look very bare without your support. A special mention also goes to Peter Fell and David Milbourne for checking the scorecards.

Our next event is on September 21 at Retford GC, tee off 1.30pm. This Autumn Tournament will be sponsored by Purdy's. Please get your forms back promptly to Barry Heaney as this makes life a lot easier for him. Finally, nobody from our section qualified at Worsley GC in the Hayter regional qualifier. Let's hope we do better next year!

IAN COLLETT



CLEVELAND

New members to welcome are DC Jobey from Brancepeth Castle GC and D Hoyle from Billingham GC.

The Autumn Tournament is at Middlesbrough Municipal GC on October 5, starting 11.30am. Meetings being arranged for October and November are on pest control. In

December there is a quiz with Turf Care of Leadgate.

George Atkinson, head greenkeeper at Consett, has retired.

Bob Lawton is the new course manager at Billingham GC. Glen Baxter, first assistant at South Shields, is acting as temporary head greenkeeper.

Gary Munro, secretary of the Cleveland section, has moved house to 514 Yarm Road, Eaglescliffe, Cleveland.

Harry Lees is working at Ramside Hall Hotel Golf Club, Durham.

The Cleveland v N/E section match at Whickham GC was a 4-1 win for N/E. Thanks to Colin McClure for an excellent golf course.

BRUCE BURNELL



NORTH EAST ENGLAND

Congratulations to Brian Hughes of Whickham GC on being promoted to deputy head greenkeeper and marrying Clare.

The Secretaries match was a complete failure as we could not provide a full team. In fact only five turned up - most embarrassing for all concerned. In future reliable players will be chosen to represent the section; cancellations at the 11th hour are no good at all.

The match against the Cleveland section was better attended with the result being 4-1 in our favour. Our thanks to Tony McLure and his staff for the presentation of the course and thanks to Whickham GC for granting courtesy of the course.

New members to date have increased this year by 20 altogether - it's nice to have the Bedlingtonshire lads back in. There are still clubs in the area who have no members.

These are: Westerhope, Morpeth, Burgher Park, South Moor, Tynemouth, Arcot Hall, Northumberland, Ryton City of Newcastle, Parklands, Haltwhistle, Rothbury.

JIMMY RICHARDSON



NORTHERN ENGLAND

The Hayter Regional Final was held at Worsley Golf Club and I am pleased to inform you that four players from the Northern Section have qualified for the final at Pannal this month.

Cat 1 - Gary Potter, Skipton; Cat 2 - Allan Baxter, Bingley St Ives, David Spurden, Ganton, John Waite Temple Newsam.

Allan Baxter was the winner of category 2. I hope you continue to be successful in the final.

I welcome to the section the following new member:

Richard Ruston of Camblesforth, Selby.

Any information you require please ring 0274 568128.

All golfing venues are fully booked except for a few places on our Autumn Tournament at Alwoodley Golf Club on Wednesday October 12.



The stork has been busy again - Brian Carr and his wife have had their first baby, a boy. Not much time for golf now, Brian.

PAT MURPHY

SOUTH COAST

The year marches on and we are nearing our penultimate golf meeting. This is to be held at Dudsbury Golf Club on October 6. The format

is an 18-hole stableford with tee times from 12:30. Please remember that the closing date for entries is 10 days prior to the meeting. As always, Bob Cully is the organiser and can be reached on 0489 782976 or in writing at 63 Upper St Helens Road, Hedge End, Southampton, 503 4LS.

The annual match between the South Coast and South West sections is due to be held on October 25 at Malborough Golf Club. If you want to be included in the team then contact Bob Cully, the captain, on the above telephone number.

The new section fixture list for 1994/95 will soon be sent to all members. If you do not receive your copy then please contact me on 0264 334269 or mobile no 0585 400529 as you may be inadvertently missing from the computer and we can then correct this.
ALAN MITCHELL

NORTH-WEST ENGLAND

Perfect weather and a great course greeted the 46 competitors at Stockport GC for the summer meeting. The course was in fine condition thanks to Paul Pearse and his staff, who must take solace after hearing the words of the winner of the Reg Vickers Trophy, Bill Merritt, who said, if you cannot play good golf on this course you may as well pack up. I think we can only assume that Bill was in a state of euphoria after having shot a 72 gross playing off 9 handicap.

The day was enjoyed by everybody, and the winners were: Bill Merritt 72-9-63; Adrian Holt 89-24-65 and Paul Pearse 71-2-69.

Many thanks to Stockport GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course and the catering staff for a fantastic meal. Thanks also to Ruf-

Around the Green



ford Topdress, Martin Brothers, Sisis, Rite Feed, Cheshire Light Tractors, Acorn Supplies, and Garry Worrall Ground Care for helping to furnish the prize table.

Despite the Hayter regional final being

played on home ground for the north-west, I am afraid we had no qualifiers for the final at Pannal GC this month. The regional final was played at Worsley GC, where Howard McAddey and his staff had prepared an excellent course for the occasion, and the weather was first class. Unfortunately only eight instead of nine of the N/W team turned up, which is bad news when reserves were ready to fill any vacant places.



Let's hope this does not happen in the future. Any queries or news please ring me on 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

NORTHERN REGION

Phew, what a scorcher for the regional final of the Hayter Challenge at Worsley near Manchester. The players who qualified for the final at Pannal this month were: Tony Mars, Ian Hutton, Garry Potter, Alan Baxter, John Waite, David Spurden, Chris Powley, Chris Fiddel, John Jones.

I hope they can repeat last year's effort and retain the Hayter Trophy (and the £500!). I must thank everyone at Worsley GC for hosting the event in their centenary year, especially course manager Howard McAddey and his team for presenting a course in superb condition. On a sour note I was disappointed with the qualifiers who didn't turn up without the courtesy of a phone call. I hope they realise meals had to be paid for and mementoes purchased and that they also denied someone else the chance of qualifying.

BOB LUPTON

MID ANGLIA SECTION

The Hayter Challenge regional final was held at Birstall GC, Leicester. Many thanks to Roger Willars, our regional administrator, for obtaining Birstall (his home club) at such late notice, as the BB&O section failed to secure a venue for the event. Taking into consideration the weather, the course was in fine condition. Our team had some good individual scores but just failed in

HAYTER

defending the team trophy, coming second. John Blair from Brocket Hall qualified for the final in the 19-28 handicap section and Jon Moorhouse, also from Brocket Hall, is first reserve in the same section. We must thank all the team for representing the Mid Anglia section so well. They were: Jon Moorhouse, David Forsyth, Gary Boulton, Chris Brook, John Elbourn, Brett Cox, Chris Toms, Stewart Boyes, Dave Coleman, Don Pemberton, John Blair and Richard Saunders.
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Education update

BY KEN RICHARDSON



A timely reminder for those greenkeepers considering attending this year's supervisory and management courses, an update on the Master Greenkeeper Certificate and the Toro/PGA European Tour Student of the Year Award.

Book now for management courses

BIGGA SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT COURSES

BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses provide the ideal opportunity to help head greenkeepers bridge the gap to course manager. Head greenkeepers who have not received any formal supervisory or management training should advise their clubs that grants of £150 are available from the GTC to help with the cost of sending their greenkeepers on one or more GTC endorsed management courses.

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

- **Week 1, Managing People – Module 1.**

This week deals with team building skills, interpersonal skills, time management and staff appraisal, planning, problem solving, decision making, assisting staff to solve problems, computers in greenkeeping, which includes operating systems, word processing, databases and spreadsheets, and a presentation by a top course manager.

- **Week 2, Managing People – Module 2.**

This week deals with assertive communication, building relationships, influencing skills, communications, dealing with disagreements and conflict, listening skills, giving advice, grievance and discipline, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

- **Week 3, Managing Operations and Resources**

This week 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 employer's objectives and golfers' requirements, planning, monitoring and controlling the use of resources, handling disruptions, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

- **Week 4, Managing Information**

This week deals with collecting

and recording information, checking information for accuracy, recording information, using information to inform others about organisations objectives and policy, giving advice, presenting information to others, communicating clearly, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

All course delegates and employers will receive an end of course 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 (prior to the grant allowance).

This year's courses are filling up fast, make sure of your place by returning the card in this magazine together with a deposit of £100+VAT (total £117.50). If you need advice on which week to attend or have any other queries call me on 0347 838581.

Master Greenkeeper Certificate

At the last BIGGA education sub-committee meeting, it was decided that the Master Greenkeeper Certificate scheme needed to be reviewed to reflect changes in greenkeeper education and training and to incorporate changes to the rules and administration of the award. A working party has been set up to conduct the review, which will take place in the autumn, however, one change that can take place is the timing of the stage 3 examinations. As from November 1994, Stage 3 examinations will be set, if required, in November and March of each year. This will allow candidates to sit an examination and, if necessary, two resits within a 12-month period. Additionally, candidates may choose to attend a 1 day examination technique workshop at Aldwark Manor. These workshops will cover basic examination techniques, group discussions and a briefing by a

member of the examiners panel.

Toro/PGA European Tour Student of the Year

The regional finals of the Toro/PGA European Tour Student of the Year awards take

place at Oaklands, Cannington, Pencoed, Warwickshire, Askham Bryan and Elmwood Colleges between September 10 and 11. The seven finalists will attend the National Final at Aldwark Manor, on October 2 and 3 1994.

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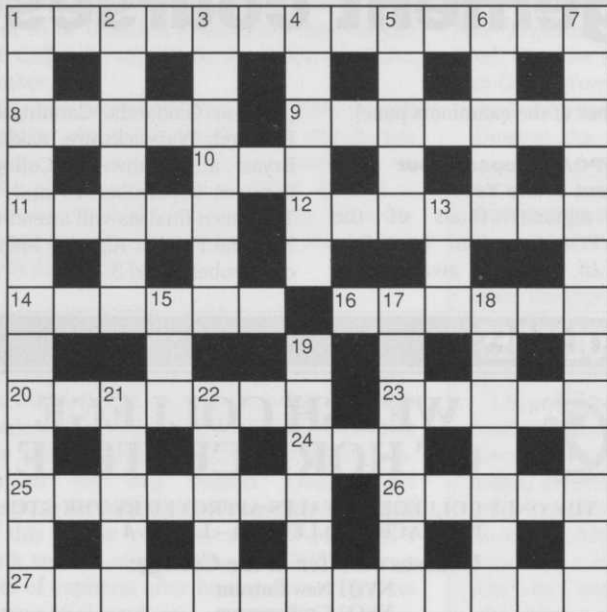
Full time courses are also available, including an HND in Golf Course Management, and Sports Turf Options on BTEC First and National Diplomas, and Short Courses for Industry include FEPA Chemical Safety, Chainsaws, Safe Lifting and Manual Handling, and First Aid.

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GREENKEEPER'S CROSSWORD

Compiled by Mark G Smith



Ransomes make the claim that their E-Plex is the world's first all-electric greens mower, bringing quiet, pollution-free operation to golf courses

Electric machines on the brink of a quiet revolution

Now that Ransomes has brought out an all-electric triple greens mower, greenkeepers in the UK and in America are asking about other electric products – especially fairway mowers and bunker rakers. Next year boys, next year, is the word.

The big advantage that electric machines have is they are super quiet. The Ransomes E-Plex we saw recently at Foxhills in Surrey could not be heard when it was being test-driven at speeds of up to 7.5mph. Only when it started cutting was there a sound, but it was still very quiet compared with traditional greens mowers. This will be of great importance to greenkeepers who want to cut early in built-up areas and those who are maintaining courses in resorts.

The E-Plex, which will be launched at this month's Saltex show, draws power to drive its wheels and cutting cylinders from eight 6-volt batteries which provide up to three hours operation

from a single charge. This equates to a minimum of nine greens, or up to 18 depending on terrain, ambient temperature and the distance between holes.

Another appealing feature of electric mowers is that because they have no engine nor hydraulic system, daily maintenance and running costs are kept to a minimum. The cutting heads are powered by three 48-volt direct-coupled electric motors and the centre reel is mounted on a swing-out arm for ease of servicing. Further advantages of the mower's all-electric drive are no worries over oil leaks or exhaust fumes.

The downside is that it is nearly as expensive as a diesel mower – £17,000 – and that the eight batteries will need to be replaced once they have been recharged about 350 times.

● Ransomes' half-year results show turnover up 14% to £102.1 million and profit up to £11 million, more than double the £5.4 million achieved in 1993.

Success for greenkeepers who curry the can

Tests on a new range of chemical agents to get rid of worms show that one of the best antidotes is... curry powder sprayed on the grass in a gallon of water. STRI researcher Emma Kirby says: "Worms don't like it. It acts as an expellant which irritates them and brings them to the surface. Then greenkeepers can swish them off or pick them up." She added: "Some years ago it was found that Coleman's English Mustard worked, but we haven't tested it ourselves."

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1 The crane fly (5,4,4)
- 8 High grade palm oil from W. Africa used as a lubricant (5)
- 9 Metallic equivalent of the 4 wood (3,4)
- 10 Subscription owing but unpaid (3)
- 11 Ash tree (L. Fraxinus Ornus) (5)
- 12 Claydon European Tour Professional (7)
- 14 Tool for enlarging drilled holes (6)
- 16 A sprinkler head does it when activated (4,2)
- 20 Surname of the US Tour Professional, known as 'The Walrus' (7)
- 23 Tree inhabiting marsupial found on Australian courses (5)
- 24 Large branch of tree where the trunk divides (3)
- 25 Discover or remove the wire from neutral perhaps (7)
- 26 Tea, the floral name of the 1st hole at Augusta National (5)
- 27 What were played on the final day of the 1991 and 1993 Ryder Cups? (6,7)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Full name of the 1933 Open Champion (8,5)
- 2 I dig any mixture, with two carpels (anag) (7)
- 3 Distance from the ball to the target (7)
- 4 Large aquatic mammals of the weasel family (L. Lutra Vulgaris) (6)
- 5 Medal score before deducting handicap (5)
- 6 The nest of a bird of prey, particularly an eagle (5)
- 7 They have no 'standing' on a golf course (6,7)
- 13 The vital juice of trees (3)
- 15 Soil suspended in water (3)
- 17 C.C. Pittsburgh, Pa, venue of the 1994 US Open (7)
- 18 Nationality of Jose Maria Canizares and Jose Rivero (7)
- 19 Surname of the Australian winner of the 1981 US Open Championship (6)
- 21 A cocktail of ale be the white poplar (anag) (5)
- 22 The 1.68" ball, large or small (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 2NF.

Closing date September 23, 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.

→ This is the solution to last month's crossword, and the winner was David Leith, first assistant at St Andrews Links Trust.



Name:

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If I'm the winner, please send me £50 cash or BIGGA blazer, size

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Million-dollar tournament where the

Words and pictures by
Rob Jewell

If your course was about to host a \$1 million tournament, you'd want it to look better than this, wouldn't you?

John Taylor, the landowner and the nearest thing to a greenkeeper at the course, doesn't worry about fast, smooth greens – or even cutting fairways. His only aim in staging a tournament is to raise money for building work – and have a fun day in the process.

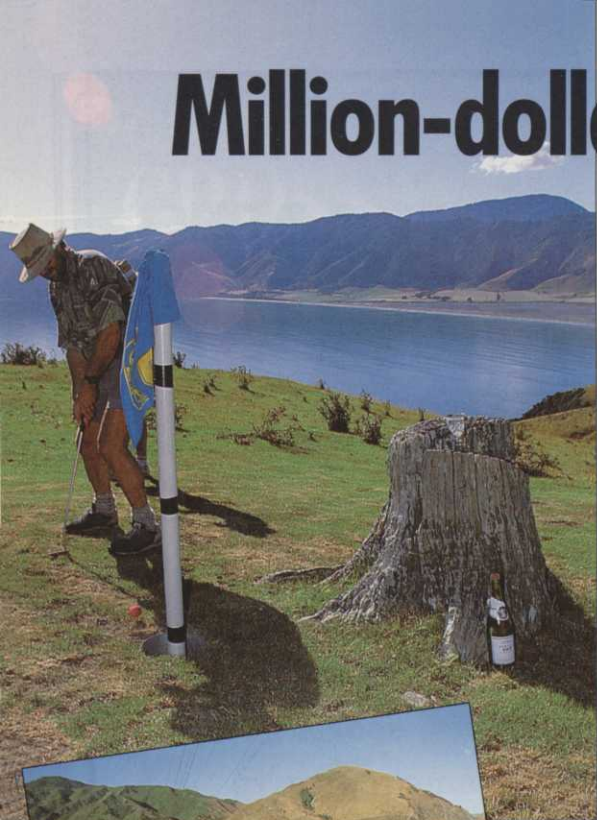
For the second year running the Nelson North Country Club, on a 1300 acre, 1300ft high New Zealand island, staged the "World's Most Outrageous Tournament".

Dreamed up over a pint or two of fizzy amber water, the hole names and rules of play give an indication of the nature of the event: Hanging Tree, Possum Refuge, 5 Speed Overdrive, Knutcracker Suite; "All holes are to within approximately 50% of the distance marked", "should you feel like having a bitch about anything, first check out the size of the president and immediate past president who shall have final jurisdiction over any disputes".

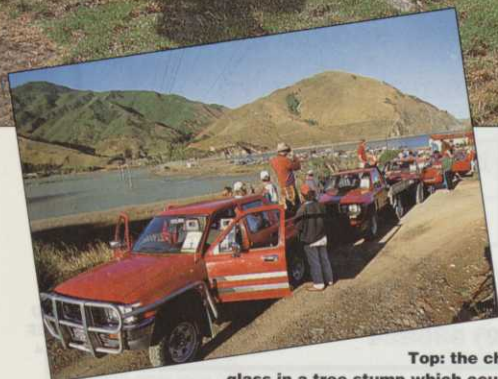
Then there is the island course itself. Mustering stock here used to take over six hours in the days before quad-bikes, so the caddy is a four-wheel drive pick-up



with straw bales for seats. "Fairways" are 2ft tussock grass. Greens are green, but mown by sheep and have never seen a mower, aerator or any modern-day



Top: the champagne glass in a tree stump which could net you \$1,000,000; Above: "caddy cars"; Right: on target



Whatever time of year, this busy greenkeeper needs the right tools behind him to keep the golf course superb. With the Workman 3000 Series which boasts a large flexible carrying capacity, four-wheel

stability and three-wheel manoeuvrability, that's precisely what he's got. Toro attachments or those of our keenest rival can be mid or rear mounted in almost any combination. It's another example of how we've worked to

greens are mown by **SHEEP**



The excellent attendance had nothing to do with the sponsor's product. Nothing at all.



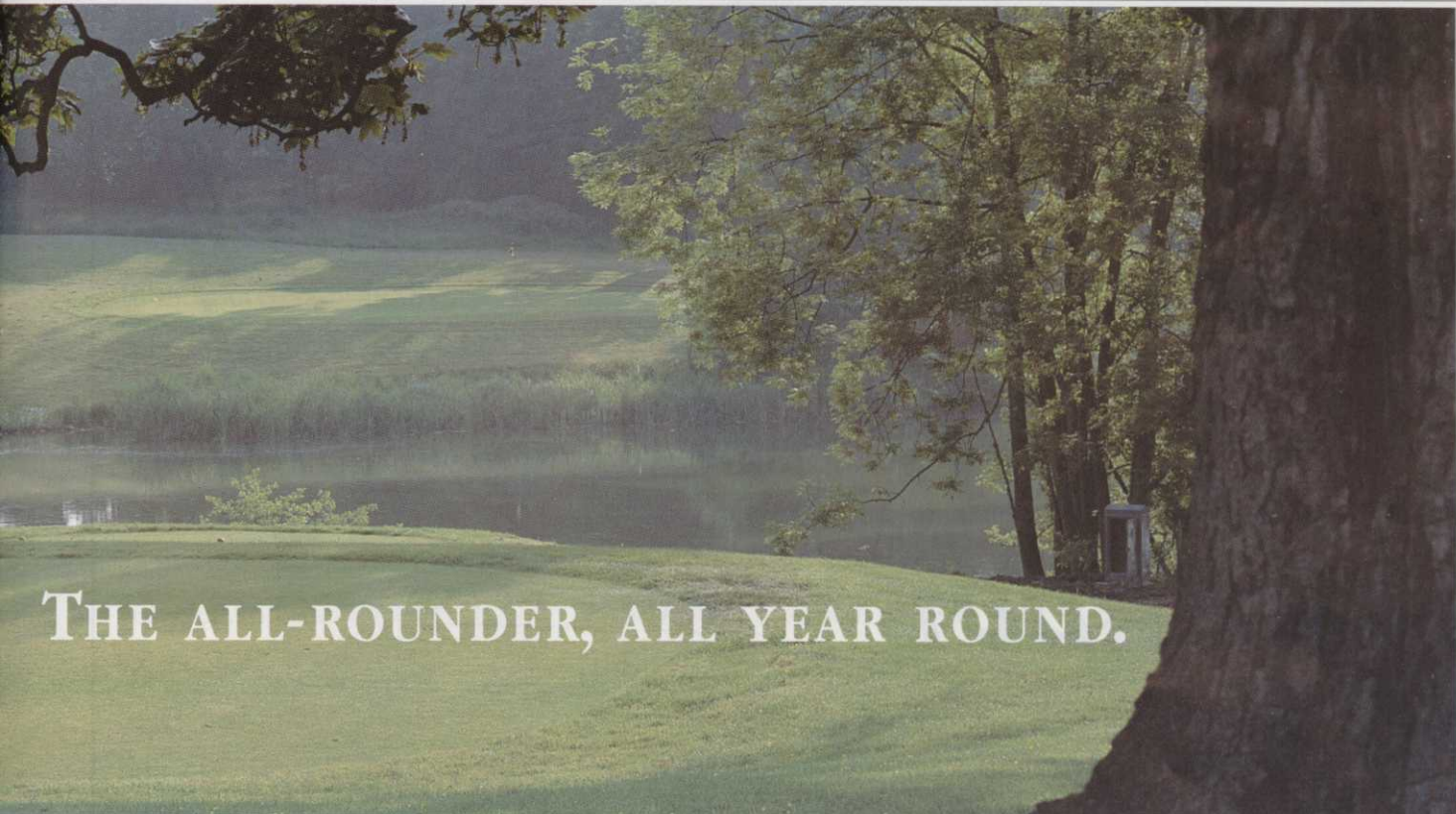
On which other course would you need a drill to tee-up?

equipment. The tees are firm – some are wooden platforms with a drill for you to use to site your peg.

Even if you can't take the course seri-

ously, you have to take the golf very seriously as most holes have prize-money to the tune of \$500-\$1,000. One hole has a car for a prize, and there is the \$1 million

hole. Okay, so it's not a million in sterling, but £375,000 isn't to be sniffed at! All you have to do is land your ball in a glass of champagne, 3ft off the ground on a tree



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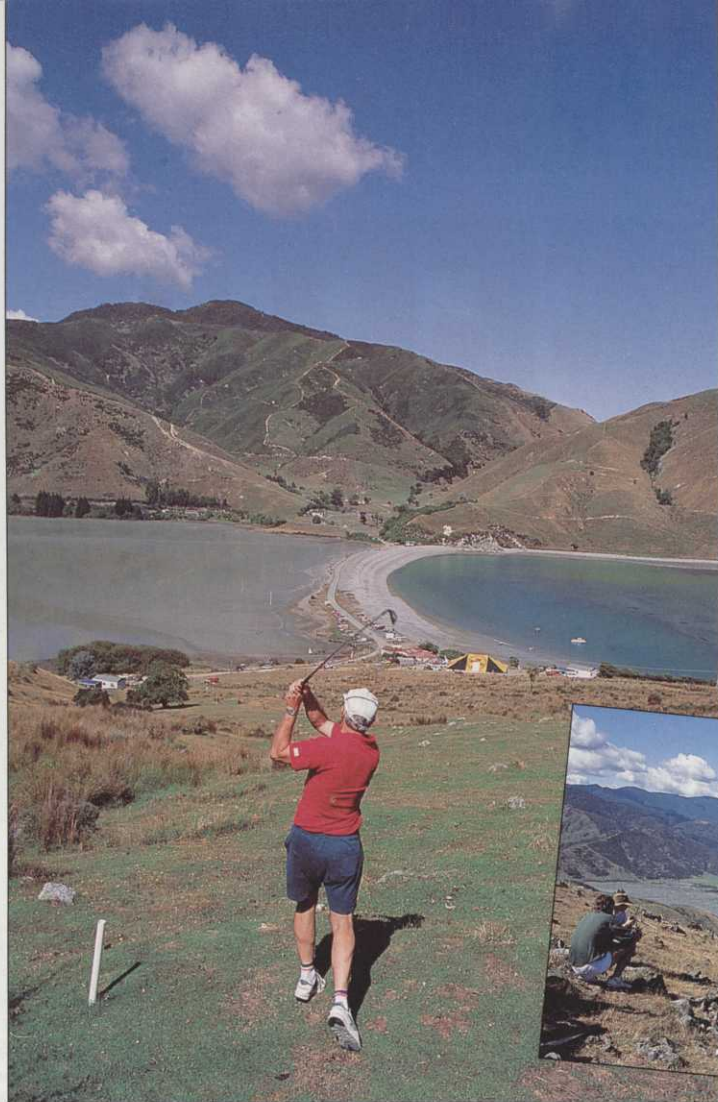
stump in the middle of the green – without spilling a drop!

The prize-money is covered by the \$60 (£22) entry fee which gets you a T-shirt, lunchtime barbecue, post-finish Hangi (meat cooked Maori fashion in a hole in the ground, moist, tender, delicious) and free drinks from the sponsor at the way-side tents like “Liz’s layby”, where all sorts of goodies and chat are available. Liz is club treasurer, and all club members help founder member John Taylor organise the event.

Results? You want results of a golf competition where the second rule states: “*The maximum number of clubs per player is three. Putter optional extra*”? Ah well, maybe you do.

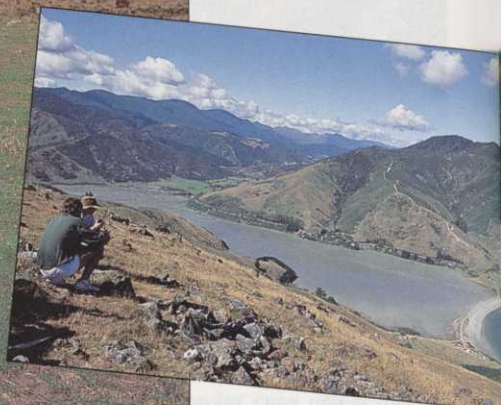
The target sum of \$15,000 was raised; no-one got the car, much less the \$1 million; but someone did get a hole in one at “Gentle Annie”, even though the rules state this hole “*Must remain a virgin hole. No hole in ones.*” Make of that what you will! George Parsons did – he was the man who got the ace despite the 80m length, 80m drop. It also gave him the title of overall winner.

This unique competition will happen once more on February 6, 1995, so start saving now!



Left: the ‘Knutcracker Suite’ – a chance to play spot the ball

Below: Great scenery and a long drop off the ‘Trigg Off’



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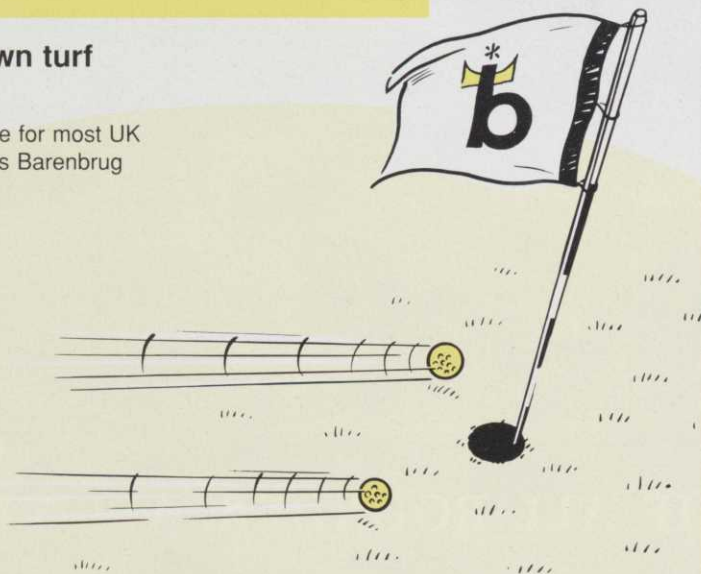
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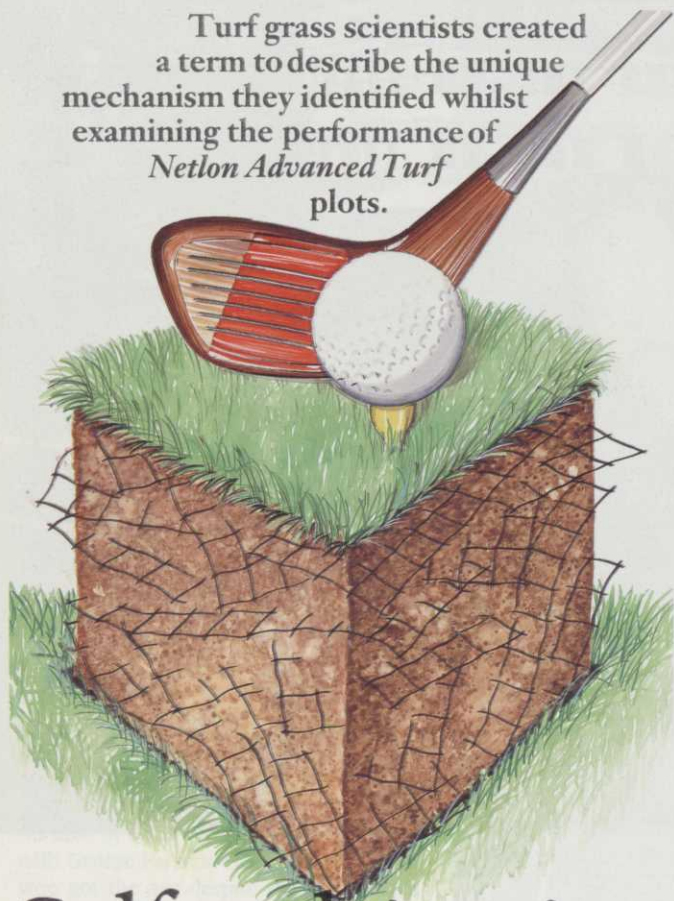
their smooth and low-effort operation.

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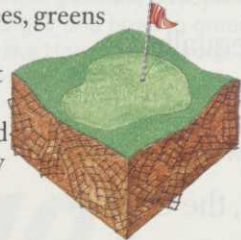
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How to play golf in two countries at the same time

When you pay your green fee at Tornio Harparanda Green Zone Golf you get more than a scorecard – you get a borderline passport. The 6180m par 72 course straddles the borders of Finland and Sweden, so when you register at the club's reception you get a scorecard that is also a licence to cross the border. On the back of it, where you'd normally find local rules, there are the duty-free allowances for cigarettes, alcohol and foodstuffs.

The clubhouse, driving range and first two holes are in Finland. From the third tee you hit the ball into Sweden. On the 6th you come back into Finland. The second nine starts with a drive back into Sweden and you play most of this half in that country before driving back into Finland on the 18th.

Green Swedes

The Swedish Golf Federation has produced an environmental programme. As far as maintenance routines are concerned, it says: ● the use of fertilisers and pesticides shall be judged by the need; ● to check the extent of purification and to register possible leaches of nutrients or pesticides, earth and water tests shall be carried out at regular intervals. As regards the water tests, they shall be carried out at the influx and at the outflux; ● in those areas where grass clippings cannot be left, the clippings shall be composted in places especially established for that purpose; ● roughs are maintained according to a prearranged plan and with consideration to the natural flora (selection of equipment for mowing and the date of mowing); ● if there are ancient monuments within the area, these shall be maintained in accordance with received instructions; ● areas not in play shall be maintained in accordance with a written plan, aiming at biodiversity according to each local circumstance; ● the use of pesticides shall be minimised.

Bound for Algarve

Peter Wisbey has a new job and a flashy new title. He has been appointed technical director of Planal SA's Quinta do Lago courses in the Algarve.

Peter, 47, has been working in Portugal for the past seven years, moving there to supervise the fin-

ishing works and growing in of the San Lorenzo course. For the following four years he was responsible for both San Lorenzo and the Penina courses in his capacity as regional golf superintendent for Trusthouse Forte.

Having seen San Lorenzo rise into Golf World's top ten of European courses, Peter moved to the nearby Pinheiros Altos course.

After nearly three years moving the course through final finishing and grown-in towards maturity, the lure of the neighbouring Quinta do Lago complex with its 36-hole championship layout, seven times the venue for the Portuguese Open, proved irresistible. Peter will still, however, manage Pinheiros Altos on a consultancy basis.

Since 1987 Peter's expertise in the management of warm-season grasses has become acknowledged throughout Portugal and he has been involved on a consultancy basis with a number of projects, the most recent of which are Salgados, an 18-hole links course in the Algarve, and Quinta da Peru, a new William Roquemore designed course near Lisbon.

UK arm of US body

The English members of the American Sod Producers Association have set up a turf growers association in the UK: Turf Producers International – UK. Chairman Derek Edwards of the Inturf Group said: "We have for some years recognised the need for a proper organisation to represent our industry and once we managed to get everyone around a table, prompted by earlier ASPA meetings and talks about turf accreditation schemes with NIAB and STRI, everything seemed to fall into place very nicely."

The aims of the 20 founder members are to improve standards of cultivated turf production and distribution, to tackle environmental issues, and to promote a product that is helping to make our environment a whole lot "greener". Tel: 0759 305117.

San Francisco date

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 66th International Golf Course Conference and Show is scheduled for February 20-27, 1995 in San Francisco.

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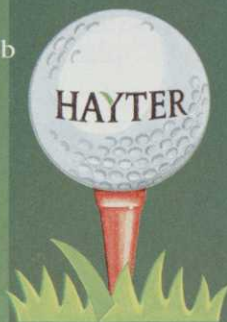
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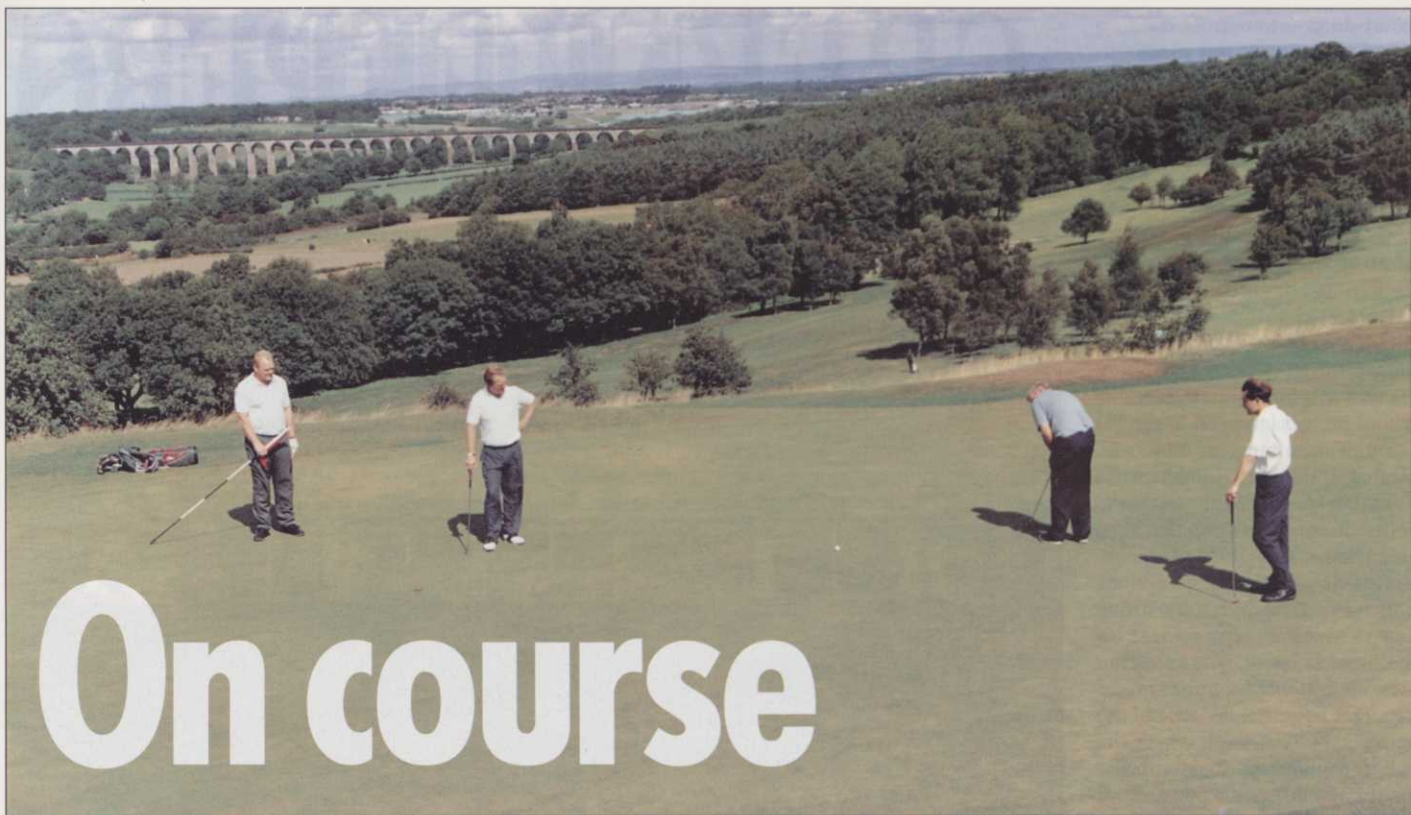
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On course

for a great Final

This is Pannal Golf Club. This is where the Hayter Challenge will be decided. After battling their way through section and region qualifying rounds, this is where 63 greenkeepers will fight for the honour of being the Hayter champion.

Great players have won on this 97-year-old course. Legendary players have won here too. Nick Faldo won the British Youths Amateur Championship here in 1975 with a 10-under-par total of 278. Lee Trevino triumphed here in an exhibition match three years earlier. He wise-cracked his way to a 66 and on one hole he was overheard saying: "I'm playing in Paris, France, and then in Birmingham but I'm not sure which country that's in."

There's no doubting where Pannal is, there's a great big arrow pointing to the course from the A61 Leeds to Harrogate road.

The 6659-yard par 72 moorland course was designed by Alex Herd in 1906 and opened for play a year later. Since then it has been updated and altered by various leading architects, including James Braid and the Hawthrees. In its early days the course was fields and heathland with stone walls providing obstacles and very few bushes and trees. Now there are trees and shrubs everywhere adding interest and colour to the North Yorkshire course.

The thing most golfers like about this members' club is the panoramic views. From parts of the back nine you can see York Minster, the white horse at Kilburn and the magnifi-



Above: the clubhouse and, top, views like this one from the 17th green make a visit to Pannal well worthwhile

HAYTER

cent railway viaduct that stretches across the valley.

It's the sort of course you can easily fall in love with. In the clubhouse they tell the story of head greenkeeper Alan Gamble's encounter with an American. Alan, who retired this summer after 17 years service with the club, spotted the American playing off the white tees, went over and told him he couldn't do that. The American replied with words to the effect: "I've paid my

money I can play where I want."

"No, you can't," said Alan and referred him to the secretary.

Next day the American was back again. Taken aback, Alan went up to him and said: "I'm surprised to see you again."

"I'm leaving for the States tomorrow and had to play this course one more time before I went back. I love it. If I could wrap it up and take it home with me, I would."

Many of the Hayter Challenge finalists will probably want to take it home as well – and transplant it on their sites. Alan kept it to a very high standard and new head greenkeeper Kevin Wroe, 35, seems to be following suit.

What do greenkeepers do when they finally get away from their courses? Visit other people's courses. Here are three different views of different courses in different countries.

GREENKEEPERS

ZIMBABWE

Retired head greenkeeper Sam Sylvester, chairman of the East Anglian section, went to Zimbabwe for an African golf safari. He was met at Harare by a friend whom he had last seen at the '93 Open. That afternoon he played at Royal Harare GC, which he describes as "a lovely parkland course in excellent condition.

"I believe they have 60 greenstaff! The greens are extremely difficult as there is a very strong nap to contend with as well as the usual borrows. The cards are measured in metres, but I eventually found out that because of the height above sea level, where the ball flies further, to count the metres as yards.

"The cost of the green fee was about £3.80. Due to a relaxation of currency control, Royal Harare has now got a Toro greens machine. Needless to say, spares are a big problem. Another of the problems is that the kikuyu grass, which makes up most of the course, tends to creep onto the



The clubhouse at Vilamoura III in the Algarve

greens. To prevent this the green surrounds and apron have been planted with another grass to prevent the approach shot plugging. Not a success as the grass was much too fluffy and the ball nestled right down.

"The following afternoon we played at Wingate Park GC which is a bit out of town. This is a tree-lined course which is very intimidating for a player from a heathland course. It was not of such a high standard but the club

has neither the membership nor the money. Yet again the nap on the greens - ugh!

"The following morning I flew to Bulawayo and drove 400km to Victoria Falls, where I played in a small competition at the Ele-

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ON HOLIDAY

phants Hills GC with Brian Evans, secretary of the Kent Golf Union. On the first tee I met course manager Doug McClymont. His biggest problem seems to be game running over the course and in particular families of wart hog, which are quite tame. They find a damp area and then start snuffling like pigs, looking for roots. The mess is enormous, though I saw no signs on the greens.

"The course was pleasant and not too long with quite a few water hazards. There is no shortage of water from the Zambezi, but the evaporation is very high during the day. The short rough is very tough with the ball nestling right down. No point in trying for distance. The long rough is jungle, so forget about it!

"I found judging distance to the greens very difficult as the grey/brown flagsticks were very hard to see against the background.

"Another course I played during my visit was at the Bulawayo Country Club. The greens were excellent with only a little nap, but there is always a water shortage in this area, so the fairways and rough are rather thin. The course has been turned round since I last played there four years ago and now both 9s finish at the clubhouse, which makes it much easier for halfway drinks and food. A lot of alterations have been made to the course by the sort of ex-officio course planner who seemingly is answerable to no-one. However, he is prepared to put in the time and effort and is left to his own devices. He is attempting to make the course more difficult which does not suit the average member. Asked how often he changes the holes, he replied 'once a month'.

"The greens mowers are all electric, with power points at each green and tee. The water hoses are connected to stand

pipes around the greens and the fairway watering is by connected irrigation pipes with standing sprinklers.

"Another club we played in Bulawayo was owned by the railways before independence. Now it is owned by the members. It suffers from being extremely dry and with many harvester ants which take bits of the good grass into their nests. As a result, the fairways are very patchy. However, the greens are good, though only hand-watered. We played a nine-hole stableford - some players on each nine. There was a five-ball in the middle of the competition and the prize was won by a professional! I managed to win £1 for best joint nett score on a nominated hole. I never did find out which hole!

"The following day we played at Bulawayo Golf Club which celebrates its centenary in 1995. This is the best course in town as it has the most members and hence most income. The fairways

were good, as were the greens with some nicely cut approaches. Another tree-lined course, if you missed the fairway there was very little chance of hitting the green in two shots."

ALGARVE

Antony Bindley, assistant greenkeeper Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, visited a new course in Portugal. "I spent an awful lot of my time at Villamoura raking an awful lot of sand. The course is three years old and the greens are a year younger. It was said to be an American designed course but I was beginning to doubt this until I reached the 8th tee and saw a large lake which required a carry of some 180 yards. This was again required at the 14th tee and, in total, water came into play on seven of the holes.

"The greens were in excellent condition and contained a lot of fescues and bent grasses although a certain amount of annual meadow grass had found its way in from the surrounding fairways where *Poa* was very prominent and was already showing its seed heads in early March. The greenkeepers there were in the process of hand-weeding the greens for *Poa*.

"Unfortunately I could not communicate with the greenkeepers as their English was

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GREENKEEPERS ON HOLIDAY

almost as bad as my Portuguese, so all the information I have is what I saw while walking around. The fairways were a bit sparse in places but not too bad for a course which appeared to be heavily played by tourists (we had to wait two hours for a tee time). The tees were all large and rectangular in shape with predominantly *Poa* species.

"A lot of construction was taking place on the course with an extra nine holes being built and a lot of large lakes being dug out. The machinery was very much the same as here with Triplex mowers, compact tractors, work trucks. The whole course was irrigated by Rainbird sprinklers – including the semi rough. There weren't many trees on the course, just a few palm trees and some bushes."

UNITED STATES

John Nudds, course manager Gerrards Cross GC, had a three-week holiday in America, first staying with old friends in a

small Texas town one hour's drive from Houston, then visiting his wife's sister and her husband in Delaware. The day after he arrived, his nephew took him to play at Garrisons Lake Golf Club, a 6595-yard par 72.

"I met the professional, Jim Mathias, and told him I was a course manager or greens superintendent in England, at the same time flashing my BIGGA identification card. He said, 'John, your nephew has told me all about you, the course is yours for the next two weeks.' I was dumbfounded and didn't ask him what my nephew had told him!

The following Saturday John and his nephew played in a tournament in Maryland.

"We arrived at the golf club and started by having a monstrous breakfast then at 9.10 a shotgun start with 140 playing. Five and a half hours later we arrived back at the clubhouse – shattered. Wooden tables were all set up outside the clubhouse

with paper tablecloths. Andrew went to the glove compartment of his car to fetch a leather glove and a screwdriver. They had this 24ft long barbecue, all round the tables were big bins of oysters and then I knew what the glove and screwdriver were for. Our team finished one point away from fifth prize.

"After playing round Garrisons Lake I now know why Americans call autumn 'the fall'. I have never seen so many leaves, enough for them to bring in a leaf rule that allows you to drop a ball as near to the spot that you think it finished. This is only in friendly matches.

"Jim, the pro, took me to Wilmington Golf Club, one of the best courses in Delaware. It was lovely – lots of water and quick greens. It was interesting to see that they had stopped buggies because of the wear and tear on the course. You had to have a caddy, my man was a big ex-pro footballer called Oscar. The yardage was marked 200

yards or 150 yards from the green on concrete blocks in the middle of the fairway or on the sprinkler heads – not a bad idea. Oscar continuously tried to get the black marks off the face of my clubs before realising it was not possible with them being a bit dated!

"I had a word with the greenkeepers at two of the golf clubs I visited. What surprised me was they kept talking about how fast our greens looked on TV in events such as the Open – this completely threw me because we think the same about them.

"All the American golfers I met in those three incredible weeks want to talk about the British golf courses such as St Andrews, Carnoustie and Wentworth, and those who hadn't visited the UK had this burning ambition to do so, particularly Jim the pro. He had certainly read up on our history of golf so that after I finished my golf round he would leave the shop to come and sup a beer or two and talk golf."

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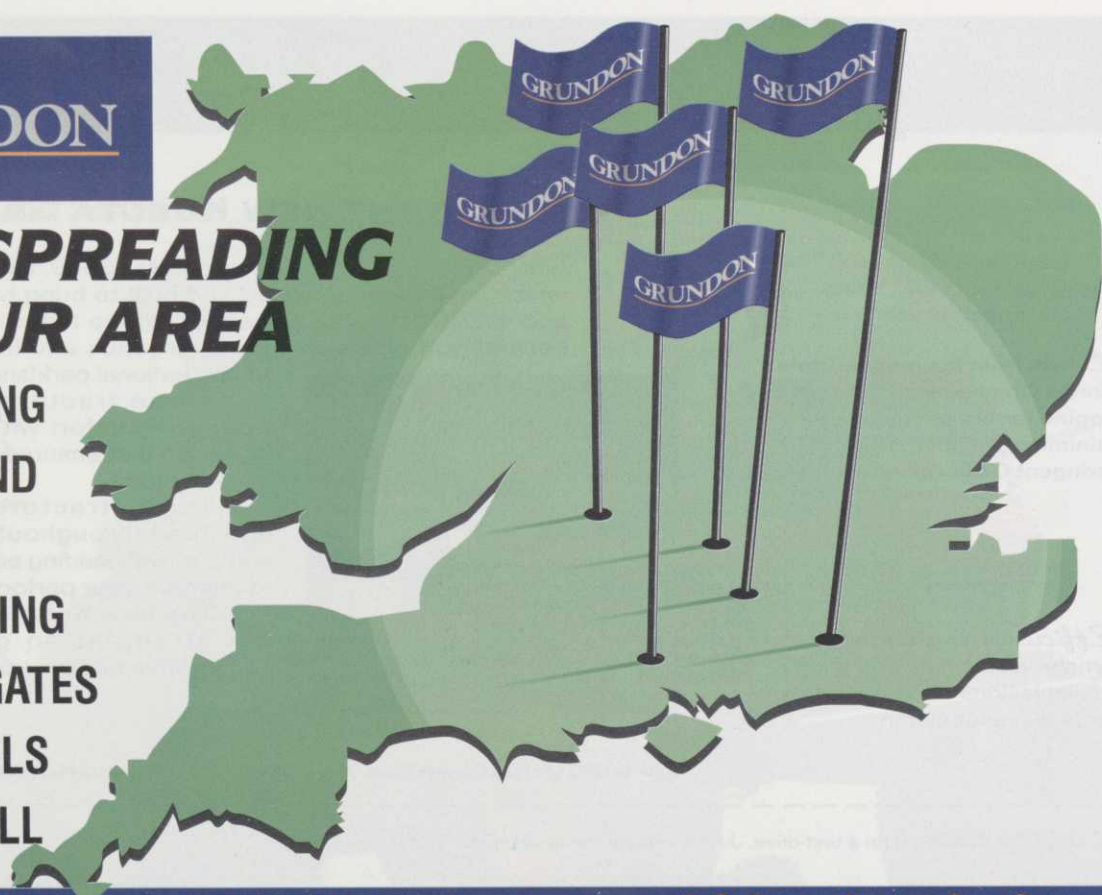
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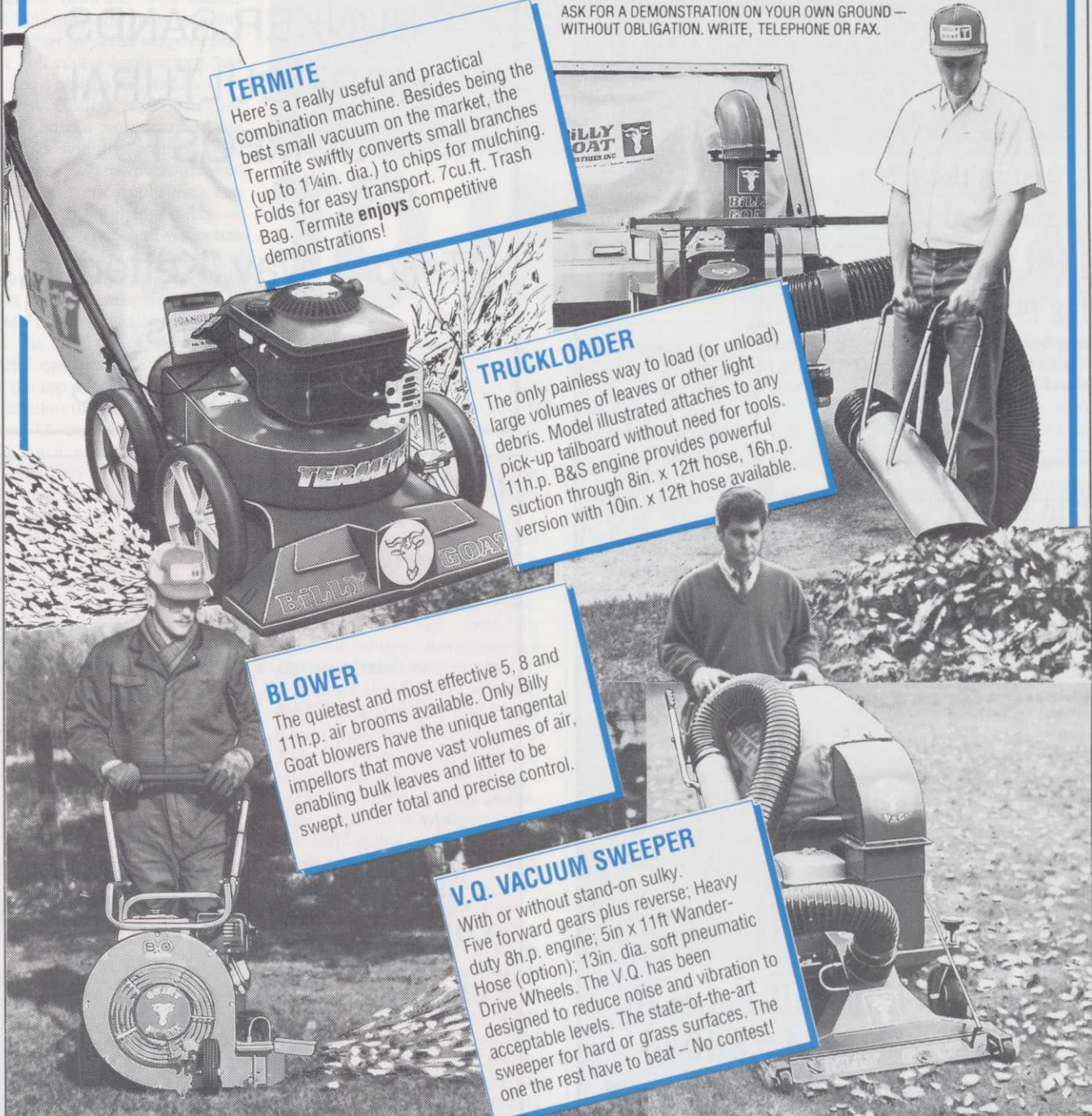
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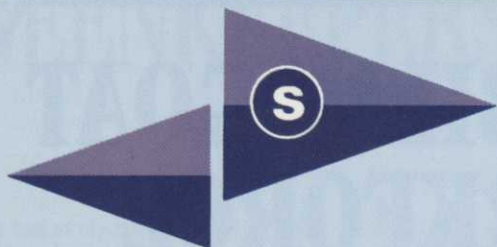
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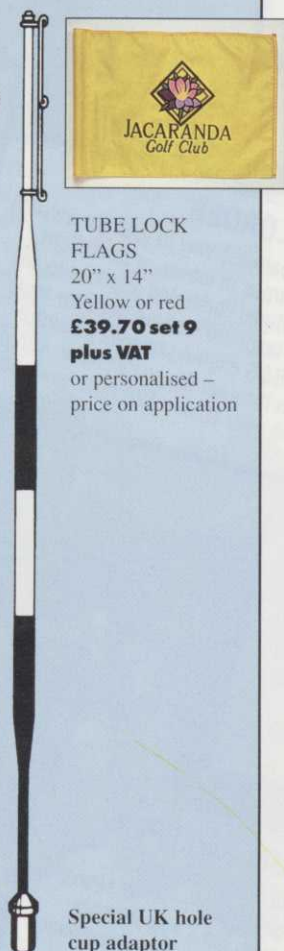
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Michael Bird delves into the world of top dressing machinery – and finds it can be quite a minefield.

TOP DRESSERS

Don't be rushed into buying a new top dresser by a highly attractive "never to be repeated" price or special "once only" trade-in offer. Take your time, examine all the options and always test the short-listed machines with the most commonly applied materials on your course.

Wise words of advice from Steve Isaac of the Sports Turf Research Institute, who admits that selecting the most suitable top dresser for a full range of possible golf course applications "has become a bit of a minefield".

"Most modern machines are able to handle most standard top dressings without problem," he commented. "However, uneven flow and erratic application can occur when applying bulky or very fine materials and when texture and moisture content are of variable consistency, particularly when on the damper side.

"Machine weight, its capacity and the method of drive need careful consideration to best satisfy the top dressing requirements of different turf surfaces," said Mr Isaac. "A machine suitable for dressing a green can be totally inappropriate for work on a fairway, and vice versa. It is no easy job selecting the best machine to carry out the widest range of tasks."

Mr Isaac pointed out that there are few top dressers on the market able to consistently and evenly apply wet materials. "In any case, if dressings are too wet it will be difficult to work them in to the turf," he said. "Too dry, and blowing can reduce evenness of spread. The aim should be a material of an even consistency, both in particle size and moisture content."

Important points to consider when considering different top



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dressers include capacity, weight, working width and the power unit to be used. The above factors will determine workrate, the range of surfaces across which the machine can be used safely and the back-up resources needed to keep the top dresser supplied and filled with fresh material.

"At the end of the day, the aim must be to apply dressings evenly, accurately and at the best possible workrate," stressed Mr Isaac. "However, all this must be achieved without damaging the playing surface."

With all these points in mind, one machine type which has shown considerable expansion in recent years is the self-propelled, pedestrian-controlled top dresser.

The machine's compact dimensions make for convenient operation and loading while its size and single wheel steering give greater manoeuvrability and lower weight than a trailed, a tractor-mounted or a truck-mounted combination. This makes it ideal for work on difficult access or awkward shaped greens and soft or tender turf, especially following verti-draining or hollow coring.

Because the machine's dimensions limit the amount of material it can carry, the self-propelled machine is considered best suited for use on smaller areas

such as nine hole, par three or pitch and putt courses where resources or assistance may be limited.

However, where back-up is

available by way of supply trailers and help with reloading, the pedestrian machine is able to maintain a reasonable workrate on larger areas without undue



Above: Turfco Mete-R-Matic self propelled top dresser from Turf Machinery Ltd has a patented chevron belt conveyor for precise application of dry and damp materials at varying rates. Top: Able to carry up to 500kg of material, the Ultra Plant UP30 top dresser has a serrated roller and brush feed mechanism.

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fears over turf damage, especially on newly laid or freshly aerated greens and tees.

Furthermore, its ability to be moved easily by trailer from site to site makes it ideal for contract teams needing to top dress quickly a number of fine turf surfaces of limited area without the extra weight or cost of an additional power unit.

For these reasons, the self-propelled machine is also appearing within a growing number of hire fleets.

Until quite recently, the number of purpose-built self-propelled machines available was limited to just one make, the Turfco Mete-R-Matic from North America, distributed in the UK by Woking-based firm, Turf Machinery Ltd.

Featuring endless belt and brush delivery, a new model – the F15B – has been introduced for 1994 fitted with forward and reverse gears and the chevron patterned belt used on the company's current trailed and truck-mounted models.

Said to ensure very fine application even with moist materials, the zig-zag pattern belt moves dressings positively from the 11.5 cu ft (325 litre) tapered hopper through an adjustable metering gate onto a high speed rear rotating brush. Here, material is picked up and propelled downwards into the turf.

All-mechanical drive to the F15B's wheels and 32in (81cm) wide spreading mechanism is provided by a 5.5hp Honda petrol engine with all controls now mounted on the machine's steering handle. Reverse drive is fitted as are brakes for safer operation on slopes.

Weighing 520lb (236kg), the Turfco F15B runs on five wide turf tyres (four driven, one steered) and costs a little over £4,800, including a three year warranty. It is available also through Turf Machinery's extensive hire fleet and contract maintenance services.



Turfmech Machinery's SAB 125A uses a patented rotating cage distributor at the rear to ensure even application without lumps

Over the past two years, the number of self-propelled top dressers on the market has mushroomed with the introduction of four new machines from Turfmech Machinery, Sisis, Blec and Ultra Plant.

All feature powered downward discharge of top dressings, essential to ensure that material reaches the base of the turf. However, the method of material delivery and distribution differs on all four machines.

The Sisis Autospred has a vibrating plate at the base of its 9 cu ft (255 litre) hopper from where top dressings are shaken, via an adjustable gate, to the rear delivery brush.

Drive to the machine's two wheels is hydrostatic, powered by belt from a 5hp petrol engine and providing infinitely variable forward and reverse travel up to 4mph. Mechanical drive, controlled by levers on the steering handle, is used for the vibrating plate and rotating brush.

Weighing 588lb (254kg), the Sisis Autospred has a spread width of 33in (83cm) enabling it to treat a 500sq yd (418sq metre) green in about 15 minutes. Price is £2,975.

A self-propelled top dresser with a difference is marketed by Blec. Power is provided by a standard two-wheel 5.5hp tractor (Honda F660 tiller or similar) which tows the top dresser assembly over the turf at speeds of up to

6mph. Slewing clutches are used for steering at low speeds and when working in confined areas.

The PTD42 top dresser has a spread width of 42in (1.07m), a belt and brush delivery system and both the spreader and its towing power unit run on four flotation tyres. These are said to have sufficient tread to provide traction, but not damage the turf on tight turns.

A folding rear foot plate at the rear of the top dresser enables the operator to ride on or walk behind as required. Drive to the machine's ribbed conveyor belt at the base of the 6.5 cu ft (184 litre) hopper is via twin vee belts from the top dresser's wheels. This has the effect of altering feed rate in line with forward speed.

The nylon delivery brush is direct driven by meshed gears from either the front or rear shaft of the conveyor belt. Blec says it can build the machine to provide front or rear discharge according to user preference.

Weighing 492lb (223kg) empty, the Blec PTD42 top dresser can be equipped with extension hopper sides adding an extra 2 cu ft (56 litres capacity). Price of the machine complete with Honda F660 tractor power unit, extension sides and rear drag brush is £4,035.

Turfmech Machinery's SAB 125A self-propelled top dresser uses a patented rotating cage roller instead of a brush for even

and controlled feed of materials from the endless conveyor belt to the turf.

The open cage roller is said to be better able to handle damp and sticky top dressings while also breaking down any lumps. An important feature is the machine's low spread height of just 12in (30cm) above the ground, minimising risk of wind interference.

Drive to the wheels and spreading mechanism is all-mechanical, powered by a 5.5hp Honda engine. A five forward, single reverse speed gearbox provides a good range of working and transport speeds while enabling the machine to be reversed into corners and areas where banking around greens prevents straightforward access.

Mounted on three flotation tyres (two driven, one steered), the Turfmech SAB 125A weighs 770lb (350kg) and has a capacity of 11.3 cu ft (320 litres). All controls are handlebar mounted. Price of the machine is £5,647.

Manufactured by Ultra Plant in Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland, the UP 30 pedestrian top dresser has a serrated drum and brush delivery and distribution system at the base of its tapered 9 cu ft (255 litre) hopper. Rubber seals are fitted to prevent leakage of finer top dressings.

Claimed to be simpler, easier to maintain and better able to handle a wider range of materials than a conveyor belt, the rotating drum feeds dressings via an adjustable gate onto the nylon brush. Both the drum and brush are chain driven while the wheels are powered by belt and gearbox from a 5.5hp Honda engine.

Although forward drive only can be selected, the makers say that the machine's swivelling steering wheel produces a 6ft (1.8m) turning circle for access to awkward corners. Maximum working speed is around 3.5mph and spread width is 36in (91cm). Price of the Ultra Plant UP30 is £3,700.

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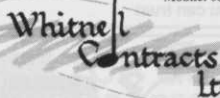


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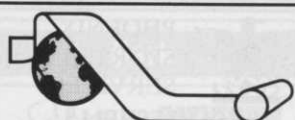
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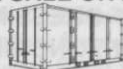


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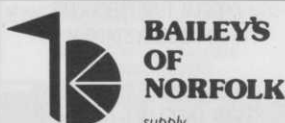
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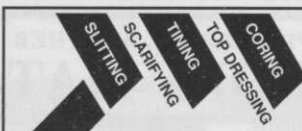
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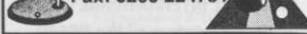
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Full product training will be given to the successful applicant.
Applications in writing to Mr Andrew Robinson at the above address



DUKE'S DENE Golf Club

We are inviting applications for the position of

ASSISTANT COURSE MANAGER

The successful applicant will hold all relevant greenkeeping
qualifications including PA1 and PA2A and should
have at least five years' experience in all aspects of mod-
ern golf course maintenance. The ability to lead and moti-
vate staff is also important.

Also required is a

GOLF COURSE MECHANIC

with irrigation experience. The person holding this
position will be responsible for the maintenance of the golf
course machinery and the upkeep of the Toro irrigation
system. The successful applicant should have previous
golf course or related industry experience.

Written application, with a full CV should be addressed to:

The Course Manager, Duke's Dene Golf Club,
1 Heathcock Court, 415 Strand, London WC2R 0NS



HOME OF THE EUROPEAN OPEN

Set in the beautiful rolling countryside of the South Downs in the heart of East Sussex, the East Sussex National Golf Club is looking for a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

to join its team of hardworking, conscientious staff.

With 4/5 years experience and a minimum qualification of City and Guilds Stage I and II, the successful applicant will be required to motivate and supervise staff and take responsibility for programming and overseeing the day to day maintenance of one of the 18 hole courses under the guidance of the Golf Course Manager. East Sussex National prides itself on the high standard and quality of the condition of its two 18 hole courses, three hole Teaching Academy and practice ranges, and this is an excellent career move for an ambitious and confident greenkeeper who can demonstrate sound and positive team management, self-motivation and a willingness to learn new methods and techniques.

Please apply in writing enclosing a current CV to:

**Ken Barber, Golf Course Manager,
East Sussex National Golf Club,
Little Horsted, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5ES.**

Closing date: 30th September 1994

Burhill Golf Club

requires an

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

Qualification levels Phase I and II
City & Guilds

Phase III Greenkeeping Management
plus TA1 and TA 2A

Salary negotiable.

Accommodation may be provided.

Application with CV in writing to:

**M B Richards, Secretary/Manager,
Burhill Golf Club,
Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey KT21 4BL**



VAUXHALL
Recreation Club

Griffin Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of course management.

An ability for hands on management combined with motivation and leadership skills is a high priority.

The successful applicant will have responsibility for the management of the existing 9 hole course and to take over the final growing-in period of a further 12 holes prior to opening the new 18 hole course in 1995.

Salary negotiable but will not include accommodation.

Applications in confidence with full CV to:

**Mrs Jean Johnson, Secretary,
Griffin Golf Club, Chaul End Road,
Caddington, Nr Luton, Beds LU1 4AX**

Finchley Golf Club

seeks a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

for its Braid-designed 18-hole course

The successful candidate will have some of the following skills, knowledge, experience and personal qualities, and will be rewarded accordingly

- * Greenkeeping qualifications and knowledge of tree husbandry
- * Machinery maintenance
- * Management skills of planning, directing and controlling
- * The energy and enthusiasm to develop and implement a plan of course improvement
- * A good standard of golf

If you wish to advance your career, and believe you have the necessary self-motivation, apply to:

**The Secretary, Finchley Golf Club, Nether Court,
Frith Lane, Mill Hill, London NW7 1PU**

Tel: 081 346 2436 Fax: 081 343 4205

Pontefract and District Golf Club

require immediately applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be experienced in course management, machinery maintenance and have the ability to lead and motivate staff.

Salary negotiable, pension contribution.

Application form and further details from
The Secretary, c/o 24 Fair View, Carleton, Pontefract,
West Yorkshire WF8 3NU

Closing date: 30 September 1994

Cuddington Golf Club

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have a sound knowledge of modern greenkeeping practises and equipment maintenance; PA2 for spraying would be an advantage.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Apply in writing with current CV to:
Secretary/Manager, Cuddington Golf Club,
Banstead Road, Banstead, Surrey SM7 1RD



DEPUTY TO HEAD GREENKEEPER

required

- 30 bay floodlit driving range opened August 1992
- 9 hole par 3 course opened July 1994
- 9 hole golf course constructed – opening spring 1995

The successful applicant must be young, fit and keen to look after our golf development. Must have had at least five years experience in golf course maintenance.

Apply in writing with CV to:

S. P. Langmead, c/o Rustington Golf Centre, Golfers Lane,
Rustington, Nr Littlehampton, West Sussex BN16 4NB
Telephone (0903) Shop: 850790 Office: 850786



Coombe Hill Golf Club

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be experienced and fully qualified. The successful candidate will be joining a highly motivated team of eleven.

Uniform supplied. No accommodation.
The salary offered is £15,000.

Applications with full CV to:
Mr A McKechnie, Course Manager,
Coombe Hill Golf Club, off Coombe Lane West,
Kingston Hill, Surrey KT2 7DG



The Vale of Glamorgan

GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The club is situated in 200 acres of beautiful parkland set in the heart of rural Vale of Glamorgan and was formerly part of the country estate of Hensol Castle.

NOW OPEN 9 hole course (3115 yards) plus driving range and academy tuition centre.

OPENING OCTOBER '94 18 hole championship course (6700 yards).

The successful applicant will be directly responsible to our Golf Director and will be able to demonstrate an ability to control and motivate staff to achieve high standards of course presentation.

You will be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping, including modern machinery and irrigation and must hold the appropriate qualifications including PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates.

Apply in writing or fax your C.V. to
Peter Johnson, Golf Director,

VALE OF GLAMORGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
Hensol Park, Hensol, South Glamorgan. CF7 8JY
Tel: 0443 222221 Fax: 0443 222220

The K Club, part of Ireland's first Five Star Resort Hotel, the Kildare Hotel & Country Club, features an 18 hole Arnold Palmer designed championship golf course, ranked with the best in the world.



We are seeking to recruit an experienced

GREENKEEPER IRELAND

The position requires a high standard of excellence and commitment, experience with Personnel Supervision, Irrigation and Intensive Turf Maintenance Programmes would be an advantage.

In return we offer the right candidate an attractive remuneration package.

Please reply in writing enclosing details of experience to date, not later than Monday 26 September 1994 to:

Mr G Denny,
The Kildare Hotel & Country Club, Straffan, Co. Kildare, Ireland.

The K Club is an equal opportunities employer

Deer Park Golf and Country Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER for 18 hole championship course

Applicants are required to be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping, budgetary control, leadership and management of staff and machine maintenance.

Applicants must have formal qualifications and a proven track record.

Applications in writing with full CV and name of two referees to:
Mr G Craythorne, Financial Director,
Muir Group, Muir House, Belleknowes Industrial Estate,
Inverkeithing, Fife, KY11 1HF

Health and safety book for all in golf

The Health and Safety Executive has published comprehensive health and safety advice for owners, managers and employees of golf courses.

HSE principle inspector James Barrett said: "Our new booklet, Health and Safety in Golf Course Management and Maintenance, contains useful, sensible advice which is easy to follow. People who maintain golf courses come across a wide range of hazards but most accidents happen when agricultural machinery and pesticides are being used.

"However, this booklet is not just aimed at greenkeepers, it is important that golf club managers are aware of their responsibilities too, particularly from making sure that their employees are properly trained."

David Golding, education director of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, welcomed the booklet: "It is essential that all golf club employers and employees keep up to date with health and safety legislation and this booklet will help them do so. It is essential reading for everyone concerned with golf course maintenance."

The booklet, which costs £9.50, is available from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 6FS. Tel: 0787 881165.

New engine for Victa

Australian mower company Victa has produced a new four-stroke engine for its range which, until now, has been powered exclusively by two-stroke motors. The new Ultima engine is available in three forms – the 4.5hp, and 5hp 207cc domestic engine and the 5.5hp 207cc professional version. It will be used to power the professional push and self-propelled range as well as the Mustang and Commando domestic machines which are imported into the UK by EP Barrus of Bicester. Tel: 0869 253355.

Courses get quality award

Two golf courses and a driving range have been recommended for registration to Quality Assurance BS5750 after a recent visit from the British Standards Institute. The assessment of the Borough of Thamesdown's Broome Golf Complex and Highworth Community Golf Centre lasted two days and looked at all aspects of the operation.

Tom Watt, Thamesdown's golf manager, says: "The council's courses at Broome Manor and Highworth have developed quite rapidly over the last few years. The quality system has enabled us to provide a consistent standard of service in all our departments. Staff are much happier as they have gained greater understanding of their role and responsibilities within the organisation."

New MD named

The new managing director of landscape contractor Gerald Davies Ltd is Martyn Hughes who takes over from the firm's founder, Gerald Davies. Mr Davies' daughter recently joined the company as finance director.



Newly-opened Crondon Park in Essex has splashed out £140,000 on John Deere equipment. The Golf Leisure Ltd complex, which has a 6974-yard 19-hole and a 9-hole par 3 course, putting green and 60-bay driving range, has bought: two 1800 utility vehi-

cles, two diesel 2243D greens triple mowers, a 2653 tees and surrounds mower, a 3235 medium height fairways mower, a F1145 front mower, a 955 compact tractor and two 22in pedestrian greens mowers. The club's co-owners, Stuart and Jason (right) Fox are pic-

tured receiving the keys from Dan Sexton, Deere & Company's USA Horicon factory marketing manager (centre) watched by Howard Storey, John Deere grounds care area manager (far left) and Neil Peachey of John Deere dealers P Tuckwell Ltd of Colchester.

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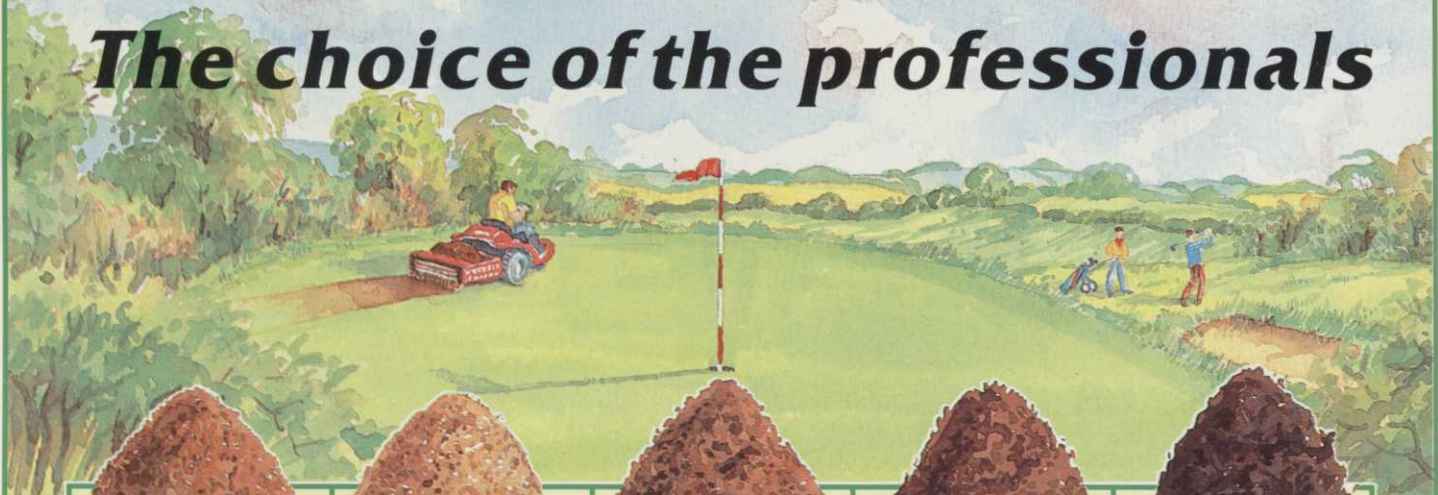
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