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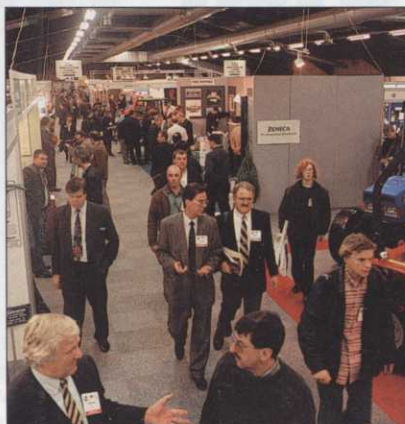
International

FEBRUARY 1995

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In spite of surprise
snowstorms, this year's
BTME gets the thumbs-up
from exhibitors and
visitors alike as the best
ever. We report on the industry's favourite show and present a
complete pictorial record of the event **Pages 16-21**



The learning experience brought to life

For the first time, BIGGA's National Education Conference was
held during BTME week. If you missed what was billed as 'the
learning experience', pick up some tips today **Pages 9-11**

Chemical kings with the golden touch

Rhône Poulenc are the chemical company with an involvement
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A montage of photographs
from BTME '95. More inside.

Pictures: Tim Moat and Chris Boiling

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Reflections on a special week



SUNDAY 22 JANUARY

Arrive at Majestic Hotel in Harrogate. Nervous – a new Headquarters hotel; will it be up to standard? Relax as greenkeepers are seen with towels in hand heading to the swimming pool and sauna. Off to a good start despite non-arrival of courier with some 30 conference badges. Never mind, Sami's in control. Meet up with our American and Swedish guests and enjoy their company throughout the week. Good dinner and conversation – the mood seems set fair. End the night with our two Russian visitors from Moscow – retire as the caviar and vodka begin to flow...

MONDAY

Impressive conference set creates right atmosphere. All speakers present and Conference is sold out. Many compliments regarding hotel – excellent food and accommodation together with first-class service and friendly staff – a big worry lifted off my shoulders. Successful first day highlighted with conference dinner and presentation of ninth Master Greenkeeper award to Richard McNabb from South Carolina. Many disappear before cabaret by Willy Hirst and Rainbow Jazz Band – a pity as it was an excellent act. Noted to review for next year.

TUESDAY

Conference off again on time. Thanks to Dr Peter Hayes for being an excellent Chairman. Audio/visual presentation a great success. Delegates have had an informative two days and many are looking forward to the Exhibition. Short Board of Management meeting to elect new Chairman and Vice-Chairman then off to cheese and wine gathering for the exhibitors. Hayter dinner follows splendidly organised by Kim Macfie and Barbara Garton. Late night call on first Past Chairmen's dinner in the Majestic – seem to have missed an excellent night with the world being put to right.

WEDNESDAY

The first ribbon-cutting ceremony goes off well, recorded on video



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

for a promotional presentation. Amazing numbers through the doors. Pleased to welcome our President Viscount Whitelaw to the Chairman's luncheon. New shields for Golden and Silver Key sponsors are attractive. Rousing speech by our President who then tours the exhibition leaving just before the snow starts. Back to the Majestic as a white blanket descends. Off to AGM. Excellently attended with members locked in by the snow. Unanimous support for the continuation of the BTME in Harrogate in 1996. Good to see Bill Lawson elected as a Trustee and Eric James and Bert Cross as Life Members. Karaoke night disappears as the snow falls – never mind the lads are having a great time in the bar led by the Men of Harlech under the baton of one T Adamson. A good time was had by all whilst the blizzard continued...

THURSDAY

7.45am Steering Committee meeting – but who will be there? Just about everyone it transpires. Fortright meeting with the show scene clarified. Overwhelming support for BTME '96 is great encouragement. Off to the exhibition through the snow. Will anyone be there! You bet – everyone astonished by the numbers through the doors and the day is off to a great start. But will our entertainers make it for the banquet, the climax of the week? The agency has done a great job with a late replacement in Linda Nolan and with Tom O'Connor setting

off the night before to ensure his arrival. Capacity attendance at banquet – what a night! Perhaps the best cabaret I've seen. Many present overcome with the appearance of Linda Nolan and in a state of near frenzy by the time Tom O'Connor appeared for a quite brilliant 75 minute stint. A truly memorable evening discussed long into the night.

FRIDAY

Blery eyed but happy, attendees descended again on the exhibition halls to attend Jim Beard's lecture and for a final walk around. Good numbers for the last morning. Dire weather warnings keep me on my toes. Plug pulled at 12.45pm instead of 1.30pm. Just about get it right as snow sets in again around 2pm. Speed of evacuation of personnel and equipment is excellent. We've made it and thanks to our exhibitors for their stoicism and their continued backing, also to our members and other visitors for the determination to make it to Harrogate and contribute to the week's success.

And seriously

Whilst there had been unconfirmed rumours since before Christmas of the English Golf Union's possible participation in the new "Landscape & Turf Professional '96" exhibition planned for 16-18 January 1996, at Olympia, London, BIGGA members arriving for the BTME were surprised both by the timing (23 January) and the nature of the press release announcing an agreement between the EGU and P&O Events. The agreement between the two organisations means that the EGU will be responsible for the golf education and training seminars at the show. The BTME in Harrogate has yet again been a great success and we believe we have a solid base for the further development and expansion of the exhibition which is planned for next year's show. We are encouraged by the ongoing support of our exhibitors, many of whom are requesting additional space for 1996.

Whilst the issues concerning the EGU's participation in a rival event are discussed elsewhere in this magazine, it is not too late to ask the EGU to reconsider its position.

Surely their place is at Harrogate supporting greenkeepers and their education and training seminars as well as their National Education Conference. How much more beneficial if they contributed positively to an expansion of those programmes and urged every Secretary and Chairman of Green to visit Harrogate where they would learn much that would be beneficial to their respective roles at their golf clubs. The excellent paper presented by Brian Carnie, Managing Secretary of Broadway Golf Club during the recent Seminar Programme and much appreciated by our members is indicative of the way forward. What can be achieved by the EGU attempting to establish a rival show at the expense of the BTME and to the detriment of greenkeepers and their profession? If the EGU's present position is divisive and not in the best interests of the game, BIGGA's position is clear. The Association wants the EGU's support at the BTME, it wants the EGU's backing for greenkeepers and their profession and it wants the EGU's participation at Harrogate in the educational programmes. We would see the participation as a cooperative effort to include the Irish, Scottish and Welsh Home Unions as well. BIGGA will be at Harrogate in 1996 and we hope so too will the EGU. Come and talk and let BIGGA and the Home Unions move forward together.

And finally

An abiding memory from the week. An audience of 300 at the closing banquet on their feet, some standing on chairs, hands linked singing along with Linda Nolan, "We'll meet again don't know where don't know when". It stirred the emotions. But we do you know. It will be in Harrogate from 22-26 January 1996. See you there.

● Greenkeepers angry at non-golfing industry's plan for BTME spoiler

● BIGGA president

'disturbed' at attempts to establish unnecessary London rival

The English Golf Union stunned and angered greenkeepers on the eve of BTME by announcing its support for P&O Events' rival show next year.

In a press release read out to a hushed gathering of greenkeepers at the National Education Conference, P&O confirmed that the EGU is to become a partner in Landscape & Turf Professional 96. This London-based show will take place a week before the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and education programme, which will again be held in Harrogate. The agreement between P&O and the EGU makes the EGU responsible for the golf education and training seminars at Olympia.

EGU secretary Paul Baxter said: "We are delighted to become part of the event and recognise the platform that a London-based exhibition will give the industry throughout Europe. Our responsibilities will involve the development and organisation of the education and training seminars. These will be an important and integral part of the show."

After failing to buy BIGGA's goodwill and expertise, P&O secured the support of the EGU by not only offering to pay their expenses in London and pay expenses of speakers, but also give them a stand at the show and an entertainment lounge free of charge.

"It's an offer we've never had before and it's a wonderful opportunity to continue the education work we've been doing for chairmen of green and greenkeepers since 1988," said Baxter.

But the announcement shocked many at the packed BTME.

Among the most surprised was PO Ljung, chairman of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association (SGA), which was there in force. He said: "It is sad that the EGU prefers to co-operate with the non-golfing industry instead of BIGGA, which is a very able and professional organisation that has taken the training of greenkeepers to its heart. We in the SGA and, I venture to say, all the greenkeeper organisations in Scandinavia do hope our sister organisation, BIGGA, will continue with its arrangements in Harrogate as the exhibition, national conference and the seminars are much appreciated by



Viscount Whitelaw, speaking at the Chairman's luncheon, told guests why Harrogate was right for the BTME. Among those pictured above are BIGGA's Neil Thomas, Len Breakwell, of ET Breakwell Ltd, Peter Wilson, of Ransomes, Sims and Jeffries, Steve Mona of the GCSAA, and BIGGA Board of Management member Gordon Moir

Outrage as EGU joins rival show

both greenkeepers and exhibitors.

"It is sad that the EGU does not recognise the professionalism that BIGGA represents. In Sweden, the Swedish Golf Federation with its 360,000 members has recognised that SGA stands for a sound development of golf courses and their maintenance and the co-operation between SGA and the Swedish Golf Federation is very close as regards training programmes and research/experiments.

"I do hope that the EGU will have second thoughts as regards the London exhibition, as it would probably be a disadvantage both to BIGGA and the EGU if P&O chooses to go ahead with their exhibition."

It wasn't just greenkeepers who were surprised by the EGU's move. Brian Carnie, managing secretary at the Broadway Golf Club, said: "It's a shame. It'd be so sad to have two conferences run so close to each other in opposition."

David Golding of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, which is partly funded by the EGU, said the first he'd heard about the EGU/P&O partnership was when conference delegates told him about the press release read out by BIGGA chairman John

Millen. "We have not been contacted about it," he said two days after the announcement. "John Millen told us via 200 greenkeepers." But he added he expects to be at BTME in '96 – as do the vast majority of greenkeepers.

Asked at the BIGGA annual general meeting if they wanted to go to London, the greenkeepers voted unanimously to stay in Harrogate.

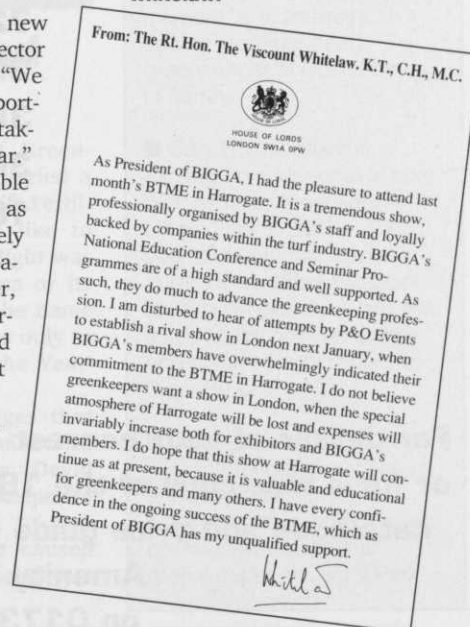
Most of the leading turfcare companies are also choosing Harrogate.

Andrew Sunaway, the new sales and marketing director at Ransomes, told us: "We will be in Harrogate supporting BIGGA and we are taking more space next year." In fact they want to double the size of their stand, as do Hardi Sprayers and Lely UK. Other leading companies, including Hayter, Zeneca, Rolawn and Farmura have also promised to be in Harrogate next year.

Viscount Whitelaw, president of BIGGA, summed up the feelings of many greenkeepers and exhibitors during his visit to the show: "I do so enjoy coming to Harrogate and this

show, which has been an enormous success over the years. I spend a lot of time in London and I can tell you Harrogate is much better for greenkeepers than London. I want to see this development continue and expand. I want it to expand further because it's been a great advantage for greenkeepers in Britain and I hope it will become so for greenkeepers all over Europe."

● Letter received from Viscount Whitelaw:



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Zeneca set to become a Miracle for £37m

Zeneca has sold its Garden and Professional Products business to newly-formed Miracle Garden Care Ltd for approximately £37 million.

The new owners will be taking over all existing staff and the full range of professional products which includes Longlife and Ultra-Green fertilisers, Daconil-turf, Greenshield and Casoron.

The chief executive of the new company is John Wilson who is leaving Zeneca (formerly part of ICI) after 26 years. John was both general manager of Zeneca Crop Protection (the UK arm of Zeneca Agrochemicals) and Zeneca Garden and Professional Products.

He confirmed that the new company will continue to supply the same products with the same brand names using the same people.

Miracle Garden Care Ltd's principal shareholders are Advent International Plc and Charterhouse Development Capital, who led the purchase, and Stern's Nurseries, proprietors of the Miracle Gro brand of garden products.

Production facilities at Howden, North Humberside, will continue to be part of the new business.

More tragedy at Welsh club

A third tragedy has hit Southerndown Golf Club, near Bridgend, South Wales. Assistant greenkeeper Christopher Thomas, 20, was struck by an Inter City train on a railway line close to his home. Earlier in the week the club heard that former head greenkeeper John Walsh, 36, who had retired due to ill health five years ago, had died. "He fought a long and hard battle against cancer, was well known locally and well respected," according to Peter Lacey of BIGGA's South Wales section.

These tragedies follow the suicide last year of head greenkeeper Stuart Lindsey.

NEWS



For the second year running, managing director Graham Dale picks up the 'Mr Toro International' award on behalf of Lely UK. American manufacturer Toro gives the award annually to the distributor who shows the most outstanding achievement in all aspects of its service to Toro commercial customers. Presenting the award is Bob Buckingham, left, sales manager Toro Commercial Products (Europe).

Avoncrop joins our development fund

Avoncrop Amenity Products is the latest company to back BIGGA's Education and Development Fund. This brings to five the number of new companies already in Golden or Silver Key membership for 1995.

In welcoming Avoncrop Amenity Products as a Silver Key supporter BIGGA's executive director, Neil Thomas commented, "It is significant that such a well-respected regionally based company should choose to support the Education and Development Fund at a time when the Association is about to utilise the resources of the fund on a regional basis through the planned localised management training courses. The backing of regional companies such as Avoncrop Amenity Products can only strengthen the regional resources and support for our members".

Avoncrop Amenity Product's membership brings to 16 the number of companies in either Golden or Silver Key membership.

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BIGGA now accepts plastic. You can use your VISA and Access cards to pay your membership fee and buy BIGGA goods, such as blazers, ties and jumpers.

Zeneca and Terralift

The January issue of Greenkeeper International carried a newsletter from Terralift Fertilizers. Terralift would like to make it clear that no slight was intended on ICI/Zeneca or its products. The use of the name ICI in the article relates only to the 'Greenkeeper of the Year' Award.

Terralift acknowledges that its fertilizers are one of several being considered by David Walden, the ICI Greenkeeper of the Year.

Any embarrassment caused to David or ICI/Zeneca was unintentional.

FLYING DIVOTS

Attention late subscribers

Has your 1995 BIGGA membership subscription been paid? If not, you ought to be aware that all membership benefits have, strictly speaking, lapsed. Of particular importance is the legal helpline and the personal accident insurance. If you have not renewed your subscription then you are not covered. Consequently, any accident arising after December 31 1994 will not be insured. Furthermore, those 1994 members who have not paid their subscription by February 28 will be taken off the Greenkeeper International magazine mailing list. Subsequent renewals will not be issued with back copies of the magazine free of charge. All benefits of membership will deem to commence from date of payment.



■ Martin Hucklesby, 28, is set to take over as course manager/head greenkeeper at Five Lakes Hotel, Golf and

Country Club (formerly Quietwaters) in Maldon, Essex. "It's going to go places now," he told us with a smile, "It's in excellent condition." Martin, whose father is head groundsman at London Scottish Rugby Club and whose brother works as a greenkeeper at the Burhill Club, Walton on Thames, takes up the new challenge on February 27. At the moment he is assistant course manager/head greenkeeper at Roehampton in Surrey.

■ Gary Cunningham is moving from Menorca to take over as head greenkeeper at Ufford Park in Suffolk. The 29-year-old 10-handicapper is currently head greenkeeper at Club De Golf Son Parc. He takes up his new job at the end of this month, replacing Peter Brooks.

■ Steven Grass, 27, has been appointed head greenkeeper at Brampton Heath Golf Centre, Northampton. He was previously deputy head greenkeeper at Calcot Park.

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The 1995 National Education Conference got BTME week off to a cracking start. With the best line-up of speakers anywhere in Europe, it really was THE Learning Experience. For those that missed it, here are some of the key messages to come from the experts on show.

WATER



Independent irrigation consultant Philip York said:

It is most important that the course manager/head greenkeeper is aware of how much water he is applying (not how long!) in a given period of time

– A level maths is not required!

For spacings with full circle sprinklers the formula is:

$$\frac{\text{Litres per minute (of one sprinkler)} \times 60}{\text{Side 1} \times \text{side 2 (in metres)}} = \text{mm/hr}$$

For triangular spacing:

$$\frac{\text{Litres per minute (of one sprinkler)} \times 60}{\text{Side 1} \times \text{side 2 (in metres)}} = \text{mm/hr}$$

For in-line spacing:

$$\frac{\text{Litres per minute (of one sprinkler)} \times 60}{\text{Side 1} \times \text{hr}} = \text{mm/hr}$$

This latter formula is not 100% accurate particularly if the spacing is not head to head, therefore it should be treated as a guide.

It must be remembered that in the British Isles many installations feature part circle sprinklers around the greens and that assuming they are set at 180° the application rate will be twice that of full circle.

For this reason part circle sprinklers should never be on the same station as full circle, and a group of part circles should all be adjusted to the same arc, do not be tempted to set a greater arc on the windward side to the leeward side.

Incidentally in discussing the use of part circle sprinklers I am not endorsing the practice as we feel that in many cases full circle sprinklers will give more satisfactory results

A few of you may have special application sprinklers, ie sprinklers which rotate at different speeds through different sectors of the arc of coverage. In this event the following factors should be applied to the application rate:

2 speed 180° x 180° with the slow arc facing the opposing sprinkler x 1.33

2 speed 180° x 180° with the slow arc facing outwards x 0.67

2 speeds 120° x 60° x 120° x 60° in a single row configuration (the only time it can be used) x 0.91

Martin Smith, head greenkeeper at Ramsdale Park Golf Centre, said:

If you are having an irrigation system installed, find out if the irrigation company intends using its own staff to do the job or if

the Learning experience

The EXPERTS

they intend using sub-contract labour. If sub-contract labour is used they'll have a vested interest in finishing their work as quickly as possible since they will be paid on the quantity of their work – that is, how much pipework and how many sprinklers they put in the ground, not how long they take. This could result in short cuts being taken, both in preparation and installation.

One obvious example of a shortcut which is often impossible to detect until a much later date is the practice of cementing lengths of pipe together and then mole-ploughing them into the ground on the same day. Many times I've dug out burst pipework only to discover a joint that was not given enough time to bond properly and had consequently blown apart under pressure. If a joint is cemented properly and given the time necessary to achieve a strong bond before being put under the stress and tension of being dragged through the ground, often for quite long distances, then the chances of the joint coming apart are minimal. At a previous club of mine, more than 25 joints came apart at various times and all simply because the installation was done by subcontractors working to tight schedules.

James Moore, director, green section, Mid-Continent Region, USGA, said:

There's a golf course I know in Colorado that has a real problem with *Poa annua* and diseases in their fairways. They have bentgrass and lots of *Poa*. They have snow mould problems and red thread – and the superintendent is pulling his hair out.

The problem is he has bentgrass fairways, Kentucky bluegrass in the semi-rough on the mounds and tall fescues and native grasses in the rough. And with his fairway irrigation he has full circle heads operating on the same clock watering all three areas at the same time. If he sets it for the mounds, which he tends to do because they require the most water, he over-waters the fairways and over-waters the rough at the same time.

And so he ends up having a lot of weed problems. One of the best fixes for this is the Verti-drain.



Charlie Barebo of Otterbine Barebo, said:

Ponds and lakes, whether they are man-made or natural, have a natural life cycle. They start out clean, fresh and clear; grow into middle age with weed and

algae growth and high nutrient levels and pass into old age as shallow bogs or marsh land. Before man began to impact the environment this progression took hundreds or thousands of years. Ponds and lakes now can be created, live and die within decades. Why is the life of our ponds and lakes so short? Much of the reason lies in the fact that water is our most abused and least understood natural resource. For centuries streams and lakes have been our dumping grounds. We have allowed our ponds and lakes to be unmanaged so that now many of them are unmanageable. The problems we commonly associate with ponds are excessive algae and aquatic weed growth, foul odour, fish kills and insect infestations.

This ageing process can be slowed down by good management. Good pond management practices include:

- Preventing or controlling water runoff from other areas bringing organic products into your pond.
- Identifying and correcting septic tank leeching.
- Stopping poor management practices such as disposing of grass clippings, leaves and other organic material in your pond.
- Using chemicals intelligently to treat stubborn or persistent problems.

But one of the main ways of slowing down the process is aeration.

How does an aerator improve water quality and control algae growth? By puffing large amounts of oxygen into the water, an aerator encourages a strong colony of aerobic bacteria which, in turn, work to clean the pond of organic nutrients and waste. The presence of oxygen in the water also encourages the chemical bonding of phosphorous with calcium in the water and causes the phosphorous to precipitate to the bottom of the pond and become unavailable for plant use. High

the Learning experience

oxygen levels also prevent anaerobic digestion which leads to nutrient cycling and foul odours. The introduction of dissolved oxygen to the pond's bottom may inhibit phosphorous release from sediments, curtailing this internal nutrient source.

The high pumping rate or circulation rate of an aerator breaks through thermal stratification and distributes oxygen to all parts of the pond. By pulling cool bottom water up to the top of the pond, the surface layers of the water are cooled and the growth of algae is slowed. Single celled algae are mixed to the pond's bottom which increases the cell's time in darkness and will slow growth and reproduction. Rapid circulation and contact of water with the atmosphere, as well as the introduction of carbon dioxide rich bottom water during the initial phase of mixing, may increase the water's carbon dioxide content and lower pH, leading to a shift from blue-green algae, which can release toxins and cause odours, to less noxious green algae.

Aeration attacks the source of the problem – poor water quality. It is an economical and on-going method of pond management. It has no harmful side effects and it supports the natural ecosystem. In addition, spray type aerators are aesthetically pleasing.

Billy McMillan, course manager at Wildwood Golf Club, said:

Many years ago I was a young, headstrong, head greenkeeper. I suppose I thought I knew everything there was to know about green-keeping. I had just fed all the greens with sulphate of ammonia and iron, one hot July day as I remember. I packed up shop and went to visit my mum and dad for the evening, some 60 miles away. We were discussing work and dad asked, "What have you been up to?" I explained the day's work and he asked if I had given the greens a good water. I replied no because it's going to rain, they said so on the weather forecast. "Son," he said, "It's raining when you're getting a wet head, now get back and give them a drink." I did as I was told and, you know what, it didn't rain that night nor for the next month, contrary to the weather forecasters.

Irrigation is only one of the tools available to us as greenkeepers. It's not the be all and end all to successful course management, however when well designed and maintained it is without doubt an asset. It must be used in conjunction with a healthy aeration programme, because it would be no good us throwing this valuable resource (water) onto a surface too compacted to accept it. It has great value, when we are using fertilisers,

top-dressings, wetters etc because it releases us from the constraints of the weather. If you have an automatic system (not everyone has, you know), it allows us to water the course during the night removing the problem of inconvenience to the golfer and of course cutting down evaporative loss etc.

How much water should we use on our golf course? It's worth noting that you may experience some restriction due to cost if coming directly from a water board, or extraction limits from a natural source on site.

Some golfers, bless them, would have us apply sufficient water that would allow a well struck three iron from 100yds to stop a ball dead. On the other hand greenkeepers have over the years, me included, applied so little amounts that the playing surface has been as receptive as an airport runway. Please remember, golf is a game played on grass, not bare ground. We must apply just enough water to maintain a healthy sward and a moist soil profile. Remember, I said moist and not soaking. Each golf course will in my experience require different amounts of water to achieve this end, depending on its climate, location, topography, and soil conditions. It's up to us as the greenkeeper to determine when and how much to achieve the best possible results.

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Water is an increasingly valuable commodity, your irrigation system is an expensive tool, look after them both.

AGRONOMY

Michael Wattam, superintendent at Loch Lomond Golf Club, said:

Compaction is a big problem on the greens here. There is a great deal of rain in the area and there is no downward movement of water in the greens due to severe compaction. The greens are USGA-spec with a gravel base and drains but they are totally useless because the water can't get down to them. The water gets away from the greens purely by run-off. After a downpour they puddle badly. What we intend to do is use sand to topdress and after deep hollow-tining and Verti-draining. (These will allow for not only water movement but air movement.)

The grass on the greens is creeping bentgrass, Pennncross. As far as I am aware it is the most northerly site for Pennncross. It is doing extremely well, especially considering the soil it is on. Any *Poa* on the greens is being hand-picked out.

Dr James Beard, president of the International Sports Turf Institute and Professor Emeritus, turfgrass science, at Texas A&M University, said:

It is critical to educate the golfers that the darkest green turf, which many people strive for, is in fact not the healthiest turf. A medium green turf with a moderate growth rate will have the deepest root system with less thatching, reduced disease and insect problems, and increased tolerance to environmental stresses such as heat, drought, cold and wear.

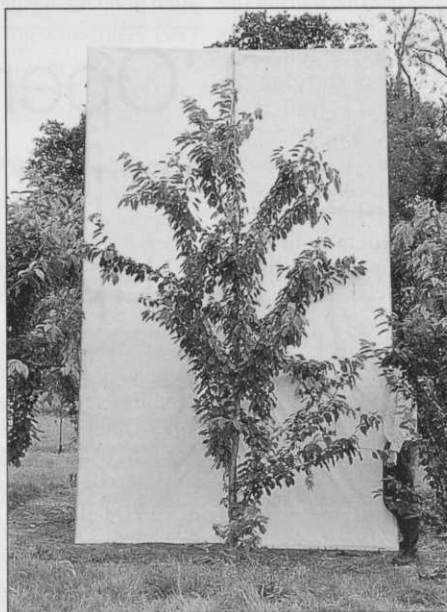
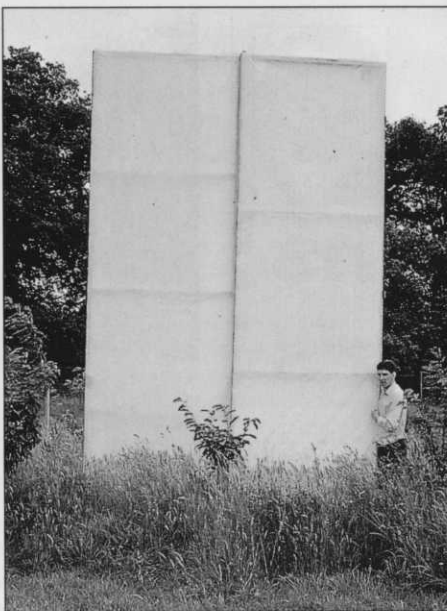
Dr Beard also said:

Among the less well-known benefits of turfgrass are noise abatement and glare reduction...

"The surface characteristics of turfgrasses function in noise abatement as well as in multi-directional light reflection that reduces glare. Studies have shown that turfgrass surfaces absorb harsh sounds significantly better than hard surfaces such as pavement, gravel, or bare ground. These benefits are maximised by an integrated landscape of turfgrasses, trees, and shrubs."

Billy McMillan, course manager at the Wildwood Golf Club, said:

In an ideal world we would all have golf



Wally Grice, woodland officer of The Forestry Authority, showed these two photos of four-year-old wild cherry trees. The difference in the trees' height is put down to weeding. Both were placed in rich brown earth, one was left unweeded, the other (the taller one) had 1m sq around it kept weed free by herbicides. Pictures courtesy of the Forestry Authority.

courses covered with bents and fescues, and no wear and tear from golf. However, the reality is not as simple as that. With today's levels of play it's not always possible to keep these ideal grasses. We all, I am sure, have to contend with *Poa* infestation on some part of the course. The most likely situation is that we have a percentage of *Poa* on our greens and at worst we have *Poa* dominant greens. I am not advocating that this is the best situation to find ourselves, however the reality is we have to manage what grass we have got, rather than to worry about the grass we haven't in most cases got.

We have been advised over the years by some experts that creeping bentgrass will not grow well in the UK, I would just say that in my present position I am working with this grass and I must say the observation by the experts has not been true. At Wildwood I have been very impressed by this grass. The most important factor is does the golfer like playing on it? Well again, in our case, they all seem very pleased with our bentgrass greens.

ECOLOGY

David Stubbs, executive director of the European Golf Association Ecology Unit, said:

One of the buzzwords in ecology at the moment is biodiversity. Even if you are conserving a common species you are contributing to the preservation of biodiversity. Here are the ways in which a golf course can relate to biodiversity:

- **Habitat protection** – there is a wide range of habitat types among golf courses, from sand dunes to woodlands and grasslands.

- **Species protection** – there are plenty of examples of rare species thriving on golf courses.

- **Species diversity** is a product of the diverse habitats on a golf course – from the open in-play areas to the rough, trees and water features.

- **Golf courses also serve as valuable habitat links** – green corridors. On a broad level the whole golf course may serve as a link in a whole chain of environments around an urban area or it might be within a golf course that there might be certain links such as ditches or hedges which can be very important connectors for wildlife.

- **The golf course might be a buffer zone** between say a residential area and an adjacent nature reserve site.

- **Ecotones** is the gradation of one environment into another. Along these borders or edges between habitats you get a very rich variety of wildlife

- **Habitat management.** One of the great things about a golf course is that it is a managed environment and the need for constant management of habitats is important

Also important is the ability to create new habitats. Obviously you're doing that with new golf courses but also within existing courses you can create new features, whether it is planting trees and extending woodland or wildflower meadows or building new ponds.

Bob Taylor, the STRI's ecologist, said:

If you put a bird table up in your back garden, blue tits and robins will come onto it and take the food from it. But if you stop putting nuts and seed out there is a problem. A lot of those birds will have moved from an area of stability to your area of relative instability because you can't afford to keep putting the seed out at the rate that it's needed. If it gets cold and we get snow for a number of weeks it is likely that the smaller birds will actually die because they can't get back to the area they left. It's the same with your golf course. Whatever you do needs to be sustainable into the longer term. So if you start developing and encouraging wildlife onto the course, you've got to appreciate the costs of it and you need to develop a practical method so that you can keep your programme going.

Education update

BY KEN RICHARDSON



Search begins for next year's speakers

It hardly seems possible that the National Education Conference and BTME are over for another year as last week passed so quickly.

We had a varied list of speakers who gave some very interesting and thought-provoking talks, with a little controversy thrown in as well.

I am already planning for next year and I would welcome thoughts and suggestions on topics for next year. I am also searching for greenkeepers and non-greenkeepers who would be willing to speak at the conference or seminar programme. Please contact me if you can help.

For anyone who missed the 1995 Conference or BTME Seminars, tapes of both events are available from BIGGA headquarters. Prices are £25 for the whole of the Conference and £5 for each seminar.

Zeneca Premier Greenkeeper

As reported in the last issue of *Greenkeeper International*, entries for the 1995 Zeneca Premier Greenkeeper of the Year can now be submitted to BIGGA headquarters. Entries can be from individual greenkeepers, greenkeeping teams or golf clubs and can be made by returning the card facing Page 62 in this issue or by writing to HQ.

The first prize is an all expenses paid trip to Florida for the 1996 GCSAA Exhibition and Conference plus £500 to the winner's team. Runners up prizes include a weekend in London with tickets for a top West End show and a weekend for two at Aldwark Manor. Remember, the competition is to find the greenkeeper who gets the best from his course with the facilities that he has available and aims to recognise services to the greenkeeping industry.

TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year

Entries are invited for the Toro/Lely/European Tour Student of the Year competition 1995 from colleges in the United Kingdom and southern Ireland. Full details of entry criteria are given in a leaflet, obtainable from BIGGA HQ and nomination forms must be returned to Aldwark Manor by 31 May 1995.

Regional finals will take place during September and the national final will take place at Aldwark Manor on 8/9 October.

Master Greenkeeper Certificate

The latest recipient of the coveted title of Master Greenkeeper is Richard McNabb. Richard, who is the Course Superintendent at Palmetto Golf Club, South Carolina, received his award at the National Education Conference. The next MGC examination will take place on Friday 21 April and a pre-examination day will be held at Aldwark Manor on 27 February.

Management Training Courses

Planning has started for the 1995 Supervisory and Management Courses which will be held over five weeks during October and November.

Course content will be similar to last year's courses, ie. covering the underpinning knowledge requirements of the GTC Training Manual level 3 but will also include one week at level 4.

Additionally, we are planning a series of Health and Safety and Management courses for autumn 1995/spring 1996, to be presented at locations around the UK and Ireland and we are working with the GTC to set up county based one day training course for autumn/winter 1995.



Michael Hunter, 27, has joined the board of his dad's business, Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd. Eric's wife Shiela and daughter Michelle also work for the company which produces the well-known Jupiter and Juno grinding machines.

'Open' invitation to join the BIGGA support team

Applications are invited from members to join BIGGA's greenkeeping support team for the 1995 Open Championship at St Andrews. Members wishing to be considered must be working greenkeepers and should be available from Wednesday evening, July 19, to Sunday evening, July 23. The opportunity to take part in this prestigious event is open to both team members from previous years and also those members who are wishing to participate for the first time.

Duties will be allocated on a rota basis over the four days of play and include early morning course preparation, bunker raking whilst matches are in play and evening course maintenance. All members of the support team will be expected to remain on the course throughout the day, to be available in the event of any unforeseen circumstances arising.

Accommodation, all meals and transport will be provided by the

Association, but successful applicants will be expected to pay their own travelling expenses from home to the event and return.

The team consists of a small organising committee and 50 greenkeepers. Those members wishing to be involved should put their name forward in writing to John Pemberton, administration manager, at BIGGA's HQ, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, to be received no later than March 6 1995. All candidates' names will then be placed into a draw to select the successful applicants. If you have not been to this event before in this capacity and wish to learn more about what will be expected before putting your name forward, then please do not hesitate to contact either John (tel: 01347 838581), Elliott Small (tel: 01259 731445) or Bert Cross (tel: 0151 7245412).

Ransomes appointment

Andrew Sunaway has been appointed sales and marketing director of Ransomes, Sims and Jeffries Ltd. Formerly international sales manager and customer service manager, Andrew's new responsibilities cover the planning, development and co-ordination of Ransomes' commercial grass machinery sales, marketing and promotional strategies and functions in the UK, Europe and all other parts of the world outside North America. His principal objectives are to consolidate and extend the use of Ransomes' equipment on a global scale.



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If you want to know more about how Turfclear WDG can make your life easier or about our range of other excellent products including Greenmaster, just call the man from Levington, our technical advisor, on 01473 830492.

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Rhône-Poulenc is not a household name yet its products can be found in every house. It makes silicas for use in Colgate, Signal, Crest and Aquafresh toothpastes. It is one of the world's leading producers of xanthane, guar and locust bean gum emulsifiers and stabilisers, which are used to make ice-cream. And it is a leading producer of polyamide yarn for stockings and tights made by companies such as Pretty Polly. Rhône-Poulenc is also one of the leading manufacturers of agricultural chemicals and is the latest company to take out golden key membership of the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. But who are they and how do greenkeepers benefit from other parts of the business? *Greenkeeper International* went to Essex to find out...

Researchers at Rhône-Poulenc have more chance of winning the National Lottery than discovering a new active ingredient for their chemical products. Even if that's not quite true statistically, it must seem that way to the 300 chemists and scientists at the company's UK research centre in Ongar, Essex.

Every year they help produce 10,000 potential active ingredients which are tested on the world's major weeds and crops. They're looking for ingredients that have an effect on the weeds but not on the rice, cotton, wheat or maize. When an active ingredient shows potential, the crop and weed spectrum is widened, taking in second level crops such as potatoes and beans. But from the 10,000 potential herbicides that go through the initial screening, only about 150 get to be tested at commercial dose rates. And from these 150, on average only 20 of the original potential candidates proceed into field studies.

The tests these ingredients are put through are as tough as in any industry because of their potential impact on the environment. Environmental studies trace what happens to the chemicals in soil, water and living things. Laboratory tests show how the chemical breaks down and what it breaks down into, how it reacts to ultra-violet light etc, measuring things in parts per trillion – the equivalent of 0.2 of a second in the average human lifetime. Field trials are conducted in a variety of soils and climates in up to 13 different countries including Brazil, Japan, the United States, France and the UK.

"So strict is the legislation governing the potential development of an active ingredient that from the 10,000 potential candidates per year, the industry average for approval is only one new active ingredient every ten years – or one from 100,000," says Jonathan Hill, product manager at Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products.

At the Ongar research centre they have been doing much better than this, having developed three new chemical families of worldwide importance in the last ten years. These are a herbicide for cereal crops, a herbicide to control bracken and an insecticide that works on a wide range of pests.

So the odds are better than those given by Camelot, but the outlay is far greater than any jackpot prize.

Rhône-Poulenc, the world's third largest agricultural chemicals company, spends £600 million on research each year. Nearly £100

Chemical kings have the golden touch



Rhône-Poulenc's John Arthur receives Golden Key acknowledgement from BIGGA president Viscount Whitelaw at this year's BTME

million of this goes on agro R&D.

Rhône-Poulenc has two other research centres: at La Dargoire in France, which concentrates on fungicides, and at the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina, USA, which looks mainly at insecticides. Each centre tests active ingredients developed at other centres – just in case it has potential in another area. In fact an insecticide invented in Ongar is now being developed in North Carolina.

With research being so expensive, the only

way Rhône-Poulenc and other chemical companies can see a return is if they succeed in developing a new product that works wonders in paddy fields, cotton plantations or cereal farms. The amount of weed killer greenkeepers spray on their fairways or the fungicide they use on their greens does not pay for the initial research.

"The amenity turf market wouldn't support research for a complete new active," says Hill. "An agrochemical company needs at least one major breakthrough every ten years to compete and to generate revenue for further research."

But once an active ingredient has been found and approved, then Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products starts testing it on grass. Fortunately grass has a lot in common with cereal crops.

Spearhead, which was launched last year as "a powerful new weapon for the control of weeds in turf", is a prime example of this. The active ingredient diflufenican (DFF) was discovered at Ongar in 1979. It was approved in the UK in 1986 for the use on cereals and has gone on to become the number one choice for winter wheat farmers, generating annual sales in excess of £60 million. Knowing it was particularly effective against weeds such as speedwell, in 1987 Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products took DFF and started mixing it with other known and approved active ingredients. The researchers were looking for a broad-spectrum turf selective herbicide. They found it quite quickly but it took a further eight years of turf specific research to



Potential active ingredients are tested in a 750m totally computer controlled glasshouse. The temperature inside is 22°C and the air is changed six times per hour

gain approval for the product Spearhead. In the agro chemical industry you not only have to get approval for the active ingredient but for every individual product. Researchers had to gather all the data on efficacy and safety from five years of field trials before the new selective herbicide could be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries in 1992. MAFF then took two years to evaluate the data (which is normal) and give it MAFF approval before it was launched last September.

As you can see, developing an active ingredient is only half the story. The active ingredient must be turned – either alone or in combination with other approved actives – into a product that is stable in storage, can demonstrate efficacy in its use area, is available to the user in a format which enables effective application and passes all the relevant tests.

Products destined for golf courses are tested on golf courses. Spearhead, for example, was tested at The London Golf Club in Kent among others. The problem with tests though is that you have to have a “control” area, an area that is untreated. Most course managers and head greenkeepers don’t mind someone coming onto their course and spraying, but they’re not willing to let part of a green get rife with fusarium patch and other diseases.

At Ongar there is 65x25m trial site which is

sown with some great seeds – and then totally mis-managed. One strip with bent and fescue grasses is fed so much nitrogen it almost glows. Fusarium patch, not surprisingly, develops quite quickly. And just to make sure it does, infected cuttings are also put on the turf. The strip next to it is sown with meadow grass and fescue and mis-managed again to bring on fusarium patch. Other strips are sown with pure bents and slender creeping red fescue and starved of nitrogen to bring on red thread. When the disease has got hold, each metre square of the plot is sprayed with a different formulation and the results are monitored.

The final strip on the trial site is divided into five sub-blocks – pure bent, chewings fescue, creeping fescue, smooth stalk meadow grass and ryegrass. When a formulation shows promise it is applied here to show there is no damage to the turf at double and triple rates of application.

About 20 years after discovering a new active and spending at least £20 million developing it, a new product is launched.

“R&D is the key. Fortunately Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products is part of a huge company which is investing millions in research in a whole variety of areas, especially agriculture. We are able to ride on the back of that research,” says Hill.

Toothpaste and tyres, to fungicide and herbicide

Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products, previously known in the UK as May & Baker with whom they started working in the 1920s, is part of the multi-national Rhône-Poulenc Group, which has an annual turnover of £10 billion.

The group, which returned to the private sector in November 1993, has developed an enormous range of products that helps enhance everything from toothpaste and tyres to tights, ice-cream, rubber balls and video cassettes. It also has a hand in things we hope we don’t see – airbags. Rhône-Poulenc makes the silicone coating that keeps the folded fabric from sticking together during storage in Fords and Renaults. It also produces the flame-resistant fibres used in protective clothing for firefighters.

For greenkeepers it has a range of 30 herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and growth regulators. It also offers the Guardian range of fungicide and polymer film coated grass seed mixtures. Leading herbicides include Clovotox, Dicotox Extra, Supertox 30, Vitesse and Spearhead. Among its top fungicides are Rovral Green and Mildothane Turf Liquid. Insecticides include Castaway Plus and Crossfire.

Rhône-Poulenc employs more than 80,000 people worldwide, of which nearly half work in France. The products are manufactured worldwide too, with two of the plants in England at Norwich, Norfolk and Belvedere, Kent. Most of the herbicides are manufactured in the UK. The fungicides come from France and the insecticides are made here and in the USA.

“Rhône-Poulenc Agriculture Limited is not just a British business, but a world centre of growth,” states its publicity blurb. And now it is investing in another growing organ – the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Education and Development Fund.

● Casual burning or burial of empty pesticide containers is not possible without specific consent from the National Rivers Authority and/or HM Inspectorate of Pollution or from the Environmental Health Department of your local authority.

To assist users of professional pesticides dispose of empty containers correctly, Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products is offering vouchers which give up to £75 off the cost of a three-year disposal contract with Envirogreen Limited. Tel: 01277 301115.



BIGGA THAN EVER!



Pictures, clockwise from top: John Millen cuts the ribbon to open the show... followed by a scramble to get in... Checking out the latest Iseki SF300 are David Moss, proprietor of Adlington Golf Centre, Macclesfield and Tony Cundall of RJ&J Campey... Visitors examine the Wiedenmann Terra-Spike, which comes in four widths starting at 1.35m for use with compact tractors increasing to 2.1m for larger tractors... Delegates in the Royal Hall listen intently as George Brown, on the podium, takes them through his preparation of Turnberry for last year's Open Championship.



'I can't remember the last time we were so busy at an exhibition'

There is s-no stopping the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. Despite six inches of snow falling in Harrogate at the end of the first day, everyone was hailing it as the best show yet.

Graham Walker of Gem Professional said: "Harrogate is brilliant and BTME is the best show because everyone who comes is a customer."

Ray Burniston, of show newcomers the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, said he would recommend that they came back in '96. "I like it in Harrogate," he added after speaking with more than 50 club secretaries during the opening day.

"We were exceptionally busy," said David Stephenson, managing director of D&E Turf Maintenance. "We experienced 40 per cent more bookings and 60 per cent more enquiries than previous years."

Vitax's commercial sales manager Trevor Holmes echoed this statement: "It's been exceptional. It's been the best show despite the snow. It's a good format and we will definitely be here next year."

Stephen Fell, executive director of Lindum, said: "I can't remember the last time that we were so busy at an exhibition. Obviously our new product launch attracted a lot of interest but there were a lot of important buyers there which demonstrates that BTME is attracting a wider professional range of visitors."

Greenkeepers were equally impressed. "Harrogate was a complete success," said Mike Lathrope from Eaton GC, Norwich.

Marion Child of the South West and South Wales region, making the trip from Devon, said: "What an exhibition! Better than ever before and that's hard to imagine. There is an incredible almost family atmosphere at Harrogate."



THE FACTS: Despite the surprise snowfall, 4,053 visitors attended the seventh BTME. Seven days after the '95 BTME, three-quarters of the exhibitors had made space requests for the '96 event in Harrogate – and many are requesting twice as much space.



The biggest piece of kit at the show was this Mastenbrook trenching machine from contractors WE Hewitt & Son Ltd. Pictured with it is managing director John Hewitt.



Among the greenkeepers from 11 countries were these



two Russians. Sergey Dolmatov (top) and Vladimir Matskovsky are from the Moscow Country Club, the first 18-hole course in Russia. The first nine holes opened in 1993 while the



second nine opened in September last year after being sewn in July. The course is designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr and the project was financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The course is run by an American superintendent, Dean Watkins, who is on site from March through to October/November. The very latest equipment from America is used to maintain the Pennlinks greens, Penncross tees and Kentucky bluegrass/fescue fairways. There is a Toro irrigation system and machinery from Toro, John Deere and Jacobsen.

The course is closed in winter and the greens and tees are covered to protect them from frost and snow. For members who wish to keep their swing in, there is a simulator in the clubhouse. There are about 300 members, mostly foreigners. To encourage local children to take up the sport, coaching is free for them.

"Things are changing," says Sergey. "There is only one golf course at the moment but three more are under construction in the Moscow region."



Association goes in the black as membership continues to climb

A large attendance of members on a snowy night was present to hear executive director, Neil Thomas, present his annual report.

After commenting on the major events of the year, he advised members that at last year's AGM the Board of Management had determined that a review be undertaken with the aim of agreeing a five year plan to take the Association up to the year 2000. Much progress had been made but such was the growth of the Association and the need for consultation at all levels that the Board at its September meeting decided to extend the review by the setting up of a Review Body which would make recommendations to the Board. It had originally been planned to report back to the AGM but the Board would now report to the 1996 AGM. It was considered important "to get it right" particularly in terms of any amendments to the Constitution and Rules of the Association. To this end the Review Body had already held two meetings.

In outlining the progress of the Education and Development Fund, the executive director pointed out that resources would now be made available for localised management training linked to the new NVQs/SVQs. Management training made affordable and accessible to members within their own Regions would be another great step forward for the Association. He referred to a fundamental issue simply defined as "who pays for greenkeeper education?" The Association was greatly dependent on the Education and Development Fund without which the videos, booklets, courses and educational aids provided by the Association would not be possible. It was generally considered that the levy to fund the GTC remains at a totally unrealistic level of 6.25p per registered golfer. Much depended therefore on how much or how little course managers and head greenkeepers could incorporate for training in their annual budgets and it must remain a great source of wonderment to outsiders that this remains an industry where many managers



John Millen helps Barry Heaney to don his jacket as BIGGA's new chairman

and employees are expected to pay themselves for their further education and training.

BIGGA's membership had increased by 390 to a final figure of 5,552 for 1994. At the conference dinner, the ninth recipient of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, Richard McNabb from Palmetto Golf Club, Aiken, South Carolina had been recognised and it was pleasing that at present 105 members are registered for the award with 65 in Stage 1, 32 in Stage 2 and 8 in Stage 3.

There is concern at the continuing trend of golf clubs to disclose greenkeeper salaries and wages to fellow golf clubs in the area. These cartels appear to be widespread. They are felt to be in existence to establish a norm which is unlikely to be to the benefit of the greenkeeper. Neil Thomas suggested that at the very least the confidentiality which should be enjoyed between employer and employee is broken through the existence of these cartels and a greenkeeper has every right to complain when he knows that this practice has been applied to his own contract of service. When evidence is forthcoming it is a practice which needs to be exposed through the pages of *Greenkeeper International*.

At the conclusion of his report, the executive director analysed the issues concerning the future of the BTME and the threat of a competing show organised by P&O Events in conjunction with the English Golf Union and

planned for 16-18 January 1996. He pointed out the potential financial implications for BIGGA whilst outlining the need for BIGGA to remain a strong, respected and independent body within the game – a position which could be threatened by absorption into a new show organised by those motivated purely for profit and with no intrinsic regard for greenkeepers or greenkeeping. He believed that exhibitors remained loyal to the BTME in Harrogate and a solid base existed for further growth and development of the BTME. Essentially as executive director he needed to go away from the AGM with a clear mandate from the membership in general meeting as to how they wished to proceed. On a show of hands there was unanimous backing for the continuation of the BTME in Harrogate.

BIGGA's administration manager, John Pemberton presented the financial report which showed a transformation from a deficit in 1993 to a small surplus in 1994. He pointed out that the Association continues to rely heavily for its funding on the three main activities of membership, *Greenkeeper International* magazine and BTME. He reminded members who pay their own subscriptions that they are approved by the Inland Revenue for personal tax relief and may be claimed through the annual tax return. Advertising revenue for *Greenkeeper International* had increased

by 17.8% reflecting the quality of the magazine which remains a significant net contributor to the Association's funds. The BTME of 1994 had been the activity which had brought about a dramatic change in the Association's financial position. It was pointed out that the Board of Management had agreed to establish an independent Building Fund to generate funds towards the ultimate purchase of the Association's own premises. Areas of funding were being investigated to link into whatever capital the Association could raise itself.

Following questions from members the meeting went on to elect Messrs Roger Robinson and Bill Lawson as Trustees. This was followed by backing for a constitutional amendment allowing for the implementation of a rolling membership year after the executive director had pointed out that this alteration would assist the workload involved with renewal, especially as membership grows, by phasing renewal processing. It might also encourage recruitment as greenkeepers would receive a year's membership from whenever they chose to join. The meeting then unanimously approved the Board's proposals for life membership for Mr Eric James and Mr Bert Cross.

The outgoing Chairman, John Millen, thanked the Board and staff for their efforts during the past year and then invested the incoming Chairman, Barry Heaney, with his red blazer. The new Chairman thanked the retiring Board members for their services. George Malcolm was replaced on the Board by Pat Murphy. Huw Parry was replaced by Robin Greaves and John Millen was replaced by Chris Mardon. In Scotland John Crawford was stepping down and a replacement would be announced shortly. Barry Heaney announced that his Vice-Chairman would be Dean Cleaver. He concluded by thanking BIGGA's President, Viscount Whitelaw, John Millen, the Board of Management, staff and all members of the Association for their support and his golf club and by no means least his wife, for their encouragement.

Richard makes it nine for MGC

Richard McNabb, who has been greenkeeping for more than 20 years, is the ninth Master Greenkeeper.

The 43-year-old American, pictured receiving his award from John Millen, is currently working as golf course superintendent at the 103-year-old Palmetto Golf Club in South Carolina. He moved to this 18-hole exclusive private club, which is maintained by six staff, after a couple of years at St Margarets in Dublin. This is where he heard about BIGGA and started working towards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

"I thought it would be a great achievement," he said. He flew in from a seminar in New York, stayed two nights in Harrogate and then went on holiday to Jamaica.



Prize guys

Prize winners in our BTME competition, Nigel Buxton, assistant head greenkeeper at Cavendish GC, and Stuart Hogg, assistant course manager at Fortrose and Rosemarkie GC, are congratulated by BIGGA's executive director Neil Thomas.



On a lighter note

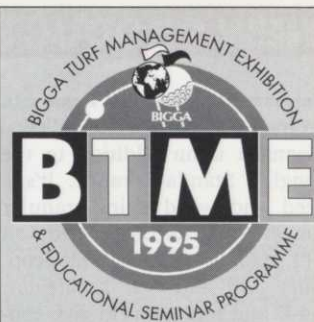
"A consultant is someone who knows 50 ways to make love but doesn't have a girlfriend." – Jim Moore of the USGA

"I believe a green should be like a woman – it should be rounded and well contoured; it should be firm but still receptive, but of course it should be free from all fungal diseases and thatch." – George Brown, course manager at Turnberry.

"My wife figured why there aren't so many women superintendents – they're too damn smart." – Jim Moore of the USGA.



Tom O'Connor, Jim Moore and a sizzling Linda Nolan provided a night to remember



Chairman's message to all BIGGA members

Many thanks to our members who attended this exciting event. Your support is very much appreciated.

May I invite all our members to make an early diary note for next year's presentation – January 22-26 1996 – again in Harrogate. I can assure you of a rewarding learning experience.

– Barry Heaney



■ Barry Heaney draws the winner of a £100 BIGGA gift voucher on the Vitax stand, assisted by Vitax commercial sales manager Trevor Holmes. The lucky head greenkeeper is Jeff Dickinson of Hucknall GC in Nottinghamshire.



■ Geraint Williams, head greenkeeper at Llangefní, a public course owned by Duglesey Borough Council, putts out on the Zeneca stand. But it wasn't good enough to beat J Sheehan of West Derby GC or S Booker of Hawkstone Park GC, who win a mini hi-fi system worth £250. Barry Heaney and Zeneca's product manager Steve Hall made the draw.

Zeneca Professional Products promoted two new fertilisers. Cleanrun is an addition to the Longlife Standard range. It's a 'feed and weed' mini granular conventional fertiliser with an NPK analysis of 9:7:7. It also contains two selective herbicides, 2,4-D and mecoprop to give control of most fairway turf weeds. Recommended price is £8.64 per bag. The other new fertiliser is Renovator, a triple action product offering turf managers the opportunity to feed, weed and control their moss problems in one operation. Longlife Renovator is a mini granular fertiliser with an NPK analysis of 8:1:1 containing 2,4-D, dicamba and ferrous sulphate. Recommended price is £15.88 per bag.

Lindum Seeded Turf announced an agreement with StrathAyr, an Australian based company. The new agreement sees them importing and installing the patented StrathAyr BAYr Root Processing system which involves removing all soil from harvested mature turf so that a vegetative mat free of soil is achieved. Recently returned from Australia, Lindum chief executive Stephen Fell said: "I have been very impressed with how the concept of washed turf has been accepted and successfully put into practice." Fell is convinced that BAYr Root Washed Turf is right for sand green construction. "Too often I see that conventional turf results in poor rooting which means slow establishment as well as the turf soil/sand interface causing drainage impediment and the development of a lateral sheer plane. It is vital that all soil is washed off the turf to avoid any sand rootzone contam-



Lord Whitelaw admires the Beaver FM 514 fairway mower. Features include newly designed 26in fully floating cutterheads which are available with 7 or 11 blade cutting reels offering a clip rate of 131 or 206 per metre. Power is provided by a 29hp Lombardini diesel engine.

ination and the BAYr Root Washed Turf System that we have installed is the only system that I have discovered that will achieve this."

Supaturf launched five new products: Primer 604 matrix flow soil surfactant, Infiltrix soil penetrant, Supaturf SS/G spring and summer granular fertiliser, Greenit turf colour restorer and Supa Mark aerosol line marking equipment.

Groundsman Industries launched a new tractor/utility mounted

aerator, the 8120. This model can be mounted on the normal three-point linkage of any mid-range compact tractor capable of 15hp at the PTO or on any specialist turf vehicle such as a Cushman. Groundsman claims the new unit is both durable and robust and offers quick-change tine holders which will take hollow, solid, slitting and micro-hollow tines. Features include linkage mounting (either standard three-point or using a spring ballast frame for turf vehicles), adjustable rollers and storage wheels.

Rolawn is now supplying turf in 'budget roll format'. The new rolls are approximately 15 sq yds each. Their dimensions are 21ins wide by 25 yards long and they weigh about 5cwt. All are provided with netting as standard and have a circular core running through their centre which takes a standard forklift tine. Rolawn also has a new laying machine which is 48ins wide, 35in high and weighs 60 kilos. It costs £395 plus VAT or can be hired for £15 a day.

Jacobsen showed the new LF 128, a lightweight five unit ride-on fairway mower. Powered by a 28hp Kubota diesel engine, the LF 128 is fitted with hydraulically driven 22in wide cutting units offering a total cutting width of 100ins. It is available in 4WD

form and comes with large hydraulic pump, large diameter hoses and large displacement cylinder motors. For improved ground clearance, the cylinder motors are mounted on the outside and a new cylinder mounting frame and a new hydraulic hose configuration are used. For those wanting an inexpensive 2WD fairway mower, the LF 123 with CARB approved 23hp engine is available. For bunker maintenance, Jacobsen is importing the Sandstar 2 Bunker Rake which is powered by a Vanguard 16hp 2 cylinder engine. The 1.8m (72in) Sandtrap Rake which can be hydraulically risen and lowered from the operator position comes as standard. Available as an option is the hydraulically lifted and lowered sand cultivator which spans 1.5m and a front mounted aluminium sand plough. For easy access, maintenance and repairs there is a swing-away fibreglass body.

Tildenet has added two types of bay dividers to its range: made-to-measure padded bay dividers made from foam-filled PVC which can be printed with logos and advertising, and net bay dividers made from golf practice replacement netting. The Bristol-based company also launched an anti-ball plugging net that's designed to reduce the number of lost balls on waterlogged driving ranges



Lilleybrook GC's Paul Jenkins, centre, had more reason than most to celebrate the launch of Supaturf's Primer 604. The Gloucestershire course manager won a trip to this month's GCSAA show in San Francisco in a competition to promote the new product. Pictured congratulating him are Supaturf chairman David Palmer, Aquatrols' international marketing manager Demie Moore (no, not that Demie Moore), and BIGGA chairman Barry Heaney, who made the draw.

MORE NEW PRODUCTS NEXT MONTH

and DIY kits for perimeter netting and golf practice nets.

Headland Amenity launched a range of liquid slow-release nitrogen fertilisers. Based on triazone, the products are designed to promote uniform turf growth and improve grass quality throughout the season while also reducing summer scorch risks and leaching. One of the major benefits, according to Headland, is that fewer applications – taking less time – are needed to dress the turf, compared with conventional products. Because the nitrogen is released more slowly, only half the number of applications are needed throughout the year to better the performance of traditional urea-based liquid fertilisers. The range includes: N-Sure (28N:OP:OK) containing 72% of its nitrogen in slow release form; Trisert KS (15N:OP:12K:8S) with sulphur and potassium as well as 60% slow-release nitrogen, intended for hardening-up turf and helping to prevent disease by discouraging annual meadow grass and acidifying the soil; Trisert (13N:3P:4K) with phosphorous and potassium plus 72% slow-release nitrogen to provide a balanced feed with an 8-12 week release pattern.

Claymore Grass Machinery showed the Sabo Roberine Continent 400-3D, which is designed for cutting tees and bunker surrounds. Features of this 1.8 metre triple are the rear-mounted 14.5hp diesel engine, the hydraulic driven transmission and mowing units, the three-wheel configuration and power steering and standard weight transfer system, plus optional 3-wheel drive and differential lock. Mowing speeds can be varied to suit conditions and there is the choice of either 7- or 10-bladed cutting cylinders. Cutting heights are from 8mm to 55mm and grassboxes are available as extras. Claymore also showed the Continent 800-D, a 1.5m wide out-front rotary with a top operating speed of 20km/h. If extra traction is needed the 800-D has a weight transfer system as standard and the option of four-wheel drive and differential lock. A balanced wheel base at front

and rear gives stability on slopes.

Euromec displayed its new range of front deck mowers and collection machines. The mowers, unlike many competitive machines, have been designed from the outset to collect grass cuttings. Large hoppers and the provision of a powered high lift dump are two of the common features. The top of the range compact Turbogross model has a zero steering radius, enabling operators to cut grass in the most inaccessible places. Also available is a wide range of extras: chopper incorporating collection system, front brushes, flail mower, scarifier, side discharge deck and snow blower. Euromec also displayed the new multi-purpose walk behind TurboVac which collects all types of debris from any grass or hard surface area.



The new Ransomes Fairway 250 – a lightweight five unit mower

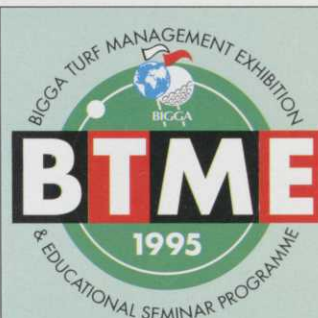
Ransomes launched a lightweight five unit fairway mower. The Fairway 250 comes in two- and four-wheel drive versions, both equipped with water-cooled diesel engines, hydrostatic transmissions and interchangeable cutting units. The highly manoeuvrable two-wheel drive machine has a 23hp engine and 5in (127mm) diameter cutting reels with a choice of nine or 11 blades. For more demanding mowing applications and where extra grip is required, the 33hp model is equipped with selectable two and four-wheel drive and has the option of seven or 11 bladed 6.5in (165mm) diameter cutting reels.

Green Link Products launched Liquid Green, a new turf colourant that allows greenkeepers to respond instantly to turf damaged through cultural, climatic or chemical means. Applied as a conventional spray, Liquid Green provides the turf with a natural looking green colour for up to 14 weeks while the grass

recovers. The cost is less than 0.5p per sq metre. In addition to its application as a spray pattern indicator, Blazon can now be used to colour lakes, ponds and water hazards, imparting a natural, healthy appearance to water that is off-colour, dirty or just in need of extra sparkle. Blazon and Liquid Green are distributed in the UK by Farmura Limited.

Johnsons Seeds unveiled three new amenity grass varieties: the perennial ryegrasses Merci and Danilo, and the strong creeping red fescue Diego. Merci is described as an exceptionally fine-leaved, compact, dense turf type – combining very good wear tolerance with the characteristics which produce high quality ornamental turf. Merci is included in the Taskmaster mixture for golf tees and lawns. Danilo is a dual purpose turf cultivar for both heavy duty sports wear and for less intensively used turf such as lawns and landscaped areas. It has good shoot density and fine clean easily-cut leaves. It too is included in Taskmaster, as well as Johnsons 1995 J5 Mixture for fairways. Diego is the highest ranked cultivar on the 1995 STRI Merit List – with the top rating for short growth, mowing tolerance, shoot density and freedom from dollar spot.

Etesia's range of professional ride-on and pedestrian rotary mowers made its debut. For cutting slopes around tees and bunkers Etesia offer the PSE, a lightweight yet rugged four-wheeled rotary mower. Powered by the latest 3.8hp 2-stroke Suzuki engine this 46cm (18in) machine is compact and easy to transport between sites. For situations where a wider machine is required, there is the self-propelled RKEB with 4-stroke 9hp Kawasaki engine and the RTEB fitted with a 7hp Bombardier Rotax 2-stroke. Both machines have electro-magnetic blade clutches plus a safety feature that stops the cutters rotating within three seconds once the controls are released. The blade is driven through a floating coupling designed to protect the engine crankshaft from excessive impacts.



■ Fiona Whitelaw, an account manager at Fairway Finance, achieves a lifetime ambition by meeting Lord Whitelaw, who she claims is a distant relative.

■ Turnberry course manager George Brown was presented with the keys to a new 45hp L4200 from the Grandel series, the 25,000th tractor sold in the UK since Kubota set up here 15 years ago. Handing over the keys to this unit, which has been specially show-finished in silver and Kubota orange, was Brian Hurlley, vice president-director Kubota (UK). Mr Hurlley said: "The sale of the 25,000th unit is a very important milestone in the history of Kubota in the UK. I am delighted that this state-of-the-art tractor is going to such a prestigious and loyal customer as Turnberry."



■ Ray Burniston and Pat Bates, attending BTME for the first time as exhibitors with the Association of Golf Club Secretaries.

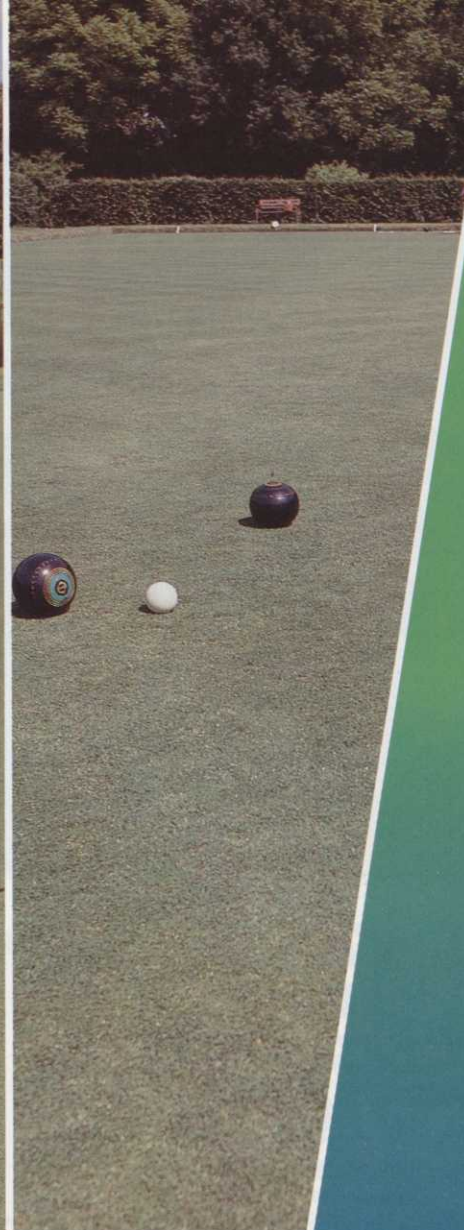
■ Lost during the show were two black cases belonging to the BAGCC, but found in the Old Swan Hotel was a wallet. If you have any information, please call BIGGA HQ on 01347 838581.



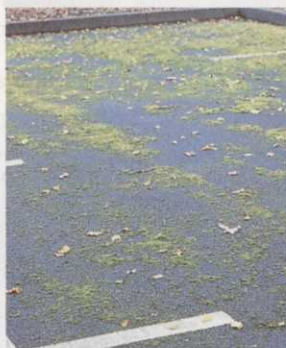
A family affair

A farming family has turned its land into a golf course. Charlesland Golf and Country Club Hotel opened two years ago. How are they adjusting to the change and coping with greenkeeping? And what does their spring maintenance programme entail? Chris Boiling went to the Republic of Ireland to find out.

When you look at a map of Ireland and see where Greystones is – on the coast 18 miles south east of Dublin – you expect the town's newest course to be a links. Indeed it's on the same coast as Portmarnock –



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A family affair

but further south. The 3rd, 4th and 6th tees at Charlesland Golf and Country Club Hotel are only 20 yards from the beach, but it's not a links course. The former arable farm has been turned into a parkland course.

However it doesn't look like a parkland course. The cold wind from the Irish Sea discourages tree growth. There are some oaks, some as old as 300 years, but they're not as big as you'd expect them to be. 4,000 trees were planted when the course was built a few years ago, but they're little more than knee-high and hard to spot.

The fact that it is neither a links nor what you'd expect a parkland course to be takes nothing from this 6739-yard (6159m) par 72 challenge. It is a charming course with several great holes.

Christy O'Connor Sr loves the 11th. It's a 338m par 4 that dog-legs left with a river running across the fairway at 220 yards. Anyone playing too safe or too left from the tee will be left with a difficult second shot over the largest trees on the course.

I liked the stroke index 1 16th. It's uphill all the way and it dog-legs to the right. With anything other than a straight-down-the-middle drive, you're left with a blind shot to the green. A good drive is rewarded with a lovely view of the pin through a valley which gives the hole its name – Torry's Canyon (named after the



digger operator who dug out approximately 32,000 tonnes of soil from this area. This was later used for the sub-bases of most of the tees and greens.)

Veteran Irish designer Eddie Hackett's signature hole is the unlucky-for-some 13th – the longest par 3 you can get. What makes the hole a little less daunting is the high tee – the highest point on the course – which offers splendid views from Howth to Wicklow Head and the little 13th green 250 yards away and 120ft below.

The other three par 3s are all relatively short – 130-140m from the back tees – but all face different directions. The 17th is course director Clive Evans' favourite hole "because the green cost the

most to build." In a dip that collects water, the green was built up using 5,000 tonnes of material in the base. Two 9in water pipes were put in below this in addition to the usual greens drainage. This drains into a man-made lake beside the green, which makes it a very pretty hole. The clubhouse can be seen in the distance behind it.

In the distance because the 18th at 615 yards (562m) is one of the longest holes in Ireland. A double dog-leg, the positioning of the second shot is crucial, otherwise you may find yourself having to carry one of the two small lakes that guard the green.

The greens were among the first true USGA-spec greens in Ireland. They are now four years old and starting to come good. They dry very quickly and are playable all year round. In fact the course only closed for one day last year. This is not just because of the sand greens but also because of the drainage put in during construction. 20,000 tonnes of drainage gravel and 6km of pipes are now paying for themselves.

Wet spots

When the Evans family decided to turn their farm into an 18-hole golf course with a 12-bedroom hotel, they had a great advantage. They had been working the land all their lives so they knew all the wet spots. Eddie Hackett was asked to design round these and turn the worst spots into four water hazards.

Where he couldn't design

around them, they put in extra drainage and dumped tonnes of sand. On the upper part of the 16th fairway there are drains approximately every 4m. On the 10th fairway they tipped 60 tonnes of sand. "Work on the 10th is on-going as what was a bog for thousands of years cannot be changed overnight," commented Clive. "But we are changing it from a wet meadow to a meadow beside a lake."

The land was passed on to 50-year-old Clive's father by an uncle. But while 350 acres was a fine provider for Lewis Evans, his wife Mai and three children – Clive, Lance and Wilson – it was more difficult for the sons and their eight children to eke a living from it.

"We needed to do something more so we looked at this idea of turning it into a golf course," said Clive. "We didn't set out to have a hotel but we think the area is right for this sort of thing."

Youngest brother Lance, the only member of the family who was interested in golf beforehand, is the managing director. Eldest brother Wilson, a qualified accountant, is a director, and Clive, now a 26-handicapper, is in charge of the course. Under him is a qualified head greenkeeper, Sean Conroy, and four assistants.

Clive was also in charge of building the course, using his knowledge of the land, farm machinery and what he learned at BIGGA seminars and conferences.

The advantages of doing it



A family affair

themselves go beyond the obvious economies and the fact that you know things are being done correctly. The biggest advantage of DIY course building, according to Clive, is that you can build it so it is easy to maintain afterwards. "When we were building the slopes we knew we'd be looking after them every day of the year. So maybe it took two or three days longer to make a green, but it was worth it."

It means they can cut all the banks with machines and never scalp the top of mounds.

As well as knowing the location of the wet spots, Clive also knew where the wildlife lived and was able to avoid disturbing badgers' burrows and foxes' converts.

Biggest problem

Their biggest problem during the construction of the course was the amount of stones on the site. "There were so many that the

first agronomist said it wouldn't be possible to make a golf course where we wanted to. When I said that to Eddie Hackett he thought for a little while and then said, 'Why're you telling me that? God made this land to be a golf course, you've undertaken the job to build the course, you deal with the stones'."

Clive went to a show and bought a Kverneland stone picker. He reckons it picked up a 100 tonnes of stones per acre. The rest were buried with a Turfmech Rotadaron. The stones that were stockpiled were put to good use in drainage ditches and soakpits.

A sandpit on the course has also come in handy. After screening, the sand has been used on tees and to topdress several fairways, including the 10th. It's been used despite a pH of 9.4. "I know it breaks all the rules but the agronomist was prepared to

the risk it if we were. If it was a conventional club he couldn't tell the committee to use it because there'd be some genius who would read up on it and say it can't be done. But it wouldn't be the end of the world if we had to take up the tees, we could do them half at a time."

So far all is well. The tees are very dry and the sward looks healthy. Mats were never considered during the winter.

If you're starting to get the impression that everything at Charlesland was done on the cheap, you'd be very wrong. With seeds, for example, they've gone for the most expensive. The quotes they had varied by £26,000 and they took the dearest option, paying £110 for 30kg bags. That worked out at about £400 an acre. But they're pleased with the results. And the 650 members like the way the ball sits up on the fescues and bents in the winter. "I think it was the right thing to do," says Clive, although he is now overseeding the heavy wear areas with dwarf ryegrass.

The greens were also sown with fescues and bents, but are now 50/50 bents and *Poa*. The greenstaff are overseeding with bents.

The fine-tuning of the course continues. A bunker was put in on the 17th to stop mis-hit shots reaching the green and further bunkers are to be built on the easier first nine to tighten up the fairways. One big job on the cards is building a "landing area" on the 14th, which slopes severely from left to right. "It is the only hole on the course that may break Eddie Hackett's golden rule - 'The perfect shot should never be penalised'," said Clive.

In the future the former farmers may build another 18 Eddie Hackett holes on their land and a planning application has been put in.

With this in mind, we wondered if they were to do it all again from scratch is there anything they would do differently?

"We'd have built a much smaller clubhouse," said Clive. "Traditionally in golf, the course supports the clubhouse but from a purely business point of view it shouldn't have to be like that."

SPRING MAINTENANCE AT CHARLESLAND

Drainage and aeration

In March we will Verti-drain the greens for the first time. Prior to this hollow-tining has been sufficient. We will topdress with silica sand incorporating 25kgs of seaweed meal per green and overseed with bent.

Tees will be hollow-tined, topdressed and overseeded with dwarf perennial ryegrass. Sides of tees and heavy wear areas will be aerated and overseeded with dwarf ryegrass. Greens and tees will be slit weekly according to weather conditions. Verti-cutting will precede Verti-draining. Heights of cut will be at 5/16in prior to Verti-draining and greens will be mown two or three times a week. The height of the cut will gradually be reduced down to 3/16 and mown six times a week by the beginning of May. Once the mild weather and good growth have come in (say by the third week in March) grooming will be carried out every day.

Nutrition

Prior to Verti-draining, 165kgs/hect of sulphate of potash and 145 kgs/hect of super phosphate will be applied. There will also be an application of five star slow-release nitrogen at 130 kgs/hect prior to Verti-draining. Sulphate of iron will be applied at one litre per green at two to three week intervals and alternated with liquid seaweed at two litres per green. During the fourth week in March 450 kg/hect of Floranid slow release 20:5:8:2 will be applied. Six to eight weeks later this will be repeated. Five or six days before open week we will apply liquid fertiliser as a boost. The tees will be given Floranid at the same rate at six to eight week intervals.

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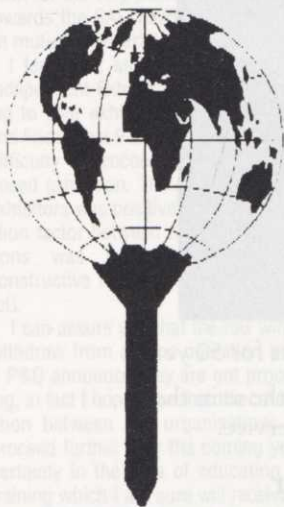
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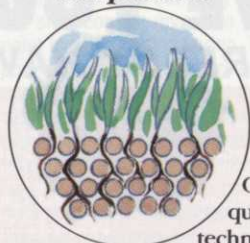
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IoG's thanks for BIGGA's positive attitude

To the Executive Director,

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Institute of Groundsmanship to thank yourself, Bill Lynch, the members on your BTME steering committee and your members at the BIGGA AGM for the very positive attitude taken towards the SALTEX/BTME partnership on mutual co-operation.

I feel sure, as does the team from Independent Exhibitions, that after talking to your exhibitors on the Thursday and Friday that P&O will now have great difficulty in proceeding with their proposed exhibition. The attitude from the exhibitors was positive and the co-operation factor between our two organisations was welcomed as a very constructive move by both BIGGA and IoG.

I can assure you that the IoG will not withdraw from any co-operation policy if P&O announce they are not proceeding, in fact I hope I see that the co-operation between our organisations can proceed further over the coming years, certainly in the area of education and training which I am sure will receive the support from our executive and members in general. I know our respective training officers are going to talk this through in order to report back.

It was very unfortunate for BTME that the weather took a turn for the worse on Thursday but how you must have been pleased to see queues to get in. I must admit we thought it would be empty.

Congratulations on an excellent BTME, this must have been one of your best exhibitions, the feeling among the exhibitors was very positive and it is now assured a future calendar slot along with SALTEX, supported by both the exhibitors and visitors, both to the benefit of the profession.

**Derek Walder BEM, vice chairman,
the Institute of Groundsmanship**

Defending hard hats

Is there a golf course in Britain where the greenkeepers wear, as a protection against flying golf balls, hard hats as a matter of routine? This would seem a simple and obvious safety measure, given that the golfer's traditional shout of 'fore', if called, is frequently made inaudible by the noise of machinery the greenkeeper is using.

I ask this question because, at the club where I play, the committee recently bought each greenkeeper a hard hat to wear when working on the course, but failed to make its wearing compulsory. The result of this is that 75% of the greenkeepers refuse to wear their hat. The reasons given to me by the non-wearers for not wearing the hats have been both varied and unconvincing. I can only think that the underlying reason is that they think it sissy and unmanly to wear visible safety

clothing. They are quite happy to wear safety boots, also provided, which are of course indistinguishable from normal boots.

**James Smith, Ollerton,
Nottinghamshire**

Bad and the good

Regarding the article on 'poor consultants' in the December issue. I am presently a course manager in the West Country. I have been in the business for nearly 15 years, with nine of those at management level.

The previous course I worked at was a new one in Kent. I can safely say that this was the worst experience of my career to date. A major part of this was caused by the so-called agronomist.

Firstly, the greens and tees were constructed poorly from the outset, under his guidance. I took the job on when the course was 18 months old because I could see the huge potential of the course. Then when the obvious problems ensued and I put my case forward with articles and evidence aplenty, the management of the golf club still took the advice of the agronomist. (He even said that slitting greens was totally unnecessary and a myth amongst greenkeepers!)

The end result was that I had to seek alternative employment and what made matters worse was that the present course manager actually took my position well before I left and effectively pushed me out, even though he knew all the problems I had encountered.

The reason I have written this letter is to ask: "How much longer do head greenkeepers/course managers have to put up with poor conflicting advice from certain agronomists?" There seems to be no standard amongst their trade. What qualifications do you have to call yourself an agronomist? Obviously, there are some good experienced agronomists but there are also a relative number of poor ones.

Head greenkeepers/course managers have to ask themselves: "do we need these so-called agronomists telling us our jobs?" Let us just get on and do the job we are paid to do and call upon them if the need arises (which is fortunately the case in my present job).

I would welcome other greenkeepers' comments as I am sure I am not the only one who has suffered this fate.

Paul Bishop, Yate, Avon

...It was very interesting to read about greenkeepers' anger at poor consultants in the December edition. I have a feeling that the number of greenkeepers being asked about their experiences with consultants has been limited.

If the head greenkeeper/course manager knows the business really well I don't think he or she should be in for a "surprise show" when calling in a con-

sultant. In the UK and abroad, we know of very capable people doing their business and also of people who are below acceptable levels.

First of all here, we are confronted with a choice. Is greenkeeping not a matter of making choices many times during the seasons? Preferably the right choice as many times as possible. This is beneficial to him/her and of course to the club, the members and the course.

Speaking of my own experience I am very enthusiastic about working with the STRI and have been for many years now. The feeling is they are part of a team that is working towards the same goal. In this team the head greenkeeper has his/her specific job or role to play. A consultant can be a good assistance here.

**Frederick Ten Hage,
LGV-Leeuwenberg**

Why 'Jerry bash'?

I am putting pen to paper to express my displeasure after reading the article about being a greenkeeper in Germany. First of all, why do all articles concerning greenkeeping in Germany have to be negative to the point of being ridiculous. It seems that some people have nothing else to do but 'Jerry bash'!

I shall confine myself to one major point to avoid getting boring. This point concerns the matter of greenkeeping qualifications in Germany at the present moment. To publish a phrase like "you must have attended six weeks over a three-year period at a greenkeeping college, you do not have to be employed by a golf club" is absolute rubbish. For the sake of anybody wishing to come to Germany I shall quickly outline the procedure to become a qualified greenkeeper in Germany.

This is taken from the Delila GmbH near Krefeld in central Germany, one of only two recognised colleges in Germany so far.

Possibility 1: Four years as a labourer at a golf course followed by - 'course A,' three weeks at college and one year practical; 'course B,' three weeks at college and one year practical; 'course C,' three weeks at college and final assessment.

Possibility 2: A horticultural qualification is necessary as an agricultural manager or forestry or as a landscape gardener (either of which is a full three-year college course equivalent to block release). This is then followed by one year practical in your chosen direction and if you decide to change to greenkeeping you must do 'course A, B and C' as above.

As you can see, far more than six weeks is needed. By the way I'm Welsh not German.

**Alan Walton,
assistant head greenkeeper,
Sennelager Golf Club, Germany**

...I have been a greenkeeper for 25 years. The last seven of which have been spent in Germany. No, it was not all plain sailing for me at the beginning but statements like "We don't do it like that here" would surely not be accepted by a professional greenkeeper (without putting up a fight!)

It sounds like Elaine Holland and Stuart Bishop have had a bad experience in Germany, therefore their article represents the negative side of greenkeeping here.

Greenkeeping in Germany has many benefits other than earning more money. When a greenkeeper has earned respect as an expert in his field he can set about educating the members and his staff.

Mistakenly, a lot of greenkeepers coming to Germany expect everything to be the same as in the UK. It is not and probably never will be. But rewards can be high for the right people and working conditions are good.

I feel the article "Life can be tough as a greenkeeper in Germany" is too much of a generalisation of a country which varies greatly from north to south.

By the way, my staff do not finish work at lunchtime on Fridays, they also work weekends.

**Seve Schmit, course manager,
Golfclub Schloss Myllendonk,
Korschenbroich, Germany**

Just go for it

As runner-up in the 1993 Toro Student Greenkeeper Award, I have just returned from my third and final week as guest of the PGA European Tour.

Through the pages of this magazine, can I extend my thanks to Bruce Jamieson, my host at the Tour, and Louise Davies who made all the necessary arrangements.

I must also mention all those friendly faces, too numerous to name, who made my trips to La Manga, Mallorca and the Forest of Arden such a pleasure and success.

Finally, may I suggest to any student that this award offers a unique insight into the highest levels of greenkeeping and is a remarkable learning experience which is well worth every effort that it takes to win.

Richard Andrews, Highgate, London

Well-deserved win

I would like to congratulate David Walden on his victory in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Awards. Having met him at Aldwark Manor, no-one could doubt his commitment to the profession, and I know he will be a great ambassador for BIGGA. I wish him well in his year, and for the future.

My thanks also to everyone from ICI and BIGGA headquarters.
**Stefan G Antolik, head greenkeeper,
Cooden Beach Golf Club (runner up)**



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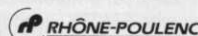
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BIGGA: BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

NORTHERN

Our winter tournament took place at Baildon GC. As you might expect for the time of year, the weather was decidedly mixed with everything but snow thrown at us in a howling wind.

The day was a great success nevertheless and everyone concerned enjoyed themselves. I must thank the head greenkeeper and staff for their preparation of the course under such wet conditions, the catering staff for an excellent meal and also to Baildon GC for allowing us the use of the course and clubhouse facilities. I must also thank all the sponsors for their contributions and support of our organisation.

The result: 18-stableford – 1, D Collins; 2, A Baxter; 3, R Smith; nearest the pin – G Potter.

At the AGM Pat Murphy announced that he was to move on to the board, and put myself forward as new secretary. The committee and I would like to thank Pat for all his hard work over the past two years and wish him all the best for the future. As for myself, my name is Marcus Cordingley and I hope I can do the job as well as Pat has done. If I can help you in anyway please do not hesitate in contacting me, I will try my best to help you. My home number is 0274 601195.

MARCUS CORDINGLEY

MIDLAND

The weather may have been wet for our Christmas tournament at Little Aston GC but it certainly didn't dampen people's enjoyment of the day. Many thanks to Alan Bovaston and his staff for a well turned out course. Also many thanks to Little Ashton GC for allowing us courtesy of their course and for the delightful meal in the evening. The winner was Trevor Morris who was presented with a BIGGA blazer by Nigel Tyler, courtesy of Ruffords. Many thanks to Ruffords and also to the many trade companies that supported us during 1994.

On December 15 we descended on Edgbaston GC for our AGM. Many thanks to the members who turned out and showed their support. The section presented Alan Kite with a watch for the many years served as chairman as he was stepping down. Many thanks, Alan.

The following were elected as officers and committee members: Chairman – M Hughes; Vice Chairman – P Richmond; President – R Pugh; Section secretary – K Blake; Treasurer – P Richmond; Committee members – S Blakeham, R Thomas, E Staut, R Hayhurst, P Woodham, D Cleaver.

On a sad note I was sorry to hear of the death of Trevor Stone of Shirley Golf Club for some 19 years. Trevor was 44 years old. The section sends its condolences to his family and friends. Finally can I wish Kim Blake success as our new section secretary and thank the many people who have supported me over the last three years.

DEAN CLEAVER



EVENTS DIARY

March 3/4: Irish Golf Greenkeepers Association golf course management conference, Prince of Wales Hotel, Co Westmeath. Tel: (010353) (0)1 8207444

April 26: Westurf, Long Ashton GC, Bristol

May 9: Drainage '95, Rockingham Castle Estate, Market Harborough, Leics. Tel: 01604 499662

June 21: South Turf, Molspur Park, South West London

July 20-23: The Open Championship, St Andrews

July 31-August 2: National Tournament, St Annes Old Links Golf Club, Lytham

September 13-14: Hayter Challenge Tournament Final, West Lancashire Golf Club, Blundellsands

SUSSEX

Our last golf tournament of 1994 brought us back to our favourite stomping ground, Littlehampton GC.

Unlike our last visit, the weather this year was superb – no wind and plenty of sunshine. This complemented the course, which was in superb condition. Again thanks to Dave Wood and his staff for all the effort they must have put in, especially for dragging the mince pies and alcohol halfway across the course. How come the whisky was half-empty, Dave?

The day started with a hot breakfast at 8.30am, followed by the teams of four teeing off for the Texas scramble competition. Altogether, 13 teams took part.

Results: 1, J Bradbeer, R Beach, R Hudson, N Dunbar 52pts; 2, R Day, M Ring, J Budd, P Ward 51 points; 3, B Francis, P Chalk, D Haste, T Bremer 50pts. Each member came away with turkey vouchers donated by Avoncrop and bottles of wine supplied by our section.

Also during the round there were five nearest the pin competitions together with a longest drive. The winners were: Nearest the pin – 3rd, N Dunbar; 6th, R Hudson; 8th, P Ray; 11th, R Beach; 16th, D Ansell (5mm from the hole!) The longest drive was won by R Beach. Each winner received a bottle of wine. Mention at this stage must go to George Barr for behind-the-scenes organising which, for an event like this, is not a five minute job. So, on behalf of the section, thank you.

After a superb Christmas dinner we had our prizegiving and our now famous 'bring an unwrapped prize' presentation and raffle. The day ended around 8pm, with everyone in festive mood.

Finally, the Sussex section would like to thank the secretary, Keith Palmer, and the committee of the golf club for extending us the use of their club, to the bar and catering staff for looking after us so well.

MARK WILTON

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Eighty members and trade members attended our Christmas meeting, held once again at Okehampton Golf Club. Our golfing members were treated to a pleasant dry day to test their

skills against the excellently presented course for the morning's 18-hole greensome competition for the PJ Flegg Trophy.

Our congratulations to Richard Wisdom and his staff who had the course in excellent playing condition despite all the rain earlier in the month.

After an excellent Christmas dinner, Ivan Brown of PJ Flegg presented the golf prizes for the morning's greensome competition to: 1, T Ramsden (Budock Vean) and A James (Tehidy) 37pts on back nine; 2, T Martin (Torquay) and R Whyman (Bude) 37pts; 3, T Blackburn (Crediton) and R Chudleigh (Finagle) 35pts on back nine.

After our golf presentation we were entertained by the superb comedian Tank Sherman, back by popular demand. Tank kept us all laughing for well over an hour. The raffles concluded a superb day, with the first raffle being for two hampers kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrewarths and won by Tim Ellis and Tony James. The second raffle contained over 40 prizes kindly donated by members and the trade.

Our thanks to Ivan Brown of PJ Flegg for donating and presenting the day's golf prizes, also thanks to our president Alan Dommett for supplying the lunch wine.

The section would also like to express its gratitude to Okehampton GC for allowing us use of their facilities once again.

Dates for your diary: Feb 21 – meeting at Wrangaton GC; March 22 – meeting at Mullion GC; April 26 – Westurf Trade Show, Long Ashton GC, Bristol.

At our AGM the secretary reported that attendances at meetings have steadily risen but the committee is conscious that the percentage of members attending has dropped. The committee would like to hear suggestions to improve participation. The secretary also explained there had been a slight loss (£47.54) on last year's balance, but with the purchase of a photocopier for £705 he felt that the accounts were in a workable cash flow position. Thanks were conveyed to the Regional Board for the generous donation of £250 towards the photocopier.

Retiring president John Palfrey thanked members for their tremendous support. The chairman, Jeff Mills, thanked Gordon and Marion Child whose tireless work for the region continues to bring success with our own trade show, Westurf.

Your new committee looks like this: Devon committee members – John Parr and Richard Wisdom; Cornwall committee member, chairman and regional board member – Bill Mitchell; trade member – Clive Ralph; President – Alan Dommett.

RICHARD WHYMAN

EAST ANGLIA

They say the sun shines on the righteous, so the fact that December 8 was the wettest day for yonks must mean someone is trying to tell

Around the Green



us something as it was also our AGM/golf day at Aldeburgh.

After some alterations, ie swapping the golf and AGM around and swapping golf shoes for flippers, the day wasn't too bad, though we must apologise to those who came for the AGM only to find they missed it.

The AGM was quite lively which means someone actually spoke and Wellsy didn't go to sleep. The outcome from all the huff and puff was that all trophies will be presented at the AGM (if we can find them). A new trophy called the Sam Sylvester Cup will be played for each year, the format is yet to be decided. Sam is still with us I hasten to add, but he will be stepping down from the chair next year.

The election of officers took about two minutes. They are: President – Ernie Hart; Vice President – Bob Chesham; Chairman and treasurer – Sam Sylvester; Vice chairman – Ernie Hart; Handicap secretary – Alan Carter; Secretary – Dave Wells; Scribe – Mike Lathrope; Regional board – Dave Wells and Richard Prior.

Dates to remember – April 26, Braintree; June 6, The Warren (Chelmsford); August 9, Thetford; June 21, Southturf.

New members include Malcolm Orr, Nick Brewster, John Winters and G Fox.

We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of John Moyle who was one of the founder members. A man with a big heart and a ready smile whose bubbly character often disguised the trauma of long hours and thousands of miles travelling from one sports club to another. He will be missed and our thoughts and prayers go to his family.

He would have seen the funny side of that rain, which brings us back to the golf. A break in the clouds (about half an inch across) saw our heroes/idiots paddle off. And like ducks, when one goes they all go. Well, nearly all. Andy Arbon and Keith Titshall decided they would be hecklers for the day and take the rain out of everyone else. However with no cards going into the draw, they were last for the lucky dip – a boot with a hole in it and a sock was all that was left.

Toddy, on the other hand, came home with flu and 39pts (his calculator doesn't work in the rain). His partner in crime and synchro-

nised swimming was Ernie Hart on 37pts. Peter Howard was drowned in third with 31pts.

Any golf day would not be the same without our friends from the trade and I would like to thank the following: CMW (main sponsors for the day with turkey vouchers), Rigby Taylor, Rushbrooks, Sisis, Rhone-Poulenc, Kings, Doe, Parker Hart, Johnsons Seeds, Levingtons Horticulture, Turf-Actant, The Greenkeeper Supply Company and Ernie Hart.

Our thanks also to Aldeburgh GC for a super day. Needless to say December 9 was a beautiful day.

Finally, I received this little ditty from John in Surrey: "Another week ends. All greens cut and ready to play. All bunkers raked and tees moved. All members pleased and secretary smiling. All pigs fed and ready to fly."



MIKE LATHROPE

NORTH SCOTLAND

One or two movements concerning the section to mention this month. Doshie Benson from Invergordon joins us as a new member. Moving back into the section is Craig Ogilvie, the new deputy at Boat of Garten. Craig replaces Ian Bell who has moved back to the Edinburgh area to be the head man at Glencorse. Moving into the section to grow-in and manage Strathmore Golf Centre, Alyth, is Jim Brown, formerly of Deer Park, Livingston. We wish them all well.

The section AGM took place at Letham Grange. The golf match finished all square although there was some confusion about the last match, with both players claiming victory! The AGM itself passed off fairly smoothly with local deputy Andy Wilson taking over as chairman and Peterhead's Hugh McClatchie becoming vice-chairman. The remainder of the committee is as follows: Secretary – Iain Macleod, Tain; Treasurer – Gordon Moir, St Andrews; Education – Alastair McLaren, Nethybridge; Sam Morrison of Royal Aberdeen, Neil Macdonald of MTM, Gordon Mckie of Tain, Dougal Duguid of Westhill, and we welcome newly-elected Stewart McBain of Hazlehead. Nineteen members and six trade

reps were present. Thanks to all at Letham Grange for good food and a great golf course.

I recently attended one of the GTC-run SVQs and greenkeeping seminars. I found it very informative and along with a few other greenkeepers registered for D32/D33 training, which will take place this month. It was a pity there

were not more greenkeepers present along with their chairmen of green. This is a new initiative which will allow head greenkeepers to get more involved in the assessing of their trainees. This is something that I feel we must get involved with. Anyone who missed out before can get in touch with me if they want to become an assessor and I will try to put you in the picture. You will be trained at no cost to you or your club.



IAIN MACLEOD

SURREY

Looking back to December 8, not a day you would care to remember but a day that was supposed to see the Turkey Trot played at Kingswood GC which, due to excess rain, had to be called off. Fortunately the rain did not stop 40-50 Surrey members enjoying Christmas lunch, which was followed by the AGM.

Thanks for your attendance and confidence in the current committee. We feel we have had a good year in office and intend to better it in '95. Fixture lists should soon be dispatched to all members.

DAVID GIBBS

SOUTH WEST

Burnham and Berrow was the challenging links venue for the Christmas tournament. A good field of 55 members teed off in cool but relatively calm conditions to play as teams of two for what many found to be a difficult scoring round. Judging by some cards returned, it was fortunate that conditions were calm and not as windy as is frequently the case on this championship course. The links itself was in excellent condition and thanks are given to Jock and his staff for their efforts.

After a pre-meal drink and the selling of raffle tickets to those who felt lucky it was upstairs to the dining room for an excellent traditional Christmas meal. Thanks for this are given to the caterer who looked after our appetites so well.

The results for the event were as follows: 1, Jon Scoones and James Leitch 38pts (back 9); 2, Gary Cook and Paul Legg 38pts; 3, Jock Miller and Mike McCarthy 35pts; 4, Sean Sage and Ivor Scoones 34pts; 5, Marc Haring and Les Johnson 32pts.

A change to previous years then followed with the entrance of a comedian for the next 45 minutes. However, this didn't go without its problems as the original artist let us down with an hour to go and the replacement was only given 40 minutes to get to the club and prepare his act. Under the circumstances, he didn't do too badly.

The drawing of the raffle completed the day with many people winning prizes. Thanks go



SCOTTISH REGION CONFERENCE

on Tuesday 14 March 1995
at Scottish Exhibition Conference Centre, Glasgow

Speakers: Norman Whytock, Rhône Poulenc; Ian McNab, Dumfries & County GC; Nigel Church, Ransomes; Eddie Adams, Old Course, St Andrews; Howard Swan, Swan Golf Designs; Michel Mulder, Barenbrug UK; Mike Higgins, Danfoss Ltd; Ken Siems, Loch Lomond GC.

Cost including morning coffee and lunch: £18.

The conference is sponsored by the Patrons of the Scottish Region.

More details from Elliott Small, Tel: 01259 731445

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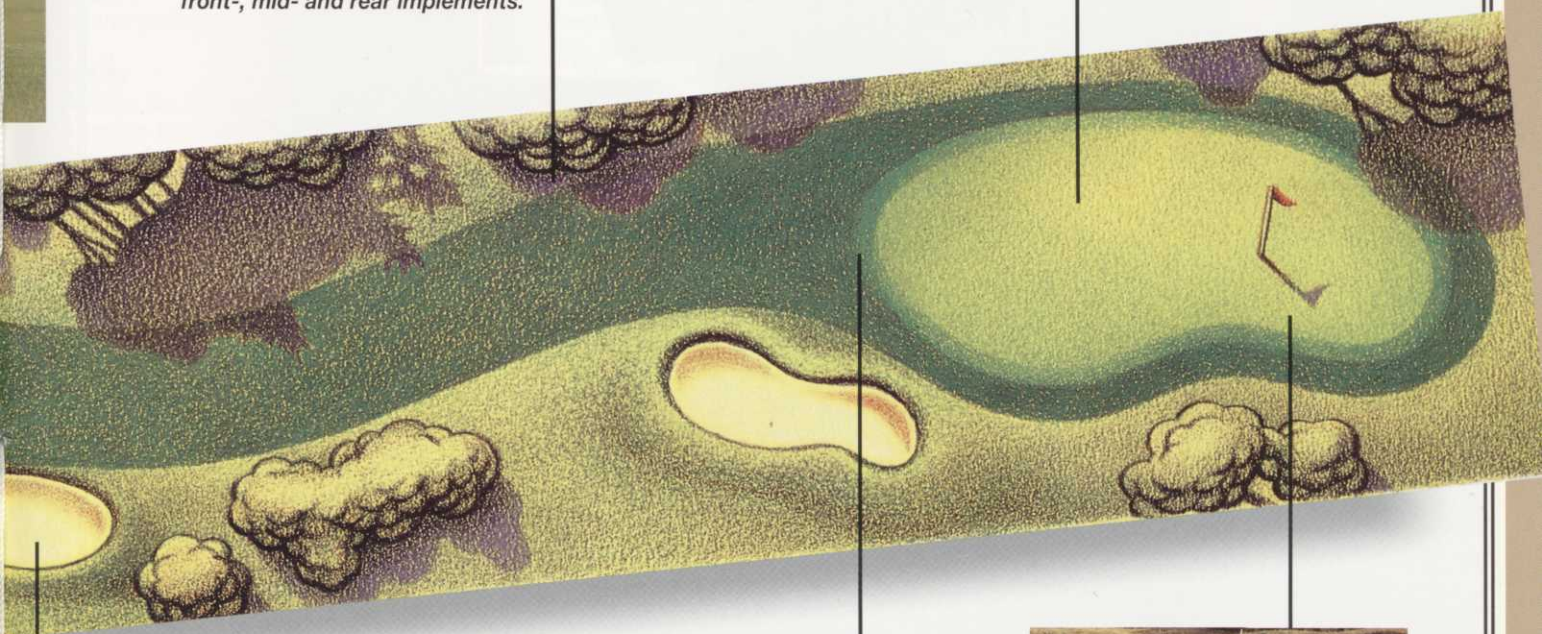
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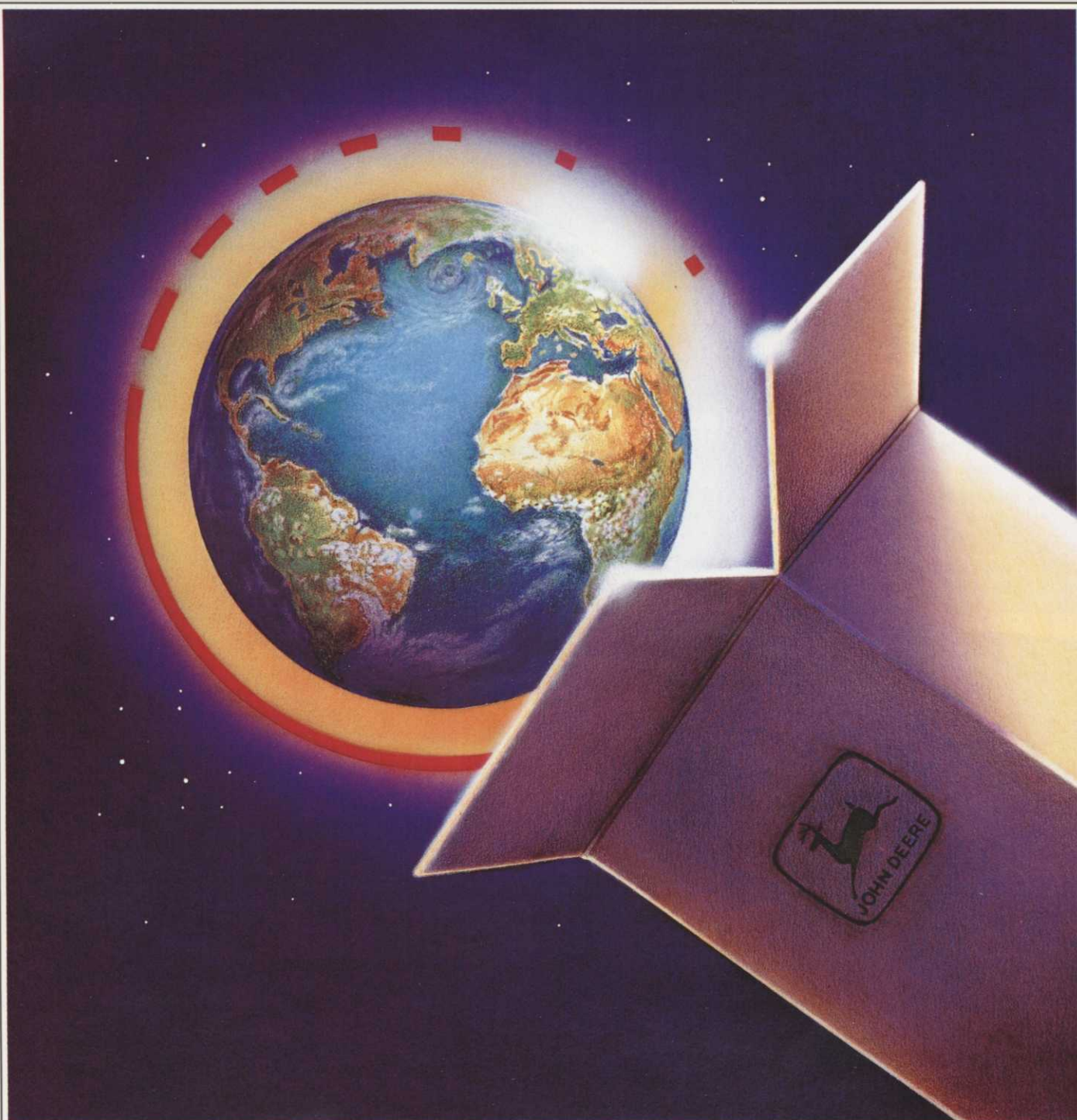
7 The new 1200A Bunker and Field Rake features high manoeuvrability with low compaction and superior push-pull capabilities. A wide range of attachments adds to its versatility and productivity.



8 Superior performance on difficult terrain. Precision cut with 66-cm (26-in.) ESP cutting units with hydraulic reel drive allow the 2653 Utility Mower to work well where others fear to tread.



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Around the Green



to Roffey Brothers, the main sponsors for the day, for trophy presentation and the wine at the meal table. Thanks go to the rest of the trade for their generous donations, too.

The day proved very successful with over 60 members playing and eating. Thanks are extended to the secretary, Mrs Sloman, the vice chairman of Burnham and Berrow, Mike McCarthy, for his participation and to the club itself for its hospitality in granting us course courtesy.

The first section event of '95 will be at Lansdown GC on Thursday February 23. A round of golf and lunch will be followed by a short lecture.

KEVIN GREEN

KENT

I have, for my sins, taken over from the very capable Paul Copsey. It is something I have looked forward to but I feel very apprehensive about the content. I could, of course, drone on and on about my course, its trials and tribulations, or I could write something – if the information is forthcoming – of interest to you all.

A lot of information will come from the other members of the committee, like our new secretary Steve Johnson of Gillingham GC, but if it is to be truly representative it needs your input. To this end you can contact me with any information on 081 698 0620.

It only remains for me to thank Paul Copsey for his good work and also to thank Dave Wood who has stepped down as our secretary but remains on the committee.

Make a note of these dates: April 20 – Spring Tournament at Littlestone GC; September 27 – Autumn Tournament at Birchwood Park GC.

RICHARD PAGE

SHEFFIELD

We had an excellent Christmas competition at Wortley GC thanks to Barry Heaney and his staff. Also a big thank you must go to the steward and his staff for the excellent Xmas meal which we all thoroughly enjoyed. I would also like to thank Brian Booth of Rigby Taylor for being our main sponsor and supplying such lovely prizes for the competition, and the other members of the trade who have supported us throughout the year.

The winners were: 1, S Nixon, Wortley GC; 2, P Lyons, Sherwood Forest GC; 3, B Lax, Worktop GC.

After our meal a presentation was made to Harry Herrington, Henry Gillespie, and Eric Palmer on their retirement from greenkeeping. Harry is ex-chairman of the old BGGGA, Henry has held every possible office in the Sheffield section, and Eric has also served us well on the committee and within the section. We wish all three a very happy and long retirement. There was also a small presentation to Joan Heaney who has helped Barry immensely with our accounts. Our grateful thanks, Joan.

Our final winter lecture was given by David

Stansfield of PSD Agronomy. David delivered his lecture to a full house and the greenkeepers gave David plenty of questions.

IAN COLLETT

NORTH WEST

The fixture list for this year's events is almost finalised and by the time you read this you should have received yours, if not please ring me.

The section events are as follows: March 16 – Northern region seminar at the Tytherington Club; N/W v N/Wales tournament to be arranged; April 13 – Spring Tournament, Wilmslow GC; July 17 – Summer Meeting, Hazel Grove GC; Roses match to be arranged; September 4 – Autumn Tournament, Didsbury GC; Stewards match to be arranged.

The seminar at The Tytherington Club will deal with Health and Safety on Golf Courses and the main speaker will be Jon Allbutt. The cost for the day, including lunch, will be £20. Bring along your secretary and chairman of green because health and safety involves everybody in the golf business. If you wish to contact me please ring me on 051 724 5412.



BERT CROSS

EAST MIDLANDS

The section's last tournament of the year was our Christmas stableford, held at Birstall GC. (Sorry I was unable to attend but it clashed with my college dates.) Our category one winner was again Dave Leatherhead of Kedleston Park, with Adie Porter winning category two. Our thanks go to Roger Willars and his staff for providing us with a first-class course, and to everybody else from Birstall GC for making our day so enjoyable.

The sponsors for the day were Rigby Taylor – thanks for donating the prizes! could I remind members that they must send their entry slip and cheque to me before the closing date for all section events, if they wish to attend.

This month I would like to welcome the following new members to our section: Terry Porter of Chilwell Manor GC, Norman Whetstone of Western GC, Martin Jones and Richard O'Hara of Radcliffe on Trent GC and Steven Attenborough of Breadsall Priory GC.

Finally may I remind all members that if they wish to attend the section's snooker evening on March 1 to make sure they return their forms to me as soon as possible. If you still require an entry form you can phone me on 0533 890301.

ANTONY BINDLEY

SOUTH COAST

We had a good turnout for the Christmas

Turkey Trot, AGM and Christmas dinner at the Royal Winchester GC.

The turkey trot was won by Pat Bell with 38pts. Second was J Moody with 37pts, followed by S Justice, third, and T Patchin fourth, both with 34pts.

The Royal Winchester laid on a splendid meal but the evening was marred by an incident at the bar. The committee members present were unable to find the perpetrator but apologised to the club on behalf of the section. Hopefully the person responsible will realise the damage caused to our good name and send an apology to the club themselves.

We were sorry to hear that Bob Cully, our tournament organiser for 1994, has resigned his post at Lee on Solent GC. The committee is investigating the circumstances surrounding his resignation.

We are nearing the end of our winter lecture programme with one evening left: Wednesday March 1 at Alresford GC where Sparsholt College's Sandy Wilson will inform us about health and safety within our industry.

Also there is the seminar at Sparsholt College on Tuesday March 14. Everyone should have received notification of this. If you haven't returned your application yet, do not delay!

ALAN MITCHELL

A new BIGGA section?

A meeting will be held at the Delamere Forest Golf Club, Station Road, Delamere, Northwich, Cheshire on Wednesday, March 15 at 7.15pm to consider the possible formation of a new BIGGA section to cover the Cheshire, Wirral and Merseyside areas.

All interested persons are invited to attend and join in a discussion with BIGGA's Chairman and Executive Director. Jackets and ties are mandatory.

Getting there: Delamere Forest Golf Club is on a private road off the B5152 (watch out for Marley Tiles) just across the road from the British Rail Delamere Station.

The B5152 is about half way between Northwich and Chester off the A556 (Northwich by-pass). To get to the club turn north opposite the Vale Royal Abbey Arms pub, then right just before the station.



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Ultimate test for drainage scheme

Eleven holes at Aldwark Manor, the Yorkshire course surrounding BIGGA's rented offices, were flooded following a week of heavy snow and rain. This is the view of the 4th and 14th fairways from the 4th tee. The footbridge in the distance shows the normal width of the River Ouse. About £14,000 worth of drainage has been put in over the past three years. Once the level of the river goes down, the greenstaff will be able to see how efficiently it works.



■ **Rochford Garden Machinery of Wincanton, Somerset, is the newest addition to John Deere's dealer network. The business area covers Devon (east of Plymouth), Somerset and West Dorset. Tel: 01963 33713.**

■ **C&P Soilcare Ltd of Nedging, Ipswich, has asked us to point out that its Terralift machine – which places a probe 1m into the soil, blasts it with compressed air simultaneously injecting nutrients – has nothing to do with Terralift Fertilizers. C&P Soilcare can be contacted on 01449 741012.**



Effingham GC first assistant Euan Grant, winner of the Toro/PGA Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, receives another accolade at the Plumpton College part-time awards ceremony. He was named as top student on the phase 2/level 2 course.

FLYING DIVOTS



Brian O'Hara has been appointed to the new post of business development manager with Tip Top Turf. Based at

Newton Longville turf nursery, he will be responsible for developing stronger links with existing and potential customers as the company expands into supplying sand, soil, turf dressing and complementary products from Bailey's of Norfolk. Tel: 0908 270701.

■ **Buyers of Rite Feed organic fertiliser could win a trip to Florida. With every drum bought, the purchaser's name will be entered into a draw with the winner going to the GCSAA show in Orlando in February '96. Derek Ganning of The Belfry will make the draw on October 5.**

■ **Writtle College in Chelmsford has been granted university status. It is only the second college serving land-based industries in the country to be granted the status.**

■ **The Welsh College of Horticulture has been named Horticultural College of the Year for the UK by the National Farmers' Union and The Grower magazine.**

■ **Brian D Pierson (Contractors) Ltd has secured two new contracts: a new 27-hole project, Forest Pines Golf Course, near Scunthorpe, and the redevelopment of Chestfield GC in Kent following road improvements in the area.**

■ **Collier Turf Care (Dist) Ltd will be holding an open day in Norwich on February 23. Tel: 0603 870944.**

■ **Ransomes has sent £250,000 worth of turf machinery to the first all-grass golf course to be built in the Gulf state of Qatar, the recently completed Dana Golf Club near Doha.**

■ **A local builder has bought 110-acre 18-hole Libbaton Golf Club at Barnstaple, North Devon, for close to £1 million.**

FLYING DIVOTS

■ The head greenkeeper at Shirley Golf Club, Solihull, was found dead in his car on the course. 44-year-old Trevor Stone, who had been at the club for about 19 years, was discovered by a fellow worker at 8am. The car's engine was still running and police believe he had been in the car all night.



Scottish Grass Machinery Ltd has appointed John Pollitt (left) to the new post of general manager of the Perth

operation. His previous jobs include executive appointments with Arthur Bell & Sons, United Distillers and Motorola.

■ Independent irrigation consultant Philip York has been elected chairman of the British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association. He succeeds Paul de Rham, who completed his term in office last month. Philip says: "My objective will be to ensure not only that standards are maintained but that end-users, our customers, will receive even better help, advice and value for their money. This can be achieved by broadening the base of the Association. This means encouraging individuals interested in the technological advances, agronomic implications, the application and use of irrigation to join the BTLIA".

■ East Anglia-based brewing and pubs giant Greene King Plc is reputed to have paid £1.75 million for the 210-acre Langdon Hills' 25-bed Hotel and Golf Club at Basildon, Essex. Plans include refurbishing the site to provide a pay-and-play facility and adapt the existing clubhouse.

■ Essex-based Eastern Tractors has moved to better equipped premises in Chelmsford. Bought out by management last year, Eastern Tractors is now planning to expand and has become Hayter's agent in Essex and north London.



Plum placements for students

These three turf science students from Myerscough College have landed placements at major American courses.

The students, all on the three-year BTEC National Diploma course in Turf Science and Sportsground Management, have secured 12-month work placements that many experienced greenkeepers would die for.

Following last year's successful

placement at the Pinehurst Resort and Country Club in North Carolina, 21-year-old Carl Horrax's placement supervisor recommended him to staff at Augusta National. He's going there shortly to help prepare the course for the US Masters.

As a result of Carl's success at Pinehurst, two other students – Julian Jackson, 20, and John Stevenson, 21 – are following in

his footsteps and heading for Pinehurst Resort.

Not pictured but also heading west are Robin Jackson, 25, who is going to Fiddlesticks Country Club in Florida and Chris Knowles, 21, who is going to the Double Eagle Club in Ohio. Chris could not ask for better conditions in which to further his training, working alongside Master Greenkeeper Terry Buchan.

Apart from broken ankle, Robert's cup floweth over

One of the golden rules of golf is 'keep your eye on the ball'. But for 600 greenkeepers that rule has changed.

For them it has become a case of keeping an eye on the hole. Doing that has just paid off for Royal Dornoch course manager Robert Paterson.



He has just become the first winner in Britain of a set of Regal golf clubs presented by Golf Media, which sells advertising inside golf holes, with each golf club in the scheme getting 20% of the advertising revenue.

Golf Media claim 25% of all golf clubs in Britain have signed up for the scheme. Robert, 31, centre, is pictured being presented with the £500 set of clubs by Golf Media director James Horlick, left. Also pictured is Robert's colleague, John Duncan.

Robert hasn't been able to try out his new clubs yet. The day after the presentation he broke his ankle playing squash.



■ Recently retired course manager Gerwyn Price is being sent packing by BIGGA. As the winner of our draw for members who recommended two other people to join, he has been sent a £600 holiday voucher. When we told him of his success, far-flung places were furthest from his mind. The former Maesteg GC man hinted he'd be going places in this country. "I've never stayed in a four-star hotel," he said. "I might do that for a week with my wife."

● Viscount Whitelaw is pictured with Barry Heaney, making the draw at BTME.

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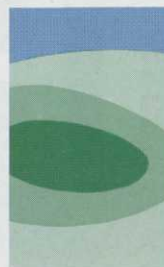
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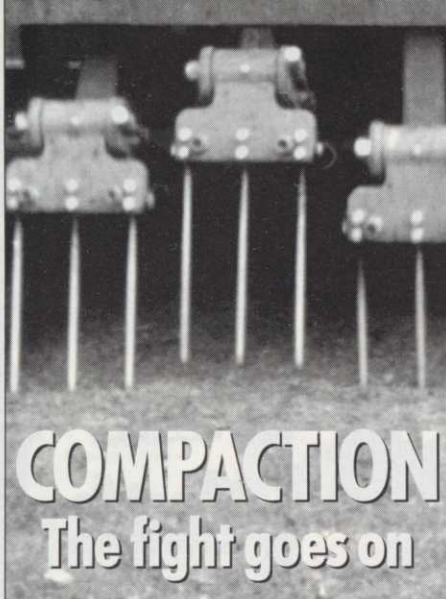
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The good news (for greenkeepers concerned about wear, tear and compaction) is that for the fourth consecutive year the proportion of new golfers (those who have been playing less than two years) is dropping. In other words, according to statistics released by Sports Marketing Surveys, fewer people are taking up the game. The bad news (for greenkeepers concerned about wear, tear and compaction) is that regular golfers are playing more. In other words, compaction as a problem is here to stay. Philip Shaw, head greenkeeper at Royal Norwich Golf Club, Norwich, gives his views on Golf Course Enemy No1.

Throughout the year, compaction occurs on golf playing surfaces. With the move by clubs to encourage play, there is of course a downside – compaction, a word often used but not always fully understood. Climatic conditions throughout the year play their part in causing compaction. Course type is another area together with varying soil type.

Generally, compaction occurs in all areas, and the outcome is not dissimilar in all cases.

To combat the ever increasing threat from compaction the greenkeeper must in his own mind be clear of the form this will take. Having assessed the best approach this must then be set against the availability of on-site plant. Often is the case that clubs engage the services of a contractor, or hire the plant for the job. At most clubs there is often some type of equipment to aerate, in some cases this may only be for the smaller areas such as greens etc.



COMPACTION The fight goes on

Having assessed machine capability on site, then the option of hire or purchase has to be considered. The experienced have normally carried out such an exercise time and again. In some cases their requirements are met, however there are those who still see compaction and aeration as separate issues. For some reason the message never seems to get across, maybe it never will. Compaction is responsible for so many problems that, in turn, go on to affect the playing surfaces. Whilst conditions play a part in the timing of aeration operations, it is normally better to proceed in less than perfect conditions than to avoid this vital cultivation.

Many do carry out regular aeration, but there are those who continually are made to

feel uneasy and uncertain as to the reasoning behind this cultivation.

Clubs should be guided by their on-site expert, the head greenkeeper, but sadly his word is often ignored. Aeration is without doubt a cultivation golf courses cannot get enough of, and it is this message that requires getting across to all concerned with golf clubs.

Areas suffering stress during summer and excess wear during winter would benefit from aeration. Golfers, however, only see disruption; disruption that over a period of time will show less as the grass plant develops a deeper, healthier root system.

The need for intense aeration should be a number one priority when assessing maintenance programmes.

Aeration on greens by various means should be intensified throughout the more dormant months of the year. A simple way of looking at requirements of the grass plant is to compare with say an agricultural crop; after harvest the field is ploughed, allowing air into the soil and relieving compaction, deep compaction where relief is necessary, carried out by sub-soil cultivation. Amenity turf is subject to compaction throughout the year, movement of air and water through the rootzone is vital.

Verti-draining carried out on all areas on a regular basis throughout dormant months, together with, where possible, complementary bayonet or slit tine cultivation would do much to lessen the problems associated with compaction.

The fight to combat compaction must go on, this is the message that must be made clear at all levels.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Four of our top young greenkeepers look at four new books to come to the UK from the USA. These books are now available from BIGGA headquarters.

HANDBOOK OF INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR TURF AND ORNAMENTALS

Edited by Anne Leslie

Published by Lewis Publishers

Normal price: £61.50

Price to BIGGA members: £46.00

This book sets out to address the problems faced by turf managers in the current "environmentally friendly" trends of today. It goes into great detail about the need for better cultural controls for turf pests and diseases found on golf courses.

Since the banning of effective and cheap(!) pesticides such as Chlordane, I for one have had a greater problem in controlling casting worms, for example.

Greenkeepers over recent years (since perhaps the advent of

colour TVs) have had ever increasing pressure to present their course to even higher standards for an ever longer "playing season". This has led head greenkeepers being pressurised into using quick fixes to sustain their turf and perhaps using chemicals to achieve this end. Now with environmentalists looking for ways to reduce the amount of chemicals used, there is a distinct need to use an "integrated pest management" technique to curb the use of synthetic fertilisers, chemicals and water, and to use Nature's own remedies.

This 660-page book, although based on the USA's environment and its pests and diseases, does however cover pests and diseases found on this side of the pond. It is therefore essential reading for all turf managers and students coming into this profession.

The information in this book is realistic enough to recognise that the use of chemicals cannot be ruled out entirely, but with careful planning and husbandry we can

greatly reduce their usage.

The book also covers the life cycle of many of the pests and diseases found in turf and trees and therefore gives a better insight into how we can control these problems.

Mark Webb, head greenkeeper at Alresford GC, Hampshire

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION HANDBOOK

Written by Donald Harker,

Sherri Evans, Mare Evans and Kay Harker

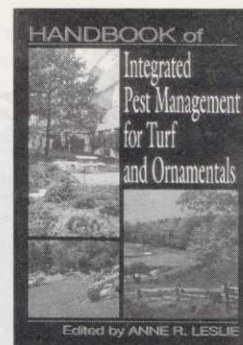
Published by Lewis Publishers

Normal price: £65

Price to BIGGA members: £48.50

This is an in-depth and informative reference book to meet the needs of not only those working on existing landscapes but also those who are embarking on a new project.

The book is well set out into specific chapters, including design methods, restoration/ maintenance of existing naturalised areas, the creation of new areas and an extremely detailed plant list,



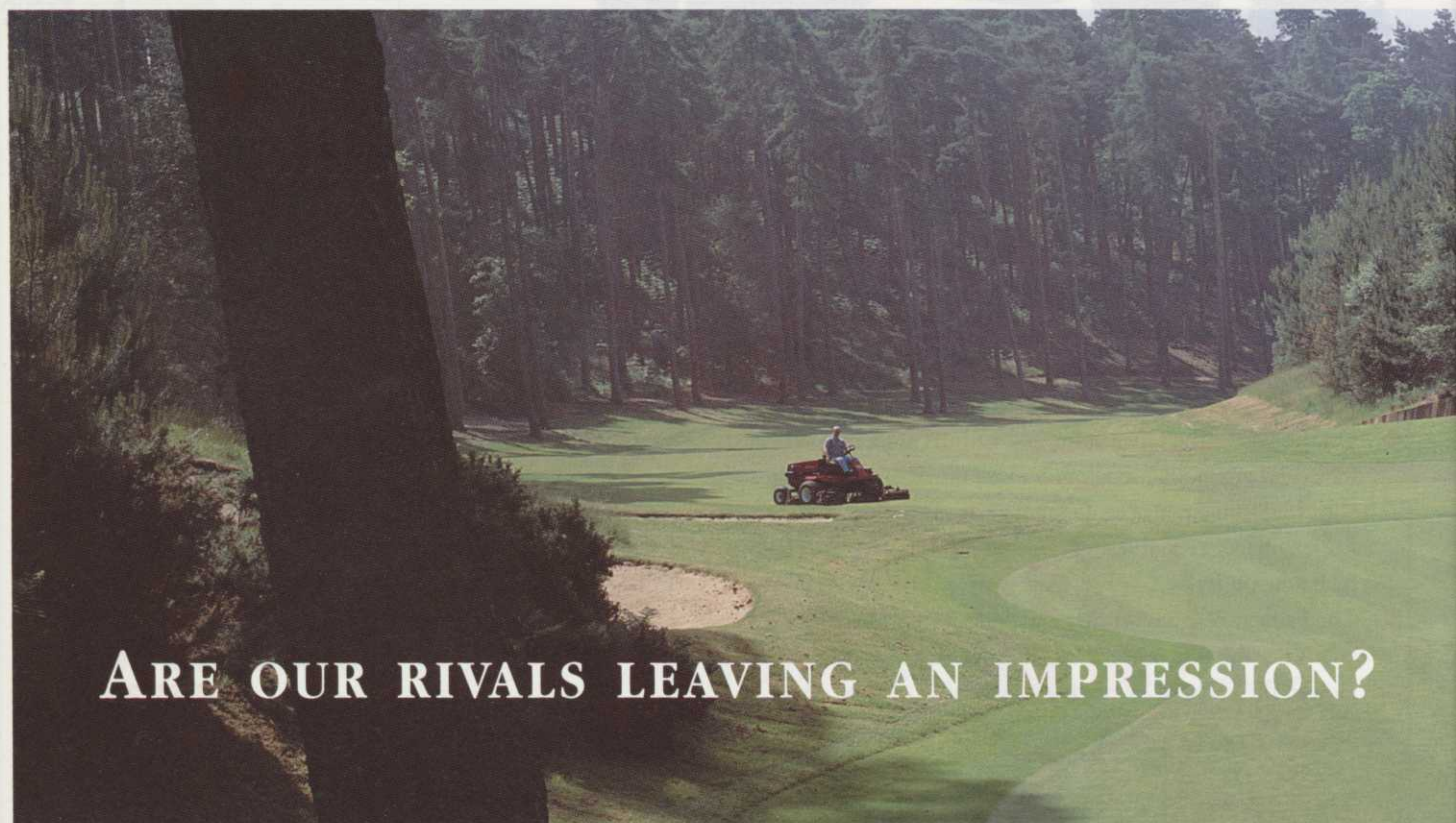
which is set out in table form somewhat similar to the STRI seed booklet.

The reader is able to select a chapter within the book that is applicable to their own specific situation or use the complete book with reference to a complete project.

The book also encourages the co-operation of adjoining land owners along with the relative authorities to work together in preparing an overall improvement plan for a given region, rather than just a small plot of land within that region.

Although this would take a great deal of time and effort from all concerned, the information within the handbook covers the formulation of a plan to the completed project.

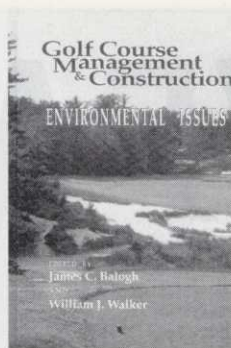
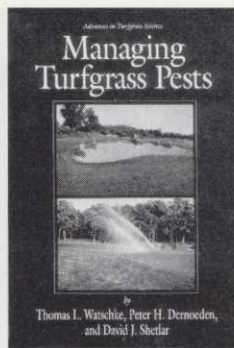
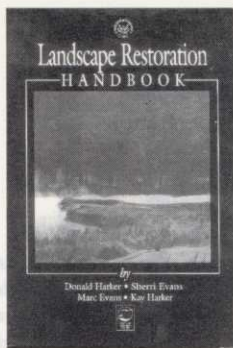
The book has been written for the USA but the principles within



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the book are relevant to the UK and with thorough reading all the natural regions of the UK can be found.

In conclusion, I think that the Landscape Restoration Handbook could be a valuable source of reference not only to greenkeepers and their committees but to anybody with an interest in enhancing the environment around them.

Paul Pearce, course manager at Stockport GC, Cheshire

MANAGING TURFGRASS PESTS

Written by Thomas LW Satschke, Peter H Dernoeden, David J Shetlar

Published by Lewis Publishers

Normal price: £57.50

Price to BIGGA members: £42.50

When I read the book, I thought that whilst the first section was very interesting it was of limited

value to a greenkeeper managing a course in this country. This was due mainly to the majority of grass and weed species not being common to the UK.

I found the section on Turfgrass Diseases (Section 2) to be of much more interest, especially the cultural practices and the environmental and biological control methods. This is important to me especially as I manage a site of Special Scientific Interest where my dependence upon pesticides and herbicides is strictly limited. As a result of all the recent concern about the environment and "what we are doing to it", it seems that more and more course managers/greenkeepers will need to revert back to cultural practices as opposed to opening a bottle.

When I got to Section 3 which deals with Insects and Mites, I began to realise just how lucky we

are in the UK as we only have to worry about a small proportion of pests that other countries are smitten with. However, this section does cover life cycles and habits that can assist us in our control efforts.

Overall I felt that the book was a very good reference but the price of £57.50 (£42.50 for BIGGA members) would, I feel, be better spent on literature that concentrates on situations more relevant to greenkeeping in the UK. This book is superb for anyone wishing to move to the USA or attain a greater understanding of what our counterparts across the ocean have to contend with.

Stefan Antolik, head greenkeeper at Cooden Beach Golf Club, East Sussex

GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

- ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Edited by James C Balogh and William J Walker

Published by Lewis Publishers

Normal price: £57.00

Price to BIGGA members: £42.50

This 950-page book has been edited by two American researchers, James C Balogh, a senior research soil scientist, and William J Walker, a senior inorganic geochemist, and includes the work of more than a dozen researchers.

Nearly half the pages comprise references and tables on topics such as aquatic and terrestrial toxicity with the information being largely irrelevant to the UK.

As a keen collector of books on turf management and greenkeeping, this is one which I would avoid. For some people in the industry it may be suitable as the ultimate reference work, but it will not find a place on the desk of a practical greenkeeper.

Richard Barker, course manager at Kirby Muxloe GC, Leicestershire



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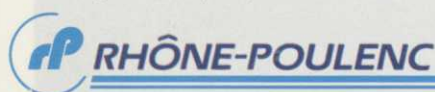
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FOR A TOP PERFORMANCE, USE THE TOP PERFORMER. ROVRAL GREEN.

Richard Fry, a consultant to a number of companies and organisations within the industry, looks at the benefits of using a spray pattern indicator.

With today's increased emphasis on environmental regulations, personal responsibility and budgetary constraints, the need to improve the quality and consistency of spray applications is more important than ever before.

Throughout the last five years, under the umbrella of COSHH, a succession of much needed legislative requirements affecting the purchase, transportation, storage, application and disposal of pesticides and associated chemical products have been implemented by golf club management committees. Their purpose has been to help make the golf course a much safer place for both players and employees, and the general public at large. Much has been



SEE YOUR WAY TO A BETTER SPRAY

achieved in controlling the misuse of pesticides and significant steps have been taken in the fostering of a more responsible attitude to the wider environmental

needs of the course itself.

In addition, major advances have been made in chemical application technology involving such bodies as the International

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machine are now the norm not the exception.

Yet, despite all the legislative controls designed to protect and preserve and the technology introductions that have advanced and improved sprayer safety and application technique greenkeepers, in the final analysis, still have to rely on sight and 'experience' when judging the accuracy and direction of the spray when applied to the target surface.

Estimating accurately the correct application of chemical solutions comprising of up to 95% water is very difficult as the spray becomes virtually invisible when applied to turf. This invisibility makes it impossible for the operator to follow the spray line accurately on the return pass. It is also impossible to recognise missed areas when spot-treating with a knapsack or hand lance.

Field research surveys have shown that, on average, spray operators using boom sprayers commonly overlap their spray applications 20% more than is



necessary to obtain the desired result. This is not only a wasteful use of chemicals and a potentially damaging practice on turf, it is

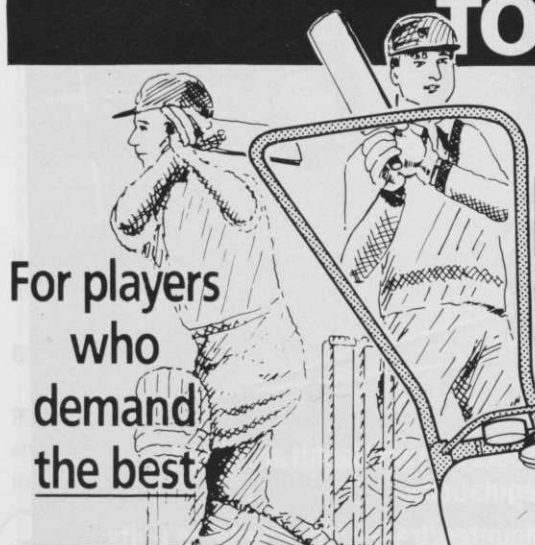
also an unnecessary contamination of the soil and the local environment. In the case of knapsack applications the overlap is consid-

Total weed control is more accurate

erably higher as it is common practice to see operators 'sweep' the same area a second or third time resulting in double dosing to factors of 200%-300%, and more! In the past, greenkeepers have relied on a range of dubious, impractical and labour intensive practices designed to minimise spray overlap and achieve a level of acceptable spray accuracy.

The drawing of lengths of chain across the grass, attached to the ends of the spray booms, was one method used to indicate the margins of the spray swath. Better than nothing it may have been but any observer watching the chains snaking across a fairway, constantly being knocked off line by every hump and hollow, soon realised that the chain markings did not reflect the true spray margin and if followed encouraged mis-application. The practice was also a potentially hazardous operation in terms of possible damage to machines and equipment and is not a practice anyone would recommend when spraying greens!

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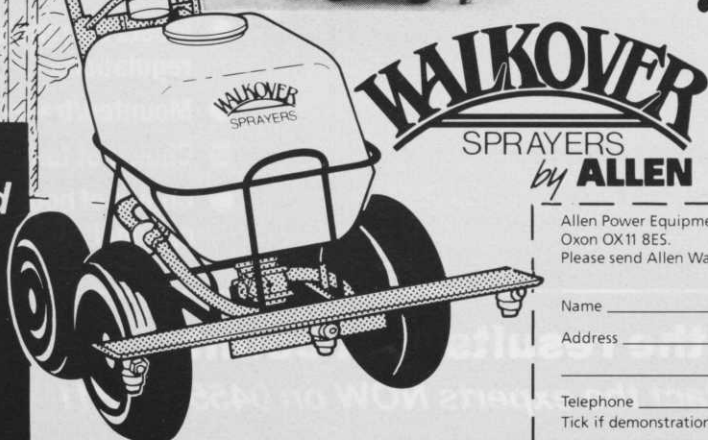
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Another highly inaccurate method of spray pattern marking, still widely used today, is for an assistant member of the green-keeping staff to follow the spraying machine around and position himself, in sight of the operator holding up a cane to mark the margin of the spray swath. Not only does this practice tie up a valuable labour resource that could be better utilised in more productive areas but also exposes the person to unnecessary risk of spray contamination. At the very least this person, to ensure his personal protection and comply with current Health and Safety legislation, must be fully kitted out with all the protective clothing as that required to be worn by the spray operator.

A further method of marking of the spray swath, widely used in agriculture, is the foam bout marker or 'blob' marker. A specialist piece of equipment is mounted on the spraying machine and when filled with a foam making mixture dribbles out, at intervals, 'blobs' of foam which mark the edges of the boom. Though clever in its conception, this method is more suited to the extensive fields of agriculture rather than recreational turf. Golfers do not take kindly to seeing their fairways festooned with dribbles of foam everywhere and the method is completely impractical for obvious reasons on greens. An additional constraint to using this machinery is cost. A typical price paid for a foam bout marker would be £650. Added to this price is the cost of the foam making chemical, set-up and clean down time of the equipment and its on-going maintenance. Even if a case could be made that the 'blob' method provided the operator, on wide open fairways at least, with some guidance on spray bout width, it does not identify any skips or misses due to uneven ground or reveal problems due to faulty spray nozzles.

It may have been argued in times past that the chain, cane or 'blob' method of spray identification was better than nothing. However, none of these alternatives have widespread appeal and each have their detractors who see them as flawed.

An alternative to the methods previously described is the use of a spray pattern indicator which

when added to the spray solution and applied to the turf can be easily seen by the spray operator. This method has the attraction of being simple, highly effective, provides no risk to either the operator or the environment, requires no capital investment and in the majority of instances will pay for itself in the savings made on reducing the amount of chemical applied.

Major formulation advances have been made in colourant technology since the early 1980s when greenkeepers, fed up with the impractical and uneconomical alternatives of spray swath marking, were obtaining industrial dye products as spray indicators. Unfortunately, all of these dyes were based on formulations used in the industrial textile process and were found to be totally unsuitable as they caused not only long-term staining of golf shoes, balls, adjacent walkways, fencing and stone work but also the equipment and the operators themselves. Similar formulations are still being sold today.

It was around this time that Milliken Chemical, a USA research based company, identified the problems associated with the industrial dye products and, through the technology at their disposal, formulated 'Blazon', a speciality, water soluble, organic polymeric colourant. 'Blazon', now one of several spray pattern indicators on the market, is not a dye, does not stain and is easily washed from hands and clothing if accidental contact is made with the concentrate. When added to

the spray solution a temporary dark green colour of the turf is produced, allowing operators to easily see where they have – or have not – sprayed. The colour disappears completely and naturally following rain, dew, irriga-

tion – or even sunlight alone.

Modern spray pattern indicators can simply be added to the spray solution directly as a liquid, with the advantage that the operator can select the dilution rate best suited to the conditions and

Greens, tees and fairways: cost savings obtained across a range of commonly used pesticides

Product	Rovral Green	Rimidin	Daconil Turf	Super Verdone	Clovotox	Supertox 30	Twister Flow	Castaway Plus	Crossfire	Super Mosstox
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Rates of use	2ltr	1ltr	3ltr	10ltr	11ltr	11ltr	16.5ltr	10ltr	3ltr	50ltr
Cost of product	£57.40	£78.00	£52.22	£59.60	£54.34	£53.75	£214.00	£194.64	£74.80	£562.00
Extra (A) cost of 20% overlap	£11.48	£15.60	£10.44	£11.92	£10.87	£10.75	£42.78	£38.93	£14.96	£112.40
Total spray solution	50ltr	50ltr	50ltr	200ltr	100ltr	100ltr	1000ltr	500ltr	200ltr	600ltr
Rate of Blazon	124ml	124ml	124ml	500ml	250ml	250ml	2.5ltr	1.25ltr	500ml	1.5ltr
Cost of (B) Blazon	£1.66	£1.66	£1.66	£6.62	£3.31	£3.31	£33.12	£16.60	£6.62	£19.87
Savings on (C) chemical costs A-B-C	£9.82	£13.94	£8.78	£5.30	£7.56	£7.44	£9.65	£22.33	£8.34	£92.53

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his personal colour preference or, as a liquid in pre-measured water soluble sachets. By monitoring the visual pattern made by the spray indicator on the turf the operator can ensure that problems of missed areas, repeat spraying, turf damage and double dosing due to overlap are eliminated. In addition the operator will be able to detect immediately any problems such as worn, faulty or clogged nozzles. By eliminating spray overlap alone the cost of the spray indicator is offset by the amount of chemical saved (see table on Page 47).

From an environmental point of view, the use of a spray pattern indicator is an invaluable aid in eliminating the wasteful use of pesticides and preventing excessive build-up of undesirable chemicals in the soil. For instance, a spray pattern indicator is an ideal aid to spot treating areas that would normally require an overall spray as the operator can selectively treat only those areas in need of treatment,



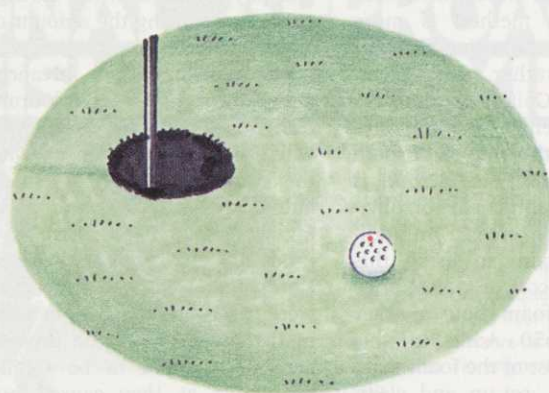
one of the best ways to reduce the amount of chemical applied.

In addition, these products can assist with cleaning out spray equipment after use because when the colour has disappeared

from the water pumped through after spraying, the operator can be confident that the equipment has been completely flushed through the system.

Spray pattern indicators are

also ideal training aids for greenkeepers taking their Spray Operators Training examination and should be regarded as standard practice for all spray applications on turf.



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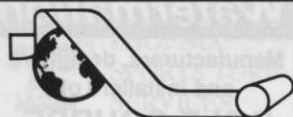
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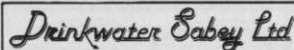


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practical experience as a
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Distinction grade in the
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Box No JS 12/94, BIGGA, Aldwark
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Scottish Head Greenkeeper
seeks Head Greenkeeper/
Course Manager position.

Fully qualified with
management and supervisory
certificates, also PA1 and PA2
in spraying. 24 years
experience of greenkeeping,
15 years on links courses.
All locations considered.

Box No JS 13/95, BIGGA, Aldwark
Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF

Job Shop

Head Greenkeeper with 25 years experience in management and construction seeks similar post in the UK.
CV and references supplied.

Box No JS 14/95, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF

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1994 (June) Kubota B2150 HST tractor
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**Jacobsen Hydraulic
5 gang unit. As new.
Never been used.**

£10,000 ono.

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RECRUITMENT

Brough Golf Club

requires a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

for an established undulating 18 hole parkland course.

Applicants must:

- ◆ be suitably qualified to Phase 2 Level and hold a Full Spraying Certificate
- ◆ have broad practical experience which must include a good working knowledge of irrigation systems and greenkeeping machinery
- ◆ be able to motivate and control staff
- ◆ be aware of the current Health & Safety Regulations applicable to golf courses

Remuneration is negotiable and will include free uniform and membership of BIGGA and four week annual holiday.

Closing date for applications 3 March 1995.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary/Manager, Brough Golf Club,
Brough, North Humberside HU15 1HB**



Handsworth Golf Club

**REQUIRE A FULLY QUALIFIED
AND EXPERIENCED**

First Assistant Greenkeeper

Accommodation is not provided

Applications and CV to

Hon Secretary

Handsworth Golf Club

11 Sunningdale Close

Handsworth Wood

Birmingham B20 1NP

GREENKEEPER

Salary: £13984 per annum (inclusive) Ref. no: CD/LM/010

C D

Are you enthusiastic, committed to providing a quality service to the public and eager to take on a new and challenging role?

If so, we need you as our Green-keeper at Hounslow Heath Golf Course, an 18 hole par 69 pay as you play course measuring 5,820 yards, which provides some of the most challenging and picturesque holes in the area.

Conveniently situated in West London, the Golf Course is within easy access of the M3, M4 and M25.

You must have a thorough knowledge of the maintenance of Golf Courses, be skilled in the use of all appropriate equipment and have the ability to organise and supervise staff effectively. With a recognised qualification in greenkeeping, you must have at least 1 years experience as First Assistant at an established golf course.

Interested? For an application form please telephone the Recruitment Line on (0181) 814 0358 quoting the appropriate reference number. If you require further information please contact:

Personnel Section,
Commercial Division, Heston Park House,
New Heston Road, Heston, Middlesex TW4 0LW
Tel: (0181) 572 3380

CLOSING DATE: 3rd March 1995

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Leisure Services

We operate a No-Smoking Policy

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Golf Club Hechingen Hohenzollern e.V.

HEAD GREENKEEPER in Germany

Applications are invited for the position of Head Greenkeeper for an 18 hole golf course, situated in the southern part of Germany between Stuttgart and the lake of Konstanz.

The applicant will be responsible for all aspects of course preparation.

Candidates currently in second position at their club are also invited to apply.

The successful applicant will need to start work as soon as possible.

Applications with CV and references to:

**Golf Club Hechingen Hohenzollern, Postfach 1124,
72379 Hechingen, Germany**



Clandon Regis
GOLF CLUB

invites applications for the position of

ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must possess appropriate qualifications as well as a practical knowledge in all aspects of course maintenance, and the ability to motivate staff.

Excellent prospects exist within the club for the successful candidate.

Please address written applications including a full CV to:

**Mik Wells, Project Manager,
Clandon Regis Golf Club, West Clandon,
Surrey GU4 7TT**

Tel: 01483 222404

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

is looking to appoint a

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR (part-time)

The successful candidate will cover the South East Region with responsibilities for the Surrey, Kent, Sussex, London and East Anglia Sections where there are currently 1,240 members.

Applicants should possess sound administrative and financial skills whilst computer literacy will be an advantage. In addition to serving the needs of the Regional Board, a positive contribution to promoting the Association and the welfare of greenkeepers will be required. The post holder will be expected to display initiative and enthusiasm particularly in a drive to introduce new members. Regular contact with golf clubs and greenkeeping staff will be an essential element of the post. Ideally applicants should be able to display an affinity with the greenkeeping profession and the game of golf.

It is envisaged that the average working week will be 27.5 hours and the post will be home based. A job description and further details are available from:

**The Executive Director, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York,
North Yorkshire YO6 2NF. Telephone 01347 838581 Fax 01347 838864.**



Sheringham Golf Club, Norfolk

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Sheringham is an 18 hole cliff top course fully equipped with modern greenkeeping machinery. The Club is over 100 years old and is hosting several major competitions in 1995. The course is generally accepted to be one of the premier ones in East Anglia.

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of course management and maintenance of machinery.

Persons with 12 years previous experience or more should send their hand written applications together with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Sheringham Golf Club,
Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8HG**

by 28 February 1995



Pedham Place Golf Centre

Pedham Place, Farningham Hill, Dartford, Kent

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

required to assist in finalization of Phase 1 of this new golf development due to open in 1996.

Located at M25 junction 3 the A20/M20/M25 interchange.

**Apply in writing with CV in first instance to John Fortune,
Micklepage Leigh Studio, Nuthurst, West Sussex RH13 6RG**



Harpenden Golf Club

who are committed to an ambitious five year plan to develop further this already prestigious course, require an

ASSISTANT COURSE MANAGER

To work directly with the Course Manager on the full range of both maintenance and development. This is a permanent, fulltime post for an ambitious, forward-thinking professional.

Applicants must be suitably qualified and have a proven record in course and machinery maintenance.

Application forms can be obtained from:

**The General Manager, Harpenden Golf Club Ltd, Hammonds End,
Redbourn Lane, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2AX**

Weybrook Park Golf Club Limited

Requires a

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Having just completed the second phase of our development, the successful applicant will be required to assist with the grow-in period and help maintain the existing 18-hole course.

Being qualified and experienced in all aspects of turf maintenance and play a good standard of golf, you will be rewarded with a salaried position in this friendly, expanding Members Club with the opportunity for career advancement.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Weybrook Park Golf Club, Aldermaston Road,
Sherbourne St John, Basingstoke RG24 9ND**



Redhill & Reigate Golf Club

seek to appoint a

COURSE MANAGER

The Club is over 100 years old and is situated on Earlswood Common.

We wish to appoint a Course Manager to take "hands on" control of the course management function.

Applicants must possess recognised City & Guilds or similar acceptable qualifications plus an established career development in modern techniques of greenkeeping including budgeting, long term planning, machinery maintenance and computerised irrigation. An ability to motivate staff and a knowledge of health and safety regulations is essential.

Salary will be subject to negotiation. Accommodation is not available. A job specification will be sent to shortlisted applicants.

Apply in confidence with CV to:
Colin Brown, Manager, Redhill & Reigate
Golf Club, "Clarence Lodge",
Pendleton Road, Redhill RH1 6LB



Sudbury Golf Club Ltd

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

To join a young, enthusiastic, highly motivated team committed to the highest standards of maintenance of this well known Middlesex Parkland course.

Qualifications: City & Guilds phase 1 and 2, three years experience with a sound knowledge of machinery and safe operating practices, together with a strong will to succeed is essential.

PA1 and PA2A spraying certificates, and the ability to play golf will be an advantage.

Apply in writing with full CV and present salary to:

Jeff Robinson, Course Manager,
Sudbury Golf Club, Bridgewater Road,
Wembley, Middlesex HA10 1AL



Stornoway Golf Club

18 hole Parkland Course requires

QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

Salary negotiable.

Apply in writing with CV to:
The Secretary, Stornoway Golf Club,
Castle Grounds, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis PA87 0XP

Dukes Meadows Golf Club

Chiswick, West London

Beautifully landscaped, newly constructed 9 hole par 3 golf course, designed by David Williams Partnership to USGA standards, require a

FULLY QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

to start as soon as possible.

Good salary negotiable. No accommodation available.

Please apply in writing, in confidence, to:

David Gerson, Managing Director, Dukes Meadows Golf Club,
Great Chertsey Road, London W4 2SH



Chalfont Park Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will be required to motivate and supervise staff and take responsibility for the day to day maintenance of the golf course under the guidance of the Directors.

This is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious and confident greenkeeper to care for this attractive nine holes with a further nine holes currently under construction. (No accommodation available).

Please apply in writing enclosing your CV to:

Mr G Harvey, Director of Golf, Chalfont Park Golf Club,
Threehouseholds, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4LW

Matfen Hall Golf Club

now has a vacancy for a

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

to be responsible to the Head Greenkeeper and Director of Golf.

Applicants should be experienced in all aspects including machinery maintenance, enthusiastic and have the capability to motivate staff.

Please apply with CV and references to:

Matfen Hall Golf Club, Matfen, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE20 0RT

Newport Golf Club

(re-advertisement)

require a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be qualified and have sound practical experience of parkland golf course(s) and the ability to motivate staff.

Excellent prospects with modern machinery for enthusiastic applicants seeking career progression.

(Previous applicants need not apply)

Apply with CV to:

The Secretary, Newport Golf Club,
Great Oak, Rogerstone, Newport,
Gwent NP1 9FX



Shirley Golf Club

Stratford Road, Monkspath, Solihull B90 4EW

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Shirley Golf Club is a private Members Club with 600 members, situated on the Birmingham to Stratford road, close to junction 4 of the M42. A mature parkland course measuring 6,500 yards set in green surroundings. The Club has plans for continuous improvement including making greater use of the available water courses. Greens equipment is extensive and in an excellent state of repair.

Applicants must be qualified in all aspects of course management and possess the necessary supervisory skills. The salary will be commensurate with the job and the qualification and experience of the candidate.

Accommodation can be provided if required.

Please call Mr Phillips, the Club Manager, on 0121 744 6001 for an application form.

OLD FOLD MANOR GOLF CLUB

QUALIFIED FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER REQUIRED

To join a progressive and committed team working to continue the development of our first class course on the Herts/London border.

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping with a good knowledge of machinery and irrigation.

No accommodation.

Apply in writing with CV to:

Ian Semple, Course Manager, Old Fold Manor Golf Club,
Hadley Green, Barnet, Herts EN5 4QN

The
Oxfordshire
Golf Club

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

A unique opportunity to join a committed team maintaining a top quality 18 hole championship course.

Applicants should have ♦ recognised golf greenkeeping qualifications

♦ more than three years experience ♦ ideally PA1 and PA2A

♦ ideally some irrigation experience.

VACANCIES ALSO EXIST FOR CASUAL GREENSTAFF DURING THE SUMMER

Apply in writing with a brief CV to:

Martin Jones, Course Manager, The Oxfordshire Golf Club,
Rycote Lane, Milton Common, Thame, Oxon OX9 2PU

The Park Golf Course
Avington

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

Qualified and self-motivated greenkeeper, required now, for new 9 hole Parkland golf course opening mid-1995.

Applications, CV and references in writing to:

M & V Stent
The Park Golf Course,
Avington, Winchester, Hants SO21 1DA

Leamington & County Golf Club Ltd.

require a

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

to join a progressive and committed team working to continue the development of our first class course. Applicants must be experienced in modern greenkeeping methods and possess as a minimum NVQ Level II in Greenkeeping, PA1, PA2A and PA6A spraying certificates.

No accommodation available.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

The Secretary, Leamington & County Golf Club Limited,
Golf Lane, Leamington Spa CV31 2QA

Roehampton Club

invites applications for the position of

ASSISTANT COURSE MANAGER/HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Roehampton Club is a members-owned club situated five miles from the centre of London. Facilities include an 18 hole parkland golf course, 30 tennis courts, three croquet lawns, a bowling green, extensive gardens, two swimming pools and six squash courts.

The successful applicant will be qualified to City & Guilds Phase III and have previous experience in the supervision and motivation of staff. A sound understanding of modern greenkeeping techniques, the use of turf machinery and an automatic irrigation system will be required.

Salary will be in excess of BIGGA recommended rates and a three bedroom semi-detached house sited within the Club grounds will be provided plus other attractive benefits.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

**Ian Smith, Golf Course and Grounds Manager,
Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5LR.**

Closing date for applications: 24 February 1995

ST. MELLION INTERNATIONAL

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

This position has been created by the impending retirement of our long serving Head Greenkeeper.

The successful applicant will work initially alongside the present incumbent.

St Mellion, a thirty-six hole venue with extensive practice facilities, have hosted, on both courses, many international professional golf tournaments.

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of course management, machinery maintenance and budgetary control.

Please register your interest in writing, together with a full CV, by Tuesday 28 February 1995.

**Mr P Flavin,
Director of Golf & Leisure,
St Mellion Golf & Country Club,
Saltash, Cornwall PL12 6SD**



Prenton Golf Club

requires a

COURSE MANAGER

Applicants should be suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of golf course management and possess the necessary supervisory skills to lead and motivate staff.

This is an excellent opportunity for the successful applicant to offer a significant contribution in the future development and presentation of the course.

Salary negotiable but will not include accommodation.

Application forms together with a comprehensive job description are available from:

**Secretary/Manager, Prenton Golf Club, Golf Links Road,
Prenton, Birkenhead, Wirral L42 8LW**

Closing date for applications 17th March 1995



Chester Golf Club HEAD GREENKEEPER

This busy parkland course, founded in 1901, requires applicants who are suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of course management.

The ability to motivate and lead an established team and organise work programmes, commitment to first class horticultural maintenance and customer care is regarded as essential.

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

Salary is negotiable. Apply in writing with full CV to:

VFC Wood, Secretary, Chester Golf Club, Curzon Park, Chester CH4 8AR

Evesham Golf Club

9 hole Parklands Course require a

WORKING HEAD GREENKEEPER

Suit young enthusiastic, well qualified greenkeeper, looking for that first step on the managerial ladder. Must be conversant in all aspects of greenkeeping.

No accommodation available, salary negotiable.

Apply in confidence with full CV to:

**The Greens Chairman, Evesham Golf Club, Craycombe
Links, Fladbury Cross, Pershore, Worcs WR10 2QS**

Horsley Lodge Golf Club

invites applications for a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Now four years old, this parkland course (par 72) with 550 members is looking for a qualified and experienced individual with the enthusiasm and capability to realise its great potential.

You must be self motivated yet possess the ability to organise and lead an established team, working as a key member of a proprietary run club and not a greens committee.

Knowledge of modern machines, current regulations and players' requirements will be required.

Accommodation could be made available. Salary negotiable.

Apply in writing with full CV and current salary to:

**Malcolm Salt, Horsley Lodge Golf Club,
Smalley Mill Road, Horsley, Derby DE21 5BL
Telephone 01332 780838 Fax: 01332 781118**



Golf Centres Group Ltd

invites applications for the position of

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

GREENKEEPER/ MECHANIC

2x ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

for two new developments in Hampshire and one new development in Buckinghamshire.

Experience in growing in courses could be an advantage.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

Simon Lacey, Golf Centres Group Ltd,
Manor House Farm, Betsham, Kent DA13 9LZ



CALCOT PARK GOLF CLUB

requires an

EXPERIENCED DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

for an 18 hole golf course set in undulating parkland.

Applicants must be suitably qualified and possess the necessary management and supervisory skills with appropriate greenkeeping qualifications, especially PA1 and PA2. Detailed knowledge of the use and operation of modern machinery is essential.

The Candidate must have the ability to lead and motivate staff, program work schedules and possess a sound knowledge of Health and Safety requirements.

Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications and single accommodation is provided.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, Calcot Park Golf Club,
Bath Road, Calcot, Reading, Berks RG3 5RN
and marked Private and Confidential.



Cawder Golf Club

invite applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

For our 36 hole complex situated in an attractive country setting at Bishopbriggs on the outskirts of Glasgow.

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of course management and maintenance techniques and should have the appropriate qualifications.

The ability to manage, control and motivate staff is essential, as is the ability to prepare and control budgets.

Applications in writing with full CV
(including two referees) to:

GT Stoddart, Secretary, Cawder Golf Club,
Cadder Road, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64 3QD



County Sligo Golf Club

We require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

to join our team of hard-working, conscientious staff.

Applicants must have formal qualifications and a proven track record on Links terrain.

The successful applicant will be required to motivate and supervise staff, and take responsibility for programming and overseeing the day to day maintenance of the Golf Course.

This is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious and confident Greenkeeper with an interest and enthusiasm to assist in the ongoing development and improvement of this Championship Links course.

Salary and conditions negotiable.

Please apply in writing, enclosing an up to date curriculum vitae to:

Mr Enda Lonergan, Administrative Manager,
Co. Sligo Golf Club, Rosses Point, Co. Sligo, Ireland

South Yorkshire Area

Newly established 9 hole course with 30 bay driving range, planning permission being sought for further 9 holes.

Require:

WORKING HEAD GREENKEEPER

Must be suitably qualified and possess the necessary supervisory skills to organise and manage a small dedicated team.

Appropriate greenkeeping qualifications and thorough knowledge of the use and maintenance of modern machinery essential.

A greenkeeper's house will be available.

Please apply in writing with full CV to Box R5,
Greenkeeper International,
Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF

Full confidentiality guaranteed.

Bentley Golf & Country Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

This privately owned club requires an experienced person to maintain and continue improving an already interesting and challenging parkland course.

Applicants must possess appropriate qualifications as well as having a proven track record in course management, machinery maintenance and irrigation systems. The ability to motivate and direct staff is essential.

Salary is negotiable. No accommodation available.

Apply in writing with CV to:
The Secretary, Bentley Golf & Country Club Ltd,
Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9SS



Scarthingwell Golf Course

require:

HEAD GREENKEEPER

An experienced and capable Head Greenkeeper is needed to maintain and help develop the new course at Scarthingwell.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate a responsible and innovative approach to work and be capable of adapting to new ideas and concepts as this club progresses.

Salary negotiable.

Applications should be made with a full CV and references to:

Ian Webster, The President, Scarthingwell Golf Course,
Scarthingwell, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire
no later than 1st March 1995

For an informal chat or to view the existing facilities, please telephone 01937 557248

Richings Park Golf Club

Invites applications for the position of:

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

and

TWO EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPERS

Please apply in writing with CVs to:

Head Greenkeeper,
Richings Park GC, 56 Leas Drive, Iwer, Bucks SLO 9RD



Scotts Europe B.V. is the independent Dutch subsidiary of The Scotts Company, Ohio, USA.

Scotts Europe produces and markets high quality fertilizers for professional use in horticulture, public green, sports fields and golf courses and for the consumer market. Export takes place to a great number of countries in Europe, Africa and Middle East. The marketing and sales office is established in De Meern, The Netherlands. Recently the product range of fertilizers has been extended with slow release fertilizers, produced by Scotts USA, which are used mainly in the public green, sports fields and golf courses.

For technical support of our sales people in Europe, Middle East and Africa, the following position in the

Technical Department is vacant:

Technical Manager Slow Release Fertilizers

In this position you are responsible for:

- collecting and completing technical data for product use;
- realisation and evaluation of trials for sales supporting arguments;
- connections with trial stations and public relation people in your field;
- technical training of Scotts employees;
- technical training of our international distributors.

As SRF specialist in the Technical Department you work in a team with three other specialists in the field of Water Soluble Fertilizers, Controlled Release Fertilizers and Crop Protection Products. You are reporting to the co-ordinator of the Technical Department.

For this independent position in a fast growing organisation we are looking for an energetic person who meets the following profile:

- Horticultural college or university education, preferably in the field of soil science with fertilizer knowledge;
- affinity with horticultural practice in general and public green and/or sports fields and golf courses in particular;
- some years experience as fertilizer consultant in the field of amenity and maintenance of sports fields and golf courses;
- good knowledge of English, German, French and preferably Dutch;
- willingness to travel.

The candidate will work from the De Meern - The Netherlands office and must be willing to relocate in that area.

We offer a good salary and fringe benefits including a company car.

Please send your application for attention of
mr. A. van Peer, Co-ordinator Technical Department.

Scotts Europe B.V., Rijnzathe 6, 3454 PV De Meern,
The Netherlands. Tel. +31 (3406) 63114.

End of term report: why I did what I did

COURSE REPORT 1994-1995

Since my last report in April 1994, there have been quite a few changes designed for the good of Ely City Golf Club. The following report will explain why certain tasks have been carried out:

1. Topdressing greens
2. Scarification of the greens
3. Cutting greens on a more regular basis
4. Putting a fertiliser programme into practice
5. Introducing white lining
6. Using water only when necessary
7. Hollow-coring greens

1. Topdressing greens

This is done for a number of reasons. From a golfer's point of view it is obvious that when topdressing is applied there are certain changes to the green. This is generally not popular with golfers as it makes the green appear dirty and in wet conditions balls pick up particles of dirt, but in the greenkeeper's calendar it is very important for a number of reasons:

- a. It improves the rootzone
 - b. It encourages the right grasses, ie bents and fescues
 - c. It helps to reduce the surface pH (percentage of Hydrogen)
 - d. It helps to create a true putting surface.
- Our greens are very high in pH being on

Communicating with members and committees is a big problem for some head greenkeepers. But not for Kevin Garfitt, head greenkeeper at the Henry Cotton-designed Ely City Golf Club near Cambridge. Here is a copy of his latest report. We hope it gives you some ideas. It took him a month to compile!

average 7.4-7.9% whereas an ideal figure should be in the region of 5.55-5.8%. Applying a good quality topdressing of sand, loam and peat mix over a number of years will help to reduce the pH levels and thereby encourage a healthy sward.

2. Scarification

This operation is very important for a number of reasons:

- a. To assist the removal of dead and diseased material to a depth of 3/16 of an inch.
- b. To assist with reducing alien grass species, ie annual meadow grass, (*Poa annua*), Yorkshire fog, and, in the 9th green particularly, ryegrass.
- c. It helps create a fast and true putting surface.

This operation should be carried out on a weekly basis when the greens have sufficient moisture, throughout the growing season, (April-September) and I feel that this task has not been incorporated in the work programme as it should have been over the past years.

3. Cutting greens

It may well appear to the average golfer that all greenkeepers do is "cut grass and get in the way". It may not always occur to them to consider why certain operations are taking place. The reasons why we cut greens seven days a week from May until the middle of October (at first light on Saturdays and Sundays) are as follows:

- a. Vast amounts of grass are not removed with each cut so no matter when a member plays during the week, the greens are kept at the same pace on average.
- b. It helps to encourage the spread of the finer grass species (bents and fescues) and discourages the coarser varieties.
- c. It helps to reduce fungal attack thereby reducing the need for chemicals (fungicides).

Again, I feel the greens were not cut as often as was warranted, in the past.

4. Fertiliser programme

Fertiliser is applied for a number of reasons. From a golfer's point of view it thickens the sward and puts colour into the greens. The greenkeeper applies fertiliser to improve the general quality of the turf. Knowing what balance of fertiliser to apply and at what time of the year can only come with experience. In this respect I consider the programme adopted last season was correct. A good coverage was obtained during the whole of the main playing season and this has been maintained throughout the winter with very little evidence of the common fungal diseases (fusarium and red thread) which are often prevalent at this time of the year.

5. White lining

I introduced white lining when I arrived. It was received with mixed feelings by the members but most could see the benefits from keeping trolleys and buggies away from the greens and thus reducing wear in these important areas.

6. Water

Watering grass areas such as greens should only be carried out when necessary and then only in sufficient quantities to maintain adequate and even growth. Excess watering will encourage disease such as fusarium patch and will encourage the growth of the more shallow rooting species such as annual meadow grass, Yorkshire fog etc. It is often thought that water is used mainly to soften greens and to improve the holding characteristic of the green but in fact it is used to keep the grass alive during drought conditions. Water is for the greenkeeper's use, not the golfer's.

7. Hollow coring (tining) greens

In the past, the greens have been Verti-drained and topdressed with a sand-based

mixture and this has caused a number of problems with surface compaction and in a number of greens severe "dry patch" problems. I have addressed this problem by hollow-tining the greens and leaving the holes open during the winter. This is to try to break the crust layer and to help alleviate the dry patch problem. I shall topdress the greens in the spring and repeat the hollow-tining programme next autumn. Leaving the holes open has helped to keep the greens free from standing water during this winter.

8. Additional work - winter programme

Drainage - The course drainage is in very poor condition due to roots blocking pipes and lack of annual maintenance of ditches. This was brought to the attention of the Green Committee, the members of which, I think, were not aware of the scale of the problem. A plan was formulated under the guidance of course architect Howard Swan of Golf Landscapes Ltd., the first phase of which was to clean out all the internal ditches to help the water off the land. This seems to be working very well as water is now moving freely whereas before it was completely stagnant.

9. New tees

New tees have now been constructed on the 3rd, 4th and 13th. We have made them as level as possible and to give them individual character by putting in steps on the 4th and shaping round the water on the 3rd and 13th. We tried to get all the tee tops turfed before Christmas and we have laid over 2,000 square yards of turf since the end of October to the New Year. All these areas are establishing themselves well and should be back in play around Easter.

10. Conclusion

This winter, there has been a lot of disruption due to the heavy workload we have been under and quite a lot of pressure from members regarding the banning of trolleys and buggies and the mess caused by the contractors. The damage is now mainly confined to the areas across the 14th and 16th fairways. The larger areas of damage will be either turfed or seeded as soon as we consider weather conditions to be suitable. The remainder of the course is standing up well to the winter. Once growth commences, the greens will get away to a very good start provided the present grass cover can be maintained and by protecting the important areas, ie. the tees, greens, surrounds and approaches, it will ensure the course will commence the new season in very good condition.

Finally, on behalf of the greenstaff, may I wish the Captains, Committee and all the Members a very Happy and Prosperous New Year and a good golfing season.

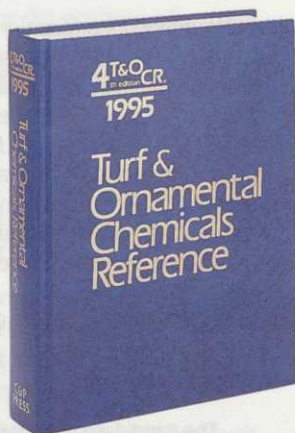
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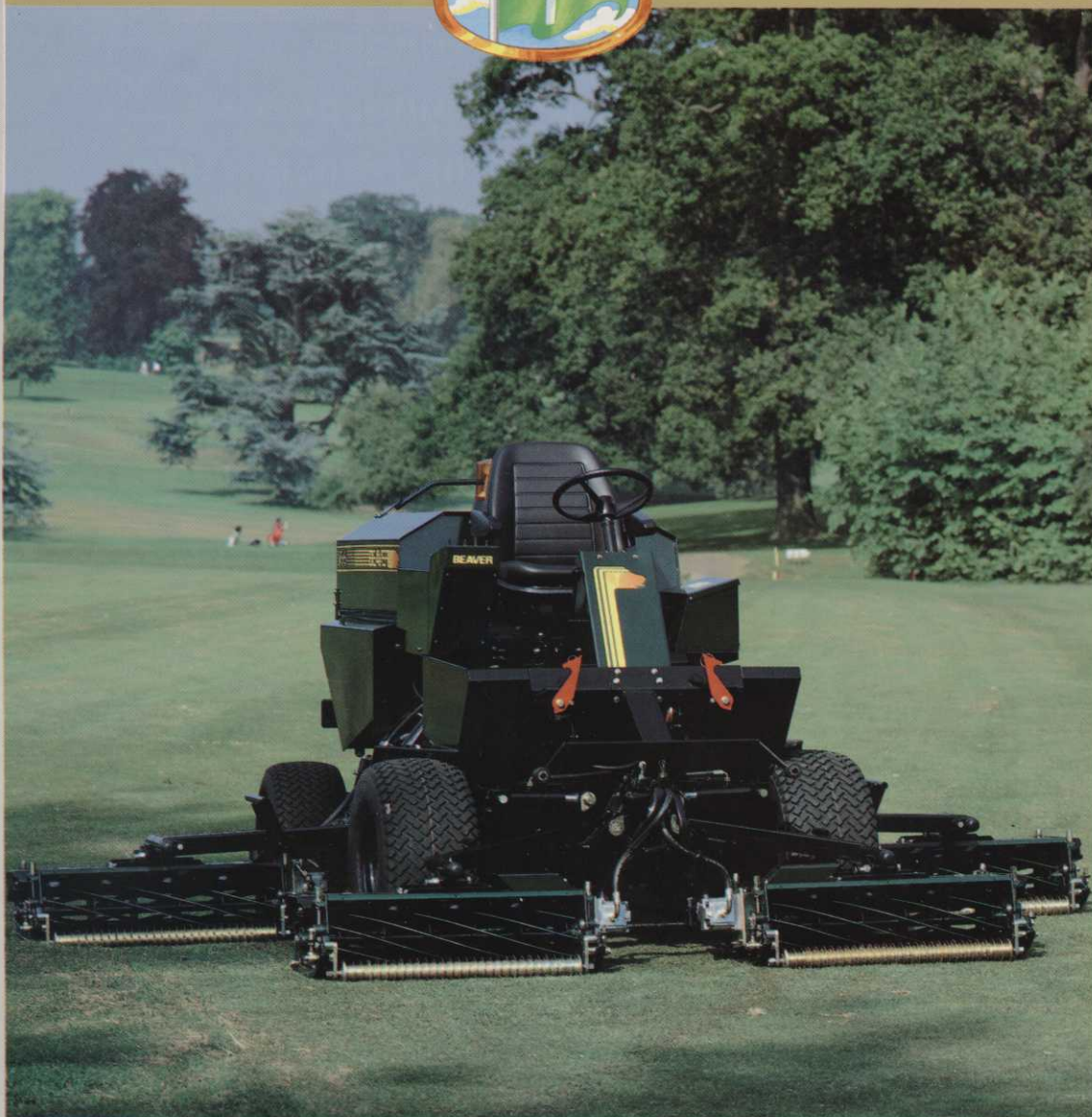


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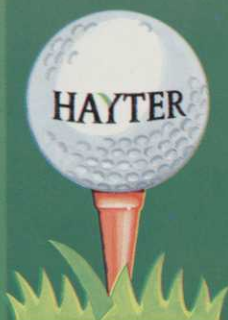
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