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*International*



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# GREENKEEPER

*International*

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# GREENKEEPER

*International*

**JULY 1995**

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The 9th at St Annes Old Links.  
Picture by Mark Newcombe

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### FREE READER REPLY SERVICE

Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 50 for further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the companies' Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us and we'll arrange for further information to be sent to you direct.



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BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

**BTME** 96

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

### Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 01347 838581.

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“ Being a market leader demands that you use a market leader ”

– CHRIS APLIN, Managing Director, Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd

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Bill Lynch, Carol Dutton or Louise Lunn at BIGGA HQ on 01347 838581.

Want to exhibit at next year's BTME? It's filling up fast: call Louise Lunn on 01347 838581 for an information pack

# Travelling together or miles apart?

In the March issue of *Greenkeeper International* I wrote that it was time for greenkeeping to take the global view and I asked our international members to get in touch and make suggestions as to how communications can be improved.

As the summer (perhaps a misnomer!) of 1995 passes I have still to receive one single suggestion in this regard. So at present we remain primarily dependent on contact at conferences/exhibitions together with the occasional foray into Europe by our magazine Editor for a "one-off" article. If we take in the BTME, the GCSAA Conference and Show, the Irish Greenkeepers Association exhibition which will again be held in Dublin this coming November and the Swedish Greenkeepers Association conference and exhibition at which we will be represented in September, one is left to ask is this really enough in terms of ascertaining the views and needs of our international members? In my view it is quite clearly not enough. Taking a positive view, our attendance at the last IGA exhibition certainly led to closer relationships and improved contacts. I have great hopes that this will also prove to be the case in Sweden in September where we hope to hold a meeting to involve not only our colleagues in Sweden, with whom we enjoy a close working relationship, but also greenkeepers from Denmark, Finland and Norway. Following the meeting I would hope that we are more enlightened on developments in Scandinavia.

As I have previously indicated, the Board of Management has set aside monies in the current year's budget for international development. There is no wish to impinge on the aspirations and workings of fellow greenkeeping associations and we can therefore only go where we are invited. However, our growth and development does enable us to offer assistance where there is a need and wish for BIGGA to be involved. We have the leading publication in the turf industry in the United Kingdom and with our international circulation this can be used to focus on international issues and particularly within Europe. Our new Edi-



## BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

tor is ready and willing to carry international news items and stories – it merely needs a telephone call. In the key area of greenkeeper education our track record over the last eight years would indicate that there is a considerable breadth of knowledge which can be made available. Again our Education Officer is only too willing to help. This does not mean that something is available as long as an international member is prepared to come and get it. Far from it. Tell us what is required and, as far as it is within our means, we will seek to bring it to you. In this day and age the problems, eg language, are not insurmountable.

We need to know the conditions under which our members labour in Europe. Without such knowledge it is difficult to advise those who wish to gain new experiences abroad. We need to see at first hand the progress of golf course development and the greenkeeping profession in Europe. To do this we need to interact with our international members. A study tour would perhaps be a way forward – let us know if you, as an international member, would like to be involved.

For the last three years BIGGA has held a European Forum during the BTME in Harrogate. These forums have proved to be worthwhile gatherings but it is essential that they result in broadening the base of BIGGA's international contacts. To date this has happened only spasmodically and there is a need to move forward. There has been a suggestion for an international column/page monthly in *Greenkeeper International*. Would this be welcomed and from where cometh the material? Now there must surely be enough international news items to meet the needs of a monthly column. As such it is down to you, our international members, to filter them

through to our Editor for inclusion in the magazine.

As this issue of our magazine reaches you, we will be on the verge of The Open Championship at St Andrews. Now if ever there is an international gathering then surely this is it. Equally The Open will as usual attract a cosmopolitan gathering of greenkeepers within our new setting this year, the Madras Rugby Club, situated near the 17th green and for the exclusive use of BIGGA. So don't go looking for the BIGGA marquee! Here then is an immediate opportunity for greenkeepers from foreign lands to make their views known on international matters to BIGGA officials and staff. I will look forward to speaking with many of you. Don't let the opportunity slip. I know full well the concern of international members that they should receive the same value for membership as that enjoyed by their compatriots in the United Kingdom. We at Aldwark Manor feel frustrated that international developments are not happening at the pace we would wish. Together we must make things happen – let's set a target to make real progress in the next twelve months.

## Company's practical training for students

Colleges are being asked to nominate greenkeeping students to attend turf tractor product appreciation classes run by Massey Ferguson/Iseki and organised by BIGGA.

With the emphasis on practical training, the four day courses are designed to give candidates a good appreciation of the technicalities of the selection, operation and maintenance of turf tractors and are likely to appeal to those students who have already shown an interest in machinery matters.

Massey Ferguson's Grass Equipment Division, which also distributes Iseki turfcare machinery in the UK, became a Golden Key member of BIGGA's Education and Development Fund in January and this latest initiative further underlines the company's commitment to greenkeeper training.

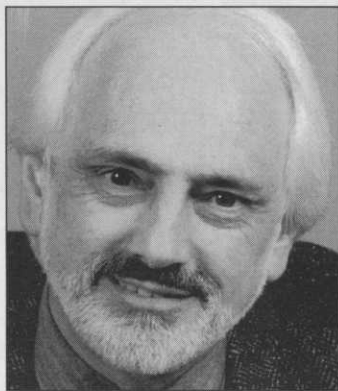
The courses will be run at three



Massey Ferguson's Gold Key Holder status was recognised with the presentation of its plaque. The presentation to Nick Kirby, Massey Ferguson's Grass Equipment Director, was made by BIGGA's Vice Chairman Dean Cleaver as he sat aboard a SF300.

different college venues in Scotland, the Midlands and the South East between February and April next year. 30 student places are available and all costs will be funded by Massey Ferguson/Iseki.

College course tutors should contact Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer on 01347 838581 with their nominations. Look out for more details in the September edition of *Greenkeeper International*.



René Orban: promotion

## Leading light shines brighter

René Orban has been promoted from his current position of Managing Director of Jacobsen E-Z-GO and Textron Financial Corporation (TFC) within the UK to the role of Managing Director European Operations Jacobsen E-Z-GO and TFC.

In his new role René will be responsible for the sales and distribution of the Jacobsen and E-Z-GO products throughout the whole of Europe including the UK and Eire.

Following the announcement René Orban said, "This is clearly an exciting time for the Textron companies in Europe following the acquisition by Textron of the ORAG Distribution Company earlier this year. This acquisition formed the merger of Jacobsen and E-Z-GO distribution and the incorporation of TFC in Europe.

"I look forward to pulling all of these group companies together to create a turf based company with European dimensions."

René will continue to head up the UK operation in addition to his new responsibilities.

## Stalwart dies

Captain Paddy Hanmer, the secretary to the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers from 1968-83 has died. He was 80.

# 'Cut irrigation costs by planting tyres'

An American entrepreneur has claimed that up to £45,000 a year could be saved on irrigation costs by burying old car tyres under the fairways.

It was reported in a recent issue of the New Scientist that Bob Hendershot, President of Tire Farms, a Californian used tyre disposal company, had patented the Rain

# NEWS



Selsdon Park Hotel in South Croydon is the home to the first Bob Torrance Golf Academy.

The new academy, created under the guidance of Jack McMillan and built by Head Greenkeeper Simon Osborne and his team, was opened by the Mayor of Croydon. Unfortunately Bob Torrance couldn't attend the opening he injured himself in an accident shortly before the opening so his star pupil Ryder Cup hero Sam Torrance, pictured, was on hand to represent the Torrance family.

The academy includes two fully landscaped pitching greens, an all weather practice area, two putting greens, a practice bunker and a five bay driving range with video analysis equipment.

With 170 rooms and a host of leisure facilities Selsdon Park Hotel is one of the largest independently owned country-house hotels in the United Kingdom and boasts a magnificent par 73 6473 yard course designed by five times Open Champion JH Taylor.

Trap System which comprised of a series of old tyres split around the middle and buried a foot underground the fairways where they act as wells. The idea is that water will remain where the roots need it rather than seep away.

It is estimated that 1.2 million tyres would be needed for an 18 hole course.

Tests have already been carried out by the Center for Irrigation Technology at the California State University into how long the tyres can keep an area of unwatered grass green and further tests are planned to establish whether the tyres might work their way to the surface or end up waterlogging the course.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ David Hemstock Associates has completed the design for the first phase of the upgrading of Hessele Golf Club in Humberside. The work will involve technical improvements and shaping to the greens and considerable improvement to the bunkering. Work is due to commence in the autumn.

■ Christopher Jack has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Carswell GC in Oxon. He has recently completed an HND course in golf course management at Cannington College and has practical experience at Henbury GC and Forest of Arden G&CC.

■ Andy Madden has been appointed SISIS area representative for the North West replacing Don Dixon who has retired after 21 years covering the



area. Andy has worked for SISIS for eight and a half years and has experience in the stores and spares departments before moving onto the sales force.

■ SISIS has also appointed American Andy Nelson to sell its machinery in the States from a Florida base. He has recently completed an intensive



training course at the SISIS headquarters in Macclesfield.

■ Manchester GC has appointed Peter Thomas as its new Head Greenkeeper. Peter, formerly the Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Wiltshire GC, takes over at an exciting time for the club with a PGA European Tour event being played at the course in September.

■ Driving Force Leisure has appointed Andrew Lofting as Area Manager for Sussex and Kent. He was previously UK Sales Manager for Euromats. ■ Deere and Company has announced its highest quarterly nett income and earnings.

The second quarter of the year produced a worldwide nett income of \$237 million compared with \$189.3 million at the same stage last year – a 25% improvement.



## It's time for the programmed approach to turf disease control



'Greenshield' and 'Daconil' Turf is the best possible partnership to maintain disease-free turf. Two powerful fungicides give broad spectrum disease control including Fusarium Patch, Anthracnose, Dollar Spot and Red Thread, with safety to the grass.

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# Greenkeepers' opinions sought to shape policy

Greenkeepers are being called up to assist with a survey of pesticide usage on golf courses to be undertaken by the Central Science Laboratory, an executive agency of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The information collected from the survey will be used to make estimates of the quantities of pesticides used nationally. This in turn will allow the Advisory Committee on Pesticides to answer questions on its usage and make recommendations to the Government upon which official policy can be based.

The survey group contacted and obtained approval to conduct the survey from the R&A, BIGGA, the golf unions of England, Scotland and Wales, Royal Holloway

College and the European Golf Association.

"A number of courses throughout Britain have been contacted and some replies have already been received," explained David Garthwaite of Central Science Laboratory. "The quality of the completed questionnaires has been outstanding with extremely useful and detailed data being provided," he added.

However the survey group still require more returns in order to make the final report statistically valid and useful both to CSL and to the golfing bodies which have lent their support.

The group is interested in the total quantities of pesticides applied to fairway, green, tee and other areas of the golf course.

"Pesticides" includes insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, molluscicides, growth regulators, worm and mammal control (moles and rabbits) and repellents applied to young trees etc to prevent browsing.

It is intended that a full report on the usage of pesticides on golf courses will be produced and that a copy of the report will be sent to everyone who participated. All information collected is strictly confidential and data relating to individual courses will not be disclosed.

If you have recently received a questionnaire and have any queries on it or would like to take part in the survey please contact Joanne Hartley or David Garthwaite on 01582 715241.

## Duke of York to open The Duke's Course

The new 18 hole course at St Andrews is to be known as The Duke's Course and Royal golf addict The Duke of York will attend the inaugural opening of the par-72 7,200 yard course on July 16, just before The Open Championship is played over the town's more famous course.

The course, designed by five times Open Champion Peter Thomson, is two miles inland from the Old Course at Craigtoun Park with panoramic views over the town and the coastline. It is St Andrews' first inland course and will add to the existing 99 holes of links golf the home of the game has to offer.

The course will be open only by invitation or prior arrange-



ment until April next year when it will be available to the local community, general visitors and residents of the Old Course

Hotel, the local community and visitors to the area.

● Pictured is the 4th hole at The Duke's Course.

## Outcome of Dunfermline's special meeting

The special meeting into the condition of Dunfermline Golf Club and the performance of the greenkeeping staff (see page 5 of last month's magazine) resulted in an agreement to put a course

policy document in place.

"We had a very constructive meeting. It lasted an hour and a half and many views were aired," explained Secretary, Bob De Rose.

"The positive element of it was that it was decided to produce a course policy document and this is being prepared with Head Greenkeeper Ronnie Cunningham's agreement. We are now in a position to build for the future," he added.

Mr De Rose said that recently he had made a point of asking visiting parties what they had thought of the course. Their

views, and those of the members, were that the course had improved over May and June and that it was now extremely tidy.

"It is fair to say there has been improvement on the course since the matter was first raised," said Mr De Rose.

Ronnie Cunningham agreed that the weather had improved since the end of May and that as a result the course had benefited.

"I'm pleased we are producing the course document and hope we will now be able to get on with our job of looking after the course to the best of our ability," he said.

## Irrigation association swings into action

The European Irrigation Association has been launched with a view to defending the industry's interests before the European Community authorities and develop action plans in the following areas:

● Further the development, proper use, and standards of irrigation installations in all applications.

● Communicate information about the most recent technical advances as widely as possible.

● Carry out training programmes on irrigation techniques for specifiers, distributors, end-users, students or apprentices.

● Monitor the proper use of soil and water resources and promote research aimed at improving crop yields through proper irrigation practices.

● Promote the professional irrigation industry, residential and consumer products and explain its role in a country's economy and development.

● Defend the interests of the European irrigation industry.

These actions will be carried out within the context of a firm commitment to promote techniques which conserve water and environmental resources.

The Association membership is open to all professionals - manufacturers, dealers, installers or consultants.

More details from: European Irrigation Association, c/o Multiburo, 58 rue Pottier, 78150 Le Chesnay, France.

## Ransomes on the up

Ransomes has reported a substantial improvement in its trading position and a reduction in the Group's nett borrowings.

For the six months to April 1 operating profits more than doubled to £11.9 million with pre-tax profits standing at £5 million compared to a loss of £5.3 million for the same period last year.

Nett borrowings have also fallen by £20.7 million from £88 million in April '94 to £67.3 million this year.

### Sunny Southurf

Summer at last arrived at Motspur Park on June 21 when the sun blazed down on Southurf. On behalf of BIGGA members, many thanks to David Wood and Geoff Hills for a well organised show.

# On course for a brighter future

Following the success of the 1994 BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses, we have decided to continue with the same format for 1995 but with the addition of a fifth module which will cover level 4 management skills.

The courses, which are linked to the Supervisory and Management sections of the GTC Training Manual, are designed to provide evidence towards the award of an NVQ/SVQ Level 3/4 in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) and/or the GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision/ Management. BIGGA courses are open to all greenkeepers who need to improve their supervisory and management skills.

The courses cover:

**Module 1. October 16 - October 20. Managing People** This week contains team building skills, interpersonal skills, leadership, time management and staff appraisal, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

**Module 2. October 30 - November 3. Managing People** This



## Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

## Supervisory & Management Courses



week deals with assertive communication, listening and questioning skills, influencing skills grievance and discipline interviews, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

**Module 3. November 6 - November 10. Managing Operations and Resources** This week deals with planning and organising, estimating costs, budget forecasting, cash flow forecasting, managing budgets, project management, solving problems and relating costs to

employers objectives and golfers requirements, producing a portfolio of evidence, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

**Module 4. November 13 - November 17. Managing Information** This week deals with the writing of letters, memos and reports, managing meetings, communication skills, presentation skills, collecting and recording information, computers in greenkeeping and a presentation by a top course manager.

**Module 5. November 20 - November 24. Management Techniques** This week deals with level 4 Management techniques including, the maintenance and improvement of service and operations, the management of change, project management, negotiation skills and quality assurance. Entry to this course is restricted to delegates who have completed three or more Aldwark Manor Management Courses.

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

The NVQ/SVQ Level 3 courses are not cumulative and delegates can choose to attend one or more weeks so that over one to four years all the underpinning knowledge requirements of Level 3 could be met. Additionally, Level 4 courses will provide evidence towards the award of a Level 4 NVQ/SVQ. All course delegates and employers will receive an end of course summary. This could be used to provide evidence for NVQ/SVQ assessors.

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

The cost per week, including accommodation, all meals and tuition fees is £425 + VAT (£499.38) for BIGGA members and £490+VAT (£575.75) for non members.

### GTC Grants

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

York, YO6 2NF. Telephone 01347 838640.

To reserve your place, complete the postcard in this magazine and return it to BIGGA, together with a deposit of £100 + VAT (total £117.50). The balance will be due for payment no later than October 1 1995. If a delegate cancels his booking prior to the course, he will be liable for the payment of the total cost unless the place can be filled by another delegate. In order to provide a high level of instructor/ delegate interaction, each course is limited to 12 delegates so book early.

### Regional Supervisory and Management Courses

To allow greenkeepers to expand and revise the management techniques taught at Aldwark Manor and to make management training more accessible to all BIGGA members, we are planning to hold a series of residential management training courses which will be held in the Regions. The first two of these courses will be held in the Scottish Region, at Elmwood College. Each course will last for two days and will cover front line leadership skills, budgeting and finance. The cost of each course, including all meals and one night's accommodation costs £50 to members and £150 to non members including VAT. The low cost is made possible by a subsidy for each course from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund making this exceptional value for money. To reserve your place, complete the postcard in this magazine and return it to BIGGA, together with a deposit for £10. The balance is due for payment no later than October 1, 1995. If a delegate cancels his booking prior to the course, he will be liable for the payment of the total cost unless the place can be filled by another delegate.

The first course will be held on October 16/17 and the second on October 18/19, 1995.

### Master Greenkeeper Certificate credits

Attendance at each course qualifies for four credits towards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

Plans are well advanced for courses to be held in all four other regions and in Ireland, during February/March 1996.

If you have any queries or need more information, call Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer, on 01347 838581.

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- National Certificate in Greenkeeping/Groundsmanship - 1 year full-time
- HND Golf Course Management - 2 years distance learning and 3 years full-time

Also short courses on Health and Safety, Spraying, Chainsaws, Tractors, etc.

Your Elmwood contact: Carol Borthwick

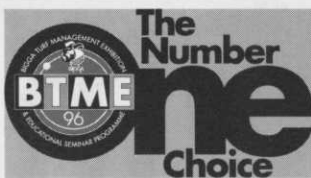
Tel: 01334 652781

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## Going up: next year's BTME now larger than 1995 event

In the last month eight more companies have committed to BTME '96 bringing the total number of exhibitors so far to 139.

Among the latest group are Driving Force Leisure and Headland Agrochemicals both of which are exhibiting for the first time.

The Strategic Marketing Alliance between BIGGA and the IOG means that if anyone exhibits at both Saltex in September this year and at Harrogate in January '96 they will be entitled to a 5% discount on stand costs at both events.

It looks likely that there will be a full turn out from the national golf unions who have been offered stand space at the exhibition.

"I'm pleased to announce that already we have had acceptances from the English, Welsh and Irish Unions," said Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer.

The latest acceptances mean that 90% of exhibition space have gone.

"I'm pleased with progress so far. With seven months still to go the '96 event is already larger than BTME '95 which means that there will be even more for the visitor to see and, with an extended education programme, additional opportunities to learn," said Bill Lynch, BIGGA Sales and Marketing Manager.

"The average stand size in '96 is 12% greater than in '95," explained Louise Lunn, Exhibition and Marketing Executive. "This means that although we have some space still available it is going faster than ever."

Anyone thinking of exhibiting at BTME 96 should contact Louise on 01347 838581 now.

● Site plan: pages 22-23.



■ Jim McKenzie, Course Manager at Celtic Manor, has just taken delivery of his latest batch of Massey Ferguson equipment taking the investment over £1 million. "We began using Massey Ferguson

equipment in '93 when we started construction and we will continue to use it for general course maintenance," explained Jim.

"At the moment we are moving between 1,200 and 1,300

tonnes of sand," he revealed.

The course will open for play in August.

● Jim McKenzie is pictured above with Ian Lee, Regional Service Manager for Massey Ferguson.

# Ditch relics of past, say Americans

Have you ever considered what it must have been like to be the person who lit the gas street lights when electric ones were just around the corner? Or a bus conductor when one man operated buses were introduced? Or a hot metal compositor when journalists were issued with computers which meant they could input their stories directly?

Well according to the bi-monthly Golf Course Superintendents Association of America publication *Leader Board* you should know exactly how those poor individuals felt.

The main front page story in the latest issue begins:

"Q: What do a Featherie and a Greenkeeper have in Common?

A: They both are old-fashioned and out-of-date."

It goes on:

"The featherie, an early ball, was composed of a leather cover stuffed with wet, compressed feathers and bears little resemblance to today's highly specialised and aerodynamic ball.

"The term greenkeeper has also become obsolete. The expanding responsibilities and specialised knowledge needed to manage a golf course has advanced the pro-

fessional beyond 'greenkeeping'.

"Correct terminology: Golf course superintendent, golf course manager, and director of golf course operations."

The story continues to explain that approximately 71% of GCSAA members have two or four year degrees; 24% of members are certified and 49% have certification as their long term goal; almost half of GCSAA members control maintenance budgets in excess of \$500,000; 73% of members are involved in their local non-golfing communities and over 98% place importance on environmental research to help them protect land, water and wildlife.

Obviously on this side of the Atlantic we have course managers but there are still a great many Head Greenkeepers. Do you feel that the title "greenkeeper" is insufficient to convey the full extent of your responsibilities? Would you rather be, perhaps, a Deputy Course Manager instead of First Assistant or one of the American titles?

Write in and let us know. We could even be forced to change the magazine name to *Director of Golf Course Operations International!*



Roger Robinson and Lord Griffiths

## All change at the STRI

The Sports Turf Research Institute has a complete set of new office bearings as well as a new Director.

Dr Mike Canaway recently took up the post of Director of the Institute, succeeding Dr Peter Hayes who retired, while the Rt Hon The Lord Griffiths has been elected President and Roger Robinson the new Chairman.

Lord Griffiths, who succeeds Lord Luke of Pavenham, has the unique distinction of having been both President of the MCC, in 1990, and Captain of the R&A, in 1993.

Roger Robinson succeeds Peter Wilson who has retired after being a member of the Board of Management since 1981 and Vice Chairman and Chairman since 1987.

A member of the Board of Management of the STRI since 1982, Roger Robinson has been Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Golf Committee. He is a member and past Captain of the Royal Liverpool GC as well as being President of the Cheshire Golf Union in 1987.

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# Iain's on

**Scott MacCallum discovers  
that local knowledge proved  
the key to success in the  
Scottish National Tournament**

It wasn't so much a long journey for many of the competitors who travelled to Royal Dornoch for the Scottish National Tournament but more of a pilgrimage.

The course has long been recognised as one of the best in the world with many of golf's superstars, including Tom Watson and Masters Champion Ben Crenshaw, both of whom are Honorary Members, making visits whenever their schedules allow.

It is just its location, 45 miles north of Inverness, which has stopped it from gaining more widespread recognition.

However it drew Scotland's greenkeepers like a magnet and rewarded them with a day unlike many the summer of '95 had dished up. Sunshine and a brisk breeze meant the course was seen at its absolute, devilishly difficult, best.

It is not surprising therefore that the best scoring came from those who knew the course and the area best.

Iain MacLeod of neighbouring Tain clinched the SGGG Challenge Cup for the best scratch with a magnificent 77 clinching it with a better inward half from

George Patterson of Fortrose, another course not a million miles away. Third just a shot behind was Robert Patterson the Course Manager at Dornoch and the recently crowned club champion.

Iain MacLeod's 77 was exemplary for two reasons. He was in the last group out when the wind was at its height and he succeeded in not being dragged down to the inadequate depths of one of his playing partners. Iain played magnificent golf despite having to witness some appalling stuff from this journal's Editor, who thoroughly enjoyed his first visit to the course but found his Heath Robinson swing no match for the might of Dornoch off the back tees in a breeze.

The Royal Dornoch Club made everyone exceedingly welcome with Secretary John Duncan and Green Chairman, Rollie Biuck, both playing in the event and Captain Alan Ramsay on hand to present the prizes.

The tournament was magnificently organised by Elliott and Edna Small to whom a great deal of thanks is due and thanks must also go to caterer John Boyd and

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**Scottish Region Chairman Gordon Moir putts up the 1st watched by Rollie Biuck  
Royal Dornoch, Green Chairman**

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214

# MacLeod nine...

## SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT



### RESULTS

**SGGA Challenge Cup** (Best Scratch) Iain MacLeod, Tain, 77

**Friendship Trophy** (Best Nett) Elliott Small, Tulliallan, 79-8-71

**BIGGA Challenge Bowl** (Best Head Greenkeeper) Robert Patterson, Dornoch, 78-3-75

**M&M Trophy** (Best Assistant) Simon Crawford, Gleneagles, 82-7-75

**Souter Trophy** (Best Apprentice) Scott Aitchison, Prestwick St Nicholas, 94-16-78

**SIGGA Trophy** (Best Veteran) Alex Wallace, Dollar, 89-10-79

**Ransomes Trophy** (First Class) 1. Eoin Riddell, Dornoch, 83-8-75; 2. Paul Murphy, Downfield, 81-5-76; 3. George Patterson, Fortrose, 77-1-76.

**Pattisson Trophy** (Second Class) 1. Sam Morrison, Royal Aberdeen, 84-9-75; 2. Brian Cocker, Alyth, 90-14-76; 3. Douglas Boyle, Aboyne, 87-11-76.

**STRI Trophy** (Third Class) 1. Robert Napier, Camperdown, 96-24-72; 2. Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead, 100-21-79; 3. Wilson Morrison, Alford, 97-18-79.

**Guest Prize** Rollie Biuck, Royal Dornoch, 83-6-77

**Trade Prize** Jim Darling, Vitax, 79-4-75

**St Mungo Trophy** North Section.

**Putting Prize** Andrew McRae, Royal Dornoch.



The Royal Dornoch clubhouse and, inset, our tournament winners: back row, from left: John Duncan, Simon Crawford, Eoin Riddell, Scott Aitchison, Sam Morrison and Robert Napier.

Front: Robert Patterson, Alan Ramsay, Iain MacLeod, Elliott Small and Gordon Moir

his staff, Robert Patterson and his team for producing a course at its splendid best, and the many sponsors who ensured that the prize table, in Captain John Duncan's view, almost rivalled Dornoch's own Trophy cabinet.

"It was a great golf course and a

great occasion," said Elliott Small. "Royal Dornoch Golf Club made us so welcome from the moment we first arrived, and some of us arrived on the Saturday for the Monday start till the last one left on Monday night – probably the Editor (*Not guilty. I think that*

*honour might have belonged to Mr R. Patterson – Ed*). We thank them all and also the hospitality of the local people who are so friendly and hospitable.

"What a place for the BIGGA National Tournament next time it's in Scotland," said Elliott.



# Are BUNKERS really necessary?

**Bruce Jamieson takes a look at bunkers – their role on the golf course and how to make the most of them**

**T**he definition of a bunker given in the Rules of Golf states, "... A bunker is a hazard consisting of a prepared area of ground, often a hollow, from which turf or soil has been removed and replaced with sand or the like. Grass-covered ground bordering or within a bunker is not part of the bunker. The margins of the bunker extend vertically downwards, but not upwards."

While Director of Agronomy with the PGA European Tour it was often said to me by greenkeepers that professional golfers seem to want the bunkers prepared in such a way that it actually reduces the penalty of being a hazard. Conversely people who organise golf tournaments point out that the bunkers on the golf course serve several functions and they should, if designed properly, demand that the player demonstrates his skill in avoiding them in the first place.

Bunkers are not just hazards they are used by some golf course architects to define the landing areas on the fairways, define distance, and visually enhance the appearance of the course. This can be seen on many courses, where bunkers are presented at 180 metres off the tee and are reasonably easy to play over, with more positioned at 275 metres which, although out of range for most players, define the landing area. Bunkers can also be used to protect certain areas such as the green on a short par-5 to ensure that if the player attempts to hit his second shot onto the green the ball must pitch on the putting surface.

"Prepared area of ground" indicates that bunkers should be raked, edged and weeded. A well-prepared bunker should tempt the player into trying to play the recovery shot on to the green or landing area but requires that he has the skill to execute it. If the depth of sand is excessive and the ball plugs the player will then be denied the option of playing a recovery shot and be forced to extricate the ball. Thus if the bunkers have excess sand in them or a sand that does not produce the desired type of playing surface all golfers will complain that they were unfairly penalised.

Today's sands are not always selected for their playing qualities but more often than not for their visual appearance, and this appears to be more prevalent on inland courses than the traditional links.

A considerable amount of research has been carried out by the Sport Turf Research Institute (to name one) on the ideal type of sand and the application that best suits the requirements of golf. Ideally it should fulfil certain criteria: (a) compatibility of sand to rootzone material of the greens; (b) the range of particle size; (c) the free drainage of the sand; (d) the firmness or stability of the sand once settled; (e) minimum surface crusting following rain; (f) depth of sand, (g) the lie of the ball once landed.

(a) The sand should be compatible with the rootzone material of the greens which may seem obvious but it is surprising how many new golf courses have a layering problem forming on the greens near the bunkers.

(b) The range of particle sizes should not be too narrow as they then tend to behave like a box of marbles and will never settle or compact. Sand should not contain stones or particles over one millimetre as these could both damage the club or cause injury to the player. Furthermore, larger particles and small stones can damage expensive mowing equipment on and around the greens.

(c) The sand should be free draining but using sand containing a high percentage of fine particles will result in flooding during heavy rain. ("Relief from casual water" applies according to the Rules of Golf).

(d) The firmness or stability of the sand once settled is important as a player will leave deep foot prints in soft sand when he enters and exits a bunker which in turn ensures that the cost of maintenance will be higher as wash down will occur more readily during heavy rain. The type of particle whether it is rounded or angular will have an influence on the stability of the sand and it should be recognised that hard silica sands are preferable to soft calcareous ones, as the calcareous sand will breakdown under constant weathering.

(e) Surface crusting after rain should be kept to a minimum. If the sand contains more than 3-5% clay, or if a calcareous sand has been

heavily weathered, surface crusting will be a problem ensuring that maintenance costs are high with raking being implemented several times as the bunker dries out.

(f) The depth of sand in the bunker is usually requested to be maintained at maximum depth of 50 mm in the faces or slopes and 100 mm in the base of the bunkers, in order to ensure that the sand was not deep enough for the ball to plug in it during a PGA European Tour event. (Preparation Guidelines of the PGA European Tour)

(g) The lie of the ball after landing in the bunker should ensure that the sand should be firm enough to absorb the impact of the ball but not so hard that it will bounce out of the bunker. Sand which is too soft should be avoided as the ball will plug or become embedded upon impact. Ideally, after landing in the bunker a ball should settle between 4-9 mm into the sand in order to test the player. Sands which do not allow the ball to settle present little or no penalty to the better player.

As it is expensive for a club to replace all the sand in the bunkers, it is important that it is not initially selected for its colour or price unless it produces the desired playing conditions when mixed with the existing material.

As golf course maintenance techniques have improved dramatically and changes in machinery designed to save labour, a higher quality finish on all playing surfaces, has evolved. Bunker raking machines can now be fitted with an assortment of attachments to edge, move the sand and rake it. Unfortunately with the advent of new machinery, new maintenance problems have arisen, resulting in damage at entry and exit points where design of the bunkers did not anticipate the use of machinery on the steep banks. Now winter months are taken up with bunker repair work, therefore losing some of the labour costs saved during the summer months.

Bunkers are an essential part of the game of golf, influencing the strategy, aesthetics and maintenance of the course while giving definition and protection.

■ Bruce Jamieson is the former Director of Agronomy for the PGA European Tour. He now runs his own golf advisory service and can be contacted on 01256 760870.



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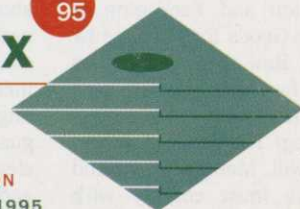


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# CHEMICAL DISPOSAL

## — accepting responsibility

**Duncan Stewart advises you to show care when disposing of chemicals – as falling foul of new regulations could be extremely costly**

When I was asked to write a piece on 'Golf and the Environment' I should have been told "write a book". This article is mainly on the Law as it affects you, the user, regarding chemicals in all their forms and waste, mainly hazardous waste. Yet again I have to write that many clubs and companies have not yet done their COSHH assessments or updated them. You have had years to comply and if you still refuse to carry out or update your COSHH, you will deserve to be prosecuted. COSHH is there to protect you and those who work for you, the club and the environment.

### **The Duty of Care**

There are many Laws, enacted over the years that affect greenkeepers. Many of the more recent are beginning the job of cleaning up the world around us and trying to ensure that the waste from one person is not poison to another. The catch-all legislation is the Duty of Care, if nothing else catches you, this one will. You have a Duty of Care not only to those around you but to yourself, and the environment.

### **The carriage of dangerous goods by road and rail – CDG**

The latest legislation which will affect you directly or indirectly, is The Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (Classification, Packaging and Labelling) Regulations 1994 which came into effect on July 1 1995. This Act and the earlier 1992 Act still in force, are supported by: Approved Carriage List, Approved Methods for the Classification and Packaging of Dangerous Goods for Carriage by Road and Rail to be known as CDG-CPL for short.

So you think this does not affect you? Wrong! The part in brackets certainly will. Manufacturers and distributors must comply with CDG-CPL together with CHIP

1994 legislation. Distributors in particular will have to ensure they comply when splitting outers of chemicals, check their labelling and ensure correct classification of all items of their deliveries. They will have to ensure the correct TREM cards are carried and display hazard plates when required by Law, these have been altered by CDG-CPL so that in many cases existing cards cannot be used.

You, as the user, are likely to have to pay these increased costs and when you have waste empties to be disposed of or transported, the onus is on you as the consignor, to re-label, classify by class number, quote the UN product number and package in a UN approved container prior to transport, the manufacturers label is not acceptable for transportation of waste. So you see what appears not to affect you most certainly will. Later I will explain how industry can and does help you.

The most central point the user must appreciate is that ignorance of the Law is no defence. Recent legislation places a personal responsibility on the individual as well as or instead of the club or employer. This can mean in extreme cases jail and most certainly unlimited fines on conviction. Waste in all, its forms, whether hazardous or otherwise is the responsibility of the creator, that is you the user of the products. You cannot delegate the responsibility even to the contractor who collects your waste. You must protect your position with the club regarding your personal liability.

The driving force behind most of this is the fact that the National Rivers Authority has to comply to the Government and EC drinking water standards by the year 2000, only four years away. At present the water companies test for about 20% of the chemicals in use under the general heading "Agrochemicals". Its testing will increase and if it finds further ongoing pollution, there is no guarantee that existing plant will clean the pollution. Agrochemical and Nitrate pollution gets into the system by leaching into the

ground water, leaking into bore holes, from spray run off or by drainage linked directly to ditches then straight into the river or streams, also by the illegal or improper dumping of waste. If waste is illegal or improperly classified and is tipped in an unlicensed or unprotected tip, then leaching will occur. There are too many examples of this, reported almost daily in the press.

### **How the Law affects a greenkeeper**

You will now understand how the greenkeeper fits into, and influences, the environment for good or otherwise. As stated earlier I would need a book to explain it all but I will endeavour to explain how you can help yourself and receive support. Firstly adopt common sense practices, only use chemicals when you have to. In fact that is the Law. Use the correct chemical for the problem, use only the stated dose, mix enough only to treat the area required and avoid spray run off. Always follow the label recommendations and only spray at the correct time of year and when the conditions are right to avoid drift. Remember COSHH and your protective clothing. Be aware a plant can only take up the feed and chemical it can use. The rest will remain in the soil and on well drained soils will rapidly leach either into the ground water or into your drainage system which might be linked directly to the rivers or streams. Waste and pollution is not just that which you do not use but also can be, that which you do use.

The current United Nations legislation takes into account European recommendations and directives. In particular those developed by the UN committee of experts. UN Recommendation on Transport of Dangerous Good – The 'Orange' Book. This classifies the risk and as all products have to be transported at some stage, this affects you. All classified goods, as from July 1 1995 have to be packaged in UN approved drums or containers with the legal labelling and signs. There is, of course, a transition

period and some exemptions, mainly regarding tankers and out of date products on the shelf. Storage of chemicals has been adequately covered in earlier articles, make sure you abide by The Codes of Practice. If in any doubt ask a consultant to visit and give a written report on storage of current stocks, empties and waste. While there, ask him to review and update, where necessary your COSHH.

As stated earlier, the supplier's labelling is not legal regarding the transportation and disposal of the waste. There is no grey area regarding full waste, whether solid or liquid. It has to be correctly classified secondary risks identified, re-packed or over packed into UN approved containers, labelled, sorted and packed for collection and that is your responsibility. Washings also have to be in either UN approved containers or holding tanks, as washings are usually mixtures, you will have to list all the chemicals in that mixture and identify the main risk. These will give the disposer and contractor some major problems and it may be necessary to have the contents analysed before transport and disposal and costs will be involved.

If you spray off on to sacrificial land the correct records must be kept, the site marked and plans kept, it is also likely that the area could be classified as contaminated land. You must also be aware of the products you use such as fuels, oils, filters, protective clothing, fertiliser bags and drums, dyes, markers, additives, de-greasers etc, these must be assessed by you and if necessary classified and disposed of in the legal manner. Be aware of solvent, oils etc. These are major pollutants.

### **Empty chemical containers**

It is your responsibility to make sure all waste is legally and correctly transported and disposed of. CDG-CPL states that chemical containers falling within the Act are considered as full until they have been cleaned or purged so that there is no risk to the health or safety of any person. Fine you



The beaker contains enough active ingredient to poison this entire reservoir

say, wash it out say three times, dispose of the washings correctly – as stated earlier – pay a contractor who claims to take “clean” empties. Firstly read the contractors contract and exemptions then read the BM codes of practice and note all the exemptions. To be clean, the Law states that it must be guaranteed clear of contamination, including the lid and outer packaging. If just one container is contaminated by 5ccs hazardous waste, the whole consignment is designated as hazardous. You will probably have committed at least five offences, the contractor may say you were in violation of his contract, although he will also face prosecution. CDG-CPL also states that “Plastic containers cannot be reconditioned and have a maximum life of five years.” This refers to containers falling within the regulations. It is accepted and proved that present plastic containers absorb their contents. The Department of the Environment and the United Nations have conducted tests on most of the plastic containers available at present. The UN concluded that even after daily washing out of Agrochemical plastic drums over a period of six months, the plastic drum was not clean as defined by Law. It is only allowable to refill a plastic container with the same product but there is a risk of contamination as you cannot guarantee that every container returned has, throughout its existence, contained only one type of chemical. If rehilled the container must be labelled to the current legal standard and the age of the plastic container must be provable within the CPL-CDG regulations. Where Agrochemical products are exempt from the requirements of CPL-CDG and CHIP 2, it is often because they are regulated elsewhere for example under The Environmental Protection Act. Waste will also be subject to the general requirements of the

Health and Safety at Work Act. Under the EPA (1990) Act, waste producers must supply a written description of their waste, which will ensure that anyone who handles this waste has sufficient information to do so safely. You must be able to prove that any empty container is clean as defined by Law. It is unlikely you will be able to do so given the previous information.

Take advantage of those manufacturers who offer a free collection service for empty drums. Be aware it is still your responsibility to make sure the correct transportation and disposal Laws are obeyed by whoever collects your waste. It is wise to assume that even if you have washed out your empty containers that they are classified as hazardous waste and therefore the seven part Section 17 route should be used and a contractor who is licensed to carry both special and hazardous waste. If you do not sign or use a seven part Section 17 you must be sure that whoever is collecting is doing so legally and taking it to a site which is licensed to receive this type of waste, it is in your interest to establish these facts. If at a later date it is found not to be a legal disposal, it does not matter that you thought it was in order, or the contractor told you it would be all right, you can be held liable even after several years.

Help is at hand, use a collection service using the seven part, Section 17 system, that is a classification for the disposal of special and hazardous waste, it is audited and traceable from user to final disposal, the containers collected are listed and therefore no arguments. Do not remove any labels, do not cut up or deface any drums. Every contractor and disposer must know what the drum originally contained. The final disposer should and will refuse to accept “unknowns”, how can he know what bits of cut up contain-

ers contained? Some contractors using the Section 17 method will classify, label and re-pack where necessary, sort and label the load according to the new CDG-CPL regulations and although the responsibility is still yours, this will alleviate some of the work load the new regulations will involve. There is a cost, but it will save you time (which is money) effort and above all give you peace of mind that the job has been done legally. Keep all your records for at least as long as the Law states, it is recommended at least three years. Finally landfill

owners will have liability for any pollution resulting from their sites for years to come, the National Rivers Authority must comply by the year 2000 with regard to standards of drinking water. There are no cheap, easy solutions for you. In many ways you have to prove you have complied with the Law, not the other way round. Do it right first time, there may be only one chance and you know it makes sense.

■ *Duncan Stewart is Managing Director of Envirogreen Ltd and can be contacted on Lo-Call 0345 125398.*

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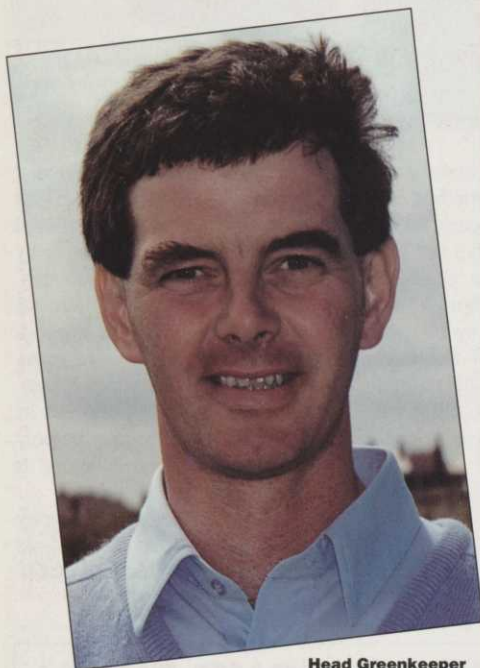
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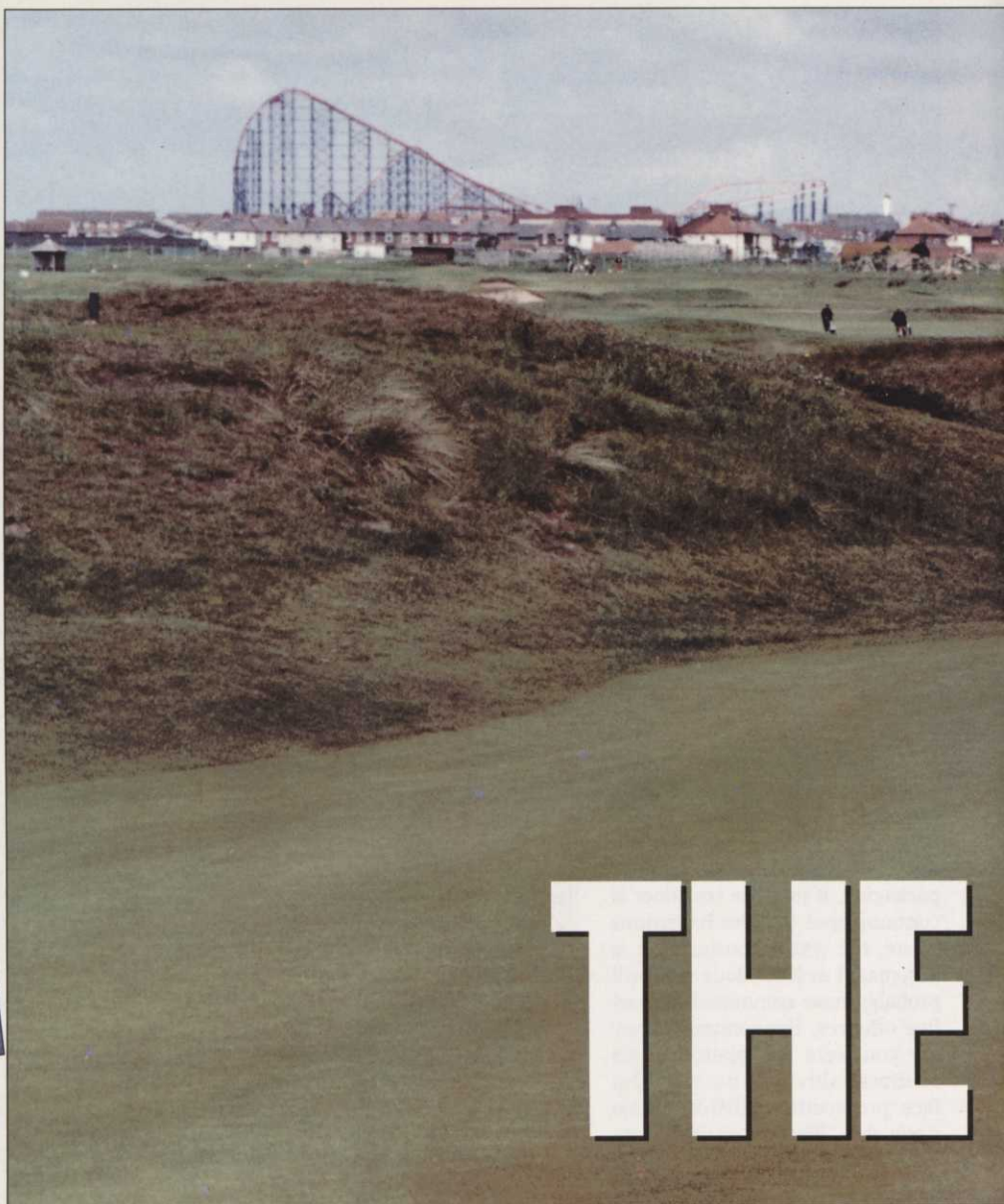
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# NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

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**Head Greenkeeper  
Geoff Whittle and  
his course –  
complete with  
famous landmarks  
on the horizon**



# THE

**St Annes Old Links is a test worthy of the National Tournament while the area's other attractions can also set the pulse racing, reports Scott MacCallum**

The highlight of the golfing year is virtually upon us with the 1995 National Tournament and St Annes Old Links bracing itself for the arrival a host of golfing greenkeepers each possessing a swing honed to perfection. For months now rakes have doubled as 4-irons as grown men up and down the country pause from their work to create what they hope will be their glorious approach to the tough closing hole at St Annes setting up the birdie which would see them enter the history books as the 1995 Champion.

The National Tournament, major sponsor Miracle Amenity Care (formerly ICI/Zeneca Professional Products), is truly The Big One for golfing greenkeepers, but on this occasion the whole family can experience the thrills and spills of The Big One. For dominating the St Annes horizon, some three miles away on Blackpool Pleasure Beach is the world's tallest

roller coaster, appropriately known as The Big One, so while great golfing achievements are being performed on the Links equally memorable daring deeds can be chalked up by the rest of the family.

The golfers will need no such distraction as St Annes Old Links is a superb golf course in every sense of the word and a great credit to its Head Greenkeeper, Geoff Whittle, and his team of five.

Geoff, who comes from one of the game's great golfing dynasties – his elder brother Chris is Head Greenkeeper at Royal Birkdale having previously been at Muirfield, while his cousin Derek Posselthwaite is head man at Formby.

"I started as an apprentice at Royal Birkdale and finished my apprenticeship at Formby. From there I went to Royal Lytham where I worked under Jimmy McDonald and was Course Manager at Northenden before arriving at St Annes," explained Geoff.

"I always wanted to come back to a links course as that is where I learned my craft and I enjoy the links style of greenkeeping. The fundamental difference is that on a links

course the main aim is to keep the grass alive while on a parkland course it is to keep it cut."

St Annes Old Links was founded in 1901 although golf will have been played over the land for well over 100 years.

Every hole has character and the course impressed no less a golfing legend than Bobby Jones who played the course during the 1926 Open. Apparently he was so taken with the 9th that he took detailed measurements in order to reproduce a hole of similar style in the States.

As with every course in the country there are particular areas which cause the green-keeping staff concerns. At St Annes it is the fact that it is laid out over an extremely tight piece of land which leads to a lot of wear and tear problems with the traffic confined to the same routes to and from tees and greens. "On occasions we have played the course in reverse which is fun and gives us a chance to route the traffic in a different way."

Another problem which has been afflicting the course this year has been rabbits, but Geoff believes they have now got on top of them.





# BIG ONE

## Illuminating: nearby Blackpool at night

Picture: Blackpool Tourism Services Department

"It's been a real epidemic this season but we put up a fence around three sides of the course as part of our winter programme and that seems to have stopped them. The fence is two feet under the ground and two feet above the ground.

"There is a nature reserve over the railway line and I think they kept sneaking onto the course from there."

This year Geoff and his team of Deputy Bob Bould, First Assistant Dean Briers, assistants Andrew MacDonald and Paul Cushing and apprentice Richard Draper have encountered the same weather problems as everyone else – a very wet winter coupled with the long dry spell.

"I'm glad I didn't drop the cutters during the brief spell of good weather in May when some of the members, having seen it at other courses, wanted it done because I knew from experience that summer hadn't arrived and sure enough we had frost a little while later."

It is a windy course, a par 72 6616 yard test, with the prevailing wind coming from the west, or across the course from left to right, so

the advice is to hone your draw to hold it into the breeze.

"There are not many holes down wind at all, perhaps only two. My particular favourite is the 16th, a short par-3 which I think is a little like the Postage Stamp at Royal Troon. The signature hole is, of course, the 9th, another par-3, with a 56 yard long green which can mean the difference of about four clubs," said Geoff.

The toughest hole is probably the 7th which at 447 yards into the prevailing wind tests even the longest of hitters if they are to board the green in regulation.

One excellent idea which St Annes has is not what it quite seems – a 19th hole.

"It's not the conventional 19th hole but a genuine extra hole measuring around 140 yards which allows us to work on one of the other holes and not inconvenience the golfers. In its normal guise the 19th is the chipping green, but in the winter it is in constant use as substitute to one of the regular 18.

"It really is a great idea and I think every club should think about having one if it's got





the room," said Geoff.

Care is taken to ensure that playing conditions at St Annes Old Links are as good as they can possibly be. The bunker sand comes from the beach but it's not quite as cost effective a measure as you might think. "The sand goes off to get cleaned and then we buy it back," explained Geoff.

The course is regularly used as an Open Qualifying venue when The Open is at Royal Lytham so Geoff will be preparing it for that role next year but in the mean time it is the National Championship – The Big One – which is exercising his mind.

"Having 70 or 80 of your peers

looking over your course is quite a thought but in many ways I'm looking forward to them coming to see it."

One thing though, Geoff will not be putting his local knowledge to good use as he will not be playing in the event. "There will be too much to do and I don't play much in any case," he explained.

The entire week is geared up to be a hit with everyone who attends with a prize table fit to make eyes water and ensure that no shots are dropped carelessly.

"I attended last year's tournament and saw how excellent it was but I am confident we can out do it this year," said Clive

Heginbotham, Miracle Amenity Care Northern Regional Manager. "It is a superb course and what's more with attractions like The Big One an ideal location for the rest of the family as well," he added.

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#### Timetable of events

**Sunday July 30:** Registration.

**Monday July 31:** The Fison's Bowl – 18 hole medal.

Evening: Miracle Amenity Care Evening – Lancashire theme open to all the family with Lancashire buffet (hotpot, black pudding and scouse) and a Lancashire folk group

**Tuesday August 1:** Standard Golf Trophy – 18 hole medal. 36 hole prize – 0-14 handicap – David Royle Cup, 15-28 handicap – Patisson Trophy. Best Gross 36 hole score – Toro Trophy. The Vitax Putting Cup – 18 hole putting competition.

Evening: Tournament Dinner with speaker Bill Beaumont.

**Wednesday August 2:** William Hargreaves Trophy (Sisis) – 18 hole medal. 54 hole best Gross Hardi Amenity Sprayers' Trophy. 54 hole best Nett Miracle Amenity Care Trophy. Afternoon: Prize giving and departure (around 5-6pm)

■ Anyone seeking further information regarding the event should contact Bert Cross on 0151 724 5412.

Accommodation information can be obtained from Samantha Flint at BIGGA Headquarters on 01347 838581.

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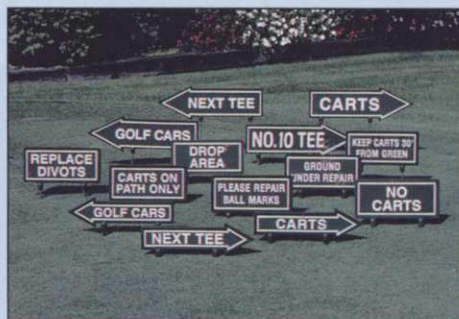


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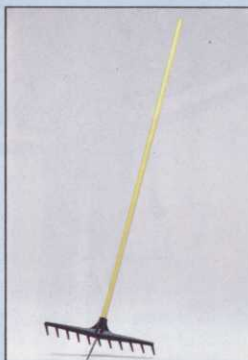
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# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

**Calls to the Association's legal helpline - operated by lawyers from Hambro Legal Protection Ltd, continue to grow. Here, employment barrister Jonathan Waters considers some common problems concerning greenkeepers' employment**



**My employer has made a deduction from my salary for poor workmanship. Can he do this?**

Unfortunately, this practice tends to be commonplace. Contrary to popular belief, an employer has no absolute legal right to deduct money from a greenkeeper's salary or fine a greenkeeper for poor workmanship or performance.

The law which is applicable here is set out in the Wages Act

1986. This provides that an employer cannot deduct money from a greenkeeper's salary or impose a fine unless:

- a) the written contract of employment contains a term giving him the right to do so; and/or
- b) the greenkeeper has given written consent to the deduction/fine prior to it being made

(as it can be imagined, this is extremely rare!)

If money is deducted from a greenkeeper's salary or if a fine is imposed contrary to the Wages Act, then a complaint may be made to an Industrial Tribunal. Industrial Tribunal proceedings must be issued on form IT1 which is available from the local Job Centre or Citizens' Advice Bureau) within three months of the date of the deduction/fine.

In addition, any greenkeeper, irrespective of his length of service, who claims that his employer has breached the provisions of the Wages Act and is dismissed as a result of making such a complaint can bring a claim for compensation for unfair dismissal at an Industrial Tribunal. In practice this protection places a greenkeeper in a very strong position and quite often the threat of legal action is sufficient to deter an employer from making a deduction/imposing a fine. A claim for unfair dismissal must be issued on form IT1 within three months of the date of the dismissal.

the greenkeeper;

- b) the date on which the greenkeeper's employment began;
- c) whether any previous employment counts towards the greenkeeper's period of continuous employment with the club;
- d) the greenkeeper's job title;
- e) the scale or rate of pay and the intervals at which it is paid (ie weekly or monthly);
- g) the greenkeeper's holiday entitlement - including public holidays and how holiday pay is calculated in event of the greenkeeper leaving employment;
- h) whether the greenkeeper is entitled to sick pay;
- i) entitlement to a pension scheme;
- j) notice that the employer must give the greenkeeper to terminate the contract and the notice that the greenkeeper must give his employer to leave;
- k) the place or places where the greenkeeper is required to work;
- l) any collective agreement which applies to the greenkeeper;
- m) if the greenkeeper's job is not permanent the likely duration of the contract.

In addition, except where there are less than 20 employees at the club, reference should be made to any relevant disciplinary or grievance procedure.

If an employer fails to provide a statement then a greenkeeper may make a complaint to an Industrial Tribunal which, if it finds the complaint to be well-founded, will state the particulars which ought to have been given.

Interestingly, if a greenkeeper is dismissed as a result of asking for a statement then the dismissal will be automatically unfair regardless of the length of the greenkeeper's period of employment. In practice, this places a greenkeeper in a strong bargaining position.

■ The information contained in this article is for general guidance only. In the event of a member having any legal problem then it is extremely important that Hambro Legal Protection Ltd be contacted without delay. Hambro Legal Protection Ltd's telephone number is 01206 867775 and the service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

**I am a head greenkeeper. I have been employed by my current employer for six years. During this time, despite repeated requests, I have never been provided with a written contract of employment. Is this lawful?**

This is a problem which appears to be the norm in many golf clubs.

An employer is not obliged by law to provide a greenkeeper with a written contract of employment - indeed, in many cases the contract of employment is often purely verbal.

Although an employer is not obliged to provide a written contract of employment he is, however, required to provide a greenkeeper (whether full-time or part-time) with a written statement of main terms and conditions of employment within eight weeks of the greenkeeper commencing employment. The written statement must include, among other things, the following information:

- a) the name of the employer and

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Duncan McGilvray introduces a new series on management tips for today's head greenkeeper

# Managing a golf course

**H**aving worked for 27 years as a greenkeeper, the one area which has always seemed to me to be very vague and never explained or covered properly was the remit, or more accurately the job description, given to a Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager.

Over a number of years, following experiences working on various golf courses, I have given this subject serious thought and decided to prepare my own remit/job description. What emerged was a defined list of duties which I believed was essential if golf courses (particularly private members' clubs) were to be managed efficiently and realistically.

These duties will therefore be the basis of four articles which will appear in the forthcoming months.

This list is based on basic management principles, both theoretical and practical, and it is my hope that it will help apprentice to assistant greenkeepers by giving them a clear indication of what they should be aiming for and, indeed, what will be expected of them by future employers.

I hope also that it will not only help Head Greenkeepers achieve Course Manager status, but also give present Course Managers the opportunity to re-evaluate what they do and question if they do enough in the very many different areas of management which is called for to be successful and effective.

These articles should not be used in isolation but in conjunction with GTC approved training being given within the profession, in the form of Management Workshops, as well as within GTC approved colleges around the country.

The series will really be a practicing Course Manager's guide to managing a golf course, based on my experiences, both ups and downs, in moving from apprentice greenkeeper in Scotland in 1968 to Course Manager in England today.

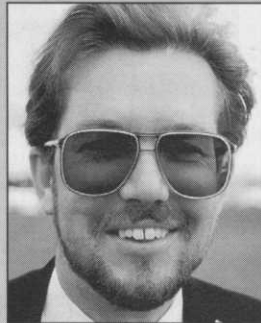
I believe that if we all manage our golf courses in a similar common sense manner our profession will move forward in a way which can only dreamed of at present.

Perhaps then we will not be perceived as mere grass cutters, but respectable, highly trained and efficient managers and be rewarded accordingly.

I also believe that working within a private members' golf club has its own problems, ie. working within a committee structure. This alone calls for tact and diplomacy, as well as a certain sense of humour and steely determination.

However I have found that if approached and presented in a professional way anything can be achieved (even through a committee) as long as what is being presented is justified.

I believe these articles will help particu-



Duncan McGilvray is Course Manager at Letchworth GC in North Hertfordshire. He gathered experience initially in his native Scotland and for the last 17 years has been Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager at three clubs in England. He has given numerous lectures to National Education Conferences, the BTME and English Golf Union seminars as well as the most important one – to his own members. He also sits on liaison committees at Oaklands College, St Albans, and gives regular presentations to Golf Course Management students. His subject matter has always centred around the Course Manager's own responsibilities and the communication of these to others.

larly those who work in this type of management structure – probably the most difficult in any industry – and one which I am sure will change to a more efficient system in the future. That will only happen through our own determination to be recognised as efficient managers and decision makers. Only then will golf club committees, and the members who democratically elect them, allow us to be totally responsible for managing their golf courses.

Over the next few months I will cover:

## 1. Managing and taking control

1. Taking a major role in the formulation of Policy.
2. Overseeing the short, medium and long term maintenance of the Course which is dictated by that Policy.
3. Presenting and implementing work schedules.
4. Presenting and implementing machinery maintenance programmes.
5. Keeping accurate records.
6. Keeping up to date with modern methods, materials and equipment.

This will cover the basic structure in which we should work – setting agreed pol-

icy and working within it – showing your employer that you are in control, and therefore gaining their trust in making day to day as well as more important medium to long term decisions.

## 2. Controlling finances

1. Formulating, presenting and maintaining agreed budgets.
2. Observing tight cost control and ensuring cost effectiveness.
3. Reaching a reasoned final decision regarding the buying of materials and equipment.

This is the one area which many of my colleagues shy away from, believing that a committee or Treasurer will do this work for them thus making their workload easier. I believe, however, that there is no-one better than the Course Manager for calculating how much it costs to maintain a golf course. This will be covered in simple terms.

A few days spent at the right time of the year in setting budgets makes the remainder of that year so much easier.

## 3. Managing staff

1. Supervising and assisting in the training/development and recruitment of staff.
2. Endeavouring at all times to improve supervisor and staff relations.
3. Delegating effectively.

"You are only as good as your staff" someone once said – and how true that is.

This is an enormous subject but I will try to cover obvious areas of supervision, and give some ideas on how to overcome staff "friction", which can be so harmful in small staff set-ups, as is so often the case on golf courses.

## 4. Communication

1. Endeavouring at all times to continually improve staff and golf club member/employer communication.
2. Ensuring the safety of the staff and the environment.

Although this is the final subject area, it is by all accounts, the most important – the more the golfer knows about the work of the greenkeeper the easier the job will become.

I will cover many different areas of communication under this heading, the importance of which cannot be overstated.

In closing, it is important to point out that it is my wish to convey a common sense approach to managing a private members' golf course. I therefore do not propose to go into any subject area in any great detail (I am no expert anyway!), the general aim will be – in the words of Billy McMillan – to "keep it simple".

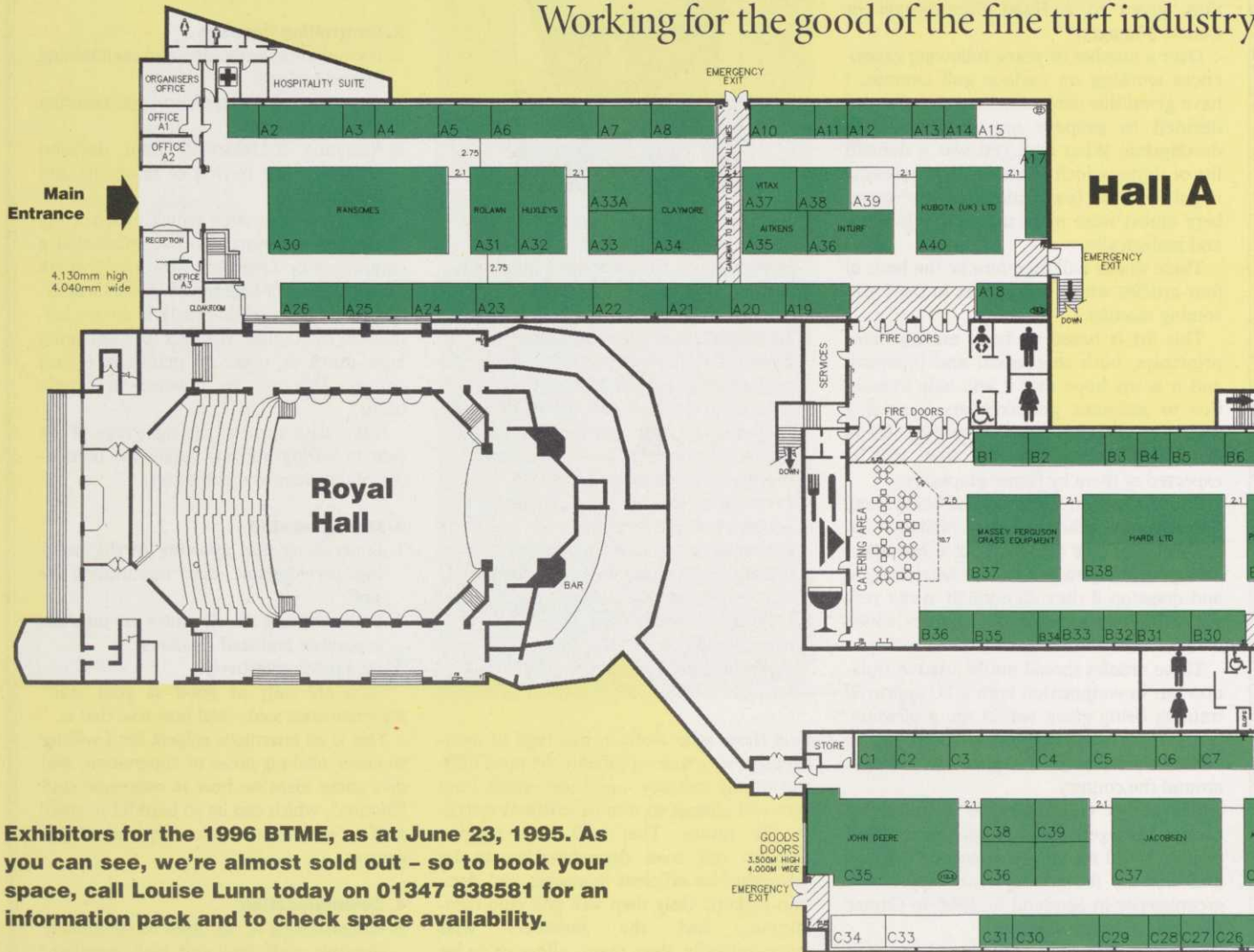
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An update on BTME 96,  
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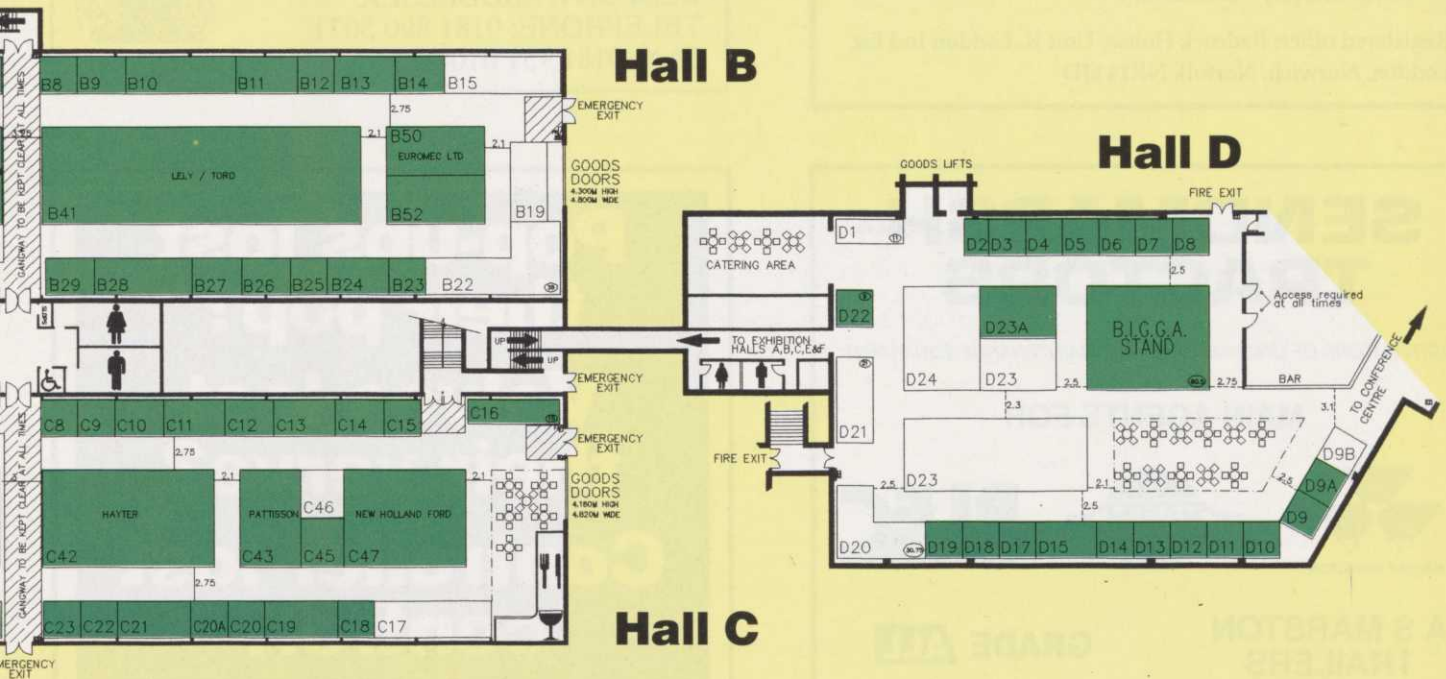
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# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## Mid Anglia

This month our summer golf meeting is being held on July 18 at Brickendon Grange, GC over 36 holes. Entries should be in by the time you read this. Also a reminder to all participants in the Lodgeway fourball competition that all league matches must be completed by the end of this month.

Colin White, who I'm sure you all know as the Rigby Taylor rep for this area, has now left and has taken up a new position with Avon-crop. Good luck with your new company, Colin.

Finally I would like to welcome the following new members to the section:- Neil Robson, Hammonds End GC; Peter Tiffney, Weston Turville GC; Jason Bonner, Jonathon Oliver, Peter Messer, Kenneth Stewart, Barkway Park GC; Nigel Robins, West Park GC; Peter Deacon, Three Locks GC; Alistair Connell, Collingtree GC; Clive Parnell, Stabrite and Andrew Milton, Synergy BMK.

GERALD BRUCE

## East of England

There was a good attendance for the first event of the year at Elton Furze and the course was presented in excellent condition by Kevin Hodges and his staff. The day was sponsored by Peterborough Garden Machinery with prizes also donated by Chandlers, Field Care, Rigby Taylors, R Fitton and Colliers. After a filling dinner, our Chairman, David Walden (Greenkeeper of the Year) welcomed all in attendance and called on Alister Brown to present the prizes. Results:

1. Graeme Macdonald, Eyebury 33 pts; 2. Peter Down, Belton Woods 32 pts; 3. Fred Cobb, Newark 31 pts; 4. Jim Carr, Chandlers 30 pts 5. Ian Ross, Newark 30 pts.

Longest Drive Nick Dowman, Belton Park. Nearest the Pin Nick Dowman (disqualified after a stewards' enquiry).

The raffle collection was donated to the Peterborough Special Baby Care Unit.

Two local student greenkeepers have been nominated by their colleges to take part in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year - Chas Campen (Orton Meadows) for Milton College, Cambridge and Kevin Hodges (Elton Furze) for Askham Bryan College, York. Good luck lads!

New members we would like to welcome are: David Welberry, Kirton Holme; Gary Nimmo, Oundle; Mathew Bishop, Belton Woods; Jim Fulton, Mommersteeg Seeds; David Williams, Southwell; Charles Britton, Gedney Hill and Gordon Taylor, Market Rasen.

Finally we are hoping to organise a social get together in July and details will follow.

Diary Dates. August 15, East of England v East Midland for the Toro Trophy, Market Harborough GC; August 23, Rigby Taylor Trophy, Carholme GC; September 28, Lambs Lawnmowers Trophy, Spalding; October 12,

## EVENTS DIARY

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

East of England, Secretaries' Association for the Chandler Cup, Sleaford.

GRAEME MACDONALD

## North Wales

As you can imagine it is difficult for me to write an interesting report when I have no news! The reason for this is that no-one actually contacts me with information for this section. If anyone does have anything to contribute - exam passes, job moves - please get in touch. This is your chance to tell other members what is going on.

The next greenkeepers' day will be held at Chirk Golf and Country Club on October 11. Entry forms will be sent out at the beginning of September and please reply promptly.

At the last day, on April 19, suggestion forms were handed out. Please could you fill these in and return them with any suggestions as soon as possible. If you didn't receive a form for any reason why not write in with your ideas anyway? Don't forget you run the North Wales section and the committee needs your input to make the best overall decisions.

Could I also ask all members to make every possible effort to attend the shows that take place throughout the year. It would be good to see you all on a day other than a golfing one.

I must inform you that the committee will be writing to various members asking them to define their positions of whether or not they actually work with fine turf as it has come to our attention that we have some members who may not be complying with the Greenkeepers' Constitution.

TP EVANS, Competition Secretary

## Midland

The lecture at Telford G&CC was attended by 32 members who enjoyed Andy Coles' (STRI) talk on Thatch, Compaction and Black Layer and Mark Hunt's (Scotts) talk on Fertilisers in general and the difference between nutrient levels of root zone greens and soil greens. Thanks to both. At the end of the lecture Mark Hunt drew the winning number from the returned questionnaires belonging to Martin Jones of Bridgenorth GC. Thank you to Abbey Mowers and Jacobsen for their sponsorship.

I would like to welcome the following new members: Nicholas Brown, John Doig, J. English, Richard Slater, John Cassidy, Leigh Swann, Matthew Robbis, Jamie Askew, Shaun Christopher, Graeme Gallimore, Jack Cooper and John Meers. Associate members, Andrew Lisle and Edward Davies.

Here we are on the second half of 1995 already and it's amazing to think we are already having to think about winter projects.

The qualifiers for the Midland Section Hayter Qualifier are as follows:

Cat 1. 0-9. P. Woodham, M. Hughes, T. Cheese and R. Morton. Reserve. P. Loffman.

Cat 2. 10-18. V. Lee, P., Richmond, P. Holtham and T. Livingstone. Reserve. K. Davies.

Cat 3. 19-28. J. Palmer, A. Roberts, P. Fletcher and J. Randell. Reserve. J. Roberts.

I would like to welcome Colin Goldfinch to the association. If any members have not a fixture card or entrance sheet, they can write or telephone me and I'll send them on to you. If any member would like leaflets to promote BIGGA to fellow colleagues and prospective members, contact me or Aldwark Manor.

The next golf tournament is on August 17 at The Warwickshire. Entry form and money must be with R. Thomas by July 17. We hope to see more new faces playing.

Finally my address is 14 Croft Close, Winyates West, Redditch, Worcs B98 OJT. Tel: 01527 524217.

KIM BLAKE

## East Midland

This year we were fortunate to be given courtesy at The Notts GC, one of the best inland courses in the country, for our spring tournament and Hayter Qualifier. On a cold and wet spring day with a turnout of 50 members some good golf was played despite difficult conditions. Results:

Cat 0-9: 1. R. Barker, Kirby Muxloe, 78-5-73; 2. P. Tatlow, Kedleston Pk, 81-6-75; 3. R. Allen, Horsley Lodge, 84-7-77; 4. M. Emery, Hinckley, 86-8-78.

Cat 10-18: 1. P. Billings, Cotgrave 85-10-75; 2. A. Porter, Greetham Valley, 89-13-76; 3. S. Goode, Scraftoft, 86-10-76; 4. D. Blacker, Manor GC, 91-15-76.

Cat 19-28: 1. A. Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 86-20-66; 2. G. Arnold, Erewash Valley, 95-19-76; 3. M. Billings, Chevin, 100-22-78; 4. I. Dunmore, Longcliffe, 101-22-79.

All these members will represent the section at this year's Hayter Regional Final to be held at Erewash Valley GC.

Trade & Associate Mike Franklin 85-13-72.

Our thanks go to The Notts GC for its courtesy and hospitality towards our members on the day. Also thanks to all our sponsors especially Erringtons of Leicester. I would also like to thank the following committee members for their hard work on the day - Dave Leatherland, Richard Barker, Steve Goode, and Pete Forshaw. Not forgetting Paul Tatlow and Mark Bindley for their valuable support to the section. Hope to see you all at our autumn meeting on September 11 at Kedleston Park.

The Head Greenkeeper at The Notts GC, Graham Armson, recently completed 25 years service at the club and his work at the club

was recognised at the AGM earlier this year when he was presented with an engraved decanter and whisky glasses together with a personal gift from the Chairman of Green. Club Secretary, S F Goldie said, "The work that Mr Armson and his team does at our club is recognised far and wide as being of the highest quality."

An additional golf fixture has been arranged for this year. On August 15 we play host to the East of England section in a fourball better ball match at Market Harborough GC. A team will be selected to represent the section on this day.

Would all members who have entered the singles and pairs competitions please ensure that all their matches are played before the closing date and that the secretary has been informed of all results.

ANTONY BINDLEY

### South Coast

On Friday August 11 we will be staging our summer tournament at Parkstone GC. This is an excellent venue and an early entry is recommended. For details please phone the Tournament Organiser, Mark Webb Tel: 01962 733061.

Incidentally the committee this year is as follows:- Jim Fry, President; Ken Lodge, Chairman; Alan Mitchell, Secretary; Mark Webb, Tournament Organiser; Ed McCabe, Martin Summers, Kerran Daly, Jeff Drake, Bob Cully, Bon Dennis and Paul Dredge.

There have been several new Head Greenkeeper appointments over the last few months. They include; Richard Warton, Dummer GC; David Matthie, Wickham Park GC; Steven Pellatt, Lee-on-Solent GC; David Murdoch, Liphook GC; Lauchran Miller, High Post GC and Harvey Tribe, Basingstoke GC.

We wish them every success for the future.

BOB CULLY

### Bucks, Berks and Oxon

The much awaited football tournament took place on at Wycombe Sports Centre recently. Because of a lack of numbers it was decided to play 10 a-side Oxon v Berks and Bucks. It was the first time that Oxon had managed to put a team together so they started as underdogs.

The match got off to a bad start when inside the first 10 minutes Dean Thatcher picked up the ball in his own half, showed a little skill on the ball only to be challenged strongly by Ray Clark. Down went Dean with a thud and a scream (*nice bit of poetry - Ed*) with a dislocated knee cap (not a pretty sight). He played

# Around the Green



no further part in the game and spent the next five weeks with his leg in plaster.

Berks and Bucks took advantage of the situation to race into a 5-2 lead before there was some reorganisation of the sides for the second half. It resulted in a much more even contest and it was only a last minute Gary Ader goal which secured victory for Oxon.

There were no hard feelings from Berks & Bucks. The better team won. Here's to the next sporting event - possibly cricket!

Finally I have to inform members of the sad news that Bob Plain died at Hazelmere GC on May 23. Bob always played an active role in section functions and will be sadly missed by all. Our thoughts go out to his family.

See you all at Blue Mountain for the next golfing event on July 5.

LINDSAY T ANDERSON

### Ayrshire

Our section was well represented at the Hayter qualifier played over Cardross on May 30. The major success was in the top category where George Brown and Keith Hardie finished first and third, and Derek Wilson was fourth. If only the rest of us in the second and third categories had backed them up for the team prize. Everyone enjoyed the day, however, and thanks to Hayter, and the Cardross Club and staff for providing such a good test of golf.

Congratulations and good luck for the future go to Donald Kerr of St Nicholas, who is getting married to Linda, and Derek Wilson our ex-Chairman who has got engaged to a lovely Dublin lass Jacinta.

By the time you read this report I will be on the move to Dumfries where I am building a driving range and a pay and play golf course. My new contact number and address will be made available as soon as possible. Although going by past form not much news comes my way anyway. Come on then, prove me wrong and give me something to write about.

Until next month.

DUNCAN GRAY

### West of Scotland

The spring outing held over Lanark GC proved a great success with an excellent turnout on the day. The course was very enjoyable, except for the greens. They were too fast for me! Thanks to Jim Lyons and his staff for their course presentation, to the Captain for presenting the prizes, the Secretary for providing me with plastic bags and cards and to the members for allowing 55 greenkeepers to tramp over their course at short notice.

On the day high winds caused problems for everyone but the eventual winners were:

Cat 0-9: 1. G. Brown, East Kilbride; 2. S. Hogg, Drumpellier; 3. A. Colquhoun, Carluke.

Cat 10-18: 1. S. Brawley, East Kilbride; 2. G. Miller, Cardross; 3. R. Ross, Renfrew.

Cat 19-28: 1. J. Tonner, Drumpellier; 2. D. Mowatt, Glasgow GC; 3. J. McCormack, Cawder.

Scratch: S. Taylor, Glasgow GC.

All these players qualify for the Hayter Challenge at Cardross, as do J. Brown, Bearsden, in the second category and M. Corey, Balmore, in the third category. Hope everything goes well for them on the day.

Special prizes were awarded for longest drive in Cat 1, D. Gall, Cat 2, S Imrie and Cat 3, G. Nisbet with a prize for nearest the pin at the 18th going to R. Wilson.

On a different note can the section wish all the best to Neil McLennan, Bothwell Castle, who is shortly to become Course Manager at Cawder and Douglas McIntosh, Bothwell Castle, who moves into the head man spot. I'm sure both will prove worthy choices.

Finally those interested in playing five-a-side later in the season should contact myself on 0141 942 5554. Remember all members of a team must be greenkeepers.

JAMES S TAYLOR

### Surrey

Our spring tournament was held on probably the hottest day in May. Temperatures soared into the 80s - not ideal for 36 holes - but it was an excellent event. Thanks to the Blackmoor club and its staff for providing such superb facilities.

The scratch prize went to Kevin Boxall with a 147 gross with the overall winner Paul Robinson with a nett score of 138. 2nd was Mark Todd on 142 with A. Locke third on 144 (local knowledge). The trade winner was Brian Wilmott of Pattisson's.

The Hayter qualifiers were Cat 0-9. P. Robinson, 138; K. Boxall, 141; D. Langheim, 147; T. Edwards, 149. Cat 10-18. M. Todd,



## THE UNIQUE VERTI-DRAIN:

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## THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP C

142; A. Locke, 144; E. Grant, 147; S. Bailey, 151.

The south east region has now appointed a new administrator, Geoff Hills and he can be contact on 01303 268053 (daytime).

Anyone interested in a visit to Ransomes' at Ipswich should contact the committee.

Vandals set to work on the 2nd green at Reigate Heath GC recently pouring petrol and oil over the front portion of the green then setting light to it. It happened just two days before the club's centenary week.

Forthcoming events include the MacMillan Tankard - limited to the first 40 applicants and the Parker Salver, Tyrells Wood GC, 26 pairs only eg. greenkeeper/committee member.

DAVID GIBBS

#### Devon and Cornwall

In a short while your section will have the opportunity of viewing and putting its views to the "Towards 2000" review document which has been drafted by a steering committee consisting of a member from each region. This review covers areas such as the constitution of our Association, National board structure, education and HQ accommodation which should see our Association grow stronger well into the next millennium.

It is in your interest to ask your local elected committee members about the review and to put any points you consider important to them as our Association will only grow stronger with your support.

A reminder of forthcoming events before our winter programme gets under way.

Visit to WBB sand works at Cornwood Quarry near Plymouth on September 27. Numbers are limited to the first 20. The programme for the day is as follows:

9.30 to 10am. Visit Cornwood Quarry sand plant, workshops and clay processing plant. 1pm to 2pm. Lunch at Cornwood Inn provided by WBB. 2.15pm to 3.15pm. Visit Shaugh Quarry sand plant. 3.30pm. Depart.

If you would like to attend this visit and see behind the scenes please contact me as soon as possible to avoid disappointment on 01288 353438.

Cornish summer evening meetings are now under way with the next venue being at Lanhydrock GC on July 19, followed by meetings at Newquay GC August 23 and Bude GC September 20. For further information contact organiser Steve Evans on 01208 863647.

RICHARD WHYMAN

# Around the Green



#### South West

Good weather and a warm welcome once more awaited us for the Greenkeeper/Amateur competition held again this year at Minchinhampton Old course in May. This informal event grows ever more popular with this year over 60 members and their guests taking part. Those people who did not play last year and did not know what to expect were faced with a tough test of golf due to the fact that cutting and maintenance restrictions are imposed on what is common ground. Mind you, if identifying the ball from the daisies was not difficult enough then it was fortunate that we did not play a week later as Paul Worster had mentioned that they would have to contend with the cattle (and all they leave behind) due to them being moved onto the common to graze for the summer season.

Despite the long dry spell and its obvious effects on the course an enjoyable afternoon was had by everyone, culminating in an excellent buffet meal prepared, once again, by Margaret Webb and her staff. Grateful thanks are extended to Bob Clarke, the Administrator of the Old Course, for offering the course particularly as green fees were waived again not only to BIGGA members but their guests too. Finally thanks to the green staff and the trade for their generosity with prizes.

Results: 1. W. Vincent and J. Smith, 43 pts; 2. P. Ferragut and A. O'Hare, 42 pts; 3. N. Bennett and W. Dunster, 41 pts (on count-back); 4. J. Cooper and C. Powell, 41 pts; 5. D. Bougen and J. Laracombe 40 pts.

For those people wishing to play in the annual match against the south coast to be held this year at Lee-on-Solent GC on September 21, the section is looking to organise a mini bus for the day to lessen the travelling aspect for all. Details will be forthcoming closer to the time.

A reminder, if you have not already entered, the National Tournament will be held this year at St Annes Old Links GC, Lytham, on July 31 to August 2.

Long Ashton GC, Bristol, is the next oppor-

tunity for us all to meet and please remember if you wish to register for any training courses send back the slip of paper at the bottom of the registration form for the Long Ashton event.

KEVIN GREEN

#### North of Scotland

The north section welcomes four more new members, Denis Smith assistant greenkeeper at Dalfer GC, Aviemore, Michael Keay, trainee at Montrose and two from Royal Dornoch, Sinclair Moir and Iain Taggart. Leslie Rae has recently moved from Montrose to be first assistant at Forfar and George Paterson is leaving Fortrose to become head man at County Sligo in the Republic of Ireland. We wish them both well.

The spring outing at Newmasher was a great success despite the wet weather. There was a turnout of 86 with almost 80 playing. The prize winners were as follows: Scratch. 1. G. Paterson, Fortrose; 2. K. Peace, Inverurie.

Cat 0-9: 1. G. Mitchell, Newmasher; 2. P. Don Kemnay; 3. G. Leslie, Duff House Royal.

Cat 10-18: 1. A. Reid, Letham Grange; 2. D. Anthony, Duff House Royal; 3. C. Mackay, Cruden Bay.

Cat 19-28: 1. P. Wood, Newmasher; 2. M. Cumming, Nairn; 3. H. Maclatchie, Peterhead. Veterans: 1. G. Asher, Kemnay; 2. A. Williamson, Retired.

Apprentice: 1. N. Sadler, Granton-on-Spey; 2. D. Murray, Newmasher.

Trade: 1. J. Robertson, Aitkens.

Guest: 1. E. Small, Tulliallan

Regional Administrator Elliott Small came up for the day and showed most of us how to play the game with the second lowest score. We welcomed several new members and had a full turnout of our three lady members, Janice Florence from Royal Aberdeen, Aileen Snowden from Peterhead and Caroline Ross from Royal Dornoch. Phillip Don of Kemnay won the draw for the BIGGA blazer and the 200 Club winners were: January £30, 167 D. Henderson, Ardgay, Sutherland, February £30 96 A. Robinson, Rigby Taylor, March £40 97 A. Macleod, Stornoway and April £100 131 R. Napier, Dundee. A big thank you to Dale Robertson and his staff for their efforts on the course and to George Macintosh and everyone in the clubhouse. We were honoured to have the course designer, Dave Thomas, to present the prizes and club Captain to welcome us. Thank you both.

I am pleased to report that tickets for the dinner/disco are going well. Remember the

## ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

### Charterhouse



Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which we require are to survive.

We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts.

Comment From Walter Woods  
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

For your free guide to compaction relief send this coupon to Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd., FREEPOST, (GI/2283), Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 1DW

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## COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

cost is £12 per person with overnight accommodation available at £20 per person if required. The date is Friday November 24 at the Westhill Hotel, Aberdeen so contact me or any of the committee to book your place. It could be a good time to do the Christmas shopping (*you should be fined for mentioning Christmas in July - Ed*) and make a weekend of it. All are welcome so bring along friends as well. Anyone from other sections are also welcome. The more the merrier.  
IAIN MACLEOD

#### Cleveland

The spring tournament at Wearside GC was a successful and enjoyable occasion for all who attended. Congratulations must go to Head Greenkeeper Barry Walker and his team for presenting the course in such fine condition and to the club itself for hosting the event. Thanks to the sponsors for their generous prizes, Course Care, Turf Care, Rhone Poulenc, Aitkens and the local golf clubs. A mention too for Norman Sheddon who marked all the scorecards.

The overall winner and new holder of the Course Care Cup is K. Bush.

#### Results:

Cat 0-9: 1. G. Carmichael, 33 pts; 2. R. Douglas, 32 pts; 3. M. Sewell, 31 pts.

Cat 10-18: 1. R. Lawton, 32 pts; 2. A. Reed, 26 pts; 3. C. Fidell, 23 pts.

Cat 19-28: 1. K. Bush, 37 pts; 2. A. Cheeseborough, 33 pts; 3. C. Powley, 30 pts.

BRUCE BURNELL

#### South West and South Wales

With more than half the year gone it's time to look at what's coming up next. This region is pleased to announce that prices will be pegged for '96 and we are able to offer you a special package deal to the BTME at Harrogate - Tuesday January 23 to Friday 26 - at £99 for members (£75 for members' wives)

# Around the Green



and £125 for non members. Once again we will be staying at our very comfortable hotel overlooking Valley Gardens. Included in the price will be coach travel from various pick up points to and from Harrogate, three nights B&B, all seminar sessions (excluding wives) and entry to the exhibition. This event is sponsored by Westurf, so make the most of your opportunity and give me a ring to reserve your place now!

Westurf '96 will be on Wednesday May 1 at Long Ashton GC. Your support to the Region and Traders is vital. More details about that later. For our traders, costs are also pegged and stand spaces will remain at 1995 prices.

The last event of the year will be the Regional Seminar at Cannington College on Wednesday November 29. Full details will be out soon along with booking forms are the cost will be kept at the usual £10 for members and £15 for non members. It promises to be a very interesting and informative programme.

Incidentally, if you are a non-member and wish to attend our events, why don't you become a member now and enjoy the advantages that belonging to BIGGA can bring. Give us a ring now. The number is 01803 844056.  
MARION CHILD

#### North West

On May 11 I ventured almost to the outer reaches of the North West section and met some of the members from the Cumbria area.

A golf day sponsored by Course Care was held at Penrith GC, giving the members from the far north of the section the opportunity of competing without having to travel long distances. It is hoped this will become an annual tournament to be played for the Cumbria Cup.

The course was in great condition, considering how cold it gets in 'them thar hills' but John Berry and his staff had done a great job in preparing the course for the big day. Also on the day we had the pleasure of a visit from the President of BIGGA, Viscount Whitelaw, who braved the cold wind and watched the members tee off. The day was most successful and I must thank the sponsor Course Care for its generosity - also Ian Holoran who instigated the day.

Peter Sproston has now joined the section from the North Wales section. Peter has moved to Sutton Hall GC from Chester GC after 17 years at Chester, the last five as Head Greenkeeper. Sutton Hall is a new course under construction and is due to open this autumn. Peter asked me to mention that his wife Julie gave birth to their first son Paul on November 11 last year. Another budding greenkeeper in the Sproston family no doubt - like father and grandfather.

West Bowling GC is the venue for the "Roses Match" on August 10 and I will require a team of 16 to help us retain the trophy. The tournament is sponsored by Patissons and is always a good day - especially when we win. Anybody interested please contact me as soon as possible on 0151 724 5412.  
BERT CROSS

■ Scottish Region members were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Norman Whytock Rhône Poulenc Sales Manager for Scotland and Northern Ireland. "Norman was a popular figure in the industry and our thoughts go out to his family," said Elliott Small.

The Scottish Region final of the Hayter Challenge was held over the testing Cardross course on May 30. After some overnight rain, fears for another wet day were groundless except for a dull spell in the middle of the day and a lovely pleasant day was enjoyed by all.

Under the eagle eye of starter Cecil George (dragged out of retirement for the day) and presented with a new ball (first time some of them had ever seen a new ball) by Hayter's man on the tee Tony, the competitors were dispatched almost on time. There were some doubts whether the last threeball could possibly be greenkeepers, certainly judging the softness of their hands they hadn't dug a drain or raked a bunker for a long time - maybe they were course managers! However a bit of bribery and corruption, like a dram for the starter, and even they got off on time.

The course was in excellent condition and Davie Gall and his staff deserve all the compliments that were being handed out. In the clubhouse the needs of the inner man were more than adequately catered for by Mr and Mrs Gillespie. We thank them all and especially we thank Sandy Campbell, Cardross Captain, and his Council for allowing us to use the course in this its centenary year.

As the scores began arriving it was obvious that the course was a lot harder than was perhaps expected or was it just a bad day for most of the competitors? Maybe we should have given Edna a calculator to check the scores.

With clear cut winners in the first and third

## HAYTER CHALLENGE

categories it was the second which was creating tension with five 73s waiting to see who had the best back nine.

And so to the presentation. A few kind words from Sandy Campbell, the club Captain and Gordon Moir, Scottish Region Chairman and finally from Kim Macfie, Hayter's Sales and Marketing Director. It was a great day, a long one for the lads from the far north and the deep south but another day of meeting upon with old friends and making new ones.

The region wishes to express its thanks to Hayter for its continued sponsorship of this marvellous tournament, long may it continue. On a personal note I would like to thank Cecil George for his assistance on the 1st tee and to Edna for all her hard work before, during and after the event.

#### Results:

Cat 0-9: 1. George Brown, Turnberry, 75-5-70; 2. Kevin Peace, Inverurie, 77-5-72; 3. Keith McCartney, Dumfries/Galloway, 75-2-73; 4. Derek Wilson, Irvine Bogside, 83-9-74.

Cat 10-18: 1. John Gray, Higgs Castle, 86-13-73; 2. Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride, 89-16-73; 3. Alex Reid, Letham Grange, 83-10-73; 4. Bryan Cocker, Alyth, 88-15-73.

Cat 19-28: 1. Patrick Wood, Newmacher, 89-19-70; 2. Martin Carey, Balmore, 92-21-71; 3. David Mowatt, Killermont, 96-20-76; 4. Robert Hogarth, Innerleithen, 100-22-78.

Team Prize: North Section.

■ The South West and Wales Regional Final was held at the historic Carmarthen GC which has beautiful views extending over five counties. Although quite difficult to find, and 200 miles plus for many of our greenkeepers, it was well worth the effort. A special thanks must go to Steve Evans who chauffeured the Devon & Cornwall bus in the early hours to make sure everyone arrived on time - in fact he hadn't slept at all as he was afraid to miss it. It was also good to see Neil Thomas visiting his homeland - shame about the rugby.

The windy conditions made play difficult, so much so some found themselves playing to alien greens, however scoring was remarkably good. Thanks to our starter for keeping everyone to time and Chris Hopkins for supplying halfway refreshment.

After dinner Kim Macfie presented the prizes and our thanks go to Hayter for sponsoring this excellent tournament which is appreciated by all.

Our hosts Carmarthen GC welcomed us very warmly with superb facilities and the co-operation received from the club helped to make the day a success. Results:

Cat 1. 1. S. Richards (nett) 72; 2. J. Borja 72; 3. A. Roach 72. Reserve C. Rawlings 74.

Cat 2. 1. T. Pipe 72; 2. K. Piper 72; 3. V. Lewer 73. Reserve A. Knight 73.

Cat 3. 1. A. Crichton 70; 2. S. Sage 71; 3. C. Sealey 71. Reserve L. Johnson 72.

The Regional Shield was won by the Devon and Cornwall Section.

# Ransomes take the wraps off

■ **Ransomes** has launched a new top of the range walk behind greens mower and a new all-hydraulic tees, greens approaches and surrounds triplex onto the market.

The Greens Super comes in mowing widths, of 20, 22 and 24 inches each with a precision ground 11 blade reel for cuts from .06 in to 0.06 in. The new 3.7 hp petrol Kubota engine allows a cut speed of 246 cuts per metre as opposed to the 140 available on the existing machines in the range.

Among the other features are operator presence controls on counter-balanced floating handles, two section aluminium rear roller with differential for easy turning without turf scuffing, a choice of plain or grooved front roller and can be specified with Ransomes' verti-groom attachment and wheels, without loose parts, are supplied for ease of transportation.

Price of the machine, which will receive its first public showing at the IOG Saltex Exhibition in September is from £2,330.

The Ransomes T-Plex 185 mower is a three unit 6ft cut machine in a choice of 19hp or 18hp petrol engines with constant drive to all three wheels and a maximum speed of 9.3mph – maximum mowing speed is 5.6mph.

The machine, a prototype of which was unveiled secretly to greenkeepers at last year's Saltex Exhibition for their input, features power steering, an up-front operating position unique to tees and surrounds mowers giving the operator excellent visibility and walk through platform.

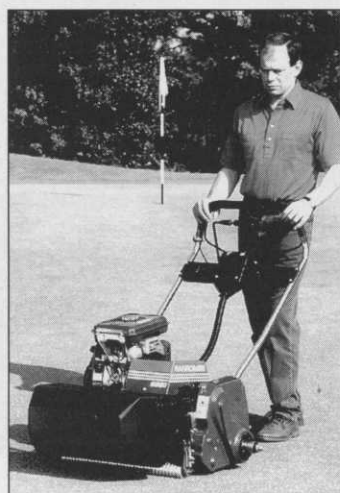
Cutting units can give front and rear discharge of clippings and can be partially lifted or raised to 45 degrees to narrow the width and make transportation easier.

The machine is priced at £12,695 with the 19hp diesel engine and five bladed cutting reels. Seven or 11 bladed reels add £435 and £495 respectively.

Ransomes is also taking orders for a new 33 horse power four wheel drive fairway triplex with 22 inch width cutters and six and a half inch diameter cylinder.

For further information contact Ransomes, 01473 276302.

■ Carnoustie has bought the first



Top: The Ransomes T-Plex 185  
Above, The Greens Super

Grainskeeper Greens Brush in Britain to assist Links Superintendent John Philp and his team in the preparations for the Scottish Open.

■ Designed for fitting to power units such as the Kawasaki Mule the latest addition to the **Amazone** range of spreading equipment is the GS 10 de-mountable spreader unit.

Capacity is 600 litres and the body comes complete with sup-

Amazone Ground Care - De-Mount spreader body



port legs for parking when demounted.

Sand, grit, fertiliser, salt and other abrasive materials can be spread to a wide range of application rates using the GS 10 Top Spreader. Spreading width is 1.5 metres.

The price of the GS 10 in standard form is £3,260. Further information: 01579 351155.

■ **Amenity Technology** has launched the Moisture Smart Watering Gauge onto the British and European market.

The gauge lets you know when water is needed, the amount of water that is being used, the amount of water that is being applied from rainfall or irrigation, how much water to apply and how long to operate an irrigation system.

Developed in America the gauge combines a miniature evaporation pan and rain gauge.

The gauge costs £37.50 + VAT per unit and is available through Amenity Technology Network. Tel: 01734 510033.

■ A new three in one professional power tool is being introduced by **Partner Jonsered**. The Jonsered Combi range provide facilities to cut grass, lawn edges and hedge trimming with on a single change of cutting head. The range includes an anti-vibration system which isolates the lower shaft and engine from the upper section, including the handlebar mounting. Tel: 01453 820305.

■ **Lemken Tri-Ag** has launched a new turf aerification machine.

The Turf Quaker slices into compacted turf and loosens it with a vigorous side-to-side action causing decompaction.

The Turf Quaker is an aerifying machine with its slitting blades mounted in a scroll pattern rather than mounted straight across a power driven rotor. It is able to work in all soil types through its Selectatilt gear box which permits the speed or blade rotation to be increased or decreased. Rotor speed options are 165, 190, 210, 235 at 540 pto rpm.

Price is £3,550 and for further information Tel: 01953 605151.



The Huxley Grainskeeper

■ The **Huxley** Grainskeeper mounts on the front of a Huxley, Toro or Jacobsen ride-on greens mower and has hydraulically driven contra-rotating brushes which gently work top dressing, sand and grass in all directions without bruising the turf.

Used prior to spraying liquid fertiliser, the Grainskeeper stands the grass up and ensures better leaf coverage.

The price is £2,500 + VAT and demonstrations are now available from Huxleys. Tel: 01962 733222.

■ **CB Designs** has supplied two major new clients with tee signs, The Old Course at St Andrews venue for this year's Open Championship and Valderrama in Sotogrande, Spain, venue for the 1997 Ryder Cup.

The Old Course obtained traditional cast metal plaques finished in the St Andrews blue with all the detail hand painted and set in replica granite. The signs have a special fixing system to prevent souvenir hunters removing them.

Valderrama has granite boulders with the detail engraved in fine detail including graphics provided by Strokesaver.

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



Figure 2. Superficial fairy rings on a golf green

by Kate York, STRI, Bingley

The development of turfgrass diseases is affected by numerous factors such as turf vigour, turf composition and environmental conditions; the greenkeeper may sometimes have an almost insurmountable job on his/her hands to prevent severe disease problems from affecting the playing quality of the turf. As with controlling any problem, the control of the symptoms and development of turfgrass diseases can be made easier by fully understanding the conditions likely to favour their occurrence. During the summer months, the main diseases that are likely to occur on golf courses in the UK are red thread, superficial fairy rings (thatch fungi) and take-all patch. The areas on which each of these diseases occur may differ and the factors effecting their expression will vary widely.

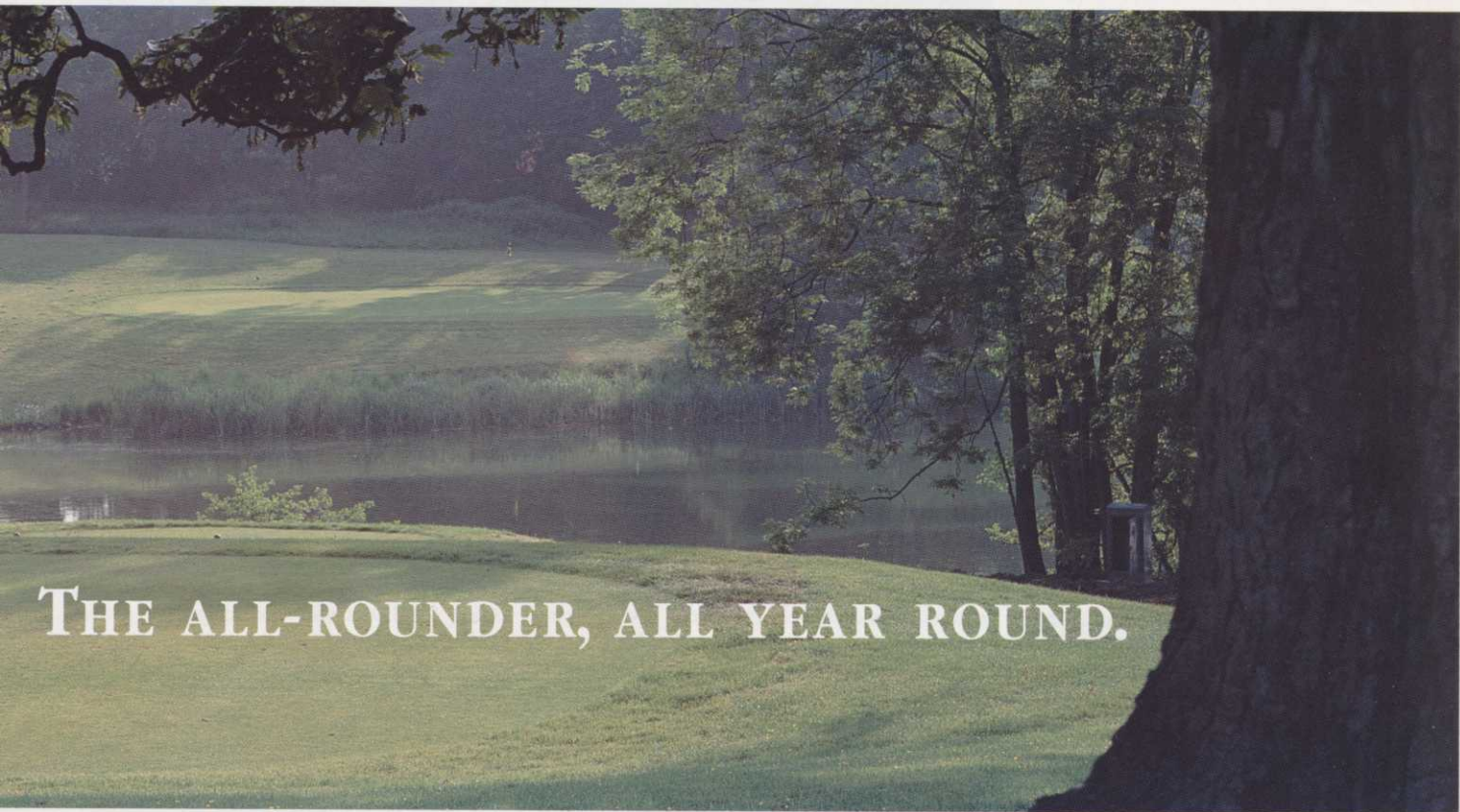
Red thread disease (Figure 1) can affect both coarse and fine turfgrasses equally by decreasing the visual quality of the turf surface. It can be found on golf greens but its

# COMBATING SUMMER TURFGRASS DISEASES

effect on these highly maintained areas is usually minimal and will not generally warrant severe control measures. As a disease, red thread will only, in extreme situations, cause death of the sward. It will almost invariably cause a relatively superficial problem that can be controlled quite readily.

This disease is generally regarded as one which occurs on turf that is being maintained

under low levels of nutrition. This is not always the case as red thread disease can be seen on turf which has been highly fertilised. Although all turfgrasses can be affected by this disease, fescues and rye grasses are the most susceptible. The development of the simple or branched antler-like stromata or needles is a characteristic symptom of this disease which gives the turf its easily identifiable red



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# COMBATING SUMMER TURFGRASS DISEASES

colouration. Since red thread usually only affects the leaf blades of the turf, addition of nitrogen will encourage grass growth allowing the affected grass to be mown and removed from the area. Boxing off clippings will reduce the amount of the fungus present within the sward and will therefore help to limit both the spread of the disease during the present year and the occurrence of the problem in subsequent years. Boxing off the clippings is usually impracticable on fairways where the disease is often most apparent but if a severe disease outbreak occurs, the problem can be readily controlled using any one of the approved fungicides currently available. Seed companies are also working on developing resistance to red thread disease in some cultivars of the most readily attacked turfgrass species.

Although red thread can seriously affect the visual quality of the turf, it has negligible effect on the playing quality of the sward. Other turfgrass diseases that occur during the summer months are noted more for their effect on the surface levels rather than on the appearance of the turf. This problem is due to superficial fairy rings or thatch fungi (Figure 2). The fungi that cause this problem live within the thatch. They decompose the organic matter present in this layer thereby releasing nutrients which they take up and use for their growth and development. As they develop, the physical presence of their white mycelium reduces the amount of water that is available to the roots of the grass due to its naturally water repellent nature. In effect, the growth of the fungi act as a barrier to water penetration and cause stress to the infected sward. This stress is often expressed as a slight yellowing of the turfgrasses which is often accompanied by the presence of surface depressions in affected areas. These depressions are simply due to the localised reduction in thatch caused by the activity of the fungi and will inevitably become more apparent during the summer months if the surface of the turf is allowed to become dry. Such symptoms can severely affect the surface levels of an affected golf green, particularly on greens that hold an excessive thatch layer.

The levels can be restored with careful applications of topdressing and severe outbreaks of superficial fairy rings can be controlled by applications of fungicide. It is recommended that if fungicides are to be applied as a control measure, the affected area should be opened up through spiking, slitting, hollowtining, etc. and treated with a wetting agent to ensure complete wetting of the affected turf prior to the fungicide appli-

As with all turfgrass diseases, early and accurate identification of the problem is imperative

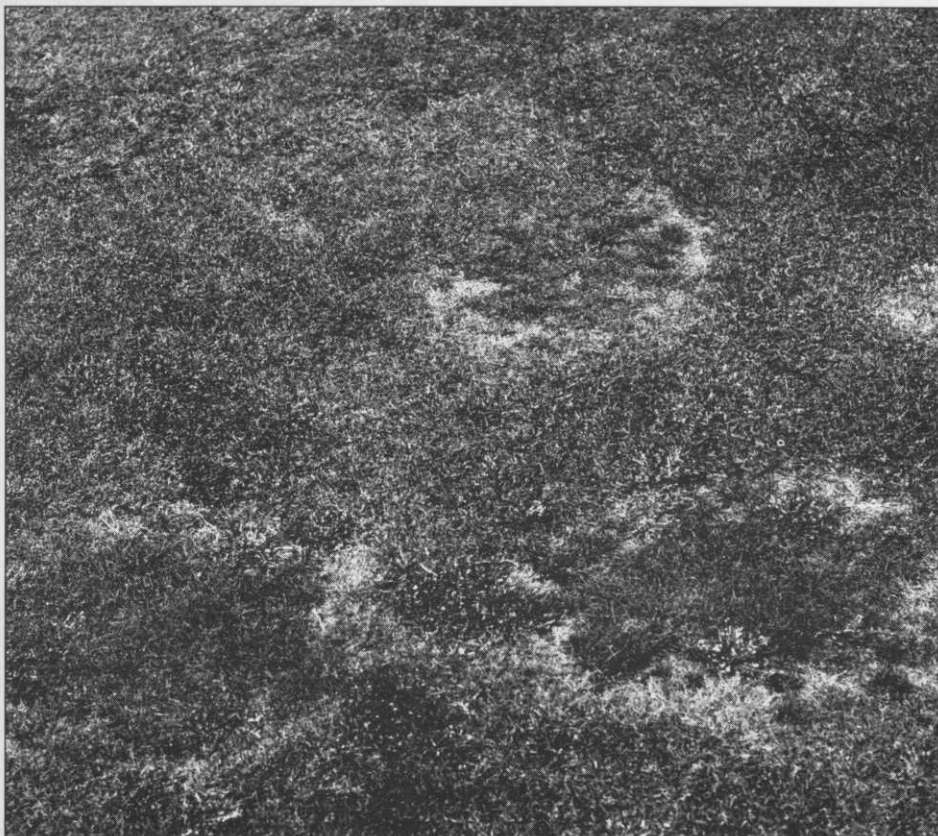


Figure 3. Symptoms of take-all patch disease

cation. It may be necessary to complete a second application of the fungicide to ensure product efficacy against the disease.

Certain turfgrass diseases can cause a reduction in both the visual and playing quality of the turf surface and perhaps the most problematical of all is take-all patch disease (Figure 3). The fungus responsible for this disease is a soil-borne pathogen that only affects the roots of bent grasses. The areas of turf affected by take-all patch can be quite extensive and the effects of the disease can remain evident on the turf surface for several years. There are currently no fungicides available that have approval for use against take-all patch disease in the UK. It is important to understand the factors that can lead to the development of this disease in order to minimise the possibility of its occurrence.

The pathogen that causes this disease is more suited to growing under conditions of higher pH than are the antagonistic soil micro-organisms which normally keep the levels of the pathogen below that required for disease outbreak. If the pH rises rapidly, even by a small degree, the pathogen will grow

more rapidly through the soil and initiate disease development before the antagonists have a chance to grow and limit the pathogen's effect. Free surface moisture will encourage the spread of the disease and therefore to limit the disease progression, the turf surface should be kept as dry as possible. Resistant turfgrasses, such as fescues, should be used to overseed the affected areas before the thinned sward is colonised by weed grasses and broad leaved weeds. Applications of acidifying fertilisers will encourage the growth and development of the antagonists and speed up the recovery of the sward from the disease attack.

As with all turfgrass diseases, early and accurate identification of the problem is imperative if the correct control measures are to be employed at a time when they can limit the extent and severity of the outbreak. Turfgrass diseases will almost certainly develop at some time on all areas of amenity turf but their impact on the quality of the surface will vary considerably depending on the specific pathogen and how early the disease development was recognised.



Ten on test by the people best qualified to judge – the greenkeepers

# REAL WORLD TEST AERATORS GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

No greenkeeping machine is as varied as the aerator, perhaps due to the diversity of requirement. While the definition of aerator must be “a means of aerating the soil” there are also important drainage requirements. Although the fundamental reason for aerating is to improve root growth and turf health there are a number of reasons why soil needs aerating and many ways of achieving it. Problems and non-permeable layers can occur at any depth from the surface down, one reason why differing machines suit specific needs.

The following examples look at a number of machines and relate what the course management is aiming to achieve with it. Greenkeepers were asked how reliable and effective the machines have been, and often about tine life and running cost. These costs can vary enormously and while operating conditions have the most profound bearing on wear and tear the variations are such that there must be other factors involved such as setting, usage and metal hardness. The units considered vary from self-propelled and tractor mounted mechanical tining implements to water and pneumatic injection systems. There are also screw drill systems available.

## Sisis Technicore at Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club

Course Manager Kerran Daly reckoned that the Technicore is one of fastest and most versatile machines on the market. It is a tractor mounted, pto driven, machine with a 4ft working width and a range of tines and adapters to enable it to core or spike at various width centres. Salisbury normally operate it behind a Kubota 33hp compact. The machine is now in its second

year and during that time it has not suffered any breakdowns or other significant problem. Changing tines is easy, solid tines are held with a pin and clip in a holder which is held by a screwed set stud. The club has several sets of holders which enables Nigel to change tines quickly and easily using a pneumatic wrench. The lubrication requirement of a few pumps of the grease gun every four hours for the main crank bearings is not considered onerous as the nipples are easily accessible. Bearings on the arms have an eight hour service requirement.

A set of hollow tines has been lasting for about 18 holes, wearing down from 5ins to 2.5ins during that operation and this was accepted as a fact of life without any comment. Mounting the machine on the tractor is extremely quick and simple with rear legs held with spring loaded catches to allow easy retraction or extension. Setting the working depth which is controlled by a single full width front roller is best with two persons, one each side working together as the rigidity of the unit prevents the two screw adjusters being more than a turn or two out of alignment, but this may be an advantage

as it prevents uneven working.

## Greencare Coremaster 12 at Dudsbury GC in Dorset

There is a policy to elevate five year old Dudsbury to one of the best courses in the south of England, thus a fairly intensive programme of work is being undertaken.

Pete Lovell, course manager at Dudsbury, explained that he first hired the machine last year and was impressed by its performance so decided to purchase one. The club carries solid, hollow and quadratines. One of the features which Pete particularly likes is the fact that his Greencare 12 has automatic lubrication as this precludes the need to carry a grease gun or stop to grease round. Oil use is remarkably low, the level in the reservoir is visible so there is little danger of running out of lubricant. No problems or broken pipes have been experienced with the system. Tine wear is “acceptable”, but in any case the cost of about £55 per set of 24 is considered to be “peanuts”. In fact the club has yet to wear out any of its solid tines. Where Dudsbury has found wear is on the metal loops which retain the tine return springs, and it was suggested that

some modification or an insert would be an advantage.

Dudsbury's Coremaster 12 was purchased through Romsey Garden Machinery, and is available for hire to other clubs. The club also hires out its Toro Hydroject 3000.



## The Toro HydroJect 3000 at Highpost GC near Salisbury

Lauchlan Millar at Highpost GC hired the Hydroject from Dudsbury. He has past experience with the machine which is unique in its use of high pressure water jets. His father is also a committed user, thus Lauchlan knew what he wanted and why he wanted to use this form of aerator.

Highpost is on chalkland, but the greens have built up a peaty layer and the turf was not rooting. There were also drainage problems on parts of the greens and furthermore shallow rooting was allowing the slitter to lift the turf. The club has a conventional aerator, a Ryan GA30, however this was not effective in getting through and into the chalk below to promote drainage, so Lauchlan decided to hire the Hydroject, which is currently too expensive to justify on the club's capital budget.

One common comment made to Lauchlan because the machine makes little or no marking or mess on the surface is that it isn't doing a “proper job”. Lauchlan carries a length of welding rod to insert into the holes which are just visible, so that he can show the sceptics the depth to which the jet is penetrating.

The machine is powered by a 24hp Onan twin cylinder engine which uses about a gallon of petrol per green, but if this seems excessive Lauchlan put it in per-



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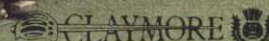
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spective by saying that it is probably less than the cost of tines. The water demand is stated by the maker as eight gallons a minute at 50 psi, which should be within the capacity of most irrigation systems. The machine trails a high pressure hose from the water supply, and at Highpost there are hydrants convenient to each green.

Highpost proposes to hire the machine again in July and September.

**Weidenmann Terra-spike at Western Gailes GC**

Western Gailes in Ayrshire is a links course which expects to be open all year round, thus it needs a versatile aerator which is able to undertake deep as well as shallow tining. Stewart Barr, course manager, said that the Terra-spike deep aerator provided him with the means of enhancing drainage as well as undertaking

his normal aeration and compaction programme. His is the 1.35m width machine which the course has now had for a year, and his comment was that it teamed well with their compact tractor.

Last winter's weather plus increased pressure of golfers strained the greens' ability to



recover and required additional aeration work to relieve compaction but more particularly to promote drainage during periods of intensive rainfall. Stewart illustrated its deep aeration ability when it allowed him to dry out a fairway after "the heavens opened", just before an important match. "It was", he commented, "an instant remedy to the two ponds which had appeared on 17th." Normally the machine is used mainly on greens, tees and walkways. Last winter's weather was open but wet, and if not typical at least not uncommon for Ayrshire.

There have been no mechanical problems with the machine, Stewart described it as simple and robust, tines are lasting "Okay".

**Robin Dagger at Downes Crediton GC**

Crediton has hired a Dagger "for



years" but only bought its own (second hand) machine last year. The Fuji Robin Dagger soil ameliorator, to give the full name, is a unique machine with a single tine, this is driven into the soil by vibration from the two stroke engine when a charge of compressed air is released to lift and shatter the soil from the tip of the tine. The machine is self con-

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tained and has two wheels to enable the operator to move it from site to site.

Head Greenkeeper, Tony Blackburn, said that the Dagger was able to penetrate well into their stony brash and clay. Drainage is an important requirement at Crediton as much of the course is relatively low lying and has a stream running through it.

Trials with a conventional deep tine aerator had resulted in the machine failing to penetrate and ripping the turf. Occasionally the Dagger meets a stone which it cannot divert or shatter, and then it is a simple matter to re-site and try again. The machine is driven down to the full 20 in. depth each time and the aim is to aerate at 2 yard intervals. At this spacing it takes between three quarters and an hour on each green.

The Dagger is driven by a two stroke motor, and uses about a litre of petrol mix per green. Tony

has no criticism of noise level, parts back-up seems satisfactory for the strictly limited number of times that parts have been needed – a pipe and drill top breakage have been the only problems, and these occurred previously while the machine was on hire. Suppliers were P J Flegg Ltd of Ottery St Mary.

**Ransomes Ryan GA30 at Filton GC**

Filton's machine is relatively new to the course, replacing a machine of another make which was obsolescent. The GA30, possibly the best known of all core aerators, is a self-propelled ride-on machine with a 30 in. working width. It is powered by a Kohler Magnum twin cylinder petrol engine of 18 hp.

Kevin Green, Course Manager at Filton, said that they selected the GA30 for its speed and the fact that they were fully commit-

ted to a Cushman system with no suitable (compact) tractors at the club. In simple terms he felt it suited the course. Other important reasons for the purchase were to give flexibility.

The machine requires a minimum of servicing as all bearings

are sealed, thus no grease can be leaked onto greens. The most important point Kevin considered was to ensure that all tines are clamped tightly and that the steel turf guard fingers are not bent. Dealer support is excellent, but there is no service history yet to report. Kevin indicated regret that no diesel engine option was available, however fuel consumption is only about six gallons daily. The noise and vibration from operation is noticeable to the operator on the seat, and Filton insist that all operators wear ear defenders, however vibration is not considered a major problem as operation is for such a short period.

Operators have found the controls are very easy to use, and the machine is very easy to set up, in fact Kevin said it is virtually fool-proof. Lost or broken tines are easy to spot by looking back at the hole pattern.



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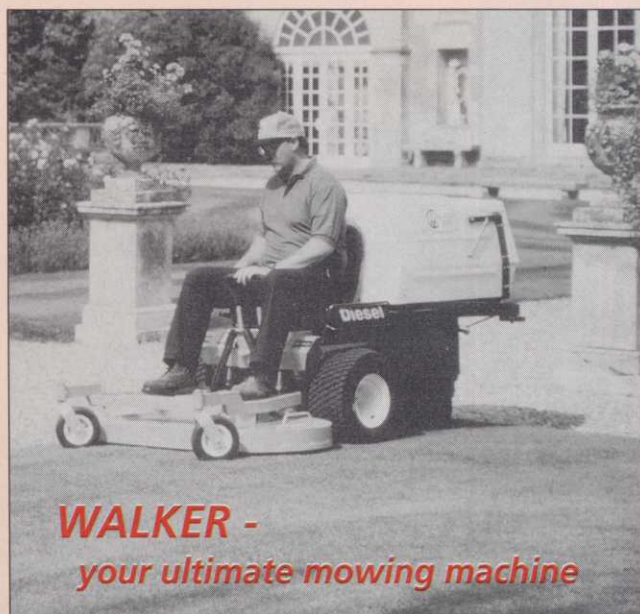
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**Verti-Drain at Welcombe Hotel and Golf Course near Stratford on Avon**

Welcombe has very heavy clay, therefore, says Head Greenkeeper, Malcolm Grout, they need a very heavy duty deep aerator which could cope with the work. As a result the course bought a large - 2.5m width - Verti-drain in 1991 which they use behind a MF375 on flotation tyres. While fully justified on the 18 hole course the outfit has also

been hired out occasionally.

Malcolm admitted that because of its size it would frighten many greenkeepers however he has no qualms although he does select his moments to work the greens. Virtually no lift is given to the tines and a mower is used as a roller to follow the operation.

Half inch diameter tines last for about 36 holes, while the larger ones "go on for ever," Malcolm said, "well perhaps a season, remember this includes acres of

fairway." Replacement is straight forward, a two spanner job, the set screw having a lock nut. Tine losses are minimal, while the occasional breakage is inevitable. Servicing consists of greasing round once a week, fairly sparingly so that no grease drops off, an occasional adjustment of the slip clutch and a seasonal oil change. The gearbox uses about a gallon of heavy (140 SAE) gear oil. Due to the weight of the machine and the fact that there

are no rear jacks built in attaching it to the tractor can be difficult.

Overall Welcombe is extremely pleased with the operation of its Verti-Drain. "It has been the saviour of our fairways," Malcolm said, "which have no irrigation, and as a result can dry out horrendously."

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All five American Golf course in UK have 1.5m Multi-Cores, all are under a year old and all have proved to be extremely satisfactory. All the courses are relatively new with USGA spec greens, and Director of Maintenance Laurence Pithie is adamant that it is a myth that these do not need aerifying.

Made in Australia, the Multi-Core is, according to Laurence, simple and very robust with few parts to cause problems. The machines mount easily on the



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back of a 24hp compact tractor which provides ample power and stability.

The machines have been supplied with 16mm (5/8ins) solid and hollow tines as well as with quadratines. Operation is quick and the finish is neat and clean.

"Pencil" hollow tines are also available, with a 0.25ins diameter and these will be used for partial coring work particularly in shaded areas where extra aeration is deemed necessary. It is expected that the operation will be completed by simply drag-matting behind the corer to spread the cores.

Standard coring is practised once or twice a year on greens while solid tine and more often quadratine aeration of greens, tees and approaches is performed as deemed necessary. Slitters are also used.

Laurence estimated that tine wear and cost is comparable with

other similar machines, about 36 holes from a set of hollows and 54 from the solids, the latter also being used on tees and approaches – so covering a greater area than the coring tines, which are only used for the somewhat smaller than normal greens. Maintenance requirement is minimal with sealed bearings used throughout, thus the main requirement is to adjust the drive belts.

**The Terravent at Silvermere Golf Club in Surrey**

The Terravent is a new British designed and built system for spot treatment of compaction using relatively inexpensive equipment with compressed gas from cylinders. Silvermere Golf Club invested in the system last year and Head Greenkeeper Mark Logan says that it has been "brilliant". It has been used for problem areas on greens, tees and in



bunkers or wherever there has been a problem with drainage. A particular advantage is that it can also be used on banks where no other equipment can be used and around trees or shrubs. Mark has found the use of several forms of aeration essential as the Terravent is not a machine which you can go out one day and aerate the whole course.

The Terravent system consists of a probe which is "hammered" into the ground manually to the depth required using the built-in slide hammer before the burst of gas is released through holes at the bottom of the probe. A 30m. hose connects the gas cylinder to the pressure valve and probe. The gas used is nitrogen which is available from compressed gas suppliers countrywide, many golf clubs already having a gas supply contract for their bar. The standard recommended cylinder has a 30 litre/200 bar capacity which should cost about £45 per year to hire and £11.31 per refill. Mark says that he has found it essential to carry a spare cylinder as he has run out in the past when part way through the job. Terravent has now fitted a gauge to check the contents. The supplier suggests about eleven hundred holes per cylinder, but this is at the lowest pressure of 10 bar, at maximum shot pressure of 50 bar there are about 250 shots.

While the tool works extremely effectively, often really lifting the

soil, and Mark issued the warning that it can be so effective that with excessive pressure it is possible to produce bumps on the surface. He recommended wearing goggles and gloves, the latter to avoid blisters from using the slide hammer.

**C & P Soilcare – Terralift and Deep drill at Woodlands Manor GC – Sevenoaks**

Soilcare operates a hire service which is complete inclusive of operators. Woodlands Manor course is 28 years old and built on clay/flint cap over chalk, as a result it has many sites including greens and tees which need drastic action to break through the cap to the chalk for drainage. The club has used Soilcare's services on a number of occasions, using both its Terralift machines which employ compressed air released from deep ground probes and the Deep Drill with its multitude of large masonry type drills. The former has a maximum depth of 3 ft. while the drills go down about 10 in. thus both have differing uses. Head Greenkeeper, Don Attfield, has been extremely pleased with the service and the results.

The Deep Drill has been particularly effective used in conjunction with a wetting agent to solve surface water flow problems. Its minimum disruption to the surface is a vital advantage, Woodlands Manor sweep up the spoil and then top dress with a 70/30 mix. Cost has been fairly high, particularly as all broken drills are charged, and with the flints these have been numerous. Nor is the operation particularly fast, on average taking between an hour and an hour a half per green.

The Terralift likewise is a minimum surface disruption treatment and it has been particularly effective at breaking through the clay cap to the chalk below. It has been used on a limited number of greens and tees where in the past they have become very boggy over winter. Although Don would not admit 100% success he did say that it had allowed greens to be brought back into play much sooner than would otherwise be the case, and with a three foot reach it can guarantee to fissures right down into chalk.

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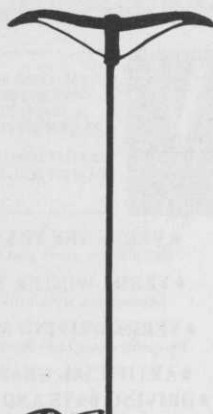
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Farmer's son (21)  
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course. Temporary or  
full time experience  
with machinery and  
grassland. Anywhere  
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References available.

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manager/Head Greenkeeper  
running 27 hole complex seeks  
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drainage, irrigation, growing in,  
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knowledge - health and safety,  
staff training practical and  
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## RECRUITMENT

### COURSE MANAGERS AND ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS



### Kings Hill GOLF CLUB

KINGS HILL GOLF CLUB  
Maidstone, Kent

Require a  
Working Course Manager  
and a number of qualified  
Assistant Greenkeepers.

Both clubs are currently under construction and are due to open Summer/Autumn 1996. The applicants will be responsible for the growing in period through to opening and maintaining to the highest standards thereafter.

A practical knowledge of sand greens, modern machinery, P.C. controlled valve-in-head irrigation systems, and budgeting control will also be required.

Salary is negotiable  
(based on BIGGA rates).

There is no accommodation available.

Please apply in writing with C.V. to:



Barrelfield Golf Network,  
302 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7AQ



### North Weald GOLF CLUB

NORTH WEALD GOLF CLUB  
Near Harlow, Essex

Require a  
Working Course Manager  
and a number of qualified  
Assistant Greenkeepers.



## The Island Golf Club

One of the top ranked courses in Ireland and Great Britain and venue for the Irish Close Championship 1998

invites applications for the position of

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have practical experience of links course maintenance and a proven ability in all aspects of course management including the direction and motivation of staff. Additionally, applicants are expected to have a comprehensive knowledge of greenkeeping machinery, irrigation systems and health and safety regulations.

Salary is negotiable and will reflect the successful applicant's experience and qualifications.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to:

**George Munnely, Secretary/Manager,  
The Island Golf Club, Corballis, Donabate,  
Co Dublin, Ireland**

Closing date for applications: 31st July 1995

On instructions from The Duke of Roxburghe



# WORKING COURSE MANAGER

The Duke of Roxburghe has commissioned an 18-hole championship standard golf course at Sunlaws House Hotel near Kelso, designed by Dave Thomas, to top USGA specification.

A course manager is required in autumn 1995 with responsibility for bringing the course into play, for recruiting and managing a greenkeeping team, and for undertaking the ongoing management of the golf course to the highest standard.

The successful applicant will hold suitable qualifications and have proven experience in course management and maintenance combined with enthusiasm and self motivation.

Attractive remuneration package offered with good house.

Please apply in writing enclosing CV to:

**R E Jackson FRICS  
Roxburghe Estates Office, Kelso,  
Roxburghshire TD5 7SF**



## Hessele Golf Club (East Yorkshire)

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

This established and progressive club are planning to reconstruct all 18 greens to the USGA specification over the next two autumn periods. As a consequence of this major improvement programme, a new Head Greenkeeper is to be appointed.

Applicants should be suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of golf course management including maintenance of machinery.

The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and maintain health and safety requirements is essential.

Suitably qualified and experienced applicants are sought for this post.

Salary is negotiable but accommodation is not provided.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary,  
Hessele Golf Club, Westfield Road, Raywell,  
Cottingham, N Humberside HU16 5YL**



HANBURY MANOR HOTEL

*Country Club Resort*

# GOLF COURSE MANAGER

Set in 200 acres of beautiful Hertfordshire countryside, this luxury 5-star Hotel boasts many facilities, including three restaurants, extensive conference facilities, a health and leisure club and a Jack Nicklaus Junior designed golf course constructed to USGA specification with the associated creeping bent grasses.

This position reports directly to the Group Golf Operations Manager and is responsible for the maintenance and development of the course and related facilities for the benefit of club members and Hotel residents.

The successful candidate will possess recognised qualifications in all areas of Golf Course Management and Maintenance, will preferably have experience of creeping bent grass, together with budget preparation and controls.

**Interested candidates should send their curriculum vitae, together with current salary details, to Derek Keen, Hanbury Manor Hotel, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 0SD.**

Closing date: Friday 21 July.



## Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Club Limited

wishes to appoint

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

to work alongside our present Head Greenkeeper who will be retiring after 47 years with the Club.

Applications are invited from persons of proven ability with appropriate qualifications and experience who possess the necessary management and supervisory skills to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and maintain Health and Safety requirements. Experience of modern machinery, automatic watering systems and drainage will be required.

Accommodation could be provided if necessary.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary,  
Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Club Ltd,  
Grange Lane, College Road, Dulwich,  
London SE21 7LH**

## COURSE MANAGER: PRIVATE GOLF CLUB

Dullatur Golf Club – founded 1896 – seeks a well qualified greenkeeper of proven ability to give hands-on management service in maintaining two 18-hole courses to quality standard playing condition.

Dullatur's well respected golf course is being upgraded to provide a second 18 holes and new practice grounds by golf architect Dave Thomas and specialist contractor Brian D. Pierson Ltd. In 1996.

An important development in Scottish Golf, the course extension to 36 holes is handsomely complemented by a new purpose designed high amenity clubhouse complex, giving members exceptional accommodation and a high level of catering and refreshment services. It also features a fitness centre and outdoor bowling and tennis grounds. Ready late '95.

Position offers good employment conditions.  
Salary negotiable.

Applications in writing only, with full CV, to:

**The Secretary,  
Dullatur Golf Club, Dullatur,  
Nr Glasgow G68 0AR**

## Bishops Stortford 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 and Safety Regulations applicable to golf courses

Remuneration is negotiable and will include membership of BIGGA and four weeks annual holiday.  
No accommodation available.

Apply in writing with full CV before 14 August to:

**The Secretary/Manager, Bishops Stortford Golf Club,  
Dunmow Road, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 5HP**

## Disley Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must possess recognised qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of course management, including maintenance of machinery.

The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and maintain health and safety requirements is essential.

Practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping methods and budgetary control is also required.

No accommodation is available.

Applicants should send their applications, together with CV, to:

**The Secretary, Disley Golf Club, Stanley Hall  
Road, Disley, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 2JX**

**Closing date: 28 July 1995**



## **Bloxwich Golf Club (1988) Ltd**

Established 1924

requires a

### **WORKING COURSE MANAGER**

The course consists of 18 holes constructed on 98 acres of semi parkland and has a mixture of memberships.

The successful applicant will possess suitable qualifications and will have the following skills:

1: To lead and motivate staff. 2: Organise work programmes. 3: Knowledge of irrigation system. 4: Health and Safety Regulations. 5: Machinery maintenance. 6: Knowledge of Budget Control.

Golfing experience would be an advantage. Salary negotiable. No accommodation provided.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Bloxwich Golf Club (1988) Limited, 136 Stafford Road, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 3PQ**

## **Datchet Golf Club**

requires a

### **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

We require a qualified greenkeeper fully experienced in turf and machinery maintenance with the ability to lead and motivate staff, to look after a picturesque 9 hole course situated near Windsor.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Datchet Golf Club, Buccleuch Road, Datchet, Berks SL3 9BP**

## **Hillingdon Golf Club (est. 1892)**

requires a

### **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

for our 9 hole private members' club near Uxbridge, Middlesex

The successful applicant will be self motivated and suitably experienced to organise and carry out work programmes within operating budgets and will be able to work alongside and motivate staff.

Salary is negotiable, accommodation is not available.

Please apply in writing, and in strictest confidence, to:

**The Secretary, Hillingdon Golf Club, 18 Dorset Way, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB10 0JR**

## **The Manor of Groves Golf & Country Club**

require an

### **ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

to join a highly motivated team committed to the highest standards of maintenance.

The suitable candidate must hold minimum qualifications of City & Guilds Phase 1, also a full clean driving licence. PA1 and PA2A spraying certificates would be an advantage.

Apply in writing with full CV and present salary if applicable, to:

**Tony Moore, Course Manager,  
The Manor of Groves Golf & Country Club, High Wych,  
Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21 0LA**

## **Carnalea Golf Club**

requires a

### **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Applicants must be fully qualified and experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping, have a practical knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems, and be fully conversant with current health and safety regulations.

The ability to manage, lead and motivate existing staff and an enthusiasm for golf are fundamental requirements.

Salary negotiable - no accommodation.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary/Manager, Carnalea Golf Club, Station Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 1EZ**

Closing date for applications: 28 July 1995

We are an equal opportunities employer



## **THE WARWICKSHIRE**

Applications are invited for

### **GREENKEEPING STAFF**

To join our highly committed team at one of the finest Golf Course developments in the country.

Consideration will be given to suitably Qualified / Experienced greenkeepers. Additionally, trainee positions are also available for enthusiastic persons wishing to build a satisfying career in the world of Golf and Golf courses.

Application in writing with full C.V. to  
**THE COURSE MANAGER,  
THE WARWICKSHIRE, LEEK WOTTON,  
WARWICK, CV35 7QT.**



## **Birchwood Golf Club Ltd**

require an

### **FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

To join a young, enthusiastic team committed to continue the development of our course.

Apply in writing with CV to:

**Mr P J Baume, Course Manager,  
Birchwood Golf Club Ltd, Kelvin Close, Birchwood,  
Warrington, Cheshire WA3 7PB**

# All you need to know about The Open



Flashback to last year: Members of the BIGGA support team with champion Nick Price

## THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

**Age:** 123 and still growing!

**Appearance:** Totally cosmopolitan, wind-blown, interesting – yet at the same time retaining its traditional feel.

**Where will you find it?** At St Andrews this year. Only 14 courses have ever hosted an Open and that list has dwindled to a regular select band of eight. Of those, however, Carnoustie, venue in 1999, has not hosted the Championship since 1975 – when Tom Watson won his first Major.

**Where was the first one played?** At Prestwick, which hosted the first 12 Opens and 24 in all – St Andrews breaks its record when it hosts its 25th Open this year.

**Why don't they still go back to Prestwick?** It was discarded as a venue in 1925 because it was too small to cope with the large crowds and the course is also too short for the modern day player

**Which courses are on the rota?** St Andrews, Royal Lytham & St Annes, Royal Birkdale, Muirfield, Royal Troon, Royal St George's, Turnberry and Carnoustie.

**Why always an established seaside course?** Traditionally The Open is only played on a links course but if any new seaside course were to meet the criteria for the Championship – quality of course, good road network,

space for the extensive tented village – it would be considered by the Championship committee. Turnberry was the last course to join the rota in 1977.

**Has it always been played on mainland Britain?** No. In 1951 it was played over Portrush in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. It was won by Max Faulkner and remains the only time it has been played outside Scotland or England.

**Who have been the most successful players?** Well, Harry Vardon has the most victories with six between 1896 and 1914 while his two fellow members of the Great Triumverate have five wins each. Australian Peter Thomson also won five times in the 50s and 60s while Tom Watson has the best of the modern day records also with five wins between 1975 and 1983 although he was still in contention as recently as last year.

**Anyone else made significant contributions?** Tom Morris Jnr won the original prize, a belt, three times in a row in between 1868 and 1870 and kept it. He then won the claret jug, the trophy which is still played for today, in its first year. Legendary American Arnold Palmer, who plays his last Open this year, is credited with the modern day success of the Championship by making a point of playing in it and winning twice when he was the greatest player in the world and the top Americans had been reluctant to cross the Atlantic to play in it.

**Greatest triumph in The Open:** Tom Watson

winning the Dual in the Sun with Jack Nicklaus in 1977 at Turnberry when they both played at the top of their form and finished miles ahead of the rest of the field.

**Greatest tragedy in The Open:** Doug Sanders missing a short putt on the final green at St Andrews in 1970 and losing the play-off to Jack Nicklaus. The missed putt is possibly the one which has been shown most often on TV since. Sanders has recovered though. "I sometimes go a whole five minutes without thinking about it," he says.

**Most likely to happen at The Open:** The BBC camera will zoom in on a lone seagull and Peter Alliss will make a stream of "funny" remarks using a fake Cockney accent and rhyming slang.

**Least likely to happen at The Open:** The BBC will interrupt coverage of the Grand Prix to bring us an extra half hour of golf.

**Most likely to be heard:** "Wilbur, darling. I've just bought the most gorgeous sweater and it only cost me 250 English pounds. That's under a 100 dollars, right?"

**Least likely to be heard:** "No I'm afraid we don't take American Express."

**Who is going to win this year's Open?** Bernhard Langer.

**What will be the winning lottery numbers on the Saturday of Open week?** 4, 12, 23, 27, 37 and 41.

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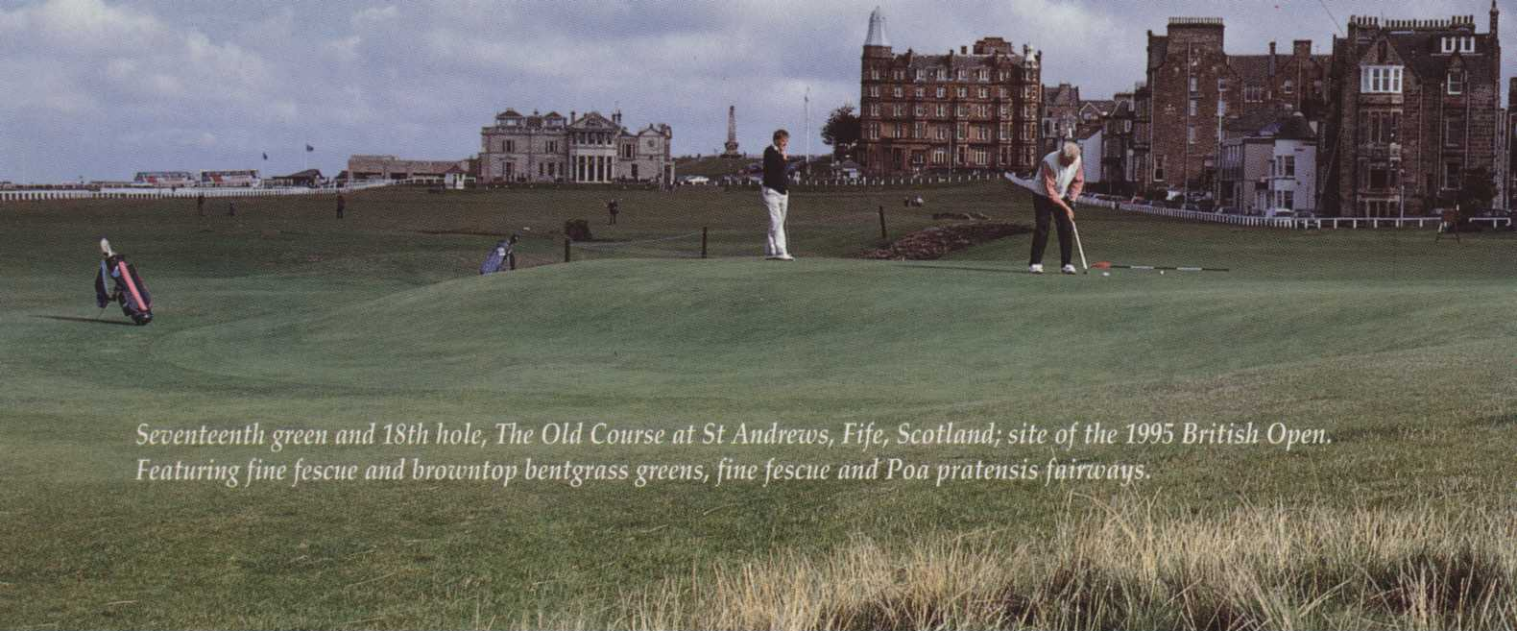
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## Two Classic Approaches...

Golf began at St Andrews, Scotland, 600 years ago. Today, golfers from all parts of the globe travel to Fife to play and pay homage to the 'Home of Golf' and site of 25 British Opens dating to 1873. The several-hundred year-old stone 'Golfer's Bridge' across the Swilcan Burn at the 18th, and The Royal and Ancient Clubhouse constructed in 1854, are unique landmarks that anyone who's played there will remember forever.

Historically, the 'links', forming a link between sea and fertile farmland, were sculpted into the dunes by time and the elements. Turfgrass species were naturally selected over the years, a direct result of weather, soils and prevailing maintenance practices.

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grass/fescue greens remain part of the rich tradition at St Andrews, and the 1995 British Open Championship.

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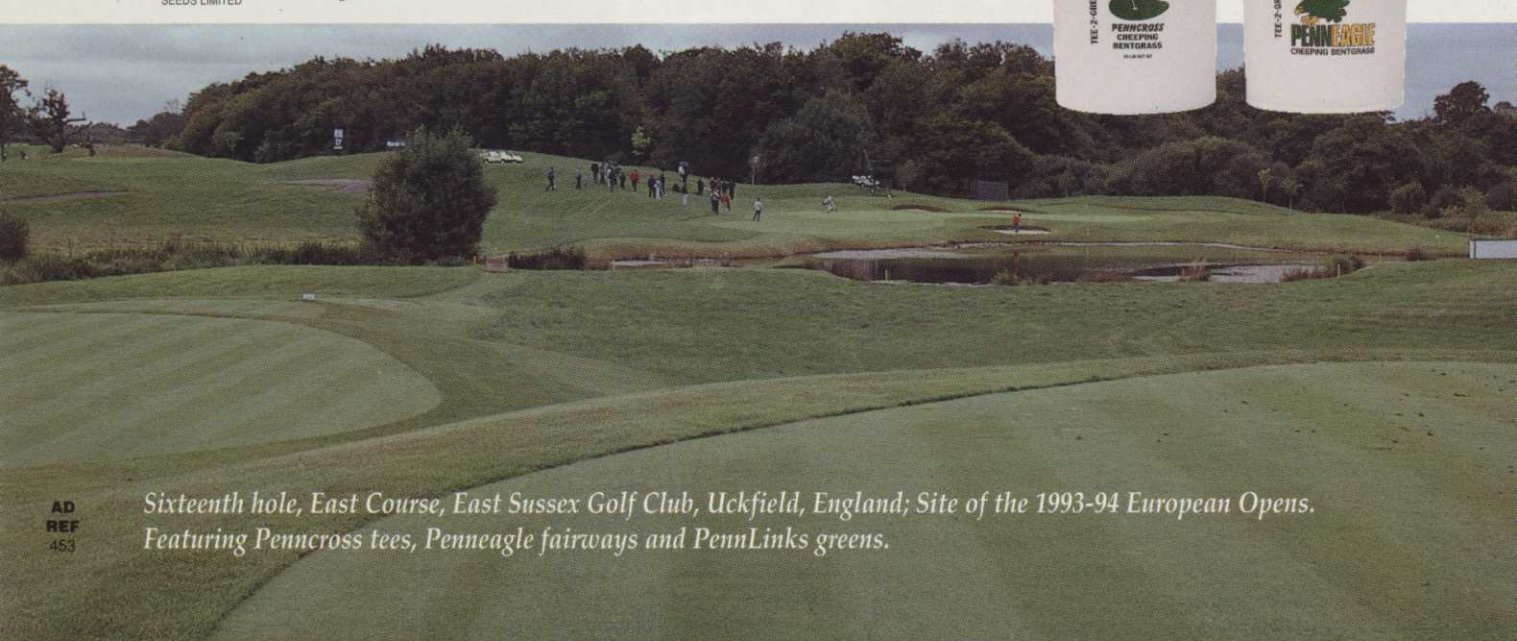
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