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JUNE 1995

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The 14th hole at St Andrews Old Course. Picture by Keith Hailey

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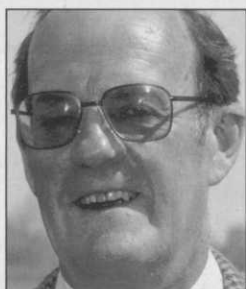
Comings and goings

It is a pleasure this month to welcome Geoff Hills as our first employee Regional Administrator. Geoff comes from a greenkeeping/secretarial background within golf and is looking forward to the tasks which lie ahead with enthusiasm and an eagerness to get involved. His appointment has resulted directly from an initiative by the South East Regional Board who felt that the time had come when the Association could no longer place the demands of regional administration upon working greenkeepers. To signify their commitment to the new appointment, the South East Region together with its constituent sections ie Kent, Surrey, London, Sussex and East Anglia have agreed to forgo their annual subscription refunds in order to part fund the post. Initially Headquarters will supply any supplementary finance that may be necessary although I know that the Region hopes to independently finance the post in total in due course. One particularly important aspect of the position will be the contact with golf clubs and the greenkeeping staff. This contact will have two prime motives ie to promote the welfare of greenkeepers and to introduce new members to the Association. For the first time a region will have an individual able to devote the time to 'grass roots' contact and I feel sure that there will be



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS



Geoff Hills: BIGGA's first employee Regional Administrator

resultant benefits for greenkeeper, golf club and indeed the Association. Geoff will have a large territory to cover and overnight results should not be anticipated. However, in the medium/longer terms I expect this appointment to have a significant impact and I know that it has been welcomed throughout the South East Region. I wish Geoff every success.

On the subject of new appointments, Scott MacCallum has now commenced his editorial duties with *Greenkeeper International* magazine. Scott has a strong journalistic golfing background and will now immerse himself in the greenkeeping world. With the change of an editor comes the opportunity to reflect on the quality, content and direction of the magazine. The magazine is very important to the Association and the prime means of contact with our membership. We do therefore need the thoughts of our readers and constructive comments and suggestions are always welcome – no more so than in the current change-over period. Please let Scott have your ideas particularly on future content and direction of the magazine. It is a members magazine and members' voices should be heard. Increasingly we hope that Scott's background and contacts

will enable us to influence a wider audience through both general golfing magazines, press and TV. This is not an easy task as the greenkeeping side of golf is usually far from media minds other than in a crisis – the incessant rain of 1988 during the Open at Lytham comes to mind as does the condition of the golf course for the 1991 Open at Birkdale. Crisis coverage is one thing, educating the golfing public in the importance of greenkeeping and greenkeepers is quite another. It is the latter which we need to tackle with increasing vigour as the vast majority of the golfing public are quite oblivious to the realities of golf course maintenance, to the technical expertise necessary to present golf courses in pristine condition and indeed to the fact that the golf club's most valuable employees are its greenkeeping staff. Part of Scott's brief therefore is to work in this area and he will be looking to members to provide practical assistance where appropriate.

This month I have covered the arrival of two newcomers as BIGGA employees and we look to them to contribute much to BIGGA's future progress and development. As we say hello to Geoff and Scott, it is time to bid farewell to the STRI's Director, Dr Peter Hayes. As Peter fast approaches retirement, I reflect back to BIGGA's beginnings in

1987 at the STRI offices in Bingley. It was Peter who welcomed us there and provided us with our first 'home'. For the 18 months we were based there, Peter and I shared adjoining offices and it was in early conversations with him and such as Jeff Perris and Mike Canaway that I was first imbued with the doctrines of greenkeeping and the vagaries of greenkeepers. How fitting therefore that as Peter leaves the STRI, the relationship of our two bodies has never been closer. We are currently nearing production of 'A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course', detailed below, which has been jointly commissioned by BIGGA and the STRI with the aim being to provide a practical source of information to the practising golf greenkeeper. This will be followed by a booklet dealing with grass identification whilst we are also cooperating on the production of a training video on the reconstruction of a green. These are all exciting projects made possible through the Education and Development Fund and for which the support of the STRI has been essential. So as Peter leaves centre stage I thank him for all his assistance over the past eight years and I suspect that he will remain a busy man. On behalf of members and staff I wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

Is it worth the risk?

As a result of using BIGGA's Legal Advice Service, a greenkeeper received £15,000 in settlement of a claim arising out of unfair dismissal – available only if you are a paid up BIGGA member. Personal accident cover up to £5,000 is also available only if you are a paid up BIGGA member. Then there's legal advice, accident cover, employment protection – vital in today's world for today's greenkeepers. Thousands of greenkeepers already enjoy the many benefits of BIGGA membership.

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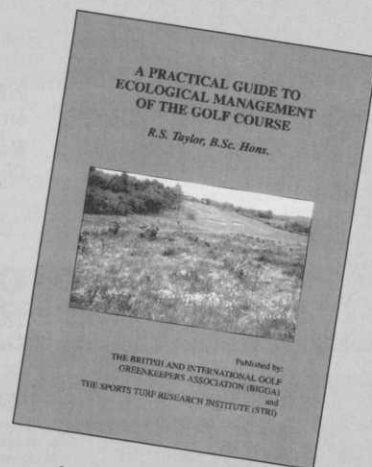
Ecology book out this month

A new book which will soon prove invaluable to greenkeepers all over the country will be available this month.

'The Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course' was written after BIGGA identified the need to assist greenkeepers, golf club officials, especially chairmen of green and anyone interested in ecology of golf courses.

Written by Mr R S Taylor, an STRI ecologist, the 103 page book, illustrated in full colour, was produced with the assistance of Jacobson E-Z Go UK Ltd and the BIGGA Gold and Silver Key members in cooperation with the STRI.

It can be purchased from BIGGA headquarters at a cost



of £3 for BIGGA members and £10 for non BIGGA members.

You can reserve your copy now by telephoning Samantha Flint on 01347 838581.

NEWS



Cynthia's marketing challenge

Cynthia Larbey, pictured, has been appointed Group Marketing Manager of Ransomes plc taking on responsibility for the marketing functions of all Ransomes' group companies worldwide.

Based at Ransomes' headquarters at Ipswich Cynthia has marketing experience in both the consumer and industrial sectors.

"Working alongside Ransomes' existing sales and marketing teams worldwide I shall be ensuring that all our marketing aims and objectives are truly consumer led," said Cynthia.

Greenkeeper backed in public slur outrage

Dunfermline Golf Club Head Greenkeeper Ronnie Cunningham had a nasty shock when he picked up the local newspaper and discovered a public notice informing members that a special meeting would be held to discuss 1. The general condition of the golf course and 2. The performance of the greenkeeping staff.

The meeting, due to be held on June 2 has been called by a group of disillusioned members unhappy with the condition and general untidiness of the course and does not have the approval of the club. According to club secretary Bob De Rose, 49 year-old Ronnie has the full support of the club's council (committee) and green committee.

"This has come from 59 members out of a total membership of 600 and it's totally unwarranted," said Ronnie, adding that he had a great deal of support from among the other members.

"My team - there are four experienced men and two apprentices - have worked extremely hard in difficult circumstances and it is disgusting the way we have been treated.

"In the three years I've been here we have continually improved the course by making the tees bigger and redoing the bunkers. We put in new sand and before we did it we got samples for the members to look at and they approved of what we were doing.

"The new sand was white and

we have also used it to fill in divots around the course and I think this is why certain members have felt that the course has looked untidy. It's been so dry that there has been no growth and every course in the area has suffered. We also have to water by hand," said Ronnie.

"I have not even been invited to attend the meeting. Is it any wonder you hear of young greenkeepers having breakdowns and attempting suicide?" he added ruefully.

"The green committee and the council are not in agreement with those who have called the special meeting but it is in the constitution that a special meeting must be held if 50 names are put to a petition," said Mr De Rose.

"It is our view that Ronnie is doing a very fair job. I sit in on the green committee meetings which are always extremely thor-

ough and Ronnie always does what he says he is going to do."

With the special meeting approaching Steve Isaacs of the STRI was invited to make an inspection of the course.

"He thought it was a real emergency when he was asked to visit but said that the course is better this year than it was last year," said Ronnie.

This was backed up by Mr De Rose who also spoke with Steve Isaacs.

His view is that the course is the same or better than every other course in the area," he explained.

"I hope that his positive view of the course will mean some of the petitioners changing their minds and that there will not be enough names for the meeting to go ahead but it is very unfortunate that the greenkeeping staff's reputation can be called into question in such a public fashion. Mud sticks."

Club President Bill Kennedy had a slightly different view of the situation than the club Secretary. It was his view that some of the Club's council were not in full support of the greenkeeper and that the same was true of the green committee.

"Those who are complaining are not in a position to discuss the technicalities of greenkeeping but are unhappy about the general untidiness of the course. I would say that there is room for improvement."

■ Wareham Golf Club greenkeeper Steven Campbell was awarded damages after winning an unfair dismissal tribunal.

The club had made him redundant after a chemical reaction killed off 11 off the greens and the club had lost £10,000 in revenue.

The club said that it could not afford to keep him on but the tribunal found that Mr Campbell had not been consulted over his redundancy and awarded him £696.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ A young English trainee has earned the once-in-a-lifetime chance hone his skills at the feet of a master.

Chris Knowles (20) of Telford Shropshire will spend 12 months in the USA by studying under one of the nine Master Greenkeepers in the World, Terry Buchan.

Chris, who earned a diploma in Turf Science and Sports Ground Management at Myerscough College, Lancashire, will work under Terry at Double Eagle in Columbus Ohio.

■ Colin Montgomerie laid the final brick at Chobham Golf Club's new clubhouse less than two years after DC Leisure first began construction of the Surrey club's course.

The new clubhouse facilities include the 'Colin Montgomerie Suite' of function rooms, a bar and a la carte restaurant, pro shop and changing rooms.

Monty's ceremonial piece of brick laying represented the conclusion of the construction phase of DC Leisure Group's first golf club management project.

■ Hayter has appointed Tim Yardley as its new Marketing



Manager. Tim, pictured, arrives at Hayter from Hunter Plastics where he was Product Marketing Manager and

has also worked with Marley Excursions. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing. Says Kim Macfie, Hayter's Sales and Marketing Director, "This is a key appointment to the Spellbrook team and Tim brings with him a large variety of relevant experience."

■ Germinal Holdings Ltd, the wholesale seed merchants group which includes Samuel McCausland Ltd in Northern Ireland, David Bell Ltd in Scotland, Germinal Ireland in Ireland and British Seed Houses in England, has appointed three new directors to the Board of Directors.

Roger Saunders, Oliver Vaughan and Michael Shannon come from the English, Irish and Scottish arms of the group respectively.

Food for thought as plans hot up for BTME

The 1995 BTME at Harrogate is already guaranteed to be a huge success. A total of 131 exhibitors have confirmed their attendance at the Exhibition on January 24-26 and they, and the visitors, will enjoy facilities, including catering, which have been substantially improved on previous years as a result of the introduction of dedicated restaurant areas.

In addition for the first time all four home Unions are being invited to attend and will be provided with stand accommodation at no cost. Hopefully they will be able to take up the offer and in doing so further enhance the growing stature of the Exhibition as an event not to be missed.

The comprehensive education programme featured in the week at Harrogate includes the National Education Conference on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23, the Educational Seminar Programme on Wednesday 24 to Friday 26 which runs concurrently with the Exhibition. New to '96 will be practical workshops allowing smaller groups to work together on specific topics

Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer said: "The programme is almost complete and will be the most exciting ever seen at Harrogate and certainly the most comprehensive anywhere in Europe in 1996."

Last year 16 companies left it too late with their applications for exhibition space and were disappointed and this year already there is only 15% of the expanded square metre remaining.

Bill Lynch, Sales and Marketing Manager, said: "Despite introducing a new hall and increasing the size of the exhibition by 25% only 15% remains with eight months to go. In '95, 16 companies unfortunately couldn't be accommodated. If any company is thinking about exhibiting in '96 they really should contact Louise Lunn on 01347 838581 now."



Slaley Hall looks to John Deere kit

Slaley Hall has brought a range of nine John Deere machines to boost the maintenance programme on its championship course.

The equipment was supplied by local John Deere grounds care dealer Greenlay Ltd of Choppington which will be providing a full after sales and parts back-up service.

The new range includes: A

3235 lightweight fairways mower; two 2243D diesel greens-mowers; two Gator 6 x 4 utility vehicles; a 2653 utility tees mower; a 755 20hp compact tractor with 60in mid-mounted mower and two E35 lawn edgers.

"Slaley Hall is already recognised as a leading course in the north of England and the purchase of the new John Deere equipment will enhance the

course, ensuring that it remains at the top of the premier league of the golf world," said Stuart Brown, Director of Golf.

Dan Sexton, Marketing Coordinator for Britain & Europe flew to Slaley Hall from Deere and Company's Head Office in to USA to hand over the machines.

Slaley Hall is host to a number of important events this year and its Hotel will open on August 1.



It's looking good: Mike Sheehan and John Souter

As part of a £4 million development programme at Mere Golf & Country Club near Knutsford, Cheshire, a new 700 square metre putting green has been laid in front of the clubhouse.

The excellence of the new green is a tribute to the work of Mere's Course Manager Mike Sheehan and John Souter, a turfgrass consultant acting for Hepworth's Minerals & Chemicals.

Hepworth's products were supplied for the contract by distributors Moneystone Ltd and John's consultation was part of the ser-

vice Hepworth's now offer to its customers.

The green was constructed using Hepworth's Chelford root zone which is produced to USGA specification.

"We have seen over three inches of root growth in only three weeks in early Spring while the weather is still cold," said Mike. "Hepworth's service has been tremendous, especially with the assistance of John Souter, and the product itself is first class, very consistent with each delivery. I'm looking forward to creating a great surface."

Architects sign Council agreement

The recent British Institute of Golf Course Architects 1995 Conference at Wentworth saw the signing of an agreement between British, French and European Society of Architects' Groups to establish a Council of European Golf Course Architects.

The new Council which will meet initially in England in June will discuss ways of collaboration and co-operation between all bodies in golf course design in Europe, particularly in areas of education, ecology, the environment and safety.

Canada date

The 47th Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show at Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia, next year will be held on Saturday March 2 to Tuesday March 5, 1996.

Magazine collects its second 'Oscar'

Greenkeeper International again showed what a well respected magazine it is in the publishing world by being honoured at the Editing for Industry Awards for the second year in succession.

The magazine received a Certificate of Merit at the dinner held in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, and it was presented to new editor Scott MacCallum, pictured right, by Labour MP Ken Livingstone.

"The Award is a tribute to the work of Tim Moat the design and production editor and my predecessor Chris Boiling and I was delighted to collect it on their behalf," said Scott.

"I will be working hard to ensure that the magazine continues to win awards," he added.



It could be us: BIGGA applies to Lottery Fund

BIGGA has applied to the National Lottery Fund for a grant to boost the Association's recently-launched Building Fund aimed at securing new office premises.

"The Building Fund was created as a separate fund for the purposes of attracting money to be used to either buy suitable office accommodation with or without additional land or, alternatively, converting or improving leased accommodation if it is ultimately seen that this is the best option," said John Pemberton, BIGGA's Administration Manager.

The Association's needs have grown steadily since its inception in 1987 when it was based in one

small room in the STRI offices in Bingley and since it moved to the present premises at Aldwark Manor in May '89.

"Aldwark Manor suited the Association's purposes extremely well until the last 12 months when expanding activities highlighted the acute shortage of space and a need to look to the future," said John.

The Building Fund was launched with a transfer of £5,000 out of general BIGGA funds and has an initial target of £250,000.

"The Association is in the process of applying for financial support through the National Lottery Fund and is exploring other

avenues of potential grant aid. We also hope to attract donations and grants from other bodies or individuals associated with the industry," explained John.

The search for potential new premises is on-going with the ultimate purchase price dependent very much on the type and location of suitable property. It is envisaged that this will be within the current locality to avoid staff relocation problems.

The existing lease on Aldwark Manor is due for renewal in December 1997 by which time it is hoped that the Association will be in a strong position to look for alternative accommodation.

Viscount Whitelaw attends new cup competition

The inaugural Course Care Cumbria Cup got off to a wonderful start when it was honoured with a visit from BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw.

The competition, held at the beautiful Penrith Golf Club, of which Viscount Whitelaw is a member, was the brainchild of Northern Chairman Ian Holoran who knowing that there was a long established Cleveland Cup sponsored by Course Care approached the company about the possibility of sponsoring a Cumbria Cup.

"The nature of our region is



Viscount Whitelaw flanked by Philip Arundel, left, John Wood and Ian Holoran

such that it is difficult for some members to get to some tournament venues so I thought it would be a good idea to launch a Cumbria Cup. Course Care agreed and their sponsorship was a wonderful boost to the event," said Ian.

It was also Ian's initiative which

saw Viscount Whitelaw fit a visit to Penrith into his busy schedule.

"I know the Viscount's detective and that encouraged me to write and ask if he would attend. I was delighted when he agreed," explained Ian.

Course Care Managing Director Philip Arundel and John Wood, the Marketing and Development Director both attended the day and Philip presented the prizes.

Such was the excellent response to the day that it looks certain to become a permanent fixture on the golfing calendar.

The overall winner was local man Marshall Monkhouse who raked every bunker before playing in the afternoon.

Results: Cat 1. 1. B. Storey 36 pts; 2. J. Irvine 33; B. Hovarth 32. Cat 2. 1. M. Monkhouse 37; 2. J. Thompson 34; 3. G. Messenger 28. Cat 3. 1. G. Forbes 21 (on count-back); 2. A. Turnbull 21; T. Stevens 18.

Hot pot, Bill Beaumont, a folk group and golf at BIGGA's National Tournament

BIGGA's National Tournament is set to be one of the best yet with 27 prizes up for grabs over the three days as well as some excellent post golf entertainment.

With St Annes Old Links, at Lytham the venue, the occasion will have a true Lancashire flavour.

"As well as prizes for the best 36 and 54 hole scores we will have separate competitions each day so if you have an off day you can still bounce back the next day and win an excellent price," said Bert Cross, the North-West secretary who is organising the event.

Timetable

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 - Paterson Trophy. Best Gross 36 hole score - Toro Trophy. The Vitax Putting Cup - 18 hole putting competition.
Evening: Tournament Dinner with speaker Bill Beaumont.
Wednesday: William Hargreaves Trophy (Sisis) - 18 hole medal. 54 hole best Gross Hardi Amenity Sprayers' Trophy. 54 hole best Nett Miracle Amenity Care Trophy.
Wednesday 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 Headquarters, 01347 838581.

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Under

Golf course security shouldn't rely on luck and a few flimsy padlocks to keep the insurance company happy, says Hugh Tilley

As a general category golf courses must rate alongside farms as the premises which are least protected from theft and vandalism. But this is a generalisation because a number of clubs have learnt the hard way that keeping what is rightfully theirs requires some thought and attention. For the majority, however, all that protects them from an insurance claim is luck and perhaps some flimsy padlocks.

In preparing this feature it seemed logical to ask the local crime prevention officer about his experience, but his good fortune was that in what is still a largely rural area the greatest risks are members' parked cars and the gaming machines in the clubhouse, and the greatest deterrents are lights and staff quarters on the premises. Nevertheless there are parts of the country where theft of greenkeeping equipment and vandalism of the course are an almost everyday occurrence, and the respective clubs take considerable precautions to minimise the disruption. For others it is easy to say insurance will take care of any loss, but insurers have become hard, upping premiums, increasing the excess and/or requiring specific protective action to be taken before renewal. There may also be small print which says that items are not covered unless actually in view or locked away. Either way if a likely investment in security prevents hassle and disruption it must be well worthwhile.

Many courses have footpaths, byways and other public access and these can be a double edged sword, they give ready access to vandals and those of criminal intent, but they also give access to potential witnesses, and there is nothing the former like less than having a witness. This suggests that the simple answer to

protecting many location is to open them up, illuminate them or even have someone living on site. Lighting for car parks, machinery compounds, and buildings is a simple deterrent, and in some circumstances such lights can be linked to passive infra-red (p.i.r.) or other sensors. Access points such as gates may also be worth illuminating. Closed circuit TV (CCTV) can also work well in conjunction with lighting, nor does CCTV need to work continuously to have a deterrent effect. Obviously sitings will be all important to effect, it is no good it there are vulnerable points which are hidden. Typically greenkeepers' sheds are hidden away beyond the ninth and have all round access with vulnerable areas such as windows at the back. Timber and asbestos cement are easy to break or remove, often so easy that putting bars over windows or locking the door is a charade. A strong steel lining inside the shed may be easy to install and effective.

Many courses use ex shipping containers, usually not very pretty ones, but nevertheless effective. There are purpose made secure buildings such as those supplied by Groundhog and another alternative is to build with security in mind. Swinton Park outside Manchester did just that, although it was not a cheap option. Their building holds all their kit as well as housing office, rest area and workshop etc. Again it is not the prettiest of buildings, with two steel doors, no windows and a solid flat concrete roof, but it is vandal proof as well as being highly resistant to theft. The vulnerability of the doors to ramming is avoided by a steel beam locked in front perhaps somewhat drastic but when you have been repeatedly vandalised and lost all

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your kit with all the disruption this caused, you are inclined to take drastic remedial action.

Many clubs have a 'greenkeepers compound' with a substantial fence or wall around it, this has several advantages not least of which is the fact everything is kept secure and unauthorised persons excluded, which would meet health and safety requirements too. Protection inside this compound may be easier too as it allows movement sensors and alarms to be fitted with a defined area to protect. Screening with trees, shrubs or even climbing plants growing up the fence are

easy options for prettying it up, although you may lose the advantage of it being in sight to passers by. Berberis and other thorny plants are deterrents in their own right, while blackberries provide a nice tasty pie too.

The conventional padlock provides simple and cheap security, however it has disadvantages, one is that it is only as strong as its fastenings, thus thought is needed to ensure that these are sufficiently robust and where possible protect the lock itself from hammers or bolt croppers. It is also essential that locks are re-locked, too often greenkeepers

'forget' – or simply don't bother to lock up, especially when there are many people needing to use the facility. The solution may be multiple keys, it is easy to buy quality locks with many keys and then issue these to each greenkeeper preferably with the instructions that it is to be tied around their neck and guarded as if it were gold! Putting a key under a brick is old hat, and very obvious to the professional thief.

Smaller containers may also be useful around the course for temporary tool or chemical storage while lockable boxes to fit pick-up truck, tractor linkage or turf

maintenance vehicle may ensure the safety of small hand tools, chemicals and other items which can 'walk' when a greenkeeper's back is turned. A number of firms make these.

If a compound is not an option there are other ways of protecting larger items which cannot be locked in a secure shed. The most obvious is the wheel clamp as this can be used wherever the machine is. Many of the anti-theft devices sold for cars can also be used, particularly to immobilise vehicles. Possibly the greatest risk with tractors and mowers is not so much of them being stolen so

Under lock and key

much as the probability of joyriders taking them for a scramble around the course, an occurrence which can be more expensive and have greater effect on play than simply losing the machine.

Other effective means of protection are to chain and padlock items to buildings or other substantial structure – even a post concreted into the ground, and while it may be possible to go into any locksmith or traditional ironmonger and get chain and locks, there are specialists in plant security such as Lincoln Master Products who provide proven products and technical know how. Their experience has been with the plant hire industry and contractors plant where plant theft has been rife. The plant hire industry usually lets equipment out on the basis of hirer's risk, so beware and protect hired items as if they were your own.

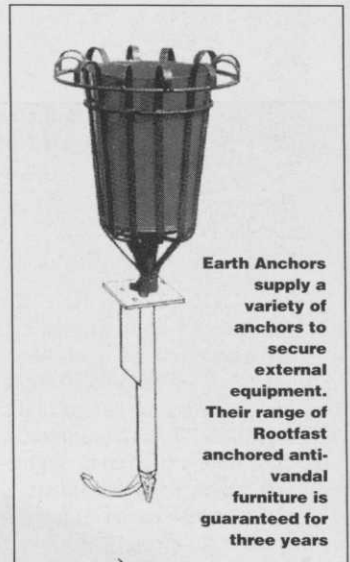
Increasingly modern plant, including tractors and mowers are being made vandal resistant by the manufacturer, in the past it has been too easy to steal batteries, put dirt in the fuel or otherwise render the machine unusable. If your course is vulnerable consider this when buying new equipment. Data tagging is another option offered by at least one major manufacturer, while it is possible to fit one of the tracking systems which will at least almost guarantee that the item is found. Whether these are cost effective for golf course machinery is another matter.

Simple precautions such as keeping the serial numbers of everything which you acquire will help should the item be stolen, it is also useful if ordering parts, and it may help establish both value and provide a stock check. Some clubs have little knowledge

of what equipment they actually own and what should be in the shed. The police suggest that all equipment is marked distinctively, and permanently. Many clubs have a logo, emblem or livery, use of such will help render equipment un-resaleable, thus valueless to the thief. A bright and distinctive colour may also have safety advantages on the course. It may also be worthwhile investing in proper signwriters paint brushes and seeing if anyone on the staff can make a reasonable job of painting the club's name on major items.

There are many types and systems of intruder alarm, and these have become more sophisticated and reliable with expanding demand. There are also many experienced suppliers and fitters, although there are cowboys around. A quiet word at the police station may produce some suggestions, off the record of course.

Deciding on a system and the level of protection required will depend on many factors, such as how great the risk is, proximity of staff housing and so on. There is no point in fitting elaborate electronic detection when there is a good compound, or strong buildings, or even if the location is so remote that no one would get there in time even if called. Where detection is phone or radio linked it is not advisable for anyone to attend unless accompanied with the police notified. A mobile radio is an extra asset. The major problem with any alarm system is that to be effective it need to be responded to, although just having lights go on or an alarm sounded is a strong deterrent. If there is habitation close by this may be sufficient, alternatively it may be possible to link to the clubhouse or steward directly or by telephone, or where there are no phone lines by radio. It is also possible to link to a security service or direct to the police station so that they do the monitoring. Generally such a level of surveillance is only justified for the clubhouse bar, and the chances are that with green-keeping equipment any thief would be in and out before anyone attended. Attending a break-in in the middle of the night



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tends only to result in lost sleep, catching someone red-handed is probably more fiction than fact.

Detection can be as simple as the common p.i.r lighting, investing a little more than the cost of a DIY shed unit will give better reliability and discrimination, or as sophisticated as a complete linked system with multiple sensors, an autodialler and video recording. Once you get to these levels you may as well include a fire alarm so you have double protection, but beware of smoking, lighting a bonfire close by or burning the bacon. The Bristol Yellow Pages lists eight pages of 'Burglar Alarms' with twelve of 'Security Services' – this is big business, so there has to be one near you! The National Approved Council for Security Systems – NACOSS – phone 01628 37512, provides addresses of approved local installers.

The local crime prevention officer is another useful, and free, source of advice, and one which should be reasonably unbiased. Advice may also be available from your insurer. But theft and vandalism are not the only reasons for 'security', security should be an all embracing concept, and if it has not been done it would pay most clubs to undertake a security audit. This should look at obvious health and safety dangers such as flying golf balls alongside public access, lakes and reservoirs and all premises to which the public can gain access, legally or not.



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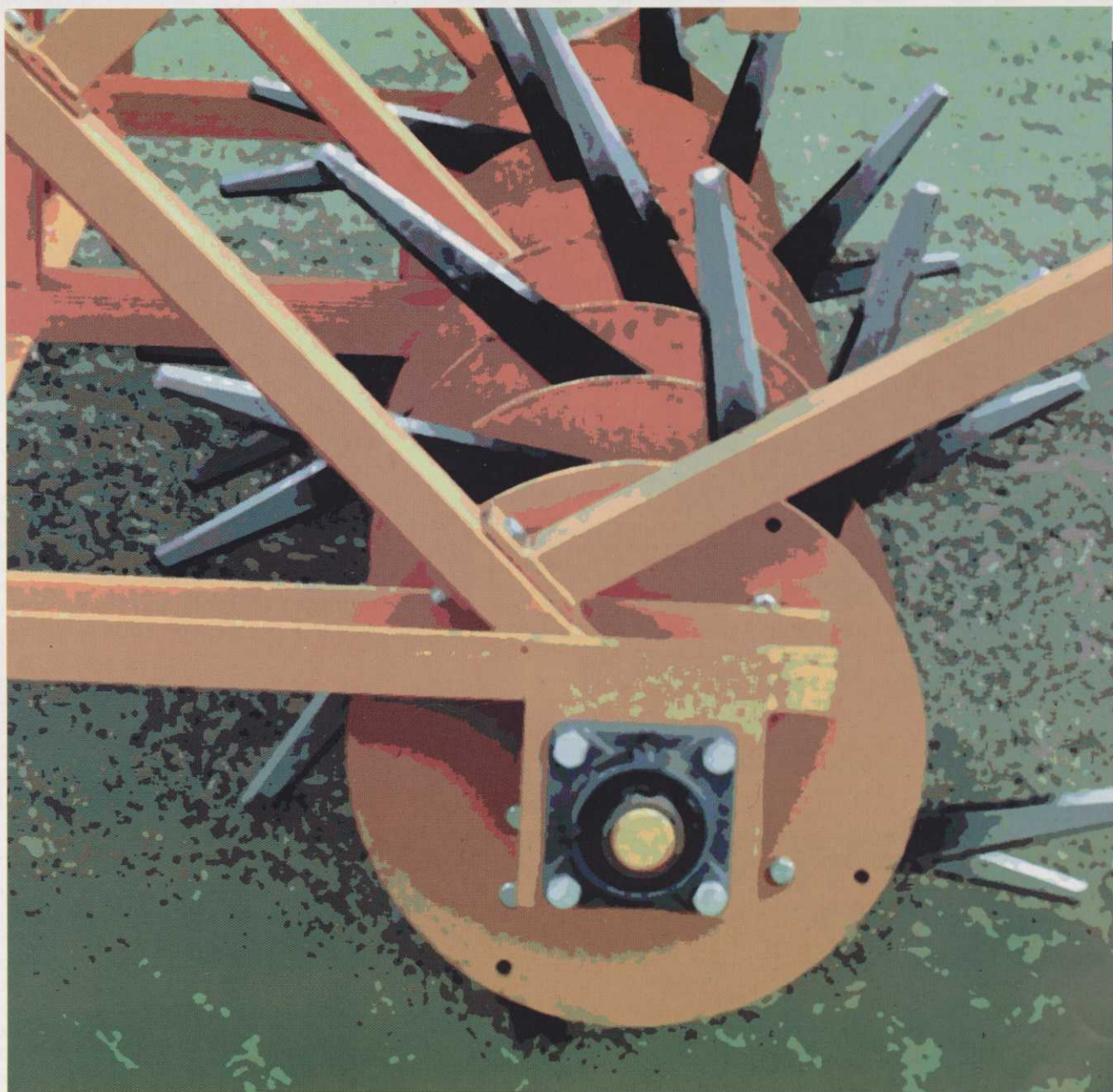
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Hornsea Golf Club, winner of the '95 Golf Foundation Prize draw, has taken delivery of its brand new Kubota ride-on mower from the sponsor of the draw Kubota. In the 10 years that Hornsea GC has been taking part in the Golf Foundation Charity Prize Draw, the club has raised almost £10,000 for the Foundation in a series of special events. Kubota (UK) Ltd has been sponsoring the annual draw by donating a ride-on mower worth over £8,000 as a prize for the last eight years.

STRI get a new man at the top

Dr Mike Canaway will take over as Chief Executive of the Sports Turf Research Institute on the retirement of the present Director, Dr Peter Hayes at the beginning of June (see Page 50).

A graduate in Plant Biology from the University College of North Wales, Bangor Dr Canaway arrived at the STRI in 1974 after working in agricultural grassland research in Aberdeen. He worked initially as a Research Officer before being promoted first to Senior Research Officer in 1983 and to Assistant Director in 1988.

He has conducted research into wear tolerance of turf grasses

developing a machine widely used for trials; grass mixtures, fertilisers, construction, playing quality, mechanical equipment, establishment, rootzone amendments and reinforcement systems.

He also submitted a doctoral thesis by part-time study to the University of Liverpool as a culmination of his research work and was awarded a PhD in December last year.

He is a Chartered Biologist, Member of the Institute of Biology, member of the Institute of Horticulture and UK Director of the International Turfgrass Society.

The far eastern connection

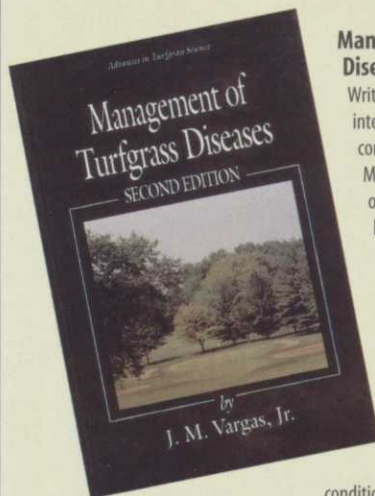


Staff from Ransomes in the UK spread their wings recently in a bid to attract new customers.

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effort and travelling proved worthwhile with a range of machinery being sold to a new club being built in China while other demonstrations were arranged for specific machines for clubs in Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Taiwan.

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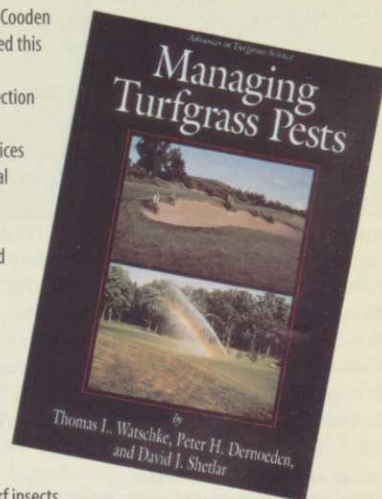
Managing Turfgrass Pests

Stefan Antolik, head greenkeeper at Cooden Beach Golf Club, East Sussex, reviewed this book in February's Greenkeeper International, saying: "I found the section on Turfgrass Diseases to be of much interest, especially the cultural practices and the environmental and biological control methods... As a result of all the recent concern about the environment, it seems that more and more greenkeepers will need to revert back to cultural practices..."

Contents include: ● Monitoring disease and establishing thresholds ● Diseases categorised by season ● Seeding diseases and damping off ● Factors associated with fungicide use ● Turf insects and mite management ● Vertebrate animal pests of turf.

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Guardian of the Links

Walter Woods is gearing up for his fourth and final Open Championship – and his course is already in great shape. Scott MacCallum reports from St Andrews

There are some jobs which are the ultimate in their field. I'm not talking about being paid vast sums for doing not a lot or even one of those bizarre jobs which we know don't really exist but for which we've had a secret hankering anyway – like Chief Sun Tan Lotion Applier on Baywatch.

No, I mean a job where you are in constant touch with greatness and gives you the chance to leave your mark in some small way. There are a few people lucky enough to have one of these jobs – keeper of the Crown Jewels; mechanic on a Williams Renault Formula 1 car; trainer for the Brazilian football team; editor of *Greenkeeper International*; chef at the Savoy Hotel; caddie to Laura Davies. All of these positions give the holder a privileged chance to walk in the shadow of greatness and in some small way help it along its way.

Another of the jobs belongs to Walter

Walter and Head Greenkeeper Eddie Adams discuss the work ahead



Woods who, as Links Superintendent at St Andrews, is guardian of the most revered stretches of golfing land in the world. During his 21 years at St Andrews Walter has seen his greenkeeping skills not only come of age but mature to the extent that he is one of the most respected figures in the business.

Approaching his fourth, and final, Open Championship – he retires at the end of the year – Walter is confident that the man who joins his elite club of Champions – Jack Nicklaus, Seve Ballesteros and Nick Faldo – will have climbed to the peak of the leaderboard on a course as close to perfection as nature would allow.

“There is something about the Old Course which brings out the best in the best player of the time and they always appreciate the way the course is set up and hopefully it will be the same this time,” said Walter in his office deep in the heart of the hallowed links.

“Coming up to my fourth Open I worry about it just as much as I did the first. I've been lucky to have had good Opens and touch wood I'll have another one again but the pressure is so much greater now than it was in my first Open in '78. Just look at the amount of money riding on it. It attracts millions to an area, possibly as much as £15 million to this area, and there can be so much riding on just one putt.

“It means huge responsibility on the greenkeeper. If the tented village blows down it can be put up again but if there is something wrong with the course it can crucify you.”

You get a strong feeling of cautious confidence talking to Walter about The Open because he knows that however much you prepare and no matter how good you are it can sometimes go wrong.

With an Open Championship, however, there is very little left to chance thanks to the R&A and its hugely experienced staff who offer as much back-up as any greenkeeper could possibly want.



From two years before the Championship the greenkeeper is working closely with the R&A and its team with the emphasis very much on working together as a team.

“You won't get the R&A stipulating width of fairway or speed of the green for a championship. The Championship committee meets the greenkeeper many months before and will ask his opinion about how he thinks the course should set up. If the committee has anything to say it will do so right there and then. The R&A has its own agronomist and he is very knowledgeable and experienced. He's got a broad outlook on all the championship courses.

“The greenkeeper is ultimately responsible but he gathers knowledge from every area. When it comes to your greens you know that they have got to be firm and that the grass has got to be on the lean hungry side during the tournament.

“The only thing that can create a problem is the weather and you have to be prepared to expect anything to happen and be in a position to cope. Forecasting is extremely good nowadays but on a links the wind can whip up suddenly and dry the course out very quickly,” said Walter, before adding that at St Andrews they have wall to wall irrigation and a huge 357,000 gallon reservoir to draw on.

This year a radical new technique has been applied to ensure that the course will be seen



at its best for the Championship.

"At St Andrews we always attract a lot of visitors. It's the home of golf and people from all over the world want to come and play and divots are one of our biggest problems. A few years ago Carnoustie began using astroturf mats and we thought we'd follow suit. We use an oblong piece of astroturf a foot by six inches and a tee peg in it and the players carry them with them and this has helped us quite dramatically, because our fairways are virtually divot free. They are looking quite different from anything I've ever seen. They are absolutely perfect."

The mats have led to some strange sights on the Old Course with some innocent visitors using them on the greens and even in bunkers while many mats have joined tins of shortbread and tartan bonnets as valued souvenirs.

Walter is lucky to have a fine team of young greenkeepers working under him who will all be available to add weight to the Open preparations in addition to their own work on the other St Andrews courses.

"I've got five head greenkeepers and they are responsible for their own course through me. Eddie Adams is Head Greenkeeper for the Old Course."

Born and bred in St Andrew Eddie began his career in St Andrews and he works closely with Walter.

"I've groomed Eddie to think on the tradi-

tional lines and he now thinks how I think," Walter chuckles. "He's learned the old fashioned ways. For instance when we spread fertiliser we don't use a spreader we do it by hand. I've taught all my young men to spread by hand.

"You might think it dirty and slow but it keeps your fertiliser down to a minimum, is a skilful way of applying it and you're guaranteed not to make a mistake. The one way a greenkeeper is sure to lose his job is to make a mistake. So you do everything on a championship course with patience with skill and how you are taught from the people who have done it before. Now Eddie has learned those things he puts it into practice and he is coming into a championship with a great deal of responsibility."

During the Championship Walter will also have the help of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team consisting of 45 British greenkeepers, two from Sweden and one from the USA who walk with every match to rake bunkers and generally assist with the evening divoting.

"The Greenkeeping Support Team started at the Open in '84 but when BIGGA was formed and took over the organising of it it has gone from strength to strength," said Walter, BIGGA's first Chairman.

In addition to The Open every five years or so Walter has prepared the Old Course for ten

Alfred Dunhill Cups which involved having the course in tip top shape in late October when many other courses are put down to sleep for the winter.

"Greenkeeping has reached a stage where we can do virtually anything at any time. Not only has knowledge improved and I've learned from greenkeepers all over the world but huge strides have been made in machinery.

"I've got triplexes which can cut beautifully. I've got aeration machines that can aerate leaving barely no marks. I've got machines which can aerate down to 16 inches, unknown years ago."

Working at the Golfing Mecca means that Walter must prepare the course at the same time as thousands of golfers are enjoying their once in a lifetime visit but he doesn't see that as an inconvenience.

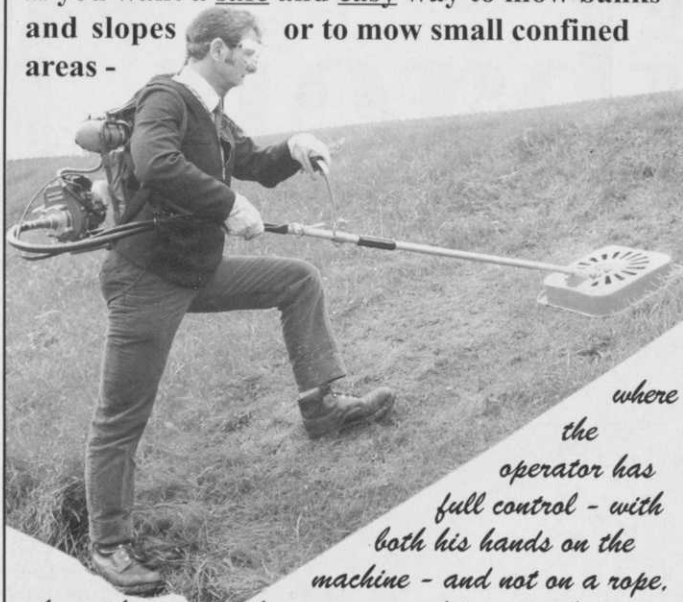
"It gives me great satisfaction that we can prepare a championship course in superb condition and still be open to thousands of visitors. Anybody can have a great golf course if nobody is playing on it, but just think how great it is to prepare it for lots of people to enjoy golf at the same time. How many people have come to St Andrews and taken up the game?"

It's a thought which obviously gives Walter great pleasure.

Pictured: St Andrews' wall-to-wall irrigation system in action.

Photographs by Scott MacCallum

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British Institute of Golf Course Architects

Replacing divots on tees: British views are sought by American eager to learn

This letter is to enquire about the opinion of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association on the subject of replacing divots on tees covered by cool-season grass (normally, I suppose, either creeping bent, Kentucky bluegrass or perennial ryegrass). The subject seems to be one of increasing disagreement. Some will argue that golfers should replace divots on tees to relieve the workload for the greenkeeper. Personally I have always understood that one should not replace divots on tees, since this only leads to loose and inconsistent turf texture, slow play and unsatisfactory recovery results due to the frequent scattering of divots.

In my experience, I have found two general approaches to maintenance of tees: One is the placement of soil-seed mixture in divot marks, carried out in accordance to, and immediately following the changing of the tee-markers (on a daily to weekly basis, depending on the ambitions and budget of the club). The other is hand plugging with fresh sod from the greenkeepers' turf nursery (if he has one), also carried out after the tee markers have been shifted. However, the art and science of greenkeeping is a dynamic affair, and there may well be a new order of the day, so to speak. As a non-greenkeeper, I can therefore only hope to be aware and appreciative of the new and improved techniques. I shall be looking forward to hearing from you.

James H Duncan MSc (Civ Eng), 106 1/2 Linn Street, ITHACA, NY 14850, USA

'Illogical' ideas need clarification

Apropos the article on the link between phosphatic fertilisers and annual meadow grass invasion of bent/fescue turf, it does seem to me that the illogicality of Mr Laycock's views and

Comparisons make me think again about temporary greens and trolleys

I would like to congratulate you on the article comparing Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Centre with its 80,000 rounds of golf a year and Royal Worlington Golf Club, with its 350 (some very part time) members. It was extremely interesting to read how the two Head Greenkeepers manage their courses with their different soil conditions and play conditions.

However, as a greenkeeper at a private club where members have come to expect all year round golf, I feel I would like to raise two observations from the article. We are situated on the Chiltern Uplands on a soil classed as Pebbly Clay. Although free draining during periods of excessive rainfall, I am very aware that the soil is open to compaction.

I have been lucky enough to have played Royal Worlington and have to agree that it is an outstanding test of golf, with free draining firm and very true putting surfaces.

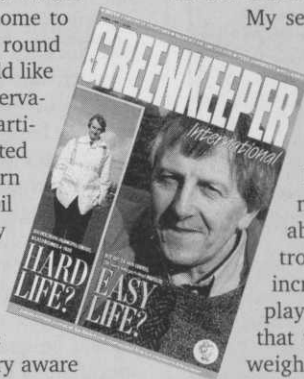
However, I feel the comment, "There should not be temporary greens anywhere in this country because the weather is not that bad. If you look after the greens in the summer, you will not need temporary greens in the winter", is slightly unfair to green-

keepers in this country who need to use temporary greens. In the article it states that Royal Worlington is built on a superb parcel of land with a sandy loam soil. For this reason and the fact that Royal Worlington only has 350 members (many of whom only play once or twice a year), I can understand why Mr Gee does not need to use temporary greens. However, some of us are not as lucky as he.

My second point concerns trolley restrictions during winter months. On some courses it has become a necessity to be able to restrict trolleys because of increased winter play. I totally agree that there is as much weight on the bottom of a trolley as there is on the bottom of a pair of feet. However golfers with trolleys will navigate a very similar path, leading to worn turf surfaces and compacted soils.

We all realise from first hand experience that golf is now more popular than ever before, and courses are expected to be presented to higher and higher standards. Only with the use of temporary holes and trolley restrictions can some courses achieve this.

G Bruce, Head Greenkeeper, Berkhamsted Golf Club



Research then) and long before that old greenkeepers were noting the adverse effect of agricultural fertilisers, including basis slag, applied to feed the sheep on the course. Their stand-by was soot, a purely nitrogenous 'fertiliser'. Certainly immediately after the war, my colleagues and I at St Ives Research Station were advising as standard practice ammonia, blood, hoof and horn and iron – and that was only echoing what was standard practice, on links courses anyway, before the war. Are we to dismiss the proven soundness of advice and practice over a century, merely to further the gimmick of frequently repeated chemical soil analyses, which at best merely confirm what an experienced eye, be it of greenkeeper or agronomist, knows anyway?

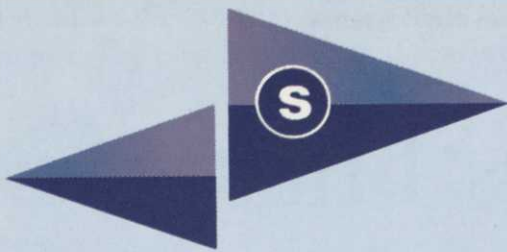
I would be the first to admit that many trials could be faulted for sloppy techniques or on technical foundations. STRI trials and others were not with conventional root zones but with sand-only and it is fully accepted that such sterile root zones need not only NPK but lime and even trace elements, but these are quite atypical. Nevertheless there are trials (and I have read them in detail) where the link is proven, but even if this were not true, then hundreds of experienced head men and advisers have first hand experience of the invasion of annual meadow grass into fine bent or fescue turf as a result of one incautious dose of complete fertiliser.

We are told that most soils contain too much phosphate even in agricultural work. Precisely! So why apply more, wasting money and producing negative results. There are many excellent examples of bent/fescue greens with soil analyses showing 3 ppm of phosphates and hundreds of very bad overfed annual meadow grass greens with levels of around 1,000 ppm, as proven by surveys reported by STRI (reference Hayes, Arthur: 'Greenkeeper' July 1986).

deductions need to be challenged.

The basis of greenkeeping over the past century or longer, that phosphatic fertilisers (as opposed to phosphates in non-

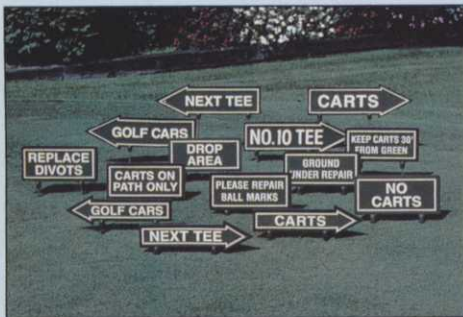
fertiliser form) encourage annual meadow grass invasion, is questioned. Yet this was the basis of the acid theory of the twenties (on which STRI was formed as the Board of Greenkeeping



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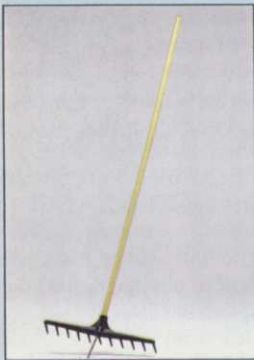
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'It is perhaps healthy that the basics of our profession should be examined and indeed modified if the need is proven beyond doubt'

From previous page

It is admitted that applying phosphates on alkaline soils will bring in annual meadow grass, but today most root zones are on the alkaline side of neutral. Acid soils lock up fertiliser phosphate – which was the basis of the old acid theory – so on both counts it is at best wasteful to apply phosphates in fertiliser form. Most top dressings today contain quite enough phosphate to meet the very modest nutritional needs of fine turf.

It is perhaps healthy that the very basics of our profession should be examined and indeed modified if the need is proven beyond doubt. We have to accept that modern pressures on golf courses make old techniques impracticable, but this does not mean that the principles are wrong and one can but deplore the current tendency to dismiss all the practical experience and countless examples which prove our basic beliefs in favour of some modern gimmicky analytical approach which means nothing. What does it profit us to know what the levels of certain plant foods are in soil or vegetation, when there is little that we can do to reduce levels that are too high. Hence my fairly jaundiced view on the value of chemical (not physical!) analyses and my comment that, "The ideal pH is the one you have got – since it is hard to reduce it on greens". The real danger of these heresies is not to experienced men but to

students and starters who may be encouraged to reject proven truths – they should listen to the advice that I received when I first joined Bingley immediately after the war. "We have made many mistakes in the past and you will be no exception, but for goodness sake do not copy the ones we have already made!"

J H Arthur BSc (Agric)

My ideas on moving forward

I propose a building fund be adopted and all monies raised go directly to purchasing a building solely for BIGGA office use. I envisage two ways in which capital could be raised:

- 1 A £10 levy on all members on top of their annual subscription.
- 2 Life Membership to be made available for a maximum of 100 members. The figure of £1,000 per person for this scheme appears favourable.

I suggest we do away with 'gimmicks' for membership – such items as the wallet and pen. These items cost money, and I am sure we could manage without them. The sticker 'A Cut Above the Rest' is a way of advertising BIGGA, but I personally do not believe in cheap advertising.

I do hope you find the above suggestions useful and that they may raise a discussion at your next meeting.

Anthony Davies

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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

South Coast

The recent seminar at Sparsholt College was excellent being both well supported and of good information value. The speakers included Arthur King of the EGU, David Golding, Education Officer of the GTC, John Pierson and George Shields.

Our spring tournament was held at Covehampton GC on April 10. Played in delightful spring sunshine the 36 hole Hayter Qualifier was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Mark Webb for running the event.

Results:

Gross. 1. Darren Miller 147, 2. Paul Fitzjohn 161 3. Tony Gadd 162. Nett. 1. Andy Doolan 143, 2. Phil Wentworth 143. NITA Simson Trophy. 1. Joe Newman, 2. Bob Walker. Under 25s Dave Wadkins.

We are grateful to our sponsors and Covehampton Golf Club for their support of this event. Also to the sponsors of the Sparsholt College seminar.

It is encouraging to note that membership of the section continues to grow rapidly.

BOB CULLY

Cleveland

Head Greenkeeper, Barry Lee, tells us that the new six holes at Chester-Le-Street were officially opened on April 1 by the Earl of Scarborough.

The first part of the March meeting was taken by Ian Webster from Houghall College in Durham and was on the National Vocational Qualification which has been introduced bring about common standards in the assessment of task, knowledge evidence and equipment presentation.

NVQ is achievable without going to college as creditation is given for prior learning. Assessment at work by Head or first assistant, who must be a qualified assessor.

To qualify to be an assessor we must attend a training day at a D32 Creditation Centre of Learning, and present a portfolio of evidence for assessment to verify NVQ competence in all units. Good Luck!

The second part of the March meeting was a talk by a Vitax technical rep, on disease control. Fusarium, active pathogen, environment - Surf Surface; Stress and how to manage it; Anthracnose - sealed surface and water on surface.; too many pin positions on the same area = severe compaction. Aeration in summer is vital and seaweed is of great value, avoid weak growth and reduce surface moisture.

BRUCE BURNELL

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

The season's first golf event took place at Beaconsfield on April 5. However the turnout was less than expected with 25 entries including some trade members. From a membership of 250 this is poor. I have to say that it is very disappointing for everybody involved especially to trade members who provide excellent prizes for the events. So come on, let's make an effort for the remaining events of the season.

Those people who did play had a cracking day's golf on a superb course. An extra incentive to play was the chance to play in the Hayter Beaver Regional final. It's not the easiest event to host being so early in the season (a greenkeeper's nightmare) so thanks to Bill and his staff for presenting the course in excellent condition. Judging by the scores there were plenty of putts holed on

EVENTS DIARY

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

July 20-23: The Open Championship, St Andrews

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

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

the fast greens.

Results:

Gross 1. J. Texeira 73 (on count back) 2. S. Adby 73. Nett. 1. G. Butler 64 (on back nine) 2. L. Liliton 64 3. M. Shelton 67.

The wooden spoon was won by Andy Goodall - apparently he collects them. Ha! Ha! Only kidding Andy.

The following players qualified for the Hayter Beaver Regional Final to be play on July 6.

Cat 1. J. Texeira, S. Adby, L. Anderson, T. French.

Cat 2. M. Shelton, G. Walsh, G. Wheeler, D. Childs and B. Plain (reserve).

Cat 3. G. Butler, C. Lileton, J. Socket and J. Bevan.

If any of the above can't make it can they please contact me as soon as possible.

A special thanks to Risboro' Turf, Sta-Brite, CMW, Parkers, Standard Golf and Rigby Taylor for supporting the event.

Thanks also to Bill Lynch of BIGGA for a lively after dinner discussion.

Finally thanks to my playing partners Geoff and Mark for putting up with my boring golf (straight down the middle!). The next golf event is at Blue Mountain on July 5. See you all there. Anyone with points of view should contact me on 01491 578147.

Football results to be printed next month.

LINDSAY T. ANDERSON

North East

On April 27 we had our annual spring competition at Alnmouth village's nine hole course. What a pleasure it was to play there. The hospitality we received from the club was excellent and the course was a delight to play. Credit must go to Barry Weddell, the greenkeeper. Thanks also to the club committee for giving us the courtesy of the course and for coming to our rescue at such short notice and to the stewardess and the match secretary.

Donations were from Shorts, Rickerlys, Turf Care, Aitken's, Border Services, Boldon GC and Swardland Hall GC. Thanks to them and to Terry Charlton on the nearest the pin at the first short hole won by Barry Wilson.

Results:

Gross. M. Lathan, Hexham GC 74; Nett. D. Street, Boldon GC, 70 (86-16)

Assistant's Cup Nett 1. C. Parkinson, Slaley Hall, 71 (76-5) Better inward nine; 2. B. Wilson, Stockfield GC 71 (77-6); S. Quince, Alnmouth GC, 71 (76-5).

Qualifiers for Hayters Tournament.

Cat 1. B. Wilson, C. Parkinson, S. Quince. Reserves R. Black, M. Lathan.

Cat 2. D. Street, S. Pope, D. Dalby. Reserves W. Holden, G. Atkinson.

Cat 3. B. Hughes, A. McDonald, T. Mooner. Reserves K. Rutherford, A. Wright.

JIMMY RICHARDSON

North West

Our spring tournament, held at Wilmslow GC on April 13, was attended by 38 greenkeepers and eight guests who, according to their comments, enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The course, built in 1889 and the second oldest in Cheshire, was in beautiful condition thanks to Steve Oultram and his staff. Steve said that the course was covered in frost when they arrived for work and had to wait sometime before they could cut the greens.

I would like to thank Tony Laurence, Secretary/Manager and the Wilmslow committee for allowing us courtesy of the course and also Mrs Chason for a great lunch and evening meal.

Results:

Best Gross, Paul Pearse; Best Nett, Mark Broughton; Veterans, Bert Cross.

The prizes went down to 13th nett thanks to the support of the following companies:- Acorn Supplies, Cheshire Sand and Top Dressing, Henry Royle Ltd, Turner Groundcare, Sisis, Grow, High Speed Lubricants, Cheshire Light Tractors, Martin Bros, Strike Top Turf.

Your support is always appreciated.

Incidentally the 13th place was won by Arthur Moorey and the prize was an edging iron and a rake so I can assume that the bunkers will be in great condition at Didsbury GC when we play the autumn tournament there in September.

The spring tournament was also a qualifier for the Hayter regional final on the qualifiers are.

Cat 1. P. Pearse, C. Hulme, B. Merritt.

Cat 2. M. Broughton, P. Harley, T. Manning.

Cat 3. S. Mosley, N. Berry, J. Fitzgerald.

The regional final will be played at Middlesbrough on July 4 and I wish you all good luck. The next tournament will be the summer meeting at Hazel Grove GC on July 17. All entries to be sent to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport SK12 1HX Tel: 01625 859258 with a deposit of £10 not later than July 12. Lunch will be served between 12-1pm and tee times are from 1-1.30pm. Tee times will be allocated on the day.

On a more serious note, approximately 120 members North West members have not renewed their membership for 1995 so if you are reading these notes in someone else's magazine, get your subs paid and read your own magazine. The whole membership package is value for money. Finally any queries or problems ring me of 0151 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

Northern

The first of this year's tournaments got under way on April 12 - the Hayter's qualifier. We could not have wished for better weather. It was as if summer had arrived early at Hessle GC.

Results:

Cat 1. A. Anderson, 2. A. Gerrard, 3. G. Potter;

Cat 2. 1. D. Collins, 2. R. Johnson, 3. R. Smith;

Cat 3. 1. D. Cockburn, 2. A. Gamble 3. L. Kirkbright.

I would like to thank all the sponsors for their support our event. They were: Hayter, Martin Bros, Trident and Rhône Poulenc. Many thanks once again. I would also like to thank the green staff and catering staff of Hessle GC for making it such an excellent day.

I have been asked to inform you about two members who have recently moved to different

courses. John Waite has left Temple Newsome to take over as Head Greenkeeper at Scarthingwell near Tadcaster and Andrew Flemmings has taken over as Head Greenkeeper at Filey GC. John Heaton has taken over Andrew's position of assistant head at Filey. I would like to wish them all the best for the future.

Our next golf competition is President's Day at Woodhall Hills GC on June 8 at 2pm. Please contact me as soon as possible if you would like to take part. Tel 01274 601195.

MARCUS CORDINGLEY

London

The Hayter qualifier was held at Sudbury GC in April. The weather was excellent and the course was in fine shape. I would like to thank Jeff Robinson and his staff for preparing the course for our first event of the year. As we all know growing conditions have not been favourable since the start of the year and the course was a credit to Jeff.

The overall winner was Chris Carpenter with an excellent score and he also managed to win the nearest the pin. The qualifiers for the next round at Stockley Park are as follows.

Cat 1. 1. C. Carpenter 2. R. Phillips 3. M. Sheris 4. D. Burdis.

Cat 2. 1. A. Macindoe 2. P. Creeber 3. D. Badham 4. R. Washbrook.

Cat 3. 1. R. Elderfield 2. D. Smith 3. P. Gee 4. D. Dunne.

The longest drive prize was won by Mick Sheris on the 18th hole.

I would like to thank Sudbury GC for allowing us to use the facilities and a special thank you to the catering and bar staff for looking after us so well. I would also like to thank the club Captain Mr Mark Brazier for presenting the prizes, the General Manager Mr Alec Poole and the Greens Chairman Mr Graham Jones who all joined us for the day. It was nice to see such enthusiasm from club officials and we thank you for taking the time to join us. I would also like to thank the trade for its support and, in particular, Dennis Smith for acting as starter.

Any information regarding forthcoming events can be obtained from Don Wilson or myself. Please remember to keep me informed of any news which could be used in the magazine. Contact Don Wilson on 0181 440 3361 or me on 0181 959 5629.

TONY DUNSTAN

North Wales

Our Hayter qualifier took place at Abergele & Pensarn GC on April 19.

A total of 94 competitors took part and it was fortunate that it will be the excellent condition of the course that the day will be remembered by and not the bad weather that members and their guests had to put up with.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to making the day such a success – the staff of Abergele and Pensarn, the members and guests, who took part and all the sponsors who donated prizes.

The nine who qualified will be given the opportunity to go forward to the next round which will be held at Middlesbrough Municipal on July 4.

They are P. Valentine, D. Davies, J. Hughes, K. Jones, R. Walker, K. Jones, H. Jones, J. L. Jones and P. Davies.

TP EVANS (Competition secretary)

Devon and Cornwall

As Chairman of our Region I would like to express the region's gratitude and congratulations to Gordon and Marion Child who organised and ran this year's Westurf trade show superbly. Also on behalf of all the members in our region I would like to thank all the companies which took trade stands at the show. The success of Westurf is vital to our region, so we are able to continue our commitment to greenkeeping education.

As you read this article I will be putting the fin-

Around the Green



ishing touches to our fixture card for the forthcoming winter programme which should be with you shortly – once again our cards will be sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery. Before our winter programme gets underway members will have the opportunity, by kind permission of Mike Duval of WBB, to visit its sand works at Cornwood Quarry near Plymouth on September 27. Numbers are limited to the first 20. The agenda for the day is as follows:

9.30am-1pm. Visit Cornwood quarry sand plant, workshops and clay processing plant. 1pm-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 and see behind the scenes please contact me as soon as possible to avoid disappointment Tel: 01288 353438.

In conclusion a reminder to all our Cornish members that the summer evening meetings are now well under way with the next venue being at Perranporth GC on June 20, followed by meetings at Lanhydrock GC on July 19, Newquay GC on August 23 and Bude GC on September 20. For more details contact organiser Steve Evans Tel: 01208 863647.

RICHARD WHYMAN

South West

A smaller attendance than last year visited the Westurf Exhibition at Long Ashton GC. Nevertheless, putting aside, the weather which was probably the reason for some absences the show again proved successful thanks to the meticulous preparation from Gordon and Marion Child. Thanks also to everyone within the section who contributed both before, during and after the day.

It was to Bowood Golf and Country Club on April 6 that we gathered for this year's Hayter Qualifying competition. This young course constructed on land owned by Lord Shelburne holds enormous potential on reaching full maturity and was prepared brilliantly on the day by Course Manager Duncan Bawcutt.

A good response of about 60 meant a busy time for the caterers who provided an excellent roast dinner to complete the day. An excellent course meant some good scoring with Marc Haring, Duncan Smith and Sean Sage all winning their categories. They, along with four others and a reserve from each category, play at Carmarthen GC, Wales in the Regional Final with the winners then competing in the National Final at West Lancashire GC on September 13 and 14.

Thanks to Hayter for the day's sponsorship; to David Gwilliam of Gwilliam Kellands for presenting the prizes and to all at Bowood for their hospitality.

The qualifiers and scores for each category are as follows (all scores nett):

Cat 1. 1. Marc Haring 72; 2. Gary Cook 75; 3. Michael Fawcett 78; 4. Nick Perkins 81; 5. John Hogg 82.

Cat 2. 1. Duncan Smith 71; 2. Jon Scoones 75; 3. Anthony Knight 77; 4. Mel Dawson 78; 5. Paul Ferragut 78.

Cat 3. 1. Sean Sage 75; 2. Chris Sealey 77; 3. Martin Ford 78; 4. David Bateman 79; 5. Wayne Dunster 81.

KEVIN GREEN

East Anglia

Braintree GC hosted our first meeting of '95 with 50 greenkeepers playing for the "Winter Trophy"

and a place in the next round of the Hayter Challenge. Many thanks to Kevan Sharpe and his staff for their efforts and presenting the course so well. The competition was played over 18 holes Medal with the winner overall being Bill Chapman on countback with a score of 74 nett 69. The prizes were presented by Mike Lincoln-Smith of Hayter Mowers.

Results:

Cat 1. 1. B. Chapman 74 nett 69; 2. A. Sheehan 80 nett 75 (countback); 3. M. Virley 84 nett 75; 4. & Reserve. P. Howard 82 nett 76; 5. & Reserve. R. Pride 83 nett 78.

Cat 2. 1. I. Willett 85 nett 69; 2. D. Wells 87 nett 71; 3. M. Peters 91 nett 74; 4. & Reserve. A. Jenkins 96 nett 77; 5. & Reserve. A. Day 91 nett 77.

Cat 3. 1. S. Curtis 90 nett 69; 2. E. Hart 91 nett 70; 3. L. Upham 98 nett 70; 4. & Reserve. T. Huddlesden 96 nett 72; 5. & Reserve. S. Millard 96 nett 77.

The first three in each handicap section have qualified through to the South East regional final of the Hayter Challenge to be played at Stockley Park GC, Middlesex on Tuesday June 6. The guest prize went to Dave Gaunt 82 nett 68. Many thanks as always to the members of the trade who support the section, not only with prizes but also with their presence on these enjoyable meetings.

Prizes from:- CMW, E. Does, Eastern Tractors, Hayter, Levingtons, Parker Hart, Patissons, Rushbrook and Sons, Sisis and Turf Actant.

Sam Sylvester's crusade to get all members wearing official BIGGA ties stepped up a gear when he demanded a 50p fine from everyone not wearing one. It was such a shock I think all concerned paid up.

The next meeting will be June 6 at the Warren GC, playing for the "P. Tuckwell Cup" and "Spring Trophy". This unfortunately coincides with the Hayter Challenge but I am sure we will have a good turn out. On the subject of dates you should all have received a fixture card for '95 sponsored by P. Tuckwell/John Deere. If you have not received one and you are a member of the East Anglia section please contact Dave Wells and I am sure he will get one in the post to you.

Geoff Shelton became a father before Christmas and wife Yvonne and daughter Alice are both well. Another new arrival is William, the latest offspring of Andrew Cooke, also born just before Christmas.

Welcome to John Shurvell of Bury St Edmonds who has recently joined BIGGA.

The West Suffolk Greenkeepers Challenge was won by Gog Magog GC (Lyndon Upham, Julian Hill and Peter Mallows), the Atterton & Ellis/Toro Trophy was presented by Roger Denson of Atterton & Ellis in the company of David Cole, Sales Manager and Larry Pierman, Area Manager of Toro UK.

Finally Turf Actant is looking to hold a seminar morning followed by a cricket match in early August. Anybody interested in either of these events please contact Edward Clarkson of Turf Actant for further details.

STEPHEN MILLARD

Midland

As we are getting the courses ready for a busy season ahead, some sad news has been given to me. Richard Clarke, Course Manager of Trentham Park GC has died suddenly. May we all send our sincere condolences to his family and friends, from all at the Midland section.

The first golf tournament of '95 was held at Kenilworth GC, on April 26. Forty-two greenkeepers and seven trade members played. The weather was a trite windy, with the north easterly wind chilling us in the morning but the sunshine in the afternoon gave us a little welcome warmth. This was to reflect in my golf, being a little poor am and average pm. Mind you, I needed some of the trees pruning around the semi-rough, with my ball finding them a magnetic force!

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Keith Weston and his staff did a wonderful job in preparing the course, with the fairways and greens looking excellent. Some very good golf was played by the competitors, and the keenness and enjoyment was plain to see with the good humour in the clubhouse later on. One competitor was so keen he started playing another player's ball, just to be like Nick Faldo.

Thanks to John Hammond for starting us off, Burrow's for supplying the wine at dinner, Mike Lucas from FootJoy, and all the other trade members for their donation of prizes. A big thank you to Kenilworth GC for the use of the course and the clubhouse facilities, with a mention to Keith, John Lee, Peter and Lisa for the drink and food.

It was nice to see all the new faces playing and supporting the section. New players are welcome. We now have the new handicapping system up and running which means they can play two tournaments and receive a BIGGA handicap. So come along to the Warwickshire on August 17.

The results:

1. (Gross) P. Woodham 111; 1. (Nett) V. Lee 101; 2. P. Richmond 106; 3. P. Holtman 108.5; 4. T. Livingstone 109; 5. M. Hughes; 6. K. Davies (on count back) 111; 7. J. Palmer 111; 8. K. Blake 111.5 9. A. Roberts (on count back) 112.

Rufford Top Dress Supplies Nearest the Pin. T. Cheese. Longest Drive M. Cutler.

Trade Cup was won by I. Toon with (on count back) 112.

The draw for the single and doubles matches was done by Brian Booth from Rigby Taylor. The qualifiers for the Hayter Challenge Tournament will be notified and the names will be in next month's magazine.

Finally our thanks to R. Thomas for organising the event.

This month we welcome new members Peter Whitworth, Neil Orton and Darren Homer.

If any member wishes to write about events or any topical information for the magazine then contact myself on 01527 524217 or Scott MacCallum at Aldwark Manor.

KIM BLAKE

East Midlands

Not a lot to report this month and I'm sure you will find this article about the smallest I've ever written.

This month sees the move of Adie Porter from Crockett's Manor GC to Greatham Valley GC. I'm sure all members would like to wish Adie well in his new position.

A reminder to all entrants of this year's pairs and singles competitions. Please make sure your match is played before the closing date for each and every round.

This month we welcome the following new members to our section. Stephen Mackie of Wellingborough GC; Kenneth Payne and Scott Purdy of Ashbourne GC and Bryan Paton of Melton Mowbray GC.

If any member has any news they would like to see in this column they can contact me on 0116 2890301.

ANTONY BINDLEY

South Wales

At our last winter evening lecture Jim McKenzie, Course Manger of Celtic Manor Golf and Country Club, gave an up-date on the multi million pound developments going on at the Newport site since his presentation last year.

The first course, the 7028 yard championship "Roman Road", will open on August 1 with the second course, a 4132 yard par 3/4 short course "Coldra Woods" opening on September 1.

The development is causing quite a buzz around the Newport area and we as a section look forward to an arranged visit to view the complex and its facilities first hand shortly.

Our thanks to Jim for finding the time to make his presentation and who, for the second time in succession, brought in the largest attendance of

Around the Green



the series with nearly 40.

The recent South Wales Seminar "Mechanisation on the Golf Course" held at the St Mary's Golf and Country Club was hailed as a great success by all those who were in attendance.

Despite a few minor hiccups early on the day got off to a grand start with Howard Storey of John Deere UK Ltd giving a very informative talk on "Maintenance Vehicle v Compact Tractor". Howard's presentation was based on an unbiased view in selecting the right machine for the job - costings, purchase options etc.

John Deere tries to bring out six new products every year and we at the seminar were in the privileged position of being the very first in the UK to view the new John Deere 1200 A bunker rake.

Greenkeeping Support is still required for the Walker Cup to be played at Royal Porthcawl on September 9-10. Anyone available and willing to help over the period September 6-10 or part of that time should contact Peter Lacey, telephone: 01792 233923.

John Turner of Toro Lely UK Ltd followed on with his lecture "Developments in Fairway Mowers". Joe took every one on a trip back through time and the history behind the birth of fairway mowers from the first horse drawn to the first motorised gangs - claimed to be Toro - up to today's ultra modern marvels such as the Reel-master 5100 with "ACE" Automated Controlled Electronics - a diagnostic computer which not only controls reelspeed ensuring cuts per yards but also registers faults and leaks etc.

After lunch Paul Watson of Ransomes Sims and Jefferies Ltd made his presentation "Diesel v Petrol v Electric Mowers", a fitting title for the only company which at present makes all three types of ride-on mowers. The E Plex all electric greens ride on mower is causing quite a sensation at the moment and Ransomes claims that it cuts running costs by up to 50%. Also the newly launched G Plex range, that Ransomes claims to have developed in consultation with greenkeepers.

Lastly a sincere thanks to Keith Morgan, our local Jacobsen dealer, who came to the rescue when Paul Withers of Jacobsen UK Ltd, could not attend as a result of circumstances beyond his control.

Keith delivered Phil's excellent lecture "Triplex Mowers v Pedestrian Mowers" admirably and amusingly. Again the presentation was packed with technical information, facts and figures. Did you know that in 1832 the first cylinder mower replaced scything?

To all our speakers thank you and our sincere thanks to the sponsors, Toro Lely UK Ltd, Ransomes/R S Bird Ltd, Jacobsens/Keith Morgan Mowers Ltd and John Deere UK Ltd/Frank Sutten & Power Cut for your continuous support. Thanks also to St Mary's Golf and Country Club and to Peter Gillard and Pencoed College for their help in making the day such a success.

The Welsh Golf Union seminars which took place recently at the Morriston and Pontypridd Golf Clubs were thoroughly worthwhile if a little poorly attended.

A panel consisting of representatives from the WGU, the GTC and the STRI covered most topics

relating to greenkeeping and provoked many comments and questions from the floor. An enjoyable session and long may they continue.

Our spring competition and Hayter qualifier took place over the Creigiau course near Llantrisant. The weather ranged from warm sunshine through to thunder and lightning, hail stones and snow. This was my first visit to the course and I was pleasantly surprised. It is excellent, in a beautiful setting with a blend of natural features, including water, presented to an extremely high standard.

Congratulations to Robert Frater and his team but also to Bill Malcolm, Chairman of Green at Creigiau, for his support of the greenstaff which undoubtedly helps Robert to maintain high standards. Thanks to all at the club for making us so very welcome, the Secretary Mike O'Dowd and the Captain, Graham Joseph, for their hospitality and the caterers, headed by Sally Baxter for a superb dinner.

A huge thanks to Hayters for sponsoring the day.

Results:

The winner on the day, winning the Cardiff Cup on home turf with the best nett was Robert Frater. Winner of the Browns Shield for best gross was Gerwyn Price of Maesteg GC.

Hayter Category winners were: Cat 1. Robert Frater; Cat 2. Andrew Hatcher; Cat 3. Alan Critchton.

Congratulations to Ceri Richards, formerly of the Mountain Ash GC, on his appointment as new Head Greenkeeper at Worcester GC, near Evesham. Congratulations also to Steve Elms, formerly of the Parc GC, Newport who recently flew out to Switzerland to take up his new position as Head Greenkeeper of Mittelland GC near Oberentfelden. We wish them both well for the future.

Another congratulations, albeit for something entirely different, to David Gladwin who completed the London Marathon in a time of four hours 20 minutes - despite taking more than 20 minutes to cross the start line.

Lastly, thank God I hear you cry, (I don't think I've ever written such a long report) our good wishes to the Richardson family of Cefn Golleu Farm, Three Crosses, Gower on the opening of their new venture the Gower Golf Course this summer. The 140 acre course has splendid views overlooking the Louchor estuary, Carmathen Bay and the Black Mountains. It was designed by Donald Steel an is looked after by former Morriston Head Greenkeeper Steve Mills.

PETER LACEY

Mid Anglia

Royston GC was the venue for our first tournament of the year - a 36 hole event. An 18 hole medal was played in the morning, which was the qualifier for the Hayter-Beaver national tournament, followed by an 18 hole Stableford in the afternoon for those who were up to it!

The course was in fine condition for so early in the year and our thanks go to Tim McCreddie and all his staff. Thanks to Royston GC for the courtesy of the course and for looking after us so well on the day. Rigby Taylor was once again the sponsor so thanks to Rodger Bowles for providing the prizes and to all the other companies which supported the event in which 45 golfers took part.

Results:

Morning Round.

1. P. Briars, Chesfield Downs, 68; 2. D. Coleman, Leighton Buzzard, 69; 3. S. Cherry, Woburn, 69

Afternoon Round.

1. C. Toms, Woburn, 40; 2. K. Cheshire, Tilsforth, 38; 3. J. Blair, Brocket Hall, 38.

Nearest the Pin was won by P. Judd, Buckingham, and the Longest Drive by A. Grew, Berkhamsted. The Trade Prize went to C. Ayers, Lodgway Tractors, with 39 points.

The regional final of the Hayter-Beaver will be held on July 5 at Erewash Valley GC. The quali-

fiers are as follows.

Cat 1. S Cherry, Woburn; G. Boulton, Dunstable; R. McKeown, Arkley; J. Moorhouse, Brocket Hall. Reserve. J. Burton, St Neots.

Cat 2. P. Briars, Chesfield Downs; P. Judd, Buckingham; E. O'Hanlon, Chesfield Downs; R. Lawrence, Berkhamsted. Reserve. A. Barker, Tilsforth.

Cat 3. D. Coleman, Leighton Buzzard; P. Lockett, South Beds; M. McLoughlan, Woburn; D. Hand, Chesfield Downs. Reserve. T. Louch, Chesfield Downs.

If for any reason any player cannot make the regional final you MUST let me know so the reserve can be drafted in. Roger Willars, the regional administrator will send you starting sheets and directions nearer the time.

Next month sees our summer tournament which this year is being held at Brickendon Grange. The section has not visited before so it will be a good chance to play a new course. Entry forms should be sent to Richard as usual. The meeting will be 36 holes and is on July 18. Get your entries in nice and early please.

Finally Brocket Hall is confirmed as the venue for the autumn tournament on October 26. This will be 18 holes followed by the AGM in the afternoon.

PAUL LOCKETT

Central

April saw the first of the season's tournaments with the spring outing being played at Aberdour GC. We were honoured to have Association Chairman Barry Heaney and his lovely wife, Joan, and Scottish Chairman Gordon Moir as guests. The weather was superb and with the course in excellent condition, the food and drink just as good, we could not have asked for more.

Everybody enjoyed themselves and our sincere thanks go to all at Aberdour GC for their help and to everyone who contributed to the prize table.

Results:

Best scratch. D. McAllister, Ladybank, 72

Best Nett, A. Wallace, Dollar, 68 (On count-back).

Cat 1.1. G. Wallace, Westerwood, 70 (On countback); 2. R. Hensbey, Tulliallan, 70.

Cat 2. 1. K. Duncan, Dunfermline, 68; 2. J. Oliver, Pitreavie, 71

Cat 3. 1. G. McRae, Aberdour, 78; 2. A. Nimmo, Alloa, 94.

Stewart's Quaich A. Dunn, J. Sievwright, Auchterarder, 146.

Patrons. K. Brunton, Souters, 73

Guests. J. Rudigan, Kirkcaldy, 74

Two ball foursomes. A. McGregor and J. Clark 27.

Qualifiers for the Hayter Challenge. Cat 1. S. McAllister, G. Wallace, R. Hensbey, C. Powrie.

Cat 2. J. Oliver, K. Duncan, A. Wallace, S. Syme.

Cat 3. G. McRae, A. Nimmo

Match Report by "The Selector". On March 12

Around the Green



the first football match between Central and West sections was held at Dalgety Bay Sports Centre. Honours were shared with West scoring with the very last kick of the game to tie the score at 4 all. The Central team was selected on the day with all shapes and sizes forming a formidable outfit. Ian Menzies and Kevin Brunton made up the back four (there wasn't room for anyone else) with some young talent up front.

The match was played in great spirit (not the liquid kind) and everyone enjoyed themselves with not a cross word being heard – until that last goal went in!

The return match was played at the all weather pitch at Ibrox on March 20 and a very even game was expected. Unfortunately due to some late call-offs by our top players we were left with our young colts to do their utmost. Playing into a very strong wind (almost too strong to spray) we quickly went two goals down but we improved when playing with the wind and only conceded one more goal. West were therefore comfortable winners at 3-0 so well done to them and bring on the next challengers.

Membership of the section is still increasing at a steady rate and we extend a warm welcome to John Stewart, Stephen Oliver, Stuart Cribbes, Alexander Barlow, Hamish Buchanan, Bruce Wedderburn and Michael Ewan.

Congratulations to Kevin and Lindsay Brunton on the recent birth of their first baby, Lindsay and Alice are both doing well with Kevin discovering times of the night he never knew existed. He will probably be putting on the "Hard Sell" act now that he has a family to support.

Committee member Norman Wood has resigned as Head Greenkeeper at Burntisland GC after 18 years to take up a similar post at Haddington in East Lothian. Billy Easton has left Stirling GC and moved down south to Royal Blackheath GC. Best wishes for a successful future go to them and everyone else who has moved or gained promotion in the past couple of months.

The first round of the sections Inter-Club tournament has been played and the winners will now move onto the next round. In an effort to keep as much interest as possible in this competition the first round losers will form a second league to play through to a final as in the main draw.

JOHN CRAWFORD

Surrey

Any members wishing to participate in the England v Scotland match should contact either myself for the England team on 01737 832 015 or Dougie Fernie for the Scotland team on 01372 740516. Numbers are limited to 12 a side and a venue has still to be decided.

Congratulations to Drift GC's greenkeeper/mechanic Ted Stiles upon reaching 65 although Ted assures us he is not yet ready for retirement. On behalf of the section I would like to wish Don Major of Betchworth GC all the best on his retirement.

Members interested in the dinner/dance should contact their committee members for tickets which will soon be on sale. The venue is to be the Reigate Manor Hotel on Nov 18. Tickets priced £18.

John Hardy celebrates 70 years employed with West Surrey GC. Born in 1910 John joined West Surrey when he was 14 and went part time when he reached 65. It was a slight stroke last year which convinced him to retire and his immediate plans in full time retirement are to sleep and smoke. Well done John.

The Huxley Bowl showed good support again with 34 pairs entered. Forthcoming events include the MacMillan tankard at Sunningdale GC on August 3; the Parker Salver Invitational at Tryells Wood GC on September 5 and the Autumn tournament at Home Park GC on October 4.

DAVID GIBBS

Ayrshire

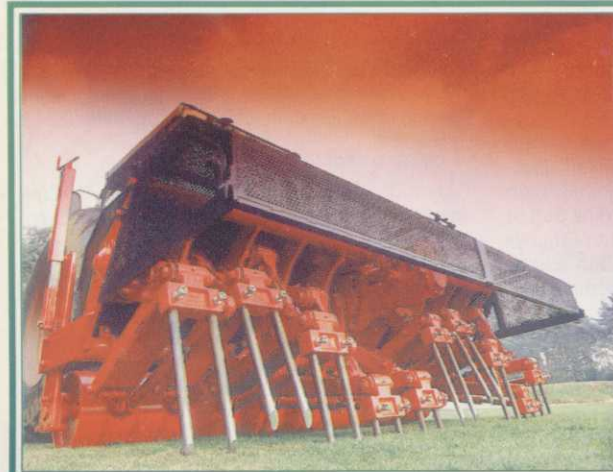
There have been no reports for the past two months as nothing has happened in the section area – or so it would seem from the deafening silence from the members.

There has, however, been a couple of events over the past month, the first being a quiz night held in the Parkstone Hotel in Prestwick. This was an excellent form of entertainment especially from some of the answers and some of the team names. The winners were "I'll have a Pee Bob" which gives some indication of how seriously the evening went and how much everyone enjoyed it. Don't miss the next one as I'll even make sure the quiz masters have the right answers.

Our second event of the month was the spring outing at Kirkcudbright GC which was held in lovely spring weather for a change. The Kirkcudbright course has gained immensely in stature over the past few years since expanding to 18 holes and this was our first visit for an outing. The general consensus among a large turn-out of members was that we would certainly love to go back some time soon.

Our thanks to the club committee, secretary John Sommerville, caterer Mary and her merry crew and last, but certainly not least, to Sammy, Peter and the boys on the green staff for giving such good conditions to enjoy the golf.

The competition was intense especially with the



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THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP C

Hayter qualifying places up for grabs.

Results:

Cat 1. 1. Keith McCartney; 2. George Brown; 3. Derek Wilson; 4. Kevin Hill.

Cat 2. 1. Steve Farrish; 2. Duncan Gray; 3. Jimmy Johnstone 4. Kenneth Haddow.

Cat 3. 1. Jim Paton; 2. Gary Crosbie; 3. Steve McWhan; 4. Sam McConnell.

Hopefully we are in for a good summer, both from a greenkeeping and the weather point of view, so I hope to hear a few snippets of news (even one would help) to put in the column.

DUNCAN GRAY

East Scotland

Bright sunshine, no wind! What a day to pick for our spring outing at Glen GC. I hope you all enjoyed the day as much as I did.

Special thanks must go to the Captain and council of Glen GC for giving us courtesy of the course at such short notice. Thanks to all who donated raffle prizes. They were very much appreciated. Congratulations to George Paterson and his staff for an excellently turned out course.

Results:

Best Scratch. G. Ferguson, Duddingston, 75 (on countback)

Best Nett. M. Pagan, Goswick, 75-6-69. 2. S. Greenwood, N. Berwick, 81-7-74.

Cat 2. 1. C. Yeaman, Swanston, 87-12-75; 2. A. Gordon, Duddingston, 94-17-77; 3. R. Thomson, Peebles, 91-13-78.

Cat 3. 1. A. Russell, Torphin Hill, 88-18-70 (on countback); 2. J. Thow, Gubeon, 88-18-70; 3. R. Hogarth, Innerleithen, 92-21-71.

Veteran. R. Smith, Harburn, 83-8-75. Trade Winner. I. Thomson, Provan Chemicals 90-18-72. Guest Winner. T. Ross, Uphall, 74-5-69.

The Hayter Qualifiers were:

Cat 1. M. Pagen, G. Ferguson, T. Murray, A. Homes. Reserve S. Greenwood.

Cat 2. A. Gordon, C. Yeaman, C. Pennicuik, P. Ormiston.

Cat 3. R. Hogarth, A. Russell, G. Hobbs, W. Hudson.

Finally if anyone has any information that he or she thinks might be useful for this column please do not hesitate to call me on 01721 722832.

ROBERT HOGARTH

North

Welcome to Scott MacCallum, the new editor of the magazine. We hope Scott, who hails from up here, will keep up the standards of our great magazine and even make it better... as long as he allows my articles. (*Flattery will get you everywhere! Ed*)

The section welcomes two more new members, Bradley Wood, assistant greenkeeper at Deeside GC and Paul MacKay, apprentice at Banchory. While on the subject of membership I recently heard of a member last year who did not receive his magazine for three months so

Around the Green



did not renew his membership this year. I have copies of magazines in case this happens, so anyone who has this problem please contact me for a magazine and then I can inform Head Office to get it sorted. Hopefully I can persuade this person to rejoin now that I am aware why he left.

I bumped into Robert Hardy recently back from a year in Malaysia and looking really tanned. He is working at the Kings Links in Aberdeen. Welcome back Bob. Still in Aberdeen George Mitchell has left Royal Aberdeen to take up a similar position at Newmacher. We also wish Paul Murphy all the best in his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Downfield GC, Dundee.

Having missed my D36 Advisor Assessment in Edinburgh, along with Alisdair McLaren, Nethybridge and Alan Holmes, Blairgowrie, I had to go to Aberdeen Airport to do it and be assessed in the departure lounge with airline passengers filing by all the time. Seriously it wasn't that bad and thanks must go to Margaret Ashby for flying up from Manchester in the morning, assessing and flying back at 2pm. That's my D32 and D36 completed only D33 to go, so if anyone needs advice or assessment you know where to come.

Finally I have been warned not to mention the weather again, some people think it's my fault for that all the bad weather we had after I went on about how good it was early winter. My forecast for the next month is \$*^~@&L\$^ . . .
IAN MACLEOD

West of Scotland

Since the last article a couple of things have happened of interest. The return football match against Central section at Ibrox turned out to be less exciting than the first encounter. Central missed their midfield muscle men and as a result went down 3-0 to a superior West section on the day.

A tournament for five-a-side is being considered for later in the year depending upon an interest. If your club wishes to put forward a team (greenkeepers only), then please contact me on 0141 942 5554.

The secretaries verses greenkeepers match on April 3 over Cowglen was a very enjoyable day. The greenkeepers were eventual winners 5-3 thanks to the old timers. The section wishes to

thank Scott Ballantyne and his staff for their efforts in preparing the course. Considering the weather it was in very good condition.

The committee is considering running a mini bus to the summer outing at Dornoch. The arrangements, provisionally, would be to travel up on Sunday evening, stay overnight, then travel back either on Monday night or Tuesday morning. Those interested should contact the secretary as early as possible.

Finally, I hope everybody has a good season and may I extend a warm welcome to the new members - Henry Farrell, Colne Valley; Martin Miller, Gleddoch House; Edmund Magee, Gleddoch House; James McCann, Gleddoch House; Douglas Murray, Gleddoch House.

Remember if anyone has interesting information please phone the aforementioned number.
STUART TAYLOR

Kent

April 20 found the section at Littlestone GC for the Hayter Qualifier. The weather was fresh to see the least but the course was in excellent condition which given the amount of rain that we had had this winter is due testament to the skill and professionalism of Malcolm Grand and his staff.

Results:

Cat 1. 1. M. Smith 71; 2. M. Morgan 73; 3. S. Suttle 74; 4. I. Rawlins. 80. Reserve. J. Wakelin 86.

Cat 2. 1. J. Bean 67; 2. N. Rourke 69; 3. M. Arthur 73; 4. J. Fuller 74 Reserve. S. Anderson 75.

Cat 3. 1. W. Banks 69; 2. P. Hiest 76; 3. M. Mewitt 76; 4. M. Grand 77 Reserve. J. Roots 79.

Congratulations to the winners and good luck in the following rounds. Thanks should also go to the members and committee of Littlestone GC as well as all the bar and catering staff who worked so hard on our behalf.

As I mentioned in last month's piece Steve Johnstone of Gillingham GC has taken over as our section secretary and at last month's meeting he allocated the committee jobs. Rob Lucas is the section treasurer, Andy Arthur is administering the handicap system and Peter Biscoe will be moving among you all with a questionnaire aimed at finding out exactly what you require of this section.

I understand Rob Lucas' first job was to open up new bank accounts closer to his home and I have it on good authority that he has lodged all monies in an ultra safe account held at William Hill's.

The only other change in personnel is that we have a new regional administrator in the shape of Geoff Hills.

The next golf day will be held at Herne Bay GC and all members will be contacted soon with dates and times etc. I am sure that this will be an excellent day with a high turnout.

RICHARD PAGE

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Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Thumbs up for the seventh Westurf

The seventh annual Westurf Exhibition at Long Ashton Golf Club in Bristol, at the end of April, proved a huge success for one exhibitor who launched a brand new Core Harvester at the show and sold one that same day.

Pro-Seed Equipment was able to demonstrate the equipment to Bernard McGowan of A and I Machinery of Dublin, and clinched the sale with an option on one other thus saving themselves a trip to the Emerald Isle.

"I've just returned from the United States where I secured further orders for the Core Harvester and of the 14 orders we now have I would say five of them were a direct result of showing at Westurf," said Ken Knowles, of Pro-Seed Equipment. "We invited several clients to the show and that

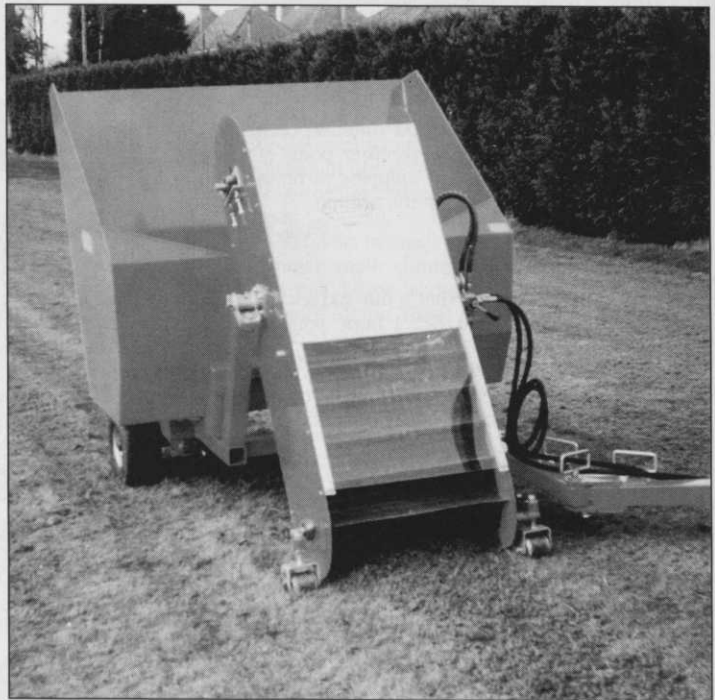
proved very productive for us," he added.

Steve George of Bristol-based BS Mowers said that the number of sales leads this year was on a par with last year.

"The crowds were down which was disappointing and I feel that the show would have had a greater impact if it was run over two days as it would allow greenkeepers who were committed to the one day to go on the other," he said.

Another company which enjoyed the day was Roffey Bros which took orders in excess of £30,000 for top dressing and root zone mixtures as well as for its new fertiliser, Gypronite.

Marion Child, who organised the show with her husband Gordon, agreed that the attendance was not quite as good as they had hoped.



The Pro-Seed core harvester sold at Westurf

"We got some excellent feedback from many exhibitors but we really would like more of the local greenkeepers to make an effort to attend. Westurf is run for them and their golf clubs and the profits from the show go to promoting green-

keeper education which in turn helps the golf clubs in the region."

Next year's Westurf will be on May 1, when hopefully the weather will be a little warmer, and will again be at Long Ashton.

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Southturf show has plenty of promise

The second Southturf Exhibition at Motspur Park on Wednesday June 21 looks set to build on the success of the inaugural event.

A large proportion of last year's exhibitors are returning again many with new products or updates and improvements on existing products while new exhibitors will, for the first time, get a chance to sample the unique Southturf atmosphere.

Among the stars of the show will undoubtedly be the Grass Roots stand which will feature a golf simulator which will allow visitors to play a hole at Torrey Pines in the United States or Mauna Kea in Hawaii without leaving the show ground, never mind the country. The simulator can also produce a swing analysis which will be available to the visitors.

"The event provides valuable income and exposure for BIGGA and a good turn out of members and representatives from their clubs would be



greatly appreciated," said Geoff Hills, the recently-appointed South East Region Administrator.

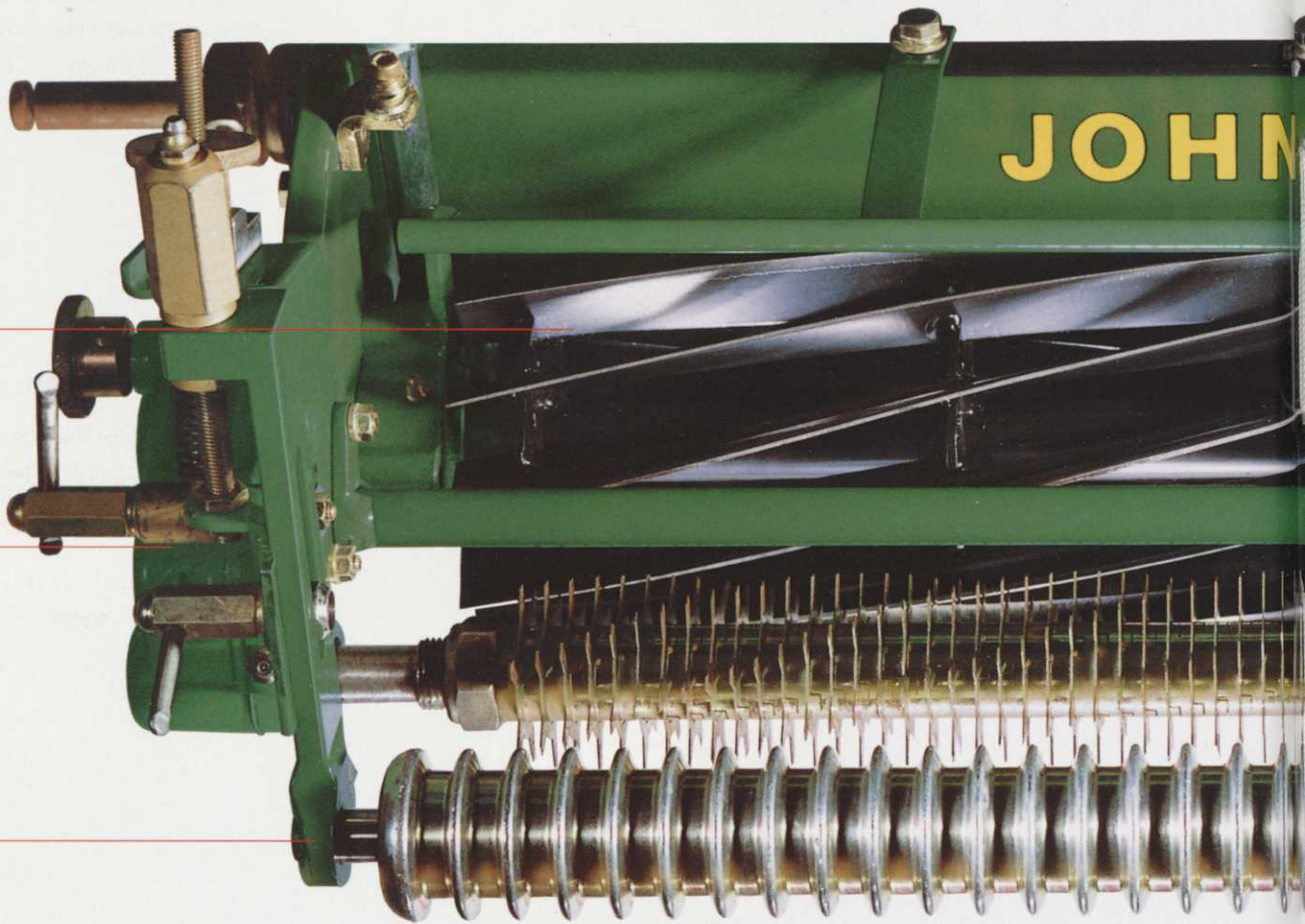
Among the exhibitors who have confirmed their attendance are:- Atterton and Ellis Ltd, Avoncrop Amenity Products, Barmonset, Better Methods-Europe, Bowcom Ltd, City Irrigation Ltd, Golf and Turf Equipment, Grassliner Products, Grass Roots Trading Company, Leisure K, Hadlow College, Lubrication Engineers (South East) Ltd, Meetens Industrial Engines Ltd, Miracle Amenity Care, Nescot Oaklands College, Parker Hart, Pattisons, Plumpton College, Risboro' Turf, Sparsholt College, Sovereign Golf (UK) Ltd/Envirogreen Ltd, Turf Machinery Ltd, Turf Management Systems, Vitax.



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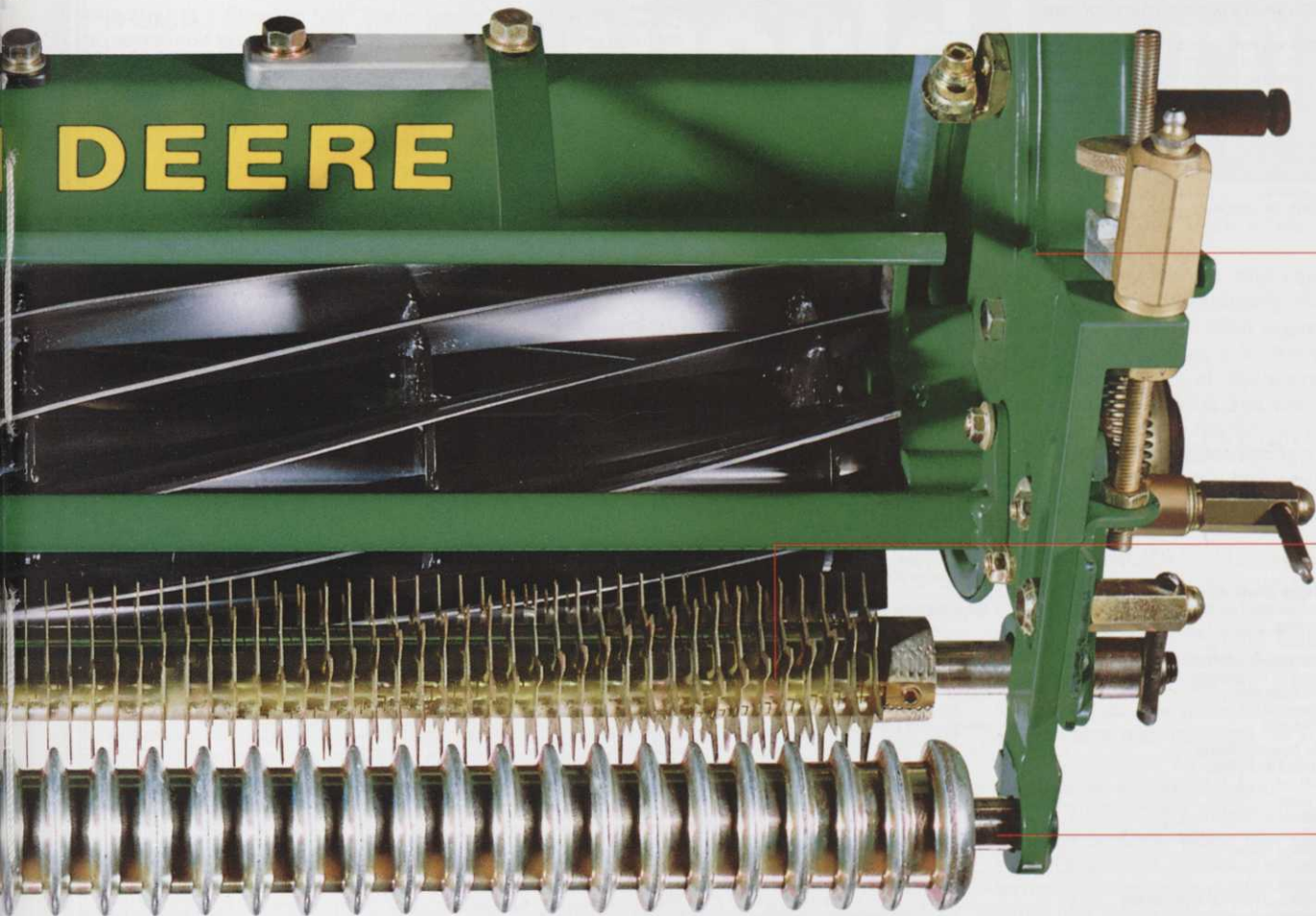
Greenkeepers noticed the dif-

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3235 Lightweight Fairway Mower, to the new 220 Walk-Behind Greens Mower. And it's no coincidence that "exceptional quality of cut" is the phrase that gets repeated over and over when greenkeepers evaluate any John Deere reel unit.

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220

220 Walk-Behind Greens Mower

(Specifications and design subject to change without notice.)

- Engine:**
 Category 3.7-hp Kawasaki, air-cooled FE120G, 4-stroke
 Engine power according to ECE-R85 2.4 kW at 1800 rpm
 Maximum torque 14.9 Nm at 1800 rpm
- Idle speed at output shaft** 650 rpm
- Maximum speed at output shaft** 1800 rpm
- Park brake** Band-type, lever activation
- Cutting equipment:**
 Cutting width 56 cm (22 in.)
 Cutting height (minimum)
 Standard - 3-mm bedknife 3.2 mm (1/8 in.)
 Optional - 2.5-mm bedknife 2.8 mm (7/64 in.)
- Frequency of clip*** 3.9 mm (.155 in.) standard, 4.9 mm (.195 in.) optional
- Reel:**
 Diameter 12.7 cm (5 in.)
 Number of blades 11
 Material Heat-treated special alloy steel
 Bedknife 3 mm thick x 56 cm long (.118 in. x 22 in.)
 Bedknife (optional) 2.5 mm thick x 56 cm long (.98 in. x 22 in.)

- Grass catcher** Approximately 3.2 kg (7 lb.)
- Traction drum** Smooth dual aluminium
- Traveling device:**
 Forward speed 9.2 km/h (5.5 mph) with transport wheels at 1800 rpm
 Mowing speed 5.5 km/h (3.4 mph) at 1800 rpm
 Roller (rear) Aluminium, 19-cm (7.5-in.) diameter
 Roller (front) Machine-grooved or smooth, 50.8 mm (2 in.) diameter
- Dimensions:**
 Length (with tyres installed) 94 cm (37 in.)
 Width (with tyres installed) 94.6 cm (37.25 in.)
 Height (with tyres installed) 1190 mm (46.8 in.)
 Weight (less brush drive and transport wheels, with catcher) 98.6 kg (217 lb.)
- Certification** AINSI B71.4 - 1990

* Frequency of clip is defined as distance Greens Mower travels between reel blade and bedknife cutting contacts. Frequency of clip is affected by:
 • Ground speed
 • Number of reel blades
 • Rotational speed of reel blades



2243

2243 Professional Greens Mower

(Specifications and design subject to change without notice.)

- Engine:**
 Category 18-hp Kawasaki FD 590V, V twin, OHV 4-stroke (Gas)
 18-hp John Deere Series 220, 3-cylinder (Diesel)
 Engine power according to ECE-R85 and -R24 13.4 kW
 Air cleaner Semi-cyclone, dry-type, dual stage
 Cooling Liquid
 Oil filter Full-flow filter
 Pressurized lubrication system Standard
 Number of cylinders 2 (2243 Diesel, 3)
 Displacement Gas, 585 cm³ (35.7 cu. in.); Diesel 784 cm³ (47.8 cu. in.)
 Starter Electric (solenoid shift)
 Alternator 16-amp with regulator (2243 Diesel, 20-amp)
- Vehicle Specifications:**
Wheels and Tyres:
 Front 18 x 9.50-8, 2 ply, smooth
 Rear 18 x 9.50-8, 2 ply, smooth
Brakes Single pedal, 2-wheel disc brakes
 Type Dual 15.2 cm (6 in.)
 Mowing speed 0 to 6.4 km/h (0 to 4 mph)
 Transport speed 0 to 13.7 km/h (0 to 8.5 mph)
 Reverse speed 0 to 4.8 km/h (0 to 3 mph)
 Ground clearance with catcher 10.2 cm (4 in.)
 Fuel tank capacity 37.9 litres in dual tanks
 Muffler Horizontal discharge below frame
 Hydrostatic and reel drive system capacity 22.7 litres
 Hydrostatic reservoir capacity (only) 16.6 litres
- Transaxle, Reel Drive:**
 Drive wheels Front
 Traction drive Hydrostatic, 2-pedal control
 Reel drive Hydraulic
 Pump Gear
 Reel Control Valves Electro-hydraulic, one valve reel on-off and one valve raise-lower
 Filtration 10 micron
- Mower:**
 Number 3
 Size 55.9 cm (22 in.) floating standard
 Backlapping On machine, variable adjustment capability (2243 Diesel, optional kit)
 Clip frequency* 5.8 mm at 6 km/h (0.97 mm per km/h) with 9-blade reel
 Front rollers Optional, smooth or grooved
 Reel diameter 12.7 cm (5 in.)
 Bedknife adjustment Reel-to-bedknife
 Height of cut 2.4 to 19 mm (7/32 to 3/4 in.)
 Number of blades 5, 7, 9, or 11
 Mower Lift Cylinder for front two units, cylinder for centre unit

- Operator controls:**
 Steering Hydrostatic adjustable column
 Reel drive and reel lift Foot-activated switches
 Throttle Hand
 Park brake Foot
Hydrostatic speed:
 Forward Right foot
 Reverse Right foot
 Ignition Key start and shutoff
- Instrumentation:**
 Glow resistor Toggle switch w/light
 Engine oil pressure Warning light
 Alternator Warning light
 Hydraulic oil temperature Warning light
 Engine coolant temperature Warning light
 Hourmetre Gauge
- Safety interlocks** Neutral start switch, operator presence switch, mow/transport switch, park-brake-set switch
- Weights and Dimensions:**
 Wheelbase 129.5 cm (51 in.)
 Tread width 101.5 cm (40 in.)
 Mowing position width 157.5 cm (62 in.)
 Turning radius, uncut circle 45.7 cm (18 in.)
 Empty weight (full fluids no operator or fuel) 576 kg (1270 lb.) Gas
 641 kg (1414 lb.) Diesel
- Certification** ANSI B71.4 - 1990

- Attachments:**
 Greens Tender Conditioner
 Rear-roller power brush
 Light kit
 Hydraulic oil cooler kit
 Five-blade cutting units
 Traction drive tyres
 Tournament bedknife
- Fairway bedknife
 Machined, grooved front rollers
 Roller scrapers
- Add versatility with:**
 Grooved front rollers
 Machine-grooved front rollers
 Rear-roller power brush
- 5-blade cutting units
 Vertical cutting units
 Traction units
 Greens and turf conditioners
 Smooth roller scrapers
 Front light kit



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The average golf club membership of today is much more active than in yester year. Most members play more regularly and expect higher standards on the course than ever before. Indeed deficiencies in the golf course itself are often used for excuses for poor play as players are less willing to accept the "rub of the green"

So who would be a member of a Green Committee at a time like this? Green Committee members often have to be very thick skinned to be able to fulfil the duties and obligations of their office. There can be great satisfaction from seeing the golf course in immaculate condition, and the membership enjoying its golf. However, it is usually impossible to satisfy everyone and many clubs have a group of dissidents who will complain whatever happens.

So before we start discussing the role we should give three cheers for those individuals who are willing to give up their free time to receive a lot of flak and ear-ache from other members who are more vocal but less active in running the club.

Who then makes up the Green Committee?

The exact composition of the Green Committee can vary from club to club. It usually contains members of the ruling body, be it a council, main committee, or board of directors. A Chairman will be elected who may be in office for one or more years with other committee members taking their turn. Membership may include past Captains, the Secretary, the Professional and, of course, the Head Greenkeeper. Representation from the membership would hopefully include a range of playing abilities so that the course is not set for either high or low handicappers. In addition, there may be other groups within the club which may wish to be represented but if the committee is truly representative it can become unwieldy and very difficult to manage and requiring strong Chairmanship.

It has been said that the Green Committee should contain no more than one member ie the Chairman. However, this is extremely unrepresentative and may lead to conflict in the club but clearly if decisions are to be made quickly and efficiently there should be as few people as possible involved in the decision making process. At the sharp end I would suggest the Green Chairman, Secretary and Head Greenkeeper are all that need be involved in the day to day working of the course. The Vice Chairman of the Green Committee would deputise for the Chairman when he was unavailable. It must be remembered though, that the running of the golf course has usually been delegated to the Head Greenkeeper who is a full time professional. There is nothing to be gained from the Chairman of the Green Committee deciding to take on the role of Course Manager. Such intrusion into the day to day running of the course will only cause frustration and difficulty for any Head Green-

How a Green Committee should be run

keeper worth his salt. But if running the course on a day to day basis is not the role of the Green Committee what is?

Duties and Roles

The duties and roles of the Green Committee will be defined by each individual club. They will have a different set of circumstances which will define what they require of their elected members. However, the following roles and duties will probably be required of every Green Committee.

Policy Determination

The prime function of any executive is to determine policy for the future. It is amazing how many clubs seem to go from year to year changing with the whims of every new elected body. This is extremely poor management as far as the greenkeeping staff are concerned as they have no idea of their long term aims and objectives. The club should therefore be able to develop a simple and straight forward policy on how they wish to run and develop the golf course over the next 20 to 30 years. From this policy document an implementation document can be developed.

Within the policy document items such as course layout and development, course reconstruction, course shaping and presentation, course ecology course manning levels, machinery and responsibilities should be discussed.

The club can also be "with it" in management terms by developing a "Mission Statement" for the future which gives a simple statement of the aims and objectives of the club and its staff.

The implementation document will discuss maintenance or reconstruction programmes designed to implement the policy earlier itemised. This will contain a number of plans for the future to include long term programme (20-30 years), a mid-term programme (10 years) and a short term five year rolling programme. This will enable the club to look at all aspects of the course including tree planting for the future and next year's maintenance programme for today. Having a five year rolling programme enables the Head Greenkeeper to use his initiative to utilise resources

efficiently and still work within an agreed long term programme.

It is surprising that the most important role of any management committee, that of forming a policy, has been often neglected within the golf club. However, it is very pleasing to see that a number of clubs are seriously addressing the problem and are developing policies to deal with the future. The English Golf Union has been undertaking a number of workshops on policy documents to show good practice to all member clubs.

The Employer

The role of the employer is usually delegated to the Green Committee when it comes to the greenkeepers. As an employer the Green Committee will have a number of legal obligations including making sure the green staff are abiding by the law when handling chemicals and working with machines. In addition, the Green Committee will need to monitor standards on the course. Clearly the standard and rate of work is very important and this can often be an issue when new demands are being made on green staff due to the increased demand for quality and excellence. Often the greenkeepers do not have the resources in materials and machines necessary to achieve those standards seen on the televised competition courses. While the Head Greenkeeper is generally in charge of hiring and firing it is the Green Committee's ultimate responsibility to hire and fire staff including the Head Greenkeeper. Similarly, while the Head Greenkeeper should deal with minor aspects of staff discipline, the ultimate sanction will be an interview with the Chairman of the Green Committee and written warnings from him.

Along with hiring staff comes the requirement to determine pay and conditions of service. These will vary from club to club although BIGGA has suggested rates of pay and conditions of service for greenkeepers in the UK. With greenkeepers becoming more professional, the general standard of golf courses is improving with higher rates of pay and better conditions in which to work. It is now common for greenkeepers to be allowed to go for training/education to colleges to

AGENDA



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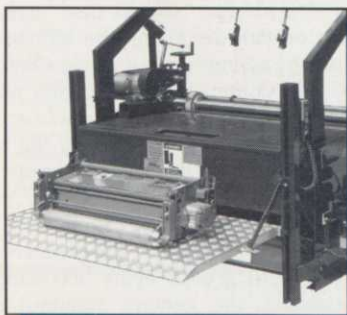
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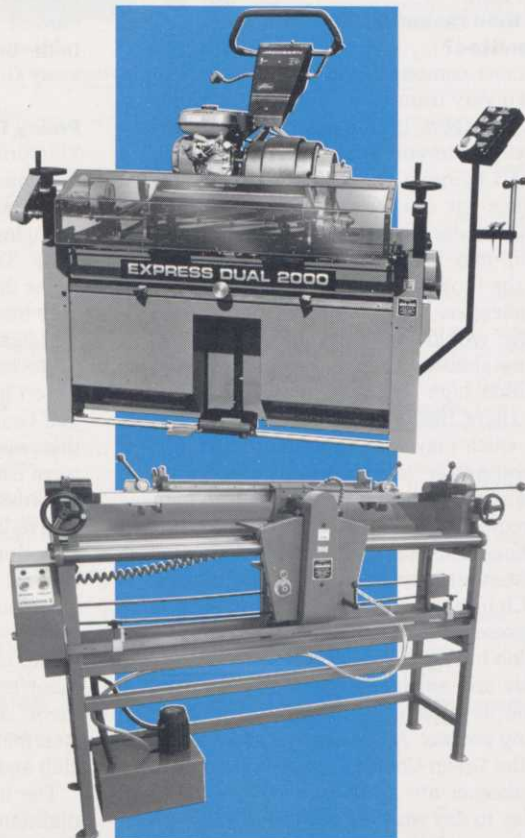


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“That’s a unanimous vote in favour I believe – I’ll advise the Greenkeeper to go ahead”



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How a Green Committee should be run

gain and improve their knowledge of greenkeeping. For Head Greenkeepers additional training will be required with regard to supervision of men and management of resources.

The working conditions of greenkeepers are also beginning to improve. The days when greenkeepers were found in decaying sheds hidden behind trees without electricity or water are hopefully fast fading. It is now very important that, to gain the high quality of staff required, facilities should be suitable for the 1990s. This will include providing a clean mess room with cooking facilities, adequate toilets and shower facilities, the correct machines for the job and adequate workshops and sheds in which to maintain and keep the machines. Clearly, to have the best men you must provide good facilities. Good greenkeepers do not wish to work in 19th century conditions, nor should they have to.

Liaison with the Membership

As an elected body, the Green Committee needs to liaise regularly with the membership.

This can, of course, be done in many ways, informal as well as formal. The formal channel of communication will be through the regular main Committee or Council meeting held perhaps monthly throughout the year.

In addition, there are many informal ways when the Green Committee can inform the membership of what is happening on the course and gain reaction from them. This includes general socialising at the bar and club social events as well as when playing competitions. It is also very important that the greenkeepers be encouraged to be friendly and informative on the course when meeting members. Clearly this does not mean them stopping work every five minutes to have a chat, but does mean some form of informal and friendly communication when appropriate.

Other common means of liaising with the membership include having a suggestion box and putting items of importance upon the notice board. Often, though, suggestion boxes can be mis-used with members putting in critical comments without wishing to add their name. Any suggestion or comment made by a member who is not willing to put his or her name to it should, in my opinion, be thrown in the bin immediately.

Notice boards are sometimes a point of consternation as many people consider that the best way to keep a secret is to write a notice and pin it to the notice board. However, the notice board is in part a place where the agreed policy document and monthly work plan could be pinned to enable members to see up and coming work programmes. Major renovation works can be notified to the membership on the board to prevent disappointment or upset at the time of the work being done. In addition, clear liaison with the Secretary and Competition Secretary is essential so that the major work is not undertaken at times of major events. The Head Greenkeeper has a very clear role here in making sure that the course work runs smoothly with the running of competitions and playing of golf on the course.

Expenditure on the Course.

The standard to which the course is maintained is far the club to decide. While many Head Greenkeepers see themselves as the defenders of standards on the course this is, in reality, a false assumption. There can be no doubt that it is for the members to decide the standard of maintenance they require. It is, however, the role of the Head Greenkeeper to

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How a Green Committee should be run

let the membership be aware of the standards that can be achieved if the resources are available. It is very easy for the Head Greenkeeper to box himself into a corner by setting standards far higher than the club can resource. This leads him to undertake excessive overtime in an attempt to maintain the standards he would like to see on the course. If this continues, then the Head Greenkeeper can be frustrated and disillusioned as he tried to achieve the impossible. Having said that most clubs are trying to strive for standards higher than in the past. Clearly this requires additional resources than those provided in the past. Resources include the number and quality of staff, the budget available for maintenance, the general machinery budget for repair or procurement of new machinery and general funding for sundries on the course. It is the job of the Green Committee to determine expenditure and put forward a budget to the main Committee or Council. Ideally, this budget should be drawn up by the Head Greenkeeper and discussed with the Green Committee prior to submission. The Head Greenkeeper is the professional who does know the requirements for the standard set. In addition to the annual maintenance budget there may be a requirement for additional

reconstruction on the course. Commonly many clubs are rebuilding and enlarging tees, rebuilding defunct soil based greens, improving pathways and rebuilding bunkers. Such new construction needs to be planned years in advance so it can be adequate resource.

It should be noted that some clubs see the control of the budget as one of limiting expenditure and not controlling expenditure. While these two are often taken as one, they are completely different. It may be that the club will need to increase expenditure to maximise its resources and achieved the desired standards. A large initial capital outlay to purchase new machinery might enable the course to be run more efficiently. This could have two benefits, either additional part time summer labour that is normally taken need not be employed, or that labour can be redeployed to increase and improve course presentation.

Conclusion

The role of the Green Committee is therefore diverse and wide. It is not in any way a surro-

gate Head Greenkeeper and should leave the professionals to do the job that they are employed to do. Fundamentally, the role is one of initially determining policy and then seeing that policy implemented by liaising with the Head Greenkeeper on a regular basis. To enable that policy to be implemented will require regular liaison with the membership to ensure that continued support and funds are available to undertake the necessary work.

The secret of success is to develop what might be called the "Green Team", a true liaison and rapport between the Green Committee and the Head Greenkeeper and his staff. The Green Committee needs to support, facilitate and communicate regularly with the green staff if both parties are to be successful.

Whatever members might think, there is one thing that the Green Committee and green staff both want ardently and that is to provide the best golfing facilities for the membership. Once again three cheers for the Green Committee member for there can be few other club members whose handicap increases the more time they spend at the course.

■ John Hacker is senior agronomist with PSD Agronomy.

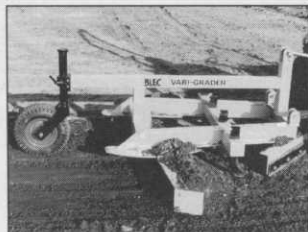
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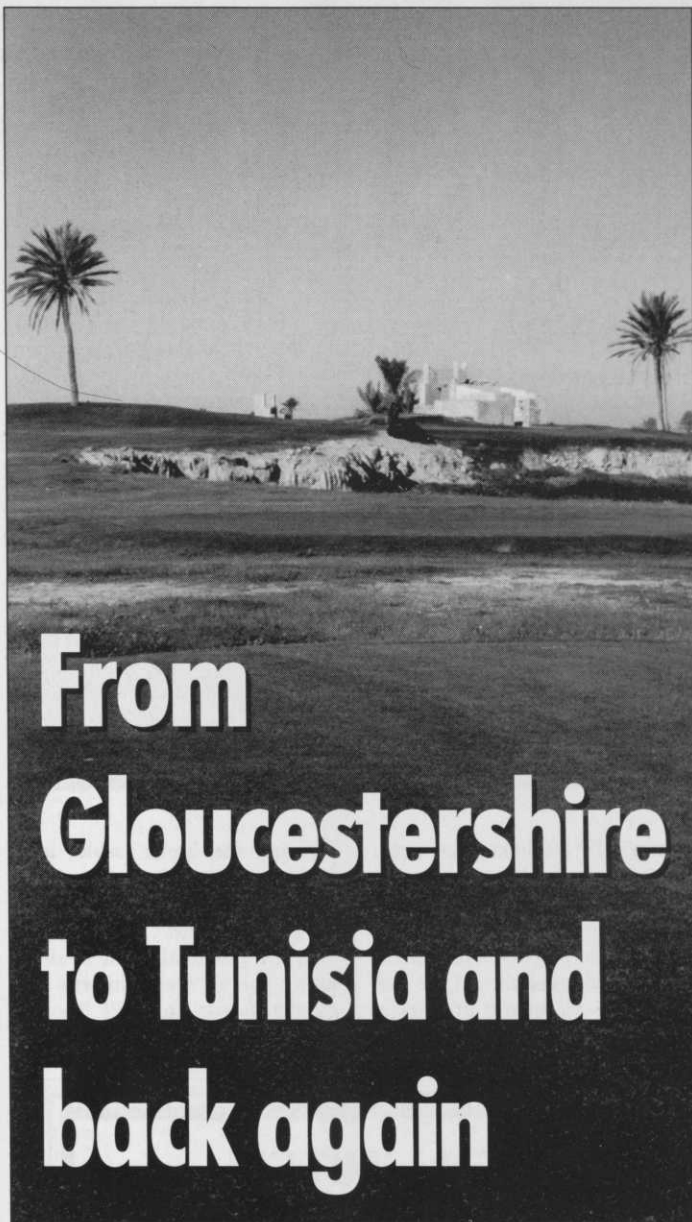
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From Gloucestershire to Tunisia and back again

Dealing with contrasting sites and contrasting problems, how does a golf architect make the most of the golfing opportunities without ruining the varied environments in which he works?

Noel Forester reports

One can only imagine about the life of a golf architect and the requirement to perform when under the influence of lag, not so much induced by jet or time but by local environments.

A respected golf architect plies his trade far and wide and deals with any number of conflicting and contrasting problems as he wrestles with several different projects at any one time.

How easy it must be to jump to an all too hasty decision when standing on the windswept heights of the Cotswolds, following hard upon a flight back from Tunisia. What might there possibly be in common between the island of Djerba off the coast of southern Tunisia and the corn-fields at Minchinhampton in Gloucestershire apart from them

both tending to test the limits of the thermometer?

It cannot be easy to cast aside those extremes of climate when the summer temperatures on Djerba – Homer's island of the Lotus Eaters incidentally – can soar into the not altogether soporific 40s while the opening day in May at the new Cherrington course at Minchinhampton struggled to reach five degrees. How can an architect cope with the huge demands these extremes place not only on himself but on the grass. After all the golfer has a choice about whether to brave the elements but the grass had no such luxury.

If you continue to peel away the onion-skins of the Djerba and Cherrington projects you will discover more and more the differ-

The 8th hole at Golf de Djerba, Tunisia

ences and difficulties that an architect faces.

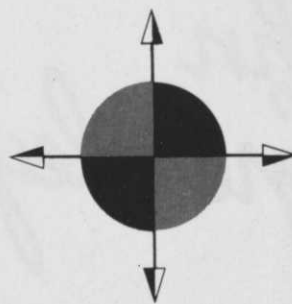
In the case of Djerba, very high temperatures; strong winds; a semi-arid site of sand and palm trees overlying limestone; a high water-table; a water source containing six grams of salt per litre – the usual tolerance for Bermuda grass being one gram per litre – and a water need of half a million gallons per day. Combined or individually these hardly suggest that the site was suitable for a golf course. For an architect, however, there is always something to be thankful for and in the case of Djerba it was the lack of conditions laid down by a planning agency.

That cannot be said to be the case at Minchinhampton where the site, included within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, was the subject of a full-scale Planning Inquiry. Permission was eventually granted subject to conditions attaching to earthworks and landscaping – no change of level greater than 1.5 metres,

fewer than ten bunkers with the sand not be visible from any public highway; reconstitution of hedgerows and stone walls; a tightly controlled tree planting scheme in consonance with the Cotswold landscape and greens and tees to be sited at a respectful distance from neighbouring properties.

The two sites had quite different soils, the one sand and broken shell, the other Cotswold brash with an alarming quantity of stones – the first job was to instigate a complete mechanical stone-picking and stone burying operation. Djerba was a ready-made golfing landscape with dunes and rolling terrain right down to the beach with a scattering of palm trees throughout. Cherrington, on the other hand, was stone-walled, treeless and at first sight not an inspiring canvas despite its Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status. A very shallow valley floor and fairly uniform gradients were the only native material.

JONATHAN GAUNT



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If, however, you turn away from the manifold differences between the two sites and search for something which might unite them in the work of the golf architect it is clearly to do with the artificiality of the intention and how the architect integrates that artificiality with the site and defends the charge or landscape ruination. An environmental cynic would recognise the colours and textures of the one site transposed to the other and the shapes and features of the other imported back to inland Britain.

But it should not stop there. The principle aim, and it is one that would surely be shared by all golf architects is not to allow the artifice to conceal the original site. When you cannot see the origins and history or a piece of land you are playing golf over, then a large part of the spirit and purpose of the game is lost and sensitivity in design has been

surrendered to artifice, self-promotion, gimmickry and introversion.

It is not simply about leaving shadows of the former site, encouraging the golfer to play over Cotswold stone walls or thread his or her way among the

strategically retained palm trees. It is about using the character or the site as a form of discipline and restraint in the design and construction processes. It is about getting under the skin of the site and using all of the architect's experience and judgment in

defining the limits, scale, style and intensity of the artificial design which are appropriate to the particular site.

In the last analysis it is about losing part of the architect's personality in the site itself. The site is far, far more important.

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10 further pitfalls of golf course maintenance

by Robert A Brame,
Agronomist, Mid-Atlantic
Region, USGA Green Section

The techniques and strategies for maintaining golf course turf continue to be better understood and improved as time passes. Some of this learning is the result of formal research done at universities, yet much of our practical knowledge comes from field experience and observation. After all, we often learn more from our mistakes than from the activities that turn out well. Let's face it, an important aspect of improving ourselves is recognising our mistakes and then learning from them.

Each facet of a golf course maintenance program overlaps and ties in with all the other components. Nevertheless, each problem area needs to be identified, evaluated, and considered individually before it can be combined with others and seen as a package.

An article in last month's *Greenkeeper International* discussed the top 10 maintenance pitfalls of greenkeepers as identified by the USGA Green Section in a survey of its staff. The article received lots of response, with the most common question being, "What are the second 10?" The staff was surveyed again, and the results follow:

11 Time on the Golf Course

The greenkeeper is hired to supervise the maintenance of the golf course. Sounds like an obvious statement, doesn't it? Well, it's amazing how often the agronomics of golf course maintenance takes a back seat to the many other hats worn by today's greenkeeper. That is, of course, until problems develop. Then, everyone wants to know what's happening to the turf, and the

primary focus, once again, is the agronomics.

Very few greenkeepers have the time or take the time to walk their golf courses daily to closely observe turf conditions. It isn't because they don't want to; most are simply pulled in too many directions. Many greenkeepers will acknowledge they are spending more and more time on the job with each passing year, but less and less time is spent actually on the course. "When I got into this business I didn't have to put in this many hours with non-turf-grass related activities," is a common response.

Is this a young man's profession? Or is it time to simplify and get back to the basics, and if so, how can we do that?

How about playing the game? How can a greenkeeper prepare the golf course for play if he or she does not play regularly? How can solid decisions and diagnoses be made without spending some time carefully scouting the course? To accomplish this, it takes more than the greenkeeper just being aware of the need. It requires an owner, president, or green committee chairperson becoming involved and encouraging, or even mandating, that the greenkeeper play weekly or at least walk the course on a regular schedule. The greenkeeper also needs support to hire specialty staff, like a secretary, a good assistant greenkeeper, an experienced foreman, irrigation and/or spray technicians, which allows for a more realistic workload so that quality time can be spent on the course. We cannot afford to lose sight of the fact that golf course maintenance still is a "hands-on" profession.

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10 further pitfalls of golf course maintenance

activities of importance. Record-keeping practices we see range from very good to non-existent in golf course maintenance operations. In a world that is scrutinising pesticide usage more and more, it is vitally important to record every detail leading to and including the decision to actually apply a chemical. The days of making notes on a desk blotter concerning pesticide usage are long gone, or they should be.

With the computers available today, pesticide applications, inventory status, and payroll and budget tracking all can be done quickly and professionally. Every operation is different, and the use of a computer can be as simple or complex as a particular operation may need. That's the beauty of today's personal computers. Nevertheless, there are relatively few operations that are using computers to full value. Some control their irrigation systems with computers, but most golf course maintenance operations have not tapped into this valuable resource. Computers are somewhat like golf carts – they are here to stay. If you cannot use a computer to its full potential, either hire someone who can, or take time to learn.

It is not uncommon to visit a golf course and see a nice improvement project that has been completed by the greenkeeper and staff. Projects like bunker renovation, tee additions, and even the construction of a new putting green are clearly over and above routine golf course maintenance. The documentation of improvement projects with pictures or video can be very worthwhile when, a few months later, the golfers forget what it used to look like and who actually made the improvements. A camera can be an excellent tool to help document the work being done on a golf course. It is amazing how valuable pictures can be when budgets are being considered or salaries reviewed.

Documentation is a lot like communication – you are doing it all the time. It is either planned or done by default. It will either work for you or against you. Review what you are doing in this area and take the time to lay a positive foundation for the

future. Document what you and your staff actually do!

13 The Bandwagon Syndrome

The "Bandwagon Syndrome" refers to those times we do something or try some thing just because the golf course down the road is doing it or someone told you he was. Does it really work? Is it agronomically sound for your course? It must be – isn't the highest budgeted/best golf course in town doing it? It must be the right thing to do!

An example of this would be the use of the new "lightweight rollers." It is amazing how many course officials ask about rollers. In most cases, they have heard the course down the street is using them.

"Will they make the putting surfaces faster?"

"Absolutely," is the quick response from the course down the street.

"Is there danger of surface compaction?"

A frequent answer is, "Possibly, but we haven't seen any problems yet."

Let's hope your course won't be the exception to the rule. As with most every thing in our industry, rollers are tools which can be used or abused.

What about chemicals, soil amendments, plant growth regulators, or bio-stimulants? Too often, the same reasoning is applied: If the well-known course or greenkeeper is using it, then it should work for us. However, you should ask yourself if university testing has been done. Also, has the testing been repeated enough in the field to suggest that it will work equally well at most sites? What do the Green Section agronomists think? The "Bandwagon Syndrome" can and has led to wasted time and money. In a few situations, both turf and jobs have been lost. There are no miracle cures in golf course main-

tenance. Look carefully before you leap, and be very sure of your information source. If you are not sure, be conservative and wait and see. Never hesitate to ask questions about new products or procedures. Avoid jumping onto bandwagons too quickly!

14 The Rules of Golf and Marking the Course

What value would our roads and motorways be if drivers did not follow the laws? Can you imagine what would happen if people were allowed to make up their own rules while driving their cars? It is not a pleasant thought. Golf is similar in that golf without rules is something other than the game we all love. If you do not play by the rules, you are not playing golf. It follows, then, that to properly maintain and mark the course on which the game is played, a greenkeeper must have a working knowledge of the rules.

What is the difference between a "hazard" and a "lateral hazard"? What are the options for putting a ball back into play when it has been lost in a "hazard" or "lateral hazard"? What is the procedure when a ball is hit into a pile of grass clippings waiting to be removed? Is it possible to have an illegal hole location? What is the difference between illegal and unfair? How about the so called "winter rules"? These are only a few examples of questions every greenkeeper should be able to answer. This is not an area that should be left just to the golf professional. Knowing the rules and staying up with changes is some thing we all need to actively pursue.

15 Lack of Outside Interests

There are no perfect golf courses, either in design or maintenance. As such, the job of maintaining and conditioning the golf course is never completely finished.

There is always something that needs attention, and this is why the greenkeeper is such a key component in the game of golf. Yet, no one can work 10-plus hours every day of the week for months on end without paying a price. The price may be "burnout," lack of effectiveness on the job, or eventually the pursuit of a different career. Marriages have failed and families have been shattered by the pursuit of a perfectly conditioned golf course. Every greenkeeper knows he/she must leave home to go to work, but how about leaving work to go home? Are you living to work or working to live?

Take a day off every week. Have and pursue some type of hobby or non-golf-related interest. Spend quality time with your spouse and family. Take time for refreshment and revitalisation so you can meet the needs of your family and yourself.

To accomplish these things, every greenkeeper needs the support and encouragement of management. Green chairperson, owner, course official – do not allow your greenkeeper to burn the candle at both ends. Do not allow the short-term conditioning of your golf course to cloud the long-term picture or the personal life of your greenkeeper. Continuity over the long run is more important than course conditioning on any one day.

Take or make time to rest, relax, and recharge your batteries and relieve stress. It will make you more effective, and remember – golf is, after all, a game.

16 Test Plots

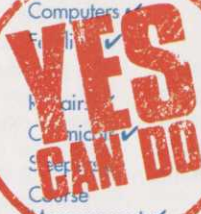
The value of on-course testing cannot be overemphasised. How can you know that a new product or technique will work in your maintenance programme without doing some controlled evaluations? Controlled means working with enough area to obtain a fair evaluation without affecting the budget or the playability of the golf course. A turf nursery is a very good place to do controlled testing. Every golf course maintenance operation should have at least one turf nursery.

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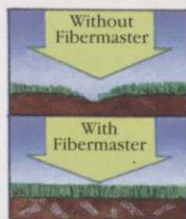


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10 further pitfalls of golf course maintenance

strips when making applications on the golf course is another good way to determine the effectiveness of the product. This makes it possible to determine if the pesticide application was really needed. Nobody particularly likes leaving control strips, but it is the only way to really know what degree of success you are achieving from a product or procedure.

Take the time to do on-course testing. Keep the boss and others who need to know informed of the results. They, too, will be interested in what is happening on their golf course. The information you gather should help save time, money, and aggravation the next time the application or procedure is carried out.

17 Keeping up with Technology

Attend local, regional, national, and even international educa-

tional conferences, field days, and seminars. Subscribe to industry magazines and read them while they are reasonably current. Take advantage of publications from BIGGA and the STRI, as well as the USGA, GCSAA, and others.

A tremendous amount of information is available, but you have to take the initiative to take advantage of it. Too often, the demands faced by today's greenkeeper will affect his/her ability to stay involved with the information gathering process. Course officials need to make sure that both time and money are available for the greenkeeper to stay

current with the fast-changing technology of our industry. Do not allow the hectic pace of day-to-day golf course maintenance to prevent you from staying informed about tomorrow.

18 Long-Range Planning

As the old adage says, "When you fail to plan, you plan to fail." This is true for course improvements as well as for maintenance. Long-range or master plans allow the greenkeeper and course officials to establish obtainable goals and objectives. This makes it possible to establish realistic budgets for

both maintenance and course improvements. A well-thought-out master plan that has been approved by those in authority can help bridge the gap in continuity when greenkeepers or course officials change. As a matter of fact, a good master plan can help increase the longevity of the greenkeeper simply because he/she has a much better idea of what is expected and where the operation is headed. Everyone benefits from this combination.

Long-range plans can include time being set aside for the greens to be aerified each year, allowing golf events to be scheduled around maintenance activities without deferring maintenance work or eliminating it altogether. There are no surprises; everyone knows when the work will be done and what to expect. The continuity and direction that are established through long-range planning pay dividends

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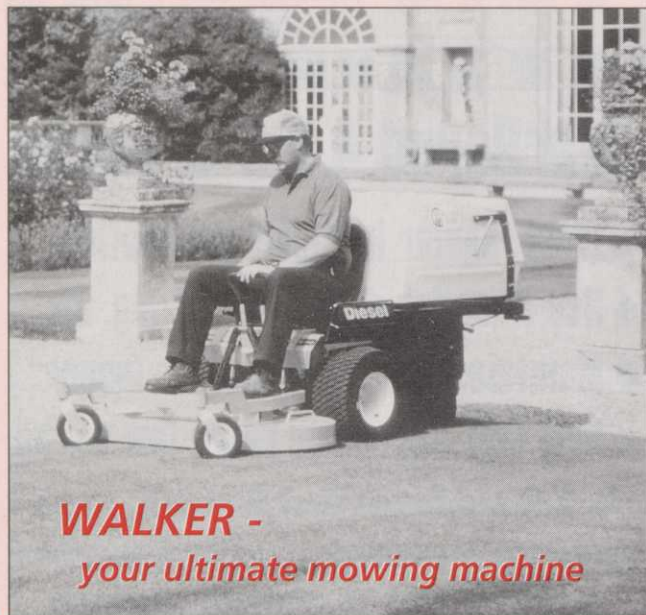
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Delegate responsibility to the people hired to assist you

in a better-managed golf course.

19 Training and Delegation

A good indication that a potential problem exists in this area is the need to have a pager, mobile phone, or two-way radio in constant use. If it is that critical that you are reachable every second of every day, maybe it's time to spread some responsibility to other key employees. This also ties in with the need to have outside interests and low-stress personal time. If the greenkeeper is carrying the entire load alone, sooner or later something will snap.

A good rule-of-thumb to follow in training key employees is to help that person learn to do all that you do. Don't be insecure about this. It takes a person with confidence in his/her ability and the capability of seeing the big picture to delegate authority. Investing in people is what life is all about. A supervisor who is good at training and delegating is respected by his/her staff and usually enjoys life a lot more. Improving the skills of training and delegating is a never-ending task. We all can improve in this area.

20 Managing Carts and Cart Paths

This ties in very closely with the eighth pitfall. That is, Amount of Play. More and more maintenance operations are installing tee-to-green golf cart path networks. While no one likes the idea of having paved surfaces on a golf course, a well-built golf cart path offers the best wear control and maintenance options where heavy cart traffic exists. Ropes, signs, and fencing can be used to help control golf cart traffic and wear, but these usually offer less than ideal results and increased maintenance costs. It is amazing how people ignore signs and ropes!

In designing a golf cart path

network, begin at the 18th green and work backwards around the course. If there is a problem area where golf cart traffic is hard to manage, begin the network design at this point. It is important to locate the cart path where it will be used. However, try to stay at least 30 feet, or 10 yards, from a green or fairway. Where possible, avoid ball landing areas, though no path location is immune to shots hitting the surface. Under the Rules of Golf, relief is given from an artificially paved surface. On the other hand, no relief is allowed from the bare ground or thinned turf that often results from concentrated golf cart traffic.

Be sure to construct a golf cart path with a good base, and preferably it should be eight feet wide. This allows maintenance equipment to use the paths and makes it possible for one cart to pass another without leaving the paved surface. Properly built and located cart paths also can be used as channels for surface water runoff when pitched or sloped or with curbing installed.

Give serious thought to the current and future usage of golf carts at your course. While cart paths do involve some cost initially, over the long run they can pay for themselves in increased cart usage, especially during inclement weather. When the course is wet but playable, the sign would read, "Golf Carts Restricted to Paths." Isn't that better than, "Course Closed to Golf Carts"?

Conclusion

This listing of the second 10 pitfalls, follows in the footsteps of the first 10 in last month's magazine. The intent has been to discuss maintenance pitfalls, as seen by Green Section agronomists. Once identified as a concern on your course, a strategy can be developed to make the necessary changes. It is never too late for change!

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GREENKEEP

THE COLLEGES AND T

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

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

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

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

Until the report is complete, anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeepers Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Ane, York YO6 2NF, telephone 01347 838640.

NORTH



ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York YO2 3PR. Contact Christine Biglin, registrar. Tel: 01904 702121. *Full time courses:* National Certificate – Horticulture; National Diploma – Amenity Horticulture; Higher National Diploma – Horticulture (golf management options). *Part time courses:* NVQ Level 2, City & Guilds Phase III and IV Greenkeeping.



CITY COLLEGE MANCHESTER Wythenshawe Park Centre, Moor Road, Manchester M23 9BQ. Contact Peter Riley/Martin Webb. Tel: 0161 957 1526. Day Release and Full Time courses leading to NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with the Greenkeeping option.



HOUGHALL COLLEGE Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan. Tel: 0191 386 1351. *Full time courses:* National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship – 1 Year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option – 2/3 years. *Part time courses:* Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management Level II – Day Release; C&G Phase III Enterprise Management – Afternoon Evening. *Short Courses:* Health & Safety Legislation; Turfcare; Machinery and Mechanisation. All courses contribute towards NVQ Levels I and II.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE Myerscough Hall, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY. Contact Martyn Jones. Tel: 01995 640611. *Full time courses:* National Certificate in Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping – 1 Year; BTEC National Diploma in Turf Science and Sportsturf Management – 3 Years; BTEC Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Golf Course Management – 3 Years (Both these courses include one year's paid industrial experience). *Part time courses:* NVQ Level II Greenkeeping; NVQ Level III Sportsturf Maintenance; Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation (in conjunction with BTLIA). A range of short courses including FEPA etc.



REASEHEATH COLLEGE Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DE Contact Dennis Mortram. Tel: 01270 625131 Fax: 01270 625665. *Full time:* BTEC First Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) – 1 year; BTEC National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) – 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management – 3 years. *Part time:* HNC Golf Course Management – Distance Learning. NVQ Level 1 Greenkeeping – Day Release. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping – Day/Block Release. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping – Day/Block Release. C&G Phase IV Greenkeeping – Block Release. IoG National Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture – Day Release. IoG National Diploma – Day Release. *Short Courses:* FEPA Chemical Safety; Safe Lifting; Chainsaws; Off-Road Vehicle Driving; First Aid.



BROOKSBY COLLEGE Brooksby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2LJ. Contact Ann Hurt. Tel: 01664 434291. *Full time courses:* National Certificate in Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management. National Diploma in Horticulture. *Part time courses:* Day Release training to NVQ Level II in Amenity Horticulture – Greenkeeping option. The course is based around the GTC Training Manual. Short courses also available in Horticultural Machinery and Arboriculture.



BROOMFIELD COLLEGE Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 01332 831345. NVQ Level I and Level II Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9x 3-day blocks, or APL service.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE COLLEGE Milton Centre, Landbeach Road, Milton, Cambridgeshire CB4 6DB. Contact Martin Crimmins. Tel: 01223 860701. Part time – Day Release over two years leading to NVQ Level II (Greenkeeping Options), including the GTC Training Manual requirements. Autumn term commences September/October 1995.



RODBASTON COLLEGE Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5HG. Contact Nigel Foskett. Tel: 01785 712209. Courses offered: Craft Level NVQ Level I, II and III. Day Release. Duration: Over two years, each of weeks duration (September – June). Registration Date: Please contact the College.



WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE Moreton Morrell, Warwick CV35 9BL. Contact J.J. Rees. Tel: 01926 651367. Greenkeeping courses – day release – NVQ Level I; NVQ Level II; NVQ Level III; NVQ Level IV; IoG courses – National Practical Certificate; NVQ Level II, National Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture; Full time two year BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture (with option in Turf Culture); *Professional updating courses include:* Groundsmanship, Machinery Maintenance and Repair, Managing Conservation Areas, Plant Identification, Hedgelaying, First Aid, FEPA Spraying Courses, Chainsaw Courses.



BRINSBURY COLLEGE North Heath, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DL. Contact Keith Harrison. Tel: 01798 873832. *Full time courses:* New Entrant to Greenkeeping Course – 36 weeks. NVQ II Greenkeeping option plus core. Approximately a third of the course is delivered on college's and local golf course. *Part time:* Day Release to NVQ II level. Both full time and part time students with work both to the NVQ II work book and the Greenkeeper manual. NVQ Level II (National Technical Certificate) with Inst. of Groundsmanship manual may be delivered as an evening course. NVQ Level III Greenkeeping. ND Landscape Studies (Option – Sportsturf Management and Greenkeeping). *New courses and qualifications:* National Technical Certificate (IoG), National Practical Certificate (IoG), Intermediate Diploma (IoG), National Diploma (IoG)



HADLOW COLLEGE Hadlow College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Keith Backhouse. Tel: 01732 850551. NVQ Level II and Level III Part-time Day Release over two years with two periods of Block Release. Level II in Amenity and Groundsmanship Courses with Day Release. NVQ Level III Golf Greenkeeping new as from Sept. '95. Centres at Hadlow, Canterbury and Maidstone.



MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE. Contact the Academic Registrar. Tel: 01483 232424. *Full time courses:* National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. *Part-time:* NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 1, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Greenkeeping Level 2, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3.



NESCOT North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 0181 394 3099/3111. NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.

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Pending GTC approval for all courses

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

SOUTH EAST



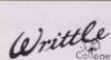
OAKLANDS COLLEGE Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 01727 850651. Part time courses leading to NVQ Level II Greenkeeping, evening courses leading to City & Guilds Phase IV Business Management. One year full time NC Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management. Courses start September 1995.



OTLEY COLLEGE Otley College, Otley, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9EY. Contact Student Applications. Tel: 01473 785543. Full time courses: BTEC National Diploma - Sports Turf Management. National Certificate in Horticulture, option in Sports Turf Technology. Part time NVQ 2 Golf Greenkeeping and NVQ 2 Groundsmanship, NVQ 3 Sports Turf Management. IoG Intermediate and Final Diplomas (Evenings). NVQ Horticultural Mechanics. FEPA Courses PA1, PA2, PA6. Otley College ★ Developing individuals ★ Achieving more.



PLUMPTON COLLEGE Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE. Contact David Blackmur. Tel: 01273 890454. Full time courses: National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (options in Landscape and Sportsturf); National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture; First Diploma; A11 BTEC. Part time courses: NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture in Arboriculture, Interior Landscaping, Hard Landscaping and Greenkeeping, Sportsturf and Sportsground Management; NVQ Level III Amenity Horticulture; Phase IV Business Management.



WRITTLE COLLEGE Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RR. Contact Dai Edwards. Tel: 01245 420705, Fax: 01245 420456. Part time courses include: NVQ Levels I, II, III and IV Sportsturf & Greenkeeping, Day Release. Includes training and assessment of Greenkeepers Training Manual. Full time courses include: BTEC First Diploma (1 year), BTEC National Diploma with Option in Sportsturf and Golf Course Management, 3 year sandwich course; BTEC Higher National Diploma with Option in Golf Course Management 3 year sandwich course, BSc (Hons) Degree course in Landscape and Amenity Management. Short courses for FEPA, Irrigation, Fork Lift Trucks, Chainsaws and First Aid also available. Associate students welcome, progression routes identified, accreditation of prior learning possible.



CANNINGTON COLLEGE Cannington Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Contact Nick Rigden. Tel: 01278 652226. HNC Golf Course Management. BTEC First Diploma. BTEC National Diploma in Golf Course Management. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management (inc. European Studies). NVQ Level 1 and 2 Golf Greenkeeping. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management. NVQ Level 4 Greenkeeping Management. FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off Road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics.



HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury House, Nr Gloucester GL19 3BE. Contact D. Kirkham. Tel: 01452 700283. Fax: 01452 700629. Amenity and Decorative Horticulture - NVQ Level II and III, First Diploma, National Certificate, National Diploma and HND Land Use. Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, NVQ Level III, First Diploma, Certificate, National Diploma and HND Land Use. Diploma in Supervisory Management.



SPARSHOLT COLLEGE Sparsholt College Hampshire, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NE Contact Bob Young. Tel: 01962 776441. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FIPA: Short Courses, Chainsaw: Short Courses. All courses, other than Phase IV, are offered on Block release. Full residential facilities available.



ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB. Contact Carol Borthwick. Tel: 01334 652781. Fax: 01334 656795. Craft Level courses. Block-release and full-time, following SVQ Level II and the GTC Training Manual. Six week specialist modular programme (January-February), including Golf Course Construction, Pesticide Application and Plant Protection Procedures. Distance Learning supervisory course, with one week in College. SVQ Level III available from September 1995. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full-time, day-release and distance learning. FEPA, COSHH and Health & Safety short courses also.



KYLE AND CARRICK DISTRICT COUNCIL Burns House, Burns Statue Square, Ayr KA7 1UT. Contact Lesley Keenan. Tel: 01292 281511. SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping - Day Release up to three years. SVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture. Students can enrol at any time.



LANGSIDE COLLEGE GLASGOW Langside College Glasgow School of Horticulture, Woodburn House, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen G73 3PE. Contact Colin S Urquhart. Tel: 0141 647 6300. SCOTVEC National Certificate - 3 years day release or 1 year full time. Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management - 2 years day release. SVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with Greenkeeping options plus a range of NC and HNC Horticulture programmes including G SVQ Level III. Short courses on a range of subjects including Tractor Operations and the Safe Use of Pesticides can be negotiated.



OATRIDGE COLLEGE Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, West Lothian EH52 6NH. Contact Steve Miller. Tel: 01506 854387. Full and part time courses: Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management; National Certificate in Greenkeeping; National Certificate Modular and Scottish Vocational Qualification Level I and II. National Certificate in Hort. Machinery. Short specialist courses - including safe use of chemicals, operation of greenkeeping machinery.



GREENMOUNT COLLEGE Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, BT41 4PU. Contact Geoff Jenkins. Tel: 01849 462114. Day release courses leading to (i) Level II Certificate in Greenkeeping and (ii) Level III Certificate in Golf Course Supervision.



TEAGASC COLLEGE Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Contact Pat Suttle. Tel: 003531 371 636. Phase II Greenkeeping - Block Release two weeks, three times per year. Phase III Greenkeeping - Block Release, one week, three times per year.



PENCOED COLLEGE Pencoed, Mid Glamorgan CF35 5LG. Contact Peter Gillard or Richard Browning. Tel: 01656 860202. Day Release courses in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf at Craft, Advanced Craft, Supervisory and Management levels to GTC requirements, incorporating the Training Manual of the Greenkeepers Training Committee.



WELSH COLLEGE Welsh College of Horticulture, Northrop, Mold, Clywyd CH7 6AA. Contact GM Wright. Tel: 01352 840861. Fax: 01352 840731. Full time courses: ND - Golf Course Construction Option - equivalent to NVQ Level III. NEBSM - equivalent to NVQ Level III. BTEC First in Landbase Golf Greenkeeping NVQ Level II. Part time courses: NVQ 4, 3, 2, 1 all available on block weeks. Short courses: Pesticide PA1, PA2, PA6, 1-3 day courses (training and testing); COSHH Assessments; Safe lifting and carrying; PICKUP courses. Home study learning at NVQ Level II Option Greenkeeping.

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Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

THE BIGGA LIBRARY

The BIGGA library is continuing to expand, with new titles being added regularly. A full list, as at May 19 1995, is shown below. Up to date lists may be obtained from BIGGA HQ or from regional administrators.

At the last BIGGA board meeting, it was decided that BIGGA members should be given full access to the library by introducing a book lending scheme.

Therefore, as from June 1 1995, books and videos, except those marked 'Reference' may be borrowed by BIGGA members for a period of up to six weeks.

Each member may borrow up to two books/videos on each occasion. Members are responsible for returning books to BIGGA HQ. If books are not returned by the due date then borrowers will be invoiced for the cost of a replacement.

A book loan application form is printed opposite or contact Regional Administrators or BIGGA HQ for more details.

ZENECA PREMIER GREENKEEPER

The response to this year's competition has been encouraging. However, there is still time for head greenkeepers/course managers to enter or be entered by their greenkeeping

team or golf club. Remember, that the competition aims to award the "unsung heroes", ie those greenkeepers getting the best from their courses, on low budgets etc. There is an extra prize this year, which will reward the winning greenkeepers team with £500. So don't be shy, enter now.

TORO/LELY/PGA EUROPEAN TOUR STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Entries for this competition should have been sent to Aldwark Manor by May 31. Any college intending to enter a student(s) who have not submitted application, should do so as soon as possible.

NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE 1996

I would be interested to hear from greenkeepers who have had and overcome problems with dry patch, fusarium, moles, earthworms, or other pests, diseases or other turf grass problems who would be willing to take part in a Practical versus Theory session, jointly with consultants from the STRI, during the National Education Conference 1996. Sessions would last for 40 minutes and public speaking training could be given to greenkeepers inexperienced as public speakers.

Be well read with

Title/Author	Subject
Golf Architecture/Dr A Mackenzie	Architecture
Hazards/Alek Bauer	Architecture
Some Essays on Golf course Architecture/H S Colt and C H Alison	Architecture
The Whitelaw Memoirs/William Whitelaw	Biography
Tony Jacklin The Price of Success/Liz Kahn	Biography
The Complete Idiot's Guide to PCs/Joe Kraynak	Computers
DOS 6/Sue Plumley	Computing
Introduction to Databases/James J Townsend	Computing
Microprocessors A short Introduction/Eric Morgan	Computing
The ABCs of Windows 3.1/Alan Neibauer	Computing
Word For Windows 6/Sue Negus	Computing
The Golf Course Planning Construction And Maintenance/FW Hawtree	Construction
Golf Course Preparation/John Hacker and George Shiels	Course Management
An Environmental Strategy for Golf in Europe/European Golf Association	Ecology
Ecology Unit	Ecology
Landscape Restoration Handbook/D Harker, K Harker, S Evans and M Evans	Ecology
Golf Course Management and Construction Environmental Issues/James C Balough and William Walker	Environment
A Year at St Andrews	Golf
Golf - The Scientific Way/Editor:Alastair Cochran	Golf
Golf Monthly's Lessons With Mr X/Mr X	Golf
Golf in Britain/Geoffrey Cousins	Golf
Golfer's Handbook 1988/Laurence Viney	Golf
Golfing Art/ Phil Pilley	Golf
Great Golf Courses of the World/Andre-Jean Lafaurie	Golf
Peter Alliss An Autobiography/Peter Alliss	Golf
The Glorious World of Golf/Peter Dobreiner	Golf
The Open Championship 1986	Golf
The Punch Book of Golf/William Davis	Golf
The Royal & Ancient Golfer's Handbook 1993/Mark Wilson	Golf
The Walker Cup at Sunningdale/Various	Golf
The World Atlas of Golf /Pat Ward Thomas, H W Wind, C Price and P Thomson	Golf
World of Sport and Leisure Golf	Golf
Code of Practice For the Use of Approved Pesticides in Amenity & I	HSW
Manual of Trees and Shrubs/Hillier	Horticulture
Trees of Great Britain and Europe/A Mitchell	Horticulture
From the Woods to the Tees/Tom O'Connor	Humour
One Flew Over the Clubhouse/Tom O'Connor	Humour
Golf Course and Grounds Irrigation and Drainage/Albert R Jarrett	Irrigation
TORO Irrigation Catalogue	Irrigation
Wastewater Reuse for Golf Course Irrigation/USGA	Irrigation
Budgeting A Practical Guide for Better Business Planning/Terry Dickey	Management
Creative Decision Making/H B Gelatt	Management
Foundations of Cost and Management Accounting/Roy Kodge	Management
Guidelines to Giving Effective Presentations/John Kirkman	Management
How to Communicate Effectively/Bert Decker	Management
How to Manage Budgets and Cash Flows/Peter Taylor	Management
Managing Information/Peter Grainger	Management



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the BIGGA library



BIGGA LIBRARY BOOK APPLICATION FORM

Subject to the terms as detailed (left).

Managing Operations/Peter Grainger	Management	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 46 1969	Reference
Managing People/Peter Grainger	Management	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 47 1970	Reference
Managing Recruitment/Elizabeth Sidney	Management	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 48 1971	Reference
Managing Resources/Peter Grainger	Management	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 49 1972	Reference
Speak for Yourself/Richard Denny	Management	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 50 1973	Reference
The Business Plan Workbook/Colin Barrow et al	Management	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 51 1974	Reference
The Business Plan Workbook/Colin Barrow, Paul Barrow and Robert Brown	Management	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 52 1974	Reference
		Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 53 1975	Reference
Coaching Mentoring and Assessing/Eric Parsloe	NVQs	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 54 1976	Reference
Competence-Based Assessment Techniques/Shirley Fletcher	NVQs	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 55 1977	Reference
Designing Competence-Based Training/Shirley Fletcher	NVQs	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 56 1978	Reference
NVQs Standards and Competence/Shirley Fletcher	NVQs	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 57 1979	Reference
Integrated Pest Management for Turf and Ornamentals/Anne R Leslie	Pest Mngmnt	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 58 1980	Reference
Managing Turf Grass Pests/Thomas Watsche, Peter Dermoeden, David Shellar	Pests	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 59 1981	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper 1949	Reference	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 60 1982	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper 1950	Reference	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 62 1984	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper 1951	Reference	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 63 1985	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper 1954	Reference	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 64 1986	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper 1958	Reference	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 65 1987	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper 1965	Reference	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 66 1988	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper 1966	Reference	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	No 61 1983	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper 1971	Reference	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	Vol 8 No 30	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper 1973	Reference	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	Vol 10 Nos 35-38	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper 1974	Reference	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	Vol 11 No 39	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper 1975	Reference	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	Vol 8 No 28	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1952	Reference	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	Vol 8 No 29	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1953	Reference	Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute	Vol 9 Nos 31-34	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1955	Reference	The Secrets of Telephone Selling/Neil Johnson	Sales	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1956	Reference	Grounds Maintenance A Contractor's Guide to Competitive Tendering/Philip Sayers	Tenders	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1957	Reference	How to Develop and Present Staff Training Courses/Peter R Shea	Training	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1959	Reference	Identifying Training Need/David Reay	Training	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1960	Reference	Implementing Training/David Reay	Training	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1962	Reference	Portfolios for Development/Warren Redman	Training	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1963	Reference	Selecting Training Methods/David G Reay	Training	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1964	Reference	Understanding How People Learn/David Reay	Training	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1967	Reference	Grasses A Guide to their Identification Uses and Distribution/C E Hubbard	Turf Science	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1968	Reference	Natural Turf for Sport and Amenity Science and Practice/W A Adams and R J Gibbs	Turf Science	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1969	Reference	Science and Golf II Proceedings of the 2nd World Scientific Congress/A J Cochran and M R Farrally	Turf Science	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1970	Reference	Science and Golf Proceedings of the 1st World Scientific Conference/A J Cochran	Turf Science	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jan-Dec 1972	Reference	The Complete Golf Course Turf and Design/Claude Crockford	Turf Science	Reference
British Golf Greenkeeper Jun 1976	Reference	The Nature and Properties of Soils/Nyle C Brady	Turf Science	Reference
Dod's Parliamentary Companion/Michael Bedford	Reference	Turfgrass Science and Management/Robert Emmons	Turf Science	Reference
Encyclopedia of Employment Law and Practice	Reference	Management of Turfgrass Diseases/JM Vargas	Turf Science	Reference
External Works incorporating Landscape Specification	Reference	Sports Turf Science Construction and Maintenance/V I Stewart	Turf Science	Reference
Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute Volume 8 No 27	Reference	Keeper of the Green	Video	Reference
Journal of the Board of Greenkeeping Research Vols 1 to 7	Reference	Raising the Standard of Mowing Management/Richard Fry	Video	Reference
Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute No 40 1964	Reference	Setting the Standard in Gray Application/Richard Fry	Video	Reference
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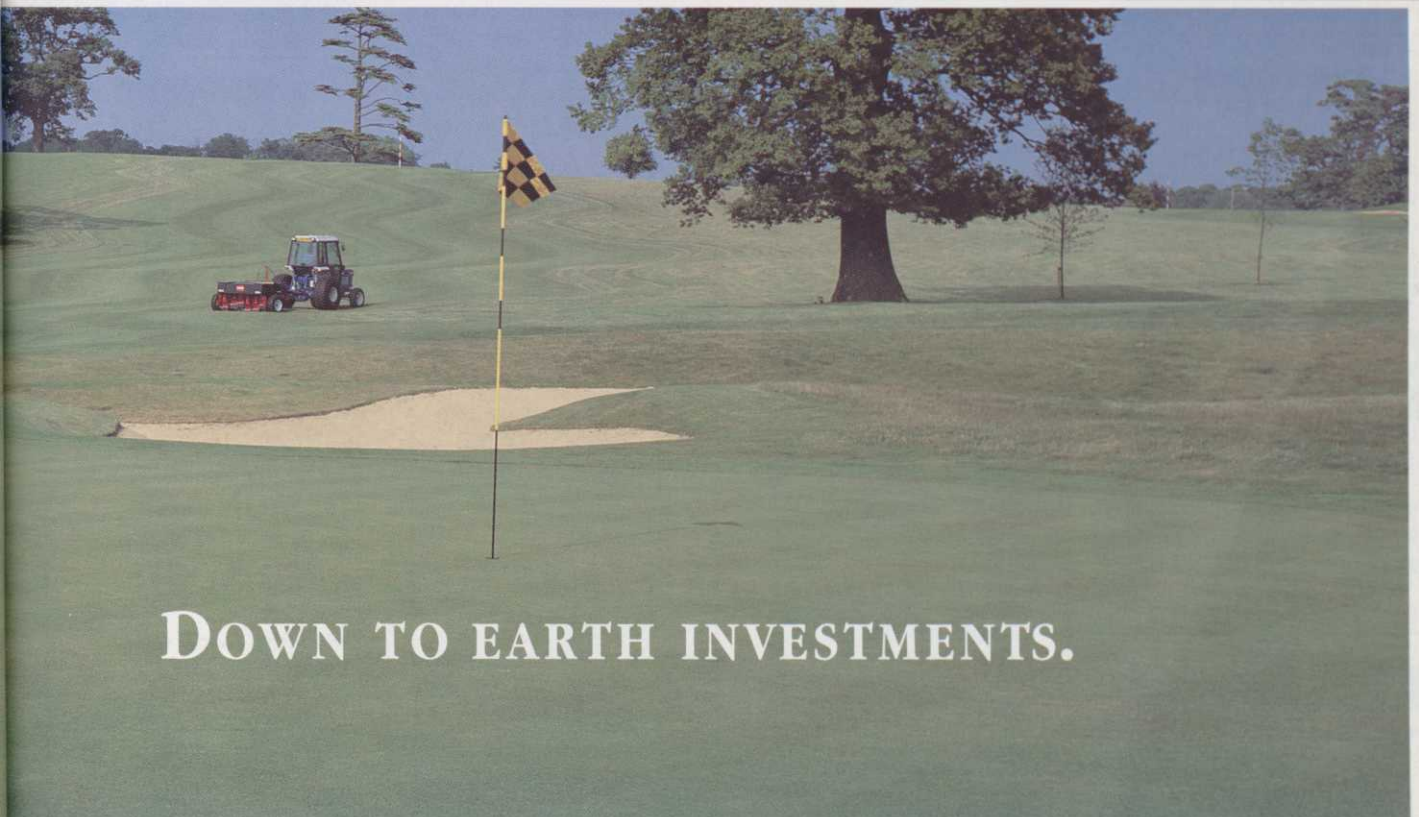
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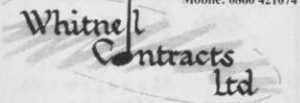
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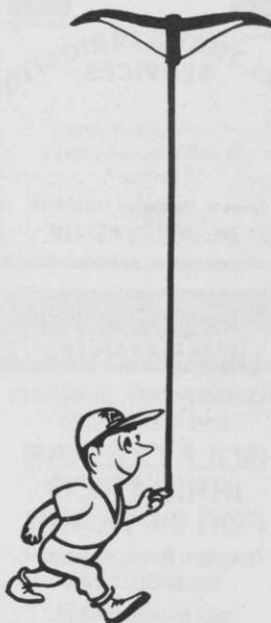
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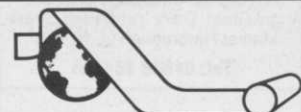
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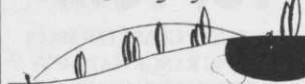
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Please apply in writing with full CV to:

Mr G W Rees, Secretary, Lansdown Golf Club, Bath BA1 9BT

Closing date for applications: 14th July 1995



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Closing Date: 30th June 1995



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The Proprietor, Heydon Grange Golf and Country Club,
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and NORTH MIDLANDS

Applicants should have a knowledge of amenity horticulture or experience in golf course or sports turf maintenance. Sales experience would be helpful but not necessary.

The position requires calling on golf courses, local authorities and landscaping contractors to promote sales of fertilisers, pesticides, grass seeds and equipment. Full product training will be given.

Salary is commensurate with experience and company car will be provided. All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

Replies in writing only with full CV to:

Mr P. Fell, Sales Manager,
Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd,
Unit 18, Moor Lane Trading Estate,
Sherburn-in-Elmet, North Yorkshire LS25 6DX
Tel: (01977) 681155

Ellesborough Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must possess recognised qualifications and be 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.

Practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping methods, budgetary controls and computer literacy is also required.

Applicants must have a minimum of five years experience preferably as Head Greenkeeper.

Handwritten applications with current CV to be sent to:

The Secretary/Manager,
Ellesborough Golf Club, Butlers Cross,
Aylesbury, Bucks HP17 0TZ

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For a job description and application form, please telephone the College on 01926 651367, ext. 256. Closing date: 16 June 1995. Interviews will be held on 26 and 27 June 1995.



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Muck and magic aside...

One of the major changes I've seen in the last 14 years is in the quality of golf greenkeepers. The degree of professionalism has improved particularly over the last 10 years. I was Chairman of BIGGA's conference at Harrogate this year, and will again next, and I've been extremely pleased by the performance of greenkeepers in their ability to present themselves. I also sit on interview panels and the quality of candidates is now excellent compared with ten years ago. Much of the credit must to BIGGA and the training courses and seminars it holds. There is no doubt they are beneficial.

"The second big change concerns the amount of money golf clubs are prepared to spend on their course. When I first came they didn't buy much equipment or pay staff very well. That has all improved," said Dr Hayes who



Dr Peter Hayes, pictured, Director of the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley retires at the beginning of June after 14 years during which time he has presided over a period of unprecedented success for the Institute and witnessed many changes in the industry. Just before his departure he talked with Scott MacCallum.

has seen the turnover rise from £300,000 to £1.5million.

"Research work and new ideas are also better accepted but I'm disappointed at the number of greenkeepers who tend to still use "muck and magic" products which they think are a solution to all their ills.

"These products can all do the

most marvellous things – I even ask if they will restore my hair – but the problem is compounded because they don't just use one at a time, they put on two or three and can cause real problems."

He also has some bad tidings for a large number of clubs in the country which are looking at the need for major course surgery in the next few years.

"The time has come for a lot of golf clubs to dig up all 18 greens and put down something to a better specification. There could be four or five hundred inland courses which are getting to a stage that major reconstruction should be high on their list of priorities.

"The greens will not withstand the play that's expect of them. The clubs will have to work out whether to do it in three sixes or two nines, but it costs a lot of money."

Dr Hayes explained the reason why the courses have reached the crisis point.

"No-one used to play golf from November to April and the demand for winter golf was not there. Now the young people joining clubs want to play all the year round but the courses were just built with summer play in mind. They didn't expect hundreds of people trampling on them in winter.

The STRI's aims and objectives have been the same since the Institute was formed in 1929. It acts as advisors to golf clubs – currently over 1,200 in the UK, Ireland and continental Europe; general turf advisory service; research, education, consultation, golf course architecture, labora-

tory testing, construction and drainage consultancy and ecology.

Of these Dr Hayes has been responsible for introducing the architecture and the ecology departments and the others have all expanded. A total of 70% of the Institute's work revolves around golf.

"I'm most grateful to the R&A which has given us grants of roughly £50,000 a year for the past eight years to undertake research on various subjects. For example at the moment we are researching into earth worm biology and control and into root-zone mixes for new greens. The R&A has financed that.

"All our research work is published and is available to everyone, even our direct competitors," he added.

There have always been consultants competing for the same business as the STRI, but none of them can offer the same across the board expertise.

"We've got experts in turf disease in fact one of our rivals sends its turf diseases to us. We have a turf diseases lab, a soil chemistry lab and a soil physics lab. In addition we have specialists in the varieties of grasses and ecology. So all the expertise is here."

Another initiative introduced in the last few years has been the regionalisation of STRI agronomists.

"We have five and by the end of the year we will have three more in the London area. It allows us to build up a relationship with the clubs, cut down on travelling and react more quickly if there are any problems."

One of the main problems facing the industry, and the STRI's new Director, Dr Mike Canaway who moves into the hot seat from heading up the Institute's Research Division, is the increased threat of litigation. Everyone from suppliers, architects, consultants and contractors are going to have to be wary of the threat of legal action and insurance premiums are bound to go up.

But that won't concern Dr Hayes. He'll be back in Northern Ireland writing and enjoying his main hobby of photography.

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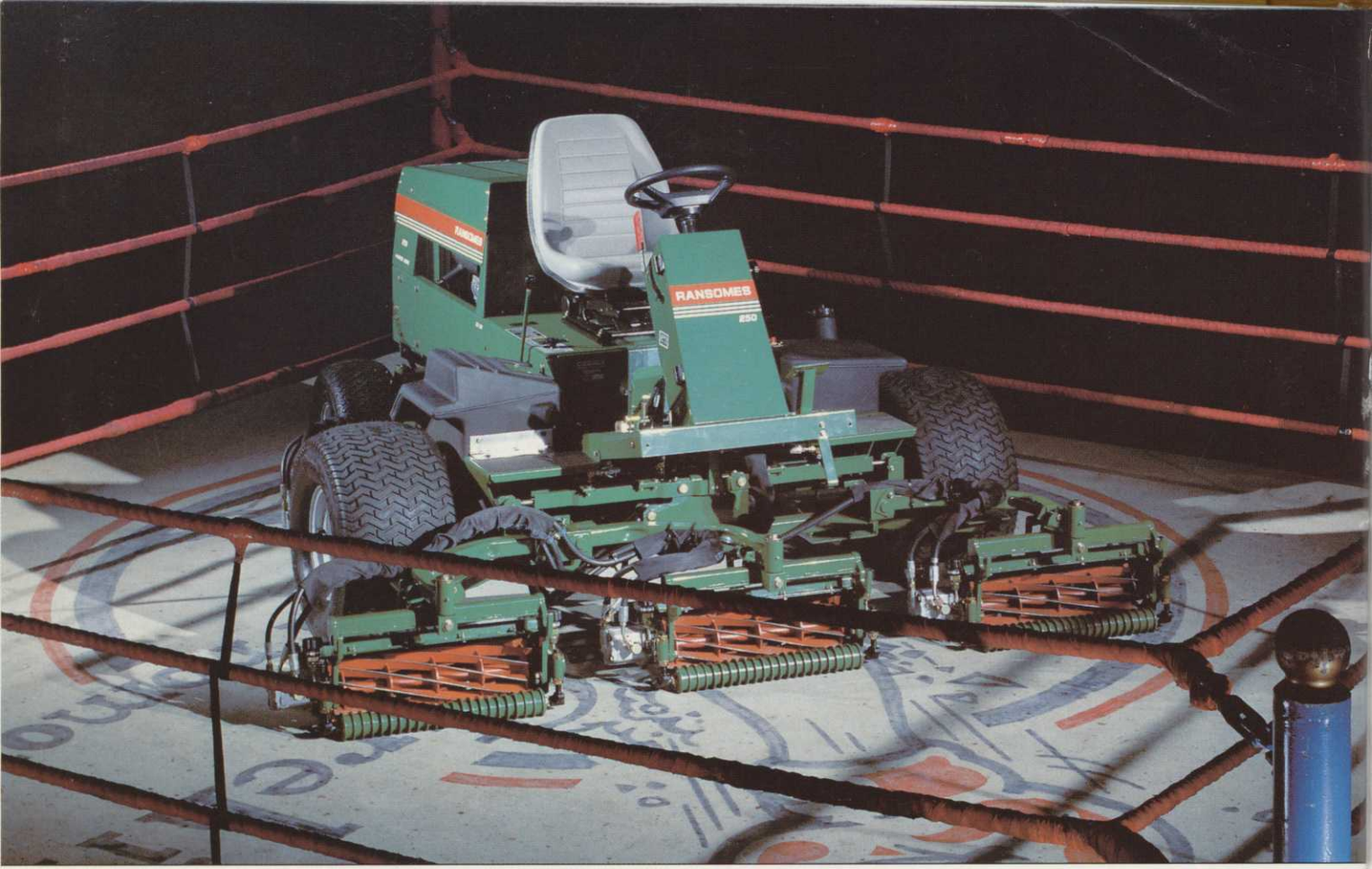
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