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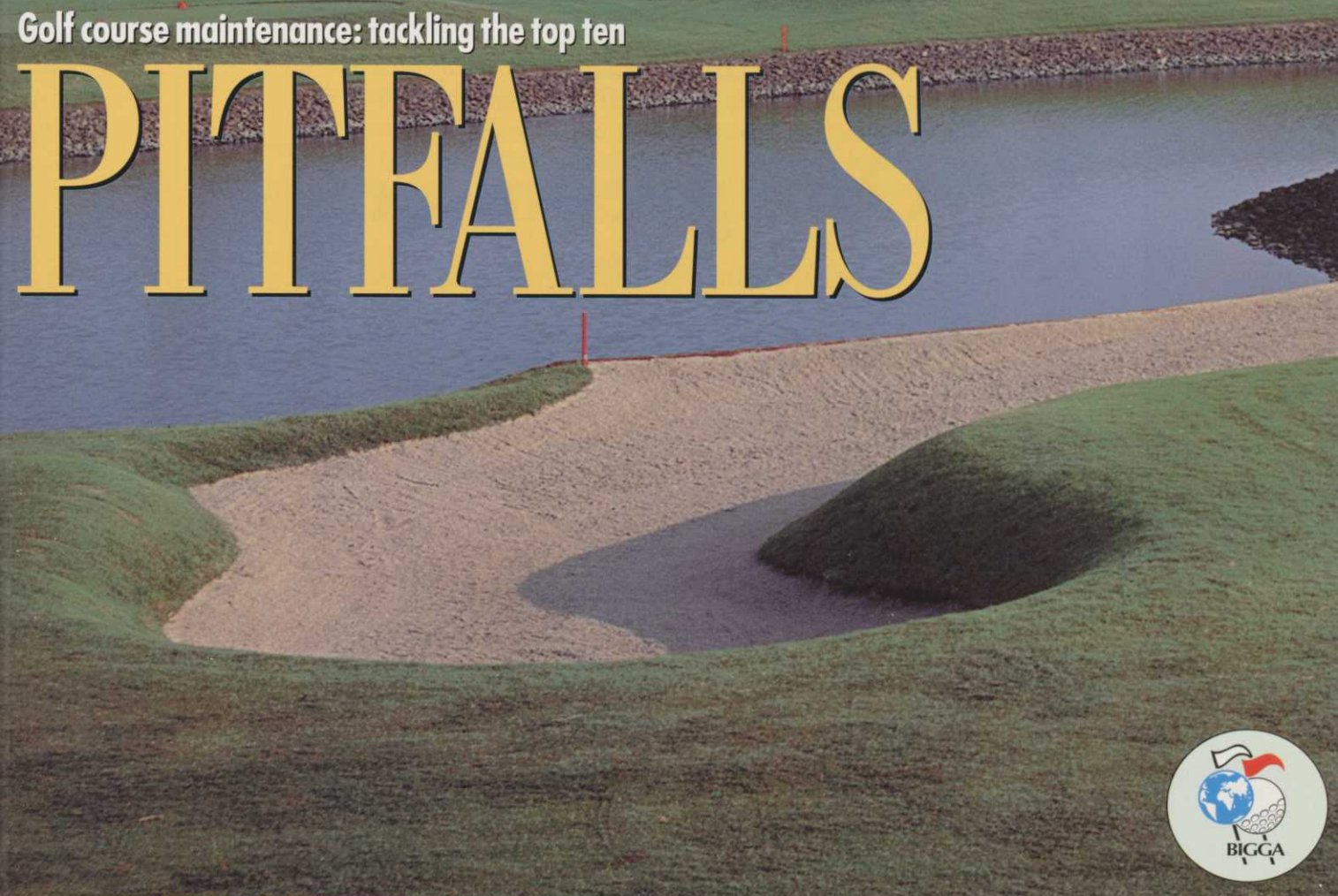
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International



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GREENKEEPER

International

MAY 1995

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Picture by Phil Inglis

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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

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A fair day's pay?

Let me this month tackle the vexed issue of salaries and wages. Now here surely is a subject close to the heart of every greenkeeper and a central point of many a green committee discussion.

Since 1988 BIGGA has annually published a 'Recommended Minimum Salary/Wages Scale'. Note the use of the word "recommended" for we are a professional association and as such enjoy no powers as a bargaining body on salary levels. In any event it would surely be almost impossible to negotiate with over 2,000 golf clubs each independently structured and governed by its own circumstances as to what it can or is prepared to pay its staff. In the course of time over seven years our scale has come to be increasingly recognised by golf clubs as a yardstick in determining greenstaff salary levels. It is interesting to compare figures. In 1988 the recommended salary for a Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper was £12,650 for an 18 hole golf course, today it is £19,144. For an apprentice greenkeeper in 1988 we were seeking £70.77 per week, today that figure stands at £108.15. Whilst there are a good number of clubs in excess of the scale and too many still below it, it is encouraging to hear that many clubs who have yet to reach the scale do accept it in principle and are moving towards the scale recommendations through phased annual awards. It would seem that in the intervening years since 1988 BIGGA can justifiably claim that its scale has had a positive impact on salary and wages levels as well as on conditions of service. Such a statement is not to negate the very real concern for greenkeepers in certain pockets of the United Kingdom who remain grossly underpaid by their golf clubs and whose circumstances are such that they are prevented from moving elsewhere to better themselves. We will continue to seek to influence those clubs for the betterment of our members and in the course of time one looks to the establishment of a framework within the game of golf whereby the clubs, through the four home unions, will agree to implement scales either better than or in line with the Association's recommendations.

Linked to salaries and wages are the opportunities now avail-



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

able for trained and ambitious greenkeepers. Here most certainly the world has opened out since 1988 and particularly in Europe. This does not mean that every greenkeeper need look to Europe for a step up the ladder. Indeed he would be wise not to do so without a full assessment of his domestic situation and of the different and often difficult conditions to be experienced abroad as well as of his own aptitude for learning a foreign language. However, for those so-minded, there are many challenging opportunities abroad and each greenkeeper who moves on in this direction leaves a consequential vacancy somewhere in the United Kingdom. In 1995 greenkeeping is a profession which offers some excellent opportunities. As in

other professions people must be prepared to move to take advantage of them. These factors combine to push up salaries, wages and conditions of service and from my experience if there has been one fundamental change since 1988 it lies in the growing realisation by golf clubs that once they have secured good staff they need to hold on to them – again improving the bargaining power of the individual employees. In the early days of BIGGA there was far more of a 'take it or leave it' attitude and many were the clubs rueing the fact that they had needlessly lost a good employee and finding it necessary to pay more to secure possibly a less proficient replacement.

Annual negotiations over salaries and conditions of service are never easy and many greenkeepers I know feel threatened by what they believe are groupings of golf club secretaries who, in comparing salary and wage levels for greenstaff in their clubs, seek to depress those levels to the lowest common denominator. I have no doubt there will have been past instances of this happening perhaps influenced by local circumstances. However, I recently discussed this matter with Ray Burniston, Secretary of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, and in conceding that club secretaries do make comparisons he takes the

view that generally this is to the benefit of greenkeepers. In other words that the highest common denominator will prevail. Ray pointed out that where there is evidence to the contrary he will be more than happy through his Association to take the matter up with the club concerned. If a member has a particular grievance in this regard please channel it through Headquarters and it will then be taken up through the AGCS. Remember, however, that some hard facts will be needed and hearsay will not be sufficient.

In looking up the 1988 scale, it was interesting to note the number of letters I sent out in August 1987, the month during which BIGGA commenced operations at the STRI in Bingley, in response to requests for a recommended salary/wages scale. These requests came not only from greenkeepers but also from the golf clubs themselves. I vividly recall the urgency with which the then Board of Management impressed upon me the need for such a scale. In seven years little has changed in that the scale is still greatly in demand. I believe it has achieved much for greenkeepers and continues to do so. To those for whom the achievement of the scale recommendations seems still a remote possibility I would urge perseverance. For our part within the Association we will continue in our efforts to break down intransigent attitudes seeking fair and proper recompense for those who manage the golf club's greatest asset. A scale such as ours cannot keep everybody happy all of the time and sometimes it is forgotten that the job is not just about salaries and wages in that various conditions of service need to be taken into account. Whatever the package never sign a contract unless you are happy with it and even then having it checked by a solicitor is likely to prove a sound investment.

Finally, we should recognise the golf clubs who now provide first class conditions of service for our members with consequent benefits for their golf courses and express the hope that those clubs still lost in the mists of time will come to understand that it is the former who represent the way forward and the future for the game of golf.

New magazine editor appointed

Scott MacCallum, pictured, is the new editor of *Greenkeeper International*.

Hailing from Scotland where he worked on the *Dundee Courier and Advertiser*, *Evening Telegraph* and *Sunday Post*, Scott subsequently worked as assistant editor on *Golf Monthly* before joining the PGA European Tour in 1990, initially as deputy director of communications before being appointed director in 1991. Latterly he has worked for *Today's Golfer* as deputy editor.

In welcoming the appointment, BIGGA's executive director, Neil Thomas, said: "I am

sure that Scott MacCallum will bring a new dimension to *Greenkeeper International* magazine. He has a wealth of journalistic experience within the game of golf and as a member of the Association of Golf Writers is well respected by the golfing press and media.

"I am delighted that he is joining the Association and feel sure that he will be making a substantial contribution not only with regard to the magazine's development but also in terms of BIGGA's public relations function and developing relationships with other bodies and officials within the game."



NEWS

BTME 96 proves to be Number One Choice

With over eight months to go until the doors open, BTME 96 is well on its way to being the biggest and best yet.

Exhibitors, eager not to miss out, have already snapped up 84% of the available floor space – even with an additional 25% added especially for the 1996 event.

Not only have many new companies booked for next year – including Clifton Special Products, Petroleum Products and Services Ltd and Fairway Credit – many existing exhibitors have reserved larger stands. Lely/Toro, for example, has booked 208 square metres – almost three times bigger than in 1995.

Anyone wishing to reserve space for BTME 96, which takes place between January 24-26 at the Harrogate International Centre, should contact Louise Lunn now on 01347 838581.

More flexible

Richard Long Engineering Ltd has developed a 1.2 metre fully mounted version of its successful Flexispread topdresser.

The 4ft fully mounted Flexispread uses the same feed system as the larger, trailed 5ft model. Tel: 01773 520301.

Digging in

Greenkeepers picking up the pieces after an excessively wet winter have meant good news for Huxleys Grass Machinery.

They report exceptional demand for their new soil reliever (pictured). Director Paul Huxley explained: "Water-logged greens and fairways have led to courses being closed and loss of income. A lot of customers have ordered the soil reliever as an effective way of improving drainage and relieving compaction."



Janet makes her mark

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke congratulates Turfland's Janet Watmore on her success as winner of a Women Into Business award.

Janet, who set up the turf growing and turf machinery companies with husband Chris 30 years ago, was nominated in recognition of her work. Turfland and Turfland Professional Equipment employ over 20 staff on 600 acres in Cheshire and have an annual turnover in excess of £2m.

Within the two organisations, Janet is responsible for business strategies, sales and marketing and general management.

The meeting with the Chancellor at 11 Downing Street is only one of her steps into the spotlight: Janet's company has also taken part in a "Challenge Anneka" TV programme.



FLYING DIVOTS

Students at Reaseheath College in Cheshire are organising a vintage golf tournament – open to male golfers over the age of 70.

The third year HND golf course management students believe this inaugural tournament, to take place on May 17, is the only one of its kind exclusively for this age group. They hope it will become an annual event and will put Reaseheath Golf Club on the map.

Potential sponsors should contact Chris Ward on 01270 625131.

The numbers have finally been added up for the GCSAA show in San Francisco: a record 17,773 people attended the February event, including a delegation from BIGGA.

The attendance is up by over 2,300 on the Dallas show last year.

A new service has been launched for treating large ponds and lakes that suffer from algae in suspension.

Aqua Company Ltd, distributors of water treatment product O'Clear, offers to identify the problem and carry out a course of action to re-establish a balanced ecosystem. Costs depend on the size of the feature and amount of work involved.

More details from 01252 712307.



Barenbrug UK have appointed ex-golf professional Adrian Ellis as area manager for north England,

Scotland and Northern Ireland. He is also greens chairman at the Mellors and Townscliffe GC.

The Grass Roots Trading Company has entered a team of greenkeepers in the Top Gear European Pro Kart Challenge, which takes place this month at Le Mans.

If you're interested in trialing for the team, contact Jamie Bennett on 01734 771185.

A single demonstration of a Ransomes Fairway 300 mower in Hong Kong has led to three top golf courses buying the machines. The demo was organised by Ransomes' Hong Kong distributor, Agribusiness Ltd.



Where a Gator goes is your business

How you choose to use a John Deere Gator utility vehicle is entirely up to you.

For some, a Gator is meant to roam on the delicate turf of a golf course. Others view it as the ultimate caravan park vehicle. And there are those who believe it belongs in the muck and mud of a construction site.

Where a Gator utility vehicle can go is practically anywhere. Thanks to high

flotation tyres, both the Gator 6x4 and 4x2 are equally at home in off-road and on-turf settings. With lower-than-low ground pressure, the Gators can get out of muddy situations. This also means they'll barely bend blades of grass.

Both Gators feature a low centre of gravity for better stability, plus hefty payload and towing capacities. Wet disc brakes and rack-and-pinion steering contribute to

their smooth and low-effort operation.

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Licentiateeship holders are applauded

Four years of part-time study plus at least five years industrial experience has been rewarded for 16 greenkeeping and horticulture students at Askham Bryan College.

The Yorkshire college believe the 11 greenkeeping students are the first in the country to collect

the top award in their City & Guilds course – the licentiateeship.

Bob McLaren, past president of the Scottish Golf Union and chairman of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, praised the commitment the students have shown for staying with four years of demanding study whilst

in full-time employment. He urged them to use their success to promote training amongst their colleagues.

The 16 licentiateeship holders are pictured with their Askham Bryan course tutors, college principal Mike Pollard, and Bob McLaren.

Spray drift problems can be cut by using adjuvant

Research by the University of Paisley confirms that spray drift can be dramatically reduced by adding a suitable adjuvant to the spray chemical before application.

The researchers, from the department of biological sciences, monitored spray drift following insecticide applications with and

without the benefit of an adjuvant. Treatments containing the adjuvant showed a significantly confined spray pattern with greatly reduced drift loss.

The team, led by Dr John Thacker, used cabbage plants and strips of water-sensitive paper to monitor the spray drift which is now recognised as a major prob-

lem in the amenity sector. The plants were colonised with cabbage white butterfly larvae and ground beetles and placed at a series of downward distances, ranging up to 20 metres away and at right angles to the path of a sprayer. The field experiments were undertaken both in winter and spring so that drift patterns could be monitored under varying wind conditions.

Following spray treatments, the number of dead insects on each plant were assessed as an indication of the extent to which the insecticide had reached non-target plants. Larvae on plants as near as 1m away remained totally unaffected following the insecticide plus adjuvant applications indicating minimal spray drift. Conversely, the wide spray drift of the insecticide-only spraying resulted in some kill even as far as 20m from the sprayer.

These results – obtained using the adjuvant Headland Guard – were presented at the recent British Crop Protection Council conference.

"To achieve these benefits, the adjuvant only needs to be added at 0.1% of the total spray solution, adding very little at all to the overall cost of an application," said Headland Amenity manager Mark De Ath.



East Sussex National Golf Club was the venue for the first annual symposium of its kind of greenkeepers and golf managers.

The event was organised by Premier Golf Clubs, set up last year to promote standards of golfing excellence to match that of anywhere else in the world.

Delegates discussed many topical issues including environmentally friendly greenkeeping, training and the development of golf management and course conditions.

Next year's event will take place at Turnberry.

Some familiar faces are pictured amongst the attendees

FLYING DIVOTS

Deere & Company reports worldwide net income of \$138.4 million in the first quarter of '95 compared with \$87 million for the same period last year. This is the US company's sixth consecutive quarter of record earnings and the first time that earnings in the first quarter exceeded \$100 million.

Kings Horticulture Ltd has been appointed UK distributors for the Forum Floor Turf Protection System from Sweden. Tournament golf courses can use the product, originally designed to protect football pitches from pop concerts, to provide walkways behind greens. Tel: 01787 223300.

The Sisis development team swung into action when reps brought back word that customers needed both jumbo and pencil-slim tines for the Technicore vertical aerator.

As a result, the Macclesfield company now offer 22mm diameter hollow coring tines, for severe thatch problems, and 7mm solid tines for water percolation.

Sisis have also launched a "workshop on wheels" – a fully equipped service van joins their fleet.

Inter Seeds have published a new, ten section illustrated pocket guide to amenity grasses.

Corby-based plant growth stimulant manufacturer Maxicrop International has appointed David Evans as UK sales manager.

Previously regional sales manager for Timac covering south Wales and the south Midlands, Mr Evans has nearly 20 years experience in fertilisers and foliar feeds.

A new company has been set up to act as agents for Q-Lawns' range of turf.

Jubilee Seeds & Turf report firms orders for the Q-Lawns turf, which is grown on a dark, free-draining top soil from highest rated grass seed cultivars.

JST also offer the Techni-Turf range of grass seed and wild flower mixtures.

Renardine 72-2, from Roebuck Eyot, offers an "invisible fence" repellent for unwanted pests and pets, including dogs, cats, rabbits, foxes, moles and badgers.

Walking the tightrope ... a helping hand

Some describe caring for a golf course as a balancing act. Users expect immaculate greens, but dislike downtime needed to keep them that way. Others want the benefits of sand-based constructions, yet may not know the drawbacks - like the challenge of maintaining nutrient levels in the face of severe leaching.

Headland Amenity can give you a helping hand. A case of tipping the balance in your favour.

With a special interest in intensively managed leisure facilities, especially golf courses, the company has developed specialist products to save you time and money. Products which are easier to apply, or need to be applied less often. Or products which give better results at lower cost.

Healthy growth

For example, the Headland Triazone range is based on a completely new - and better - form of slow-release nitrogen. Releasing this key nutrient in a uniform pattern over 8 to 10 weeks these liquid fertilisers promote healthy, even growth.

As well as avoiding growth flushes they are significantly less prone to leaching and reduce the risk of scorch even in hot summer weather. What's more, the flexible range includes formulations with other vital nutrients such as phosphorus, sulphur and potassium. As liquids, they are compatible with many other treatments, allowing tank mixing and even greater savings in time and costs.

When you need a stronger dose of sulphur to correct pH, improve disease resistance, harden grass or to discourage wormcasts and annual mead-

ow grass, then Headland Sulphur or Thio-Sul provide the answer.

Where leaching is a problem, an even wider range of nutrients need replenishing - especially during times of rapid growth or when grass is under stress. Headland Vertex and Vertex Hi-N 34 fit this bill. Alongside NPK, they provide sulphur, magnesium, manganese, iron, copper, boron, zinc and molybdenum.

Durability

Turf health, appearance and durability can also be improved with a range of seaweed-based products. Rich in natural growth stimulants - and with the option of added nitrogen for rapid green-up - Seamac Greentec promotes root and shoot development. This gives more springy, dense and hardwearing turf, extends the growing season and improves soil structure. All this from a non-hazardous, non-polluting spray which will not cause scorch and is suitable for tankmixing with many other amenity chemicals.

Seamac Turf Manager provides yet another option. A dry, pre-composted product, it stimulates the root zone, promoting efficient nutrient and water uptake and helping turf combat stress and disease.

The Headland range also includes pesticides and spray adjuvants which can greatly increase the cost-effectiveness of spray applications. Among these, for instance, is Headland Guard which, as well as reducing drift and improving coverage, renders sprays rainfast in less than an hour - a real bonus in changeable weather or on irrigated areas.

Headland Amenity offers a wide range of fertilisers and amenity chemicals to meet the specialist needs of greenkeepers year-round.

To find out more, call the company's national amenity manager,
Mark De Ath direct on 01761 410877.



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Eamonn Wall amid mixed broadleaves after two growing seasons, planted as 60-90cm transplants, weeded each winter with kerb granules

Weeds reduce both the survival and growth of trees by competing for light, nutrients and most important of all, for moisture – particularly in low rainfall areas.

Soil moisture deficits become greater under weeds than under bare soil because vegetation can lose moisture more rapidly and for a longer time before soil moisture potential limits transpiration. In comparison, relatively little moisture evaporates from bare soil before a layer of dry soil forms, restricting further moisture loss.

Weeds around trees also harbour small mammal pests such as mice and voles, and can induce mildew on some species. In some cases the physical weight of weeds can damage trees, particularly after heavy snowfall. For these reasons, effective weed control is vital to ensure good establishment of the young trees.

What area do you weed?

The majority of sites where trees are planted both in the uplands and in the lowlands benefit from weed control during the establishment phase. However, regularly cutting or mowing weeds, especially grass, is of no use since it increases their rate of water use by maintaining them in active growth, allowing them to compete more effectively and for longer during the growing season. The most cost-effective method of weed control is through the use of herbicides.

Control of weeds need not extend over the whole site in order to obtain improved survival and early growth of trees. Maintaining a weed-free area either as a 1m² spot around the base of each tree or as a 1m wide strip down the tree row will give the required results, but strip weeding allows mechanisation through the use of adapted agricultural spraying equipment.

How long do you weed for?

Weed control is only essential during the establishment phase, normally for the first three years after planting.

Mechanisation of Operations

The maintenance of a newly planted woodland can be expensive and even impractical unless mechanisation is possible. If mechanisation is planned it is important to allow sufficient space between the trees and sufficiently large headlands to allow tractors or other equipment (ie. farm bikes) to turn.

However, there can be conflict between

Tackling WEEDS before they kill the TREES

Attention to weed control and vegetation management is the key to successful tree establishment on ex-agricultural sites. Eamonn Wall discusses the various chemical herbicides used in woodland management

planting to allow access to agricultural tractors and the production of quality timber which demands that the trees are planted at reasonably close spacing. If the primary objective is to produce high quality timber, then the options are either to plant trees at close spacing in the tree lines or to manage the inter-row vegetation by use of small horticultural machinery or the expanding range of equipment that is now available for use with four-wheel drive farm bikes.

Types of herbicides

Herbicides can be divided into three broad groups:

1. **Residual herbicides.** These products act via the soil where they are taken up through the roots of weeds. It is important that these herbicides are applied to damp soil and that rain allows application to move them into

the top 2-3cm of the soil. If these products are applied to dry soil and little or no rainfall follows application, weed control will be poor. Residual herbicides must be applied to a firm fine tilth; if large clods are present at the time of herbicide application these will weather and crumble, exposing untreated soil allowing prolific weed growth eg. Kerb, Flexadour.

2. **Foliar acting herbicides.** These are absorbed through the point of contact on the leaf and stem and are independent of the condition of the soil. The timing of application will be determined by the growth stage of the target weed. Foliar acting herbicides give best results when they are applied to actively growing weeds eg. Glyphosate.

3. **Residual and foliar acting herbicides.** These are herbicides which have a combination of the two modes of action listed here.

Tackling WEEDS before they kill the TREES

Where long-term weed control is required, residual

Pre and post planting use

Herbicides can be used effectively before or after planting. There may be opportunities to control perennial weeds in the previous crop, eg. use of selective herbicides in pasture or the use of glyphosate pre-harvest in cereals and other arable crops. Such treatments can reduce the subsequent vigour of weeds such as creeping thistle or couch grass. Foliar-acting herbicides, can be used to clean up undisturbed stubbles before planting.

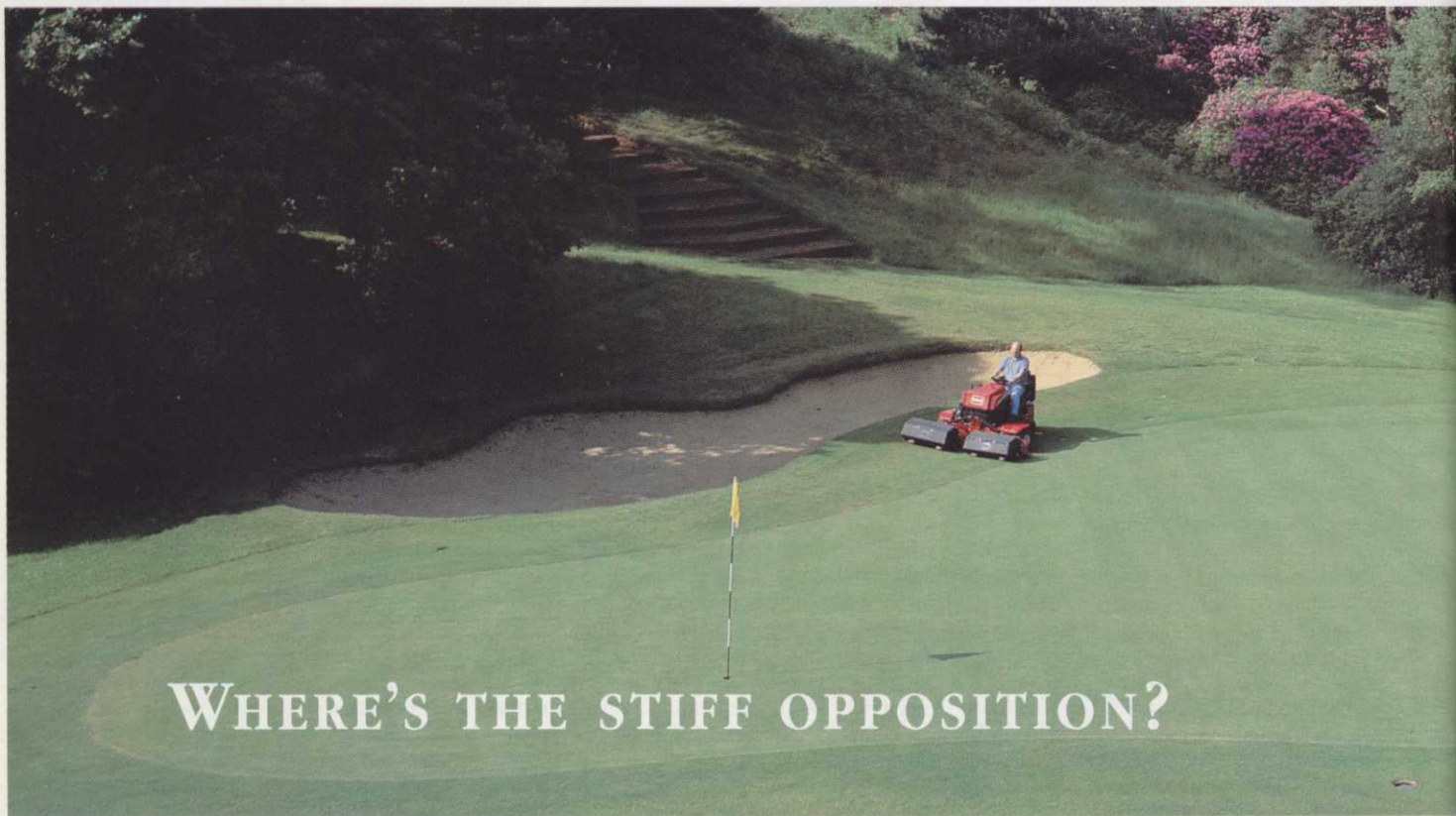
Where long-term weed control is required after planting the use of residual herbicides is the best option. It is vital to match the weed control spectrum of the herbicide to that of the weed species on the site. Many residual herbicides generally only control weeds pre-emergence and must therefore be applied to bare earth. If bare soil is to be maintained all year round, treatment may be repeated in the autumn and the spring. However, in practice, weeds resistant to the residual herbicides (sometimes applied as a tank mixture) is needed. As an alternative to a year-round bare-soil system, some vegetation cover may be allowed to develop in the autumn and win-

ter when it is not competitive and then be killed by a spring applied foliar-acting herbicide. A spring applied residual treatment will then delay reinvasion.

Characteristics of the most commonly used chemicals

■ **Propyzamide (Kerb granules/liquid):** This is a soil acting herbicide which slowly volatilises in cold soil and is taken up by germinating weeds and through the roots of existing weeds, especially grasses. A limited range of herbaceous broadleaved weeds are also susceptible from germination to the true leaf stages particularly grasses. Such weeds which emerge late in the season, however, will only be partially controlled.

Propyzamide slowly breaks down in the soil, lasting for 3-6 months. All commonly planted forest trees are tolerant. Application via granules (using pepperpots) and liquids (using knapsack sprayer, spot gun, etc.) can take place anytime between October 1 to January 31 north of a line from Aberystwyth to London and to December 31 south of this line. In practice it appears that few extra weeks



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herbicides are best option



Trees protected from rabbit browsing by the use of 60cm plastic spiral guard with bamboo for support. These trees were weeded via a winter application of kerb granules

make little odds, presumably depending on season.

Propyzamide concentrate can be harmful to fish and, as with all chemicals, ponds, waterways and ditches should not be contaminated or used as a dumping ground for empty containers.

Organic soil decreases the activity of propyzamide and treatment of soils with depth of peat greater than 10cm is not recommended. Pre- and post-planting applications are possible, however pre-planting applications can cause problems and have resulted in tree mortality, so is best kept for post-planting applications.

■ **Isoxaben (Flexidor 125 or Gallery 125):** This is a pre-emergent liquid herbicide sprayed on bare soil to control broadleaved weeds. It is useful when applied mixed with kerb flo (ie. liquid) when treating dense grass as the kerb kills the existing invading grass for 3-6 months and the Isoxaben prevents colonisation of the broadleaved weeds. Their action in the tank-mix is complementary leading to effective control of grasses and broadleaved weeds. Expensive, though Flexidor is much cheaper than Gallery.

■ **Glyphosate (Roundup):** This is a translocated herbicide taken up by the foliage and conveyed to the roots. It causes chlorosis and eventual death of leaves and then kills roots and shoots. It controls a wide range of weeds including: grasses, herbaceous broadleaved weeds, bracken, heather and woody weeds. When applied late in the growing season, the main effect is obtained in the following year. On contact with the soil is inactivated and quickly broken down.

It can be applied at any time of the year when vegetation is actively growing but is most effective on broadleaved weeds when they are close to flowering but before senescence.

Certain conifers will tolerate overall glyphosate sprays provided leader growth has hardened. Hardening can occur as early as the

end of July or may be delayed until the end of October in some locations.

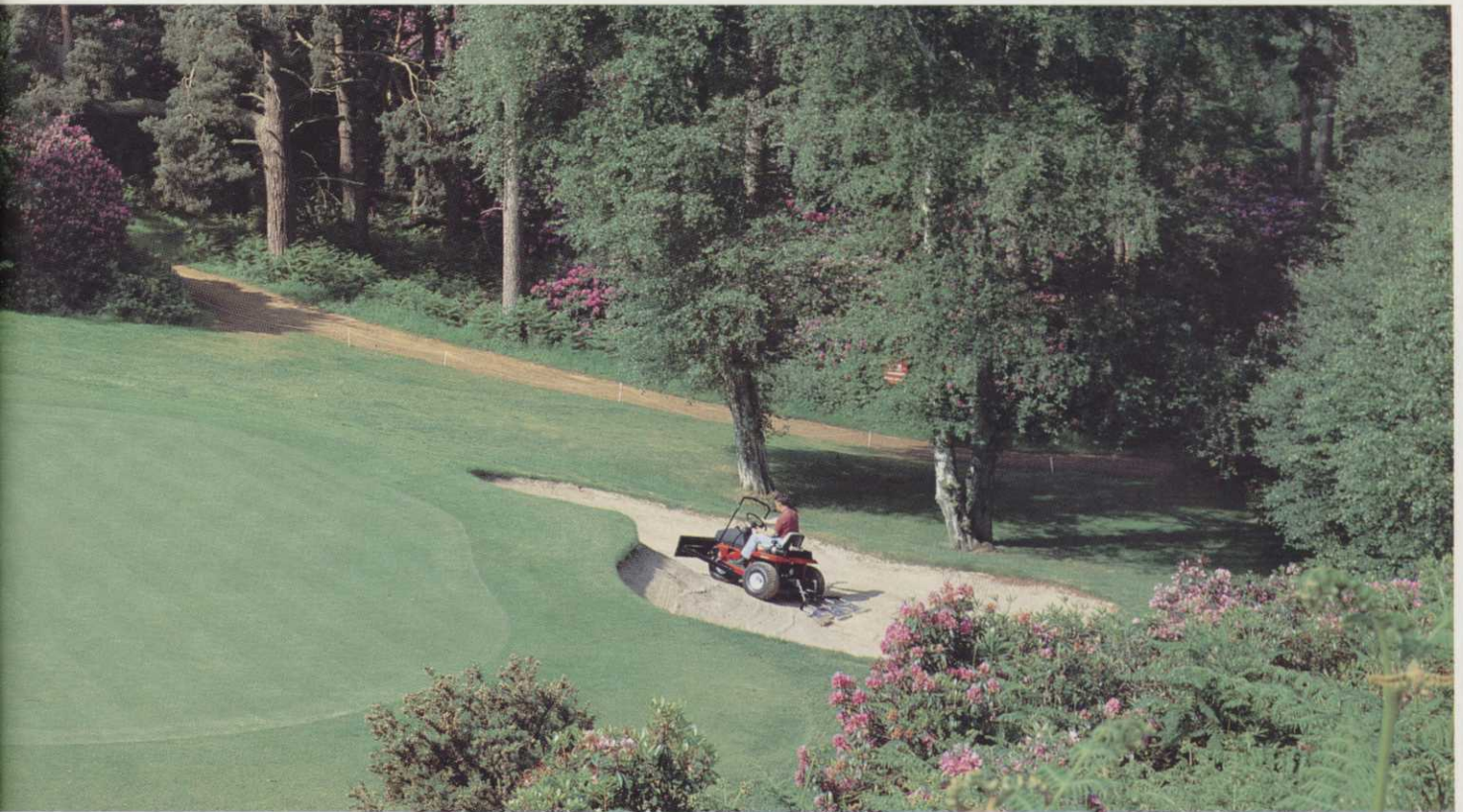
Broadleaves, larch and other conifers will not tolerate overall applications; always use a guard, a weedwiper or a directed spray to avoid contact with the foliage and immature bark of crop trees.

Glyphosate applied later than June will be too late to lessen the effect of weed competition in the current season. It is most effective on moist vegetation and when relative humidity is high and air warm. Heavy rainfall within 24 hours of application may reduce the herbicide's effectiveness by preventing sufficient foliar absorption.

Grass

Grasses especially can compete vigorously for light, nutrients and in the lowlands and drier uplands, for water; effective control is therefore usually essential for successful tree establishment and growth.

Perennial rhizomatous grasses are the most difficult to control and require the use of residual herbicides (Kerb) or frequent application of contact herbicides (glyphosate). Kerb



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Tackling WEEDS before they kill the TREES

will have some effect on herbaceous broadleaved weeds but wherever they constitute a significant part of the weed population, glyphosate is more likely to give good results. Isoxaben will also keep out the broadleaved weeds.

As glyphosate is a contact herbicide, it should be noted that grasses treated in early April will invade and re-establish themselves by May/June if it is a warm moist spring. If this occurs, a second application will be required.

A winter application of Kerb followed by a glyphosate application during the summer to treat subsequent broadleaved weed invasions is a useful programme to consider for broadleaved/conifer planting schemes.

A pre-planting application of glyphosate in strips can speed up planting by reducing subsequent screening time and also by providing the tree planters with pre-determined lines.

Broadleaved weeds

Land managed for agricultural production usually has an enormous number of weed seeds in the soil. These are generally not apparent because, under pressure, grass prevents most weed species becoming established and under arable crops, weeds are controlled initially by herbicides and later by the smothering effect of the crop. Whether agricultural soils are left unmanaged or efforts are made to maintain bare ground, a succession of weed

species takes place, although not disturbing a cereal stubble may delay and reduce this influx to some extent. This process starts with a rapid invasion of volunteers from the previous crop and annual arable weeds. Gradually these annual weeds are replaced by perennials, many of which are deep rooting and difficult to remove selectively using herbicides between broadleaved trees and some conifers. Examples of such weeds are dandelion, docks, creeping thistle, perennial nettle and bramble. The best way to remove these weeds is by repeated application of foliar-acting herbicides, applied in ways which avoid contact with the user.



The survival of large trees is not as good as that of small trees. Watering trees in Bexley during the recent drought summers was necessary

Chemical update

Tree planting on golf courses is similar to planting elsewhere and only a small proportion of the UK forest area is treated with herbicides each year (<1%). During a recent five-year period, Forestry Commission use of herbicide products declined by one third, although the area treated remained constant. The most commonly used herbicide is glyphosate, which was applied to over 70% of the area treated in 1991. A reduction in amounts of herbicide applied per unit area reflects the use of both directed spot applications and products which require lower doses of active ingredient for forestry application, whilst others (eg. some triazine products) have been discontinued for commercial reasons. Withdrawal has occurred particularly where further information was required for label registration by the Pesticides Safety Directorate.

Approval status of forest herbicides

Under the Control of Pesticides Regulations (1986) only those products approved for use as forest herbicides can lawfully be used to control weed species.

There are two types of product approval which users of pesticides must be aware of:

1. Label approval (full approval): The approved product label, found on the herbicide container, states the conditions for the use of the product. These represent the only uses for which the product was developed.
2. Off-label approval: Some products may have local importance or a minor use for which no full label approval exists. In these circumstances, off-label approval may be granted after application to the Pesticides Safety Directorate. For these products a copy of the off-label approval should be obtained by the user. Often a leaflet or other source of information may give further information on the conditions of use.

It is the product and not the active ingredient which has label approval. Therefore it is not permissible to apply an alternative product with the same active ingredient as an approved product, unless the alternative product also has approval for forestry use.

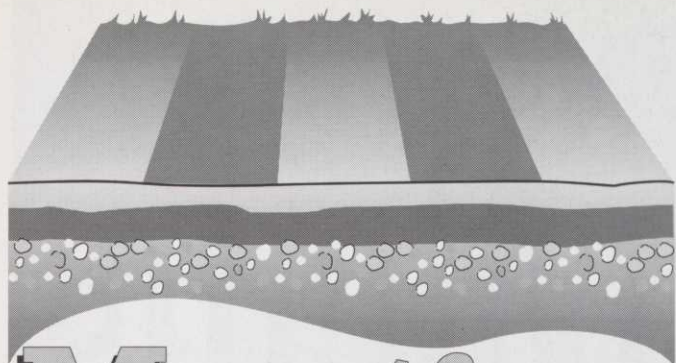
Conclusion

Successful tree establishment depends on the correct species choice, followed by good planning, planting, weeding and maintenance.

Chemical herbicides are a great aid to the woodland manager and their correct use is both an economical and effective means of ensuring that the trees we plant today will be the quality woods of tomorrow.

Happy weeding!

● Eamonn Wall is a woodland architect and principal partner of Eamonn Wall & Co, a woodland design and management company specialising in design and tree planting projects on golf courses. Telephone 01259 743212.



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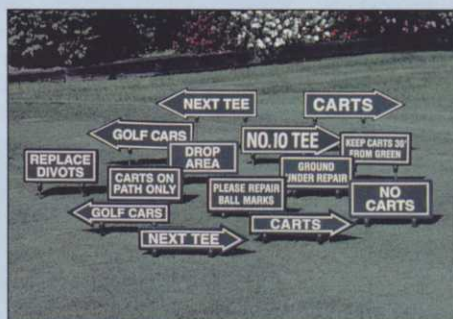
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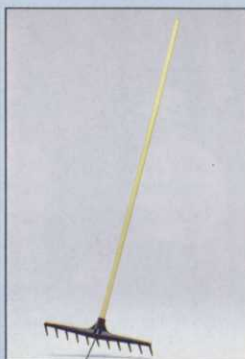
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AD REF 421

They may have different grasses, more sunshine, bigger budgets and bigger wage packets, but their problems are just the same. A survey of the main problems facing American superintendents revealed the following top ten. In a future issue we'd like to publish a UK top ten, so write in with your suggestions - there's a crisp tenner for the best suggestions. This report by Robert A Brame, agronomist, Mid-Atlantic Region, USGA Green Section

10 pitfalls of golf course maintenance

Wouldn't you be interested in knowing the most common golf course maintenance problems identified by agronomists who visit nearly 1,700 different golf courses each year and whose combined experience in professional turfgrass maintenance exceeds 150 years? If so, read on! A survey of the USGA Green Section staff revealed these Ten Pitfalls of Golf Course Maintenance.

A pitfall, by definition, is "a hidden or not easily recognised danger or difficulty." Exposing the top ten hidden dangers in golf course maintenance and recognising them for what they are should help us avoid these traps or point us toward strategies for improvement.

1 Communication and Public Relations

The number one rated pitfall in golf course maintenance isn't even agronomic in nature! As a matter of fact, good communication is a critically important area in every industry and in life in general. While this has always been true, the importance of good communication and public relations in golf course maintenance has grown with each passing year. Environmental concerns, demands for better playing conditions, concern about expenditures, and employee relations, just to name a few, are all issues that emphasize the importance of communication and public relations.

More golf course superintendents lose their jobs for falling short in this area than any other. Conversely, a variety of agronomic problems can be present

and if players and officials are kept well informed, jobs usually remain secure. Everyone wants to know what is going on. We all like to be informed. If positive and informative communication does not come from course officials, owners and/or golf course superintendents, then players and/or local residents will decide how to view particular situations on their own. This can easily result in an inaccurate interpreta-

tion and a poor understanding of the situation.

To maintain a successful operation, positive communication must be present on a variety of fronts, and the golf course superintendent is not the only one responsible for establishing and maintaining good lines of communication. Course officials or owners also must take an active role in communicating with the superintendent, players, commu-

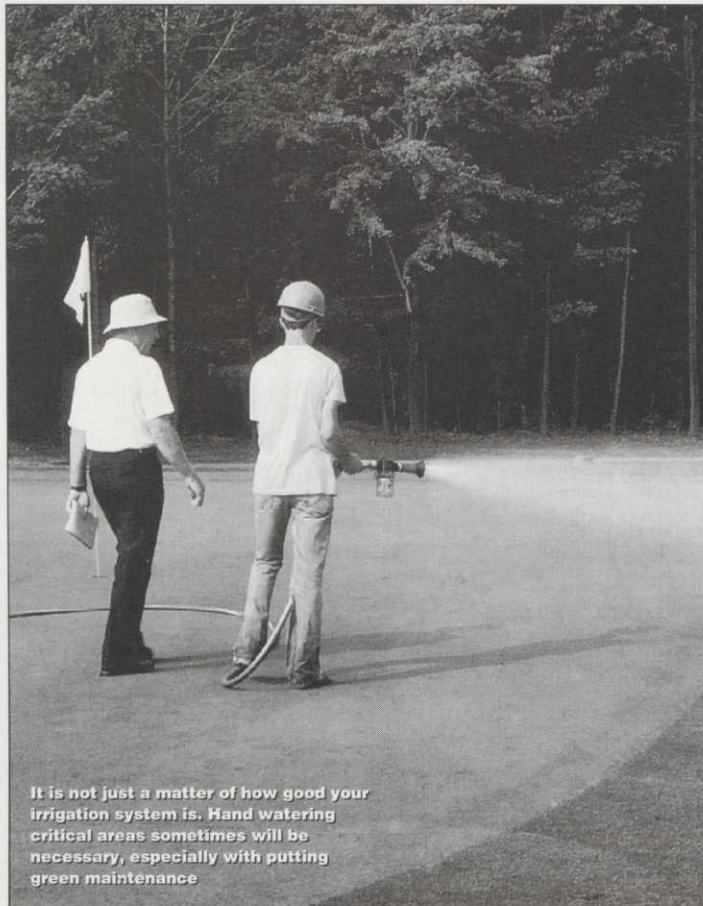
nity, news media, peers, and other staff members. Sometimes taken for granted is the need for course officials to communicate their desires about course conditioning to the superintendent. Without a clear job description, incorrect assumptions can be made.

In addition, good communication with spouse and family members is of supreme importance. Problems on the home front always overflow into the workplace and vice versa.

Effective, positive communication can be accomplished in many different ways. Letters, memos, reports, and newsletters all have their place. The use of signs and information boards also can be advantageous. Verbal presentations at meetings and conferences, as well as informal question-and-answer sessions on the golf course, are part of the package. The clothes you wear and the manner in which you handle yourself either contribute to or detract from the spoken word. The staff you hire and their ability to do the job communicate a clear message without a word being spoken.

Is a soil probe used when explaining the importance of proper timing of pre-emergence herbicide applications? Is a camera being used to provide visual documentation? The means of effective and positive communication are limited only by individual creativity.

Communication and public relations are vitally important to the ongoing maintenance of any golf course. Volumes have been written on the importance of



It is not just a matter of how good your irrigation system is. Hand watering critical areas sometimes will be necessary, especially with putting green maintenance



Attempts to communicate don't always work the way we would like... Good communications are a critically important area in every aspect of golf course maintenance

communication, yet it is amazing how often we forget this fundamental truth. Communication is something we all do whether we are consciously thinking about it or not. The key is to make sure we communicate in a positive and informative manner. Evaluate your operation and develop a strategy for improving your communication and public relations efforts.

2 Overwatering

No doubt about it, when a putting green is overwatered, a sculled 7-iron shot will hold better. But sculling a shot that still holds the green is a good indication of poor playing conditions. Thus, there are few benefits from overwatering, but there are quite a few problems which inevitably occur.

An over-wet rootzone prevents the grass from producing deep, healthy roots and makes the soil more prone to compaction effects. Shallow, weak roots cause the grass to be more prone to stress, and when tough summer weather conditions set in, the grass plants simply do not have the reserves needed to maintain strong and healthy growth. Weakening continues

and is intensified by traffic, disease and/or a poor growing environment (shade and/or poor air circulation). At the very least, overwatering usually results in greater fungicide use to counteract heavy disease pressure. Further, mowing, topdressing, aeration, and maintenance in general are more difficult with overwatered turf. The interaction of all these negatives (weakened and thinned turf, disease, reduced maintenance efficiency, and increased costs) creates poor and inconsistent playing conditions. Overwatering must be avoided.

Good water management involves both irrigation and drainage. Therefore, when considering this second pitfall in golf course maintenance, both systems must be evaluated. Irrigation programmes must be compatible with existing drainage. In many instances the first step in moving away from overwatered turf is to improve a poorly drained rootzone. The installation of drainage lines may be needed. Positive surface drainage (no bird baths) is also very important. Deep aeration has proven very helpful in some situations, but severe drainage problems may necessitate recon-

struction. There is no substitute for good drainage.

A good irrigation system and its proper use can help prevent overwatering. But whereas a well-designed system is a valuable tool, overwatering sometimes can be more severe on courses with automatic systems. Some owners, course officials, or superintendents say, in effect, "We've got this expensive system, so we'd better use it!" A computer is a wonderful tool, but it does not replace the use of a soil probe in determining soil moisture and sprinkler programming. When programming is performed, aim toward the dry side, and be prepared to hand-water the dry areas. More water can always be added, but when too much has been applied, it is difficult to reverse the effects. Overwatering resulting from poor drainage and poor irrigation practices will likely maintain a spot in the top ten for many years to come.

3 Fast Green Speeds

Actually, fast green speeds are not the problem. The problem is what you have to do to the turf to keep fast greens. Lowering cutting heights and holding back on nutrients are often part of the

strategy in obtaining fast putting green speeds. But just remember, a golf ball will roll even faster on compacted, bare soil! This end of the continuum is not acceptable, so a balance between healthy grass and reasonable putting speeds is needed.

Excessively close mowing establishes a growing environment that encourages and enhances the growth and spread of *Poa annua*. This grass is expert at establishing itself in areas where bentgrass has become thin and weak due to excessive mowing. When *Poa annua* is present in moderate to high percentages, maintaining a healthy and consistent playing surface becomes even more difficult and expensive. Bentgrass is more economical and dependable when maintained at a reasonable mowing height of at least 5/32 inch.

Low fertility levels reduce the recuperative ability of the turf, leading to increased disease and traffic-related problems. Therefore, a maintenance programme must focus on doing what is best for the grass plant to maintain a consistent and healthy putting surface. Fertilise to achieve good density (both leaf and root density). Avoid getting hung up on numbers (pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet); grow a strong, healthy turf and allow the numbers to fall where they may.

Light and frequent grooming and topdressing can complement a sound fertility programme and a reasonable mowing height in creating a good product. This combination will allow for reasonable putting green speeds, somewhere between 7.5 and 9.0 feet as measured with the Stimp-meter, depending upon weather conditions. Double mowing offers a safe option to increase putting green speeds for special events without over-stressing the grass plant. Additional mowings can add 3 to 4 inches to the speed. This strategy should be started several days before the event.

Rolling is another option for increasing green speeds that may be worth considering, depending upon the equipment used and the soil texture of the green. The increase in speed from rolling can be significant (12 to 18 inches), although it usually does not last more than a day or two.

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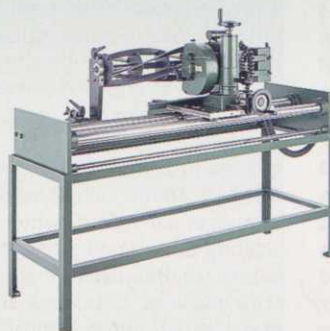
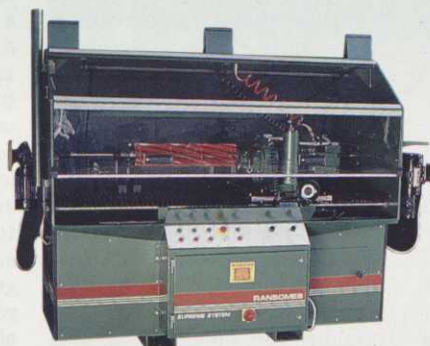
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10 pitfalls of golf course maintenance

Consistently ultra-fast green speeds are unrealistic, expensive, and bad for the grass. The Stimp-meter was developed as a tool to help golf course superintendents check putting green consistency and speed from hole-to-hole on a given golf course. It was never intended to be used as a yardstick to measure how close to the brink of disaster you can go. Grow a strong, healthy grass plant first, and then do what you can to safely enhance speed and consistently. SPEED KILLS, so avoid getting trapped in the fast lane.

4 Use of Pesticides

This pitfall specifically refers to the overuse or unnecessary use of pesticides. The increasing demand for perfection in golf course playing conditions has caused many to employ preventative spray programmes; that is, spraying a pesticide before symptoms or signs of pest activity are actually observed.

The merits of a good preventative spray programme are fairly obvious. Stopping a problem before it occurs can make a lot of sense. In some cases, preventative spray programmes have proven to be both efficient and economical. However, when a potential problem is treated before it occurs, it is never clear that the problem would have occurred at all. Pests rarely attack all 18 greens, tees, or fairways with the same intensity. Every golf course has indicator areas, or "hot spots," where certain pests are more likely to cause damage. Why not treat these "hot spots" preventatively and watch the rest of the golf course for indications of trouble? It is true that such an approach can be more risky and may increase labour costs initially, but in the long run, both labour and pesticide usage may decrease.

The growing popularity of the game of golf has left many courses packed with players. This has made it more difficult to perform routine maintenance work, especially when it comes to making chemical applications. Some are limited to spraying on Monday mornings, while others have decided to spray at night. When a golf course superintendent knows



Too much water will cause problems in every aspect of turf management, as well as golf course playability. Proper water management involves both irrigation and drainage

spraying can be done only on Monday, or on a rigidly set time frame, a preventative approach to pesticide applications becomes a necessity. A greater degree of flexibility in application times would allow for greater flexibility with respect to pesticide usage. In most cases, more leeway must come from owners or course officials and may involve restricting play at certain times to comply with product labels.

It is essential to know exactly what pest you are going after. When the proverbial "kitchen sink" is thrown at a particular problem, often through preventative spraying, it may be impossible to determine just what the pest was and what provided the best control. Careful diagnosis of the actual pest must occur before a good control strategy can be developed. The areas already discussed (water management, mowing heights, and fertility levels) are directly tied to the need for a pesticide and the amount that may be needed. As an example, raising the mowing height can greatly reduce the potential for summer patch disease on putting greens and should reduce, if not eliminate, the need for a fungicide for control of this disease.

5 Continuity of Course Officials/Green Chairperson

It is very difficult to communicate efficiently and develop a solid working relationship with your boss if you have a new one every year. Unfortunately, this is the scenario that occurs at some courses, where a new chairman of green is elected or appointed each year. To further complicate the problem, short-term green committee members often want to "leave their mark." This results in poor communication with the golf course superintendent and two completely different agendas for the maintenance and improvement of the course.

Lack of continuity in course officials and green committee chairpersons sometimes results in a quicker turnover of golf course superintendents. The superintendent's career is set back and so is the overall golf course maintenance programme. The approaches taken to achieve good continuity are as unique and individual as each golf course operation. A longer term of office, overlapping officials, and a better understanding by all parties as to what is expected (written contract) should help enhance continuity. Avoid the tendency to play down the importance of continu-

ity; it affects the entire maintenance operation.

6 Pesticide Storage and/or Maintenance Buildings

It is shocking how inadequate many golf course maintenance facilities are! Pesticides, equipment, and supplies worth hundreds of thousands of dollars often are stored and maintained in what could more accurately be called a barn. In some cases, no provisions have been made for employee restrooms or emergency wash stations.

The maintenance area is usually out of sight for those playing the golf course, and in too many instances it is out of mind as well. Course officials must understand that a modern, well-organised golf course maintenance facility is vitally important in operating a safe and efficient programme. At many courses this would necessitate some degree of remodelling and modernising of the existing facility. At other courses, the existing facility should be leveled and replaced with a new building.

7 Tree Management

Good tree management involves the wise planting of new trees and the trimming, root pruning, and selective removal of existing trees. Unfortunately, trees have become sacred at some golf courses, making it very difficult for the golf course superintendent to perform needed tree management work. This is unfortunate, because there are times when tree work needs to be done in the best interest of the grass plant.

Grass needs direct sunlight to grow, and air movement is important to reduce disease and traffic-related damage. Trees which are too close to important turf areas place the turf under a great deal of unnecessary stress. There is no doubt that a good tree management programme is an integral part of maintaining top-quality turf on many courses today.

8 Amount of Play

This pitfall points to a variety of problems that can occur when

10 pitfalls of golf course maintenance

too much play is allowed on a golf course. At many golf courses, maintenance work is not being done correctly or on a timely basis because of the high volume of golfers. As noted earlier, there are times when essential maintenance activities must come before the playing of the game. Aeration, topdressing, and spray applications are a few examples of maintenance practices that are done much more safely and efficiently without player interference.

Perhaps the course should be closed for a half or even a full day each week. Winter play may need to be restricted. Some courses are establishing a yearly cap on the amount of play they will allow, and then working backwards to determine a daily limit. Maintenance work protects and preserves a golf course, and provisions for its proper scheduling must be made.

9 Labour: Not Enough and/or Under Qualified

Generally speaking, 60 to 75% of a golf course maintenance operating budget consists of salaries and wages. This represents a very important part of the superintendent's management responsibilities. Budgetary levels which are not consistent with expectations are felt most in this area. A mutual understanding of expected maintenance standards must be decided for a proper budget to be determined. Trying to achieve the work of 30 people with a budget that allows for only 15 sets the stage for a collision. Linked closely with adequate numbers is the need for experienced, well-compensated, and trained employees. Every employee is in a position to make the superintendent look like a clown or a genius. Competent, well-trained employees are a tremendous asset. Shortcuts in

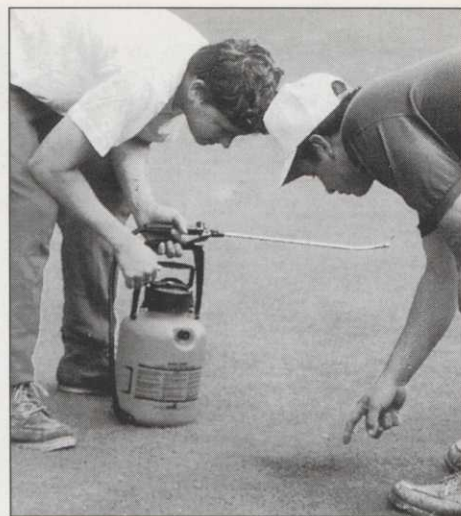
this area will affect all other aspects of the operation.

10 Equipment: Not Enough and/or Poor Quality

This tenth pitfall is very similar to the ninth. It does not matter how skilled the golf course superintendent is; without good tools, the work will not get done properly, and it may cost more to do. Here again, budget levels and maintenance expectations must be in balance.

Conclusion

Discussion of each pitfall could be an article unto itself. However, our intent was to identify areas in which improvements can be made to golf course maintenance operations anywhere in the country. As with most aspects of golf course maintenance, these ten



Competent, well-trained employees are a must. An understanding of the expected maintenance standards and how to properly accomplish the job must come from the head greenkeeper

pitfalls are interrelated and, as such, success or failure in one area will ripple through the entire programme.

Every maintenance operation has its strengths and weaknesses, and it is hoped that this listing of pitfalls will help you identify yours. Amplify your strengths and develop an appropriate strategy for improving on your weaknesses. The alternative is to continue hitting your head on the same rock. "Failure to study and learn from the past leaves us doomed to repeat it!"

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Euro regulations place emphasis on more sophisticated engines

Engines in the new world of European legislation have to be increasingly sophisticated to assist manufacturers of all types of machinery to meet the EC declaration of conformity, introduced on January 1 this year.

The manufacturer of the machine must build the product to meet the regulations. It is in the interests of the engine supplier to produce models which meet the criteria, so that the engine can be fitted without additional safety features.

The council directive is mandatory. Products must be designed as far as possible to realise the objectives.

As will all EC legislation, the requirements are comprehensive and include filling and draining of fluids, storage, guarding on moving parts, guarding against contact with excessively hot or cold parts, noise, vibration and emission. This is by no means a comprehensive list of requirements, but it gives some idea of what's involved.

Machinery manufactured after January 1 1995 must be marked with a CE symbol to denote conformity. There will be a period when goods manufactured before the com-



mencement date may be sold, but by the end of this year all products should bear the CE mark if they are to be supplied within the Community.

Many of the regulations have benefits for the operator of professional golf course machinery. Reducing emissions usually means using less fuel. Less vibration helps the operator to work without fatigue and less

noise gives a more peaceful environment.

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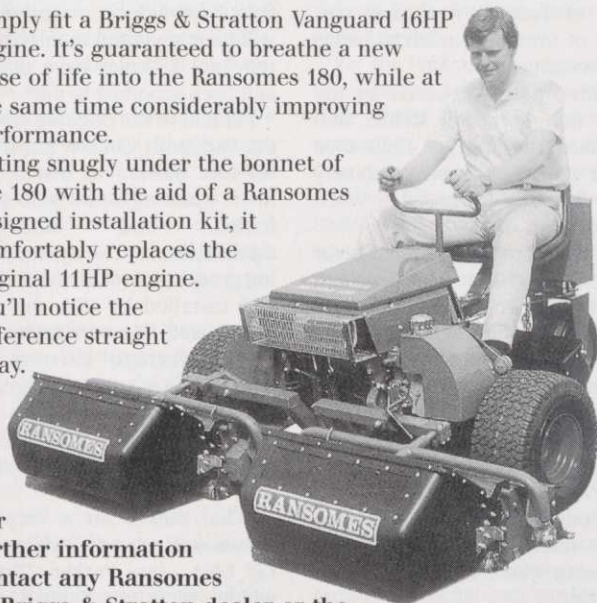
The overall result is that an outlay of around £1,100 plus labour can rejuvenate equipment that would cost in excess of £11,000 to replace. The bonus, of course, is that the reduction of operating costs would cover the capital outlay within three years while upgrading the machine to near-CE standards.

● The author, Bob Watson, is a director of JH Hancox Limited.

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Trevor's greatest challenge

Trevor Smith seemed to have everything... then he decided to go back to golf, as Cedric John reports

Three years ago, Trevor Smith, Yorkshireman and former greenkeeper, was contentedly managing Woodlands Manor Farm estate set in rolling Dorset countryside.

Standing close to the historic market town of Wimborne Minster, a comfortable morning's hack from Casterbridge, scene of Hardy's 'Madding Crowd' rural classic, the estate – and Trevor's lifestyle – might reasonably be described as idyllic, compared that is, to the never-ending demands of golf.

Bound-up in the world of sporting guns, clay-pigeon, duck and pheasant shooting plus a spot of gamekeeping thrown in for good measure, many would go further and say that Trevor was indeed a man to be envied.

So why change it? Maybe golf gets into the blood or perhaps, once the personal challenge of managing manicured wide open spaces of fine turf against the vagaries of nature has been tested – and bested – the urge, as in Trevor's case, to do it all over again is never too far away.

When he was approached and offered the chance to help create a brand new pay-and-play course, at nearby Canford Magna, Trevor Smith didn't hesitate. "Having gained some experience of building greens and tees on my previous courses, I was keen to prove that I could achieve bigger things," he said.

In reality, Trevor's new role held a dual purpose. Having com-

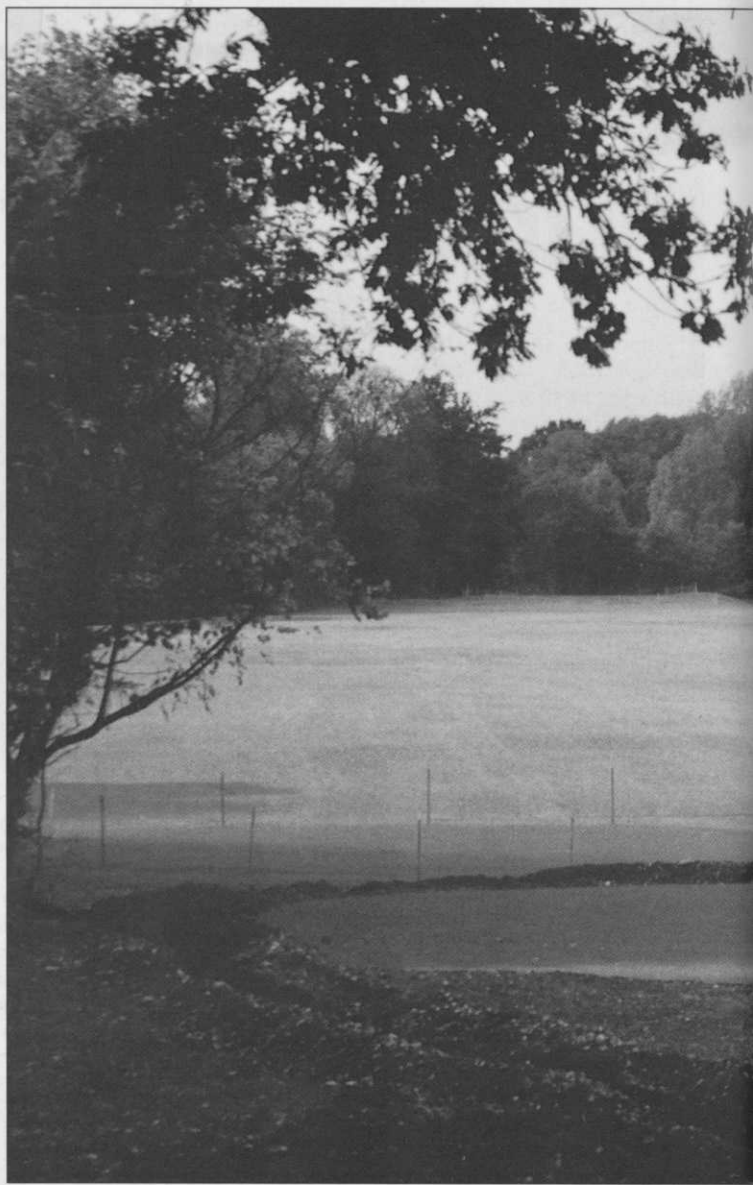
pleted the construction and brought both courses into play, he would then manage the results of his – and his team's – labours.

That, by any standard, must be the ultimate achievement for any progressive greenkeeper. From the developer's point of view, such continuity makes common sense. That's just how the owners of the Canford Magna club, quarryman Bill Riddle, and his partner, Richard Harding, a farmer, viewed the proposed development. As time has shown, their judgement was sound. They now have a golf course, two in fact, which they can justifiably boast about... but that is to anticipate events.

Machinery

Toro 217 rotary greens mower
John Deere 32/38 fairway mower
Toro GM 3000 greens mower (2)
Ransomes Super Certes (4)
Allen National (2)
Jacobsen 7-unit hydraulic gang mower
Jacobsen TriKing tees mower
Kubota 360 mini-digger
Cushman (2) plus attachments
Tractors (2)

Irrigation: ISS/Toro green, tees and approaches fully automatic system operated by computerised controller linked to weather station.



Trevor Smith's association with Canford Magna, then an undulating mixture of arable land and pasture, began in January 1993.

Armed with a detailed blueprint, drawn-up by golf course architect Howard Swan, one of Trevor's first tasks was that of forming a team to tackle the construction.

This was made easier by the fact that both Bill Riddle and Richard Harding put their own men and considerable machinery at Trevor's disposal, when needed.

More importantly for Trevor was the fact that Tim Sherman joined him to supervise day-to-day construction, while Matthew Maryon was appointed deputy course manager. Apart from peat, brought in to help establish root zones on the sand based greens, little else was purchased off-site.

"We recycled soil and gravel to suit our needs. We did the same with many of the young trees growing where fairways were to be laid."

Hundreds of mature trees, some of the sturdy oaks no doubt stretching back to Hardy's days of

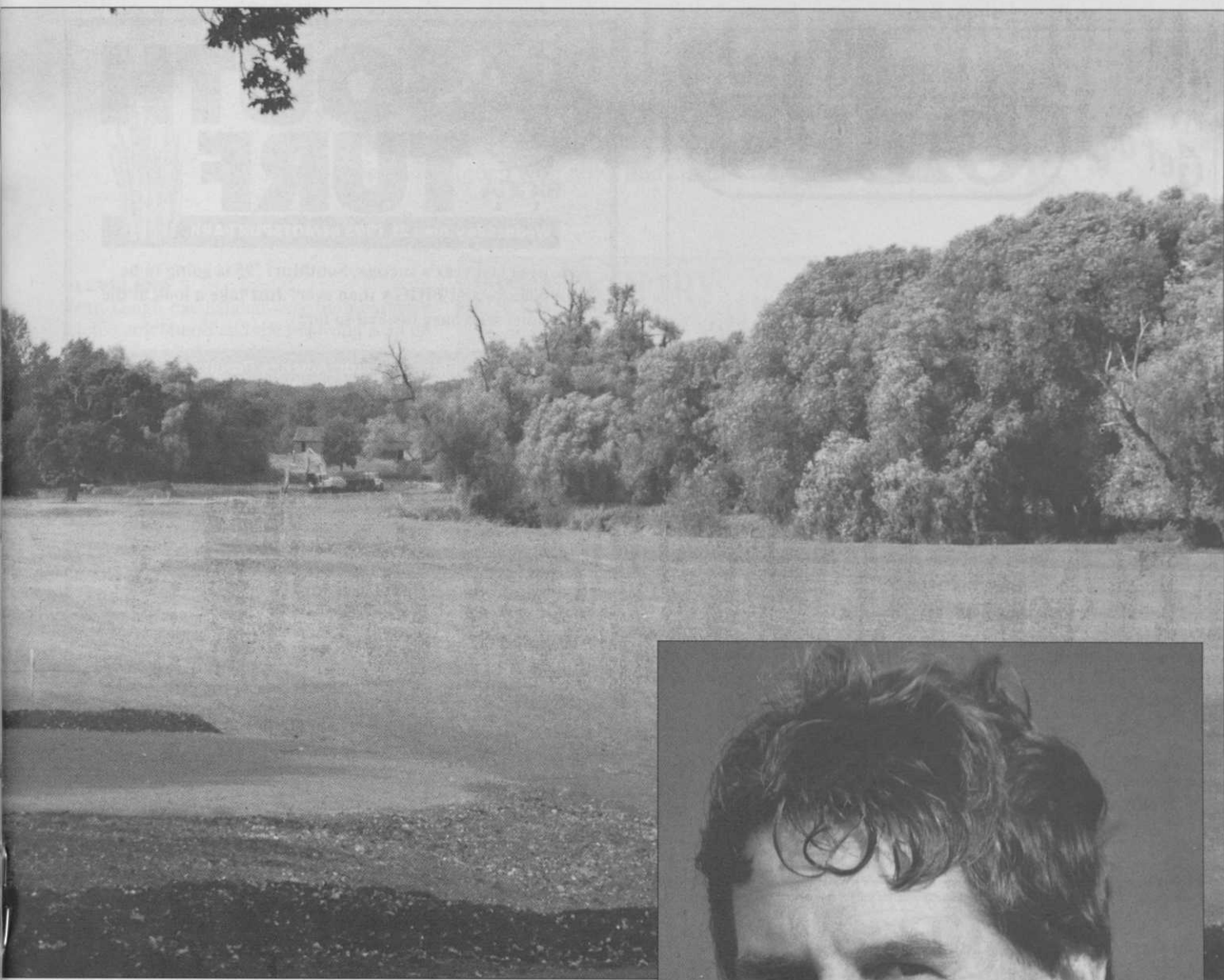
riding the Dorset countryside, were woven into Howard Swan's design.

A nice touch that. When I first saw the emerging courses, in the late summer of last year, the trees gave the new fairways a comfortable, lived-in look, even though it will be many more months before the final 18-holes have matured and been groomed to play.

Parallel to the ongoing work on the Parklands Course, plans were set into motion to install automatic watering essential to germination and subsequent establishment. The system, serving greens and tees, was designed and installed by ISS, the Salisbury-based Toro irrigation specialists. Richard Parsons, who charted the system's design, also kept an eye on installation work which, by the very nature of construction, had to be progressed on a hole-by-hole basis.

"That makes for a very long drawn-out process," chipped in ISS boss, Gary Parker, "But the whole picture changed completely when we moved onto the Lower course."

Set in the lower reaches of the



Stour Valley, hard by the River Stour which flows down to the sea at Christchurch, the Lower or River Course offered Trevor Smith another challenge. The second 18 holes was to be built on a flood-plain!

Or rather, it has. When I visited Canford Magna last September, the River Course had been built, shaped and seeded.

"I wanted to get seed in quickly because parts of the course would, in all probability, flood if winter rains filled the river.

"Once the seed was down, I hoped it would root well enough to cope with this particular problem."

Irrigation was the key to the operation. Working closely with Trevor Smith, on a daily basis at times, the ISS installation team took just four weeks to cover all 18 greens and tees.

"Four weeks? Perhaps it was a couple of days longer," commented Gary Parker, with a wry smile.

"Given good ground conditions, I would normally expect to take six weeks for this type of installation – but Trevor was in a hurry!"

In the event, the recent winter – the second wettest recorded this century – did push the river over its banks, on four occasions.

But Trevor is philosophical. "The greens are fine and, in fact, about 70% of the newly seeded course had survived intact by early March."

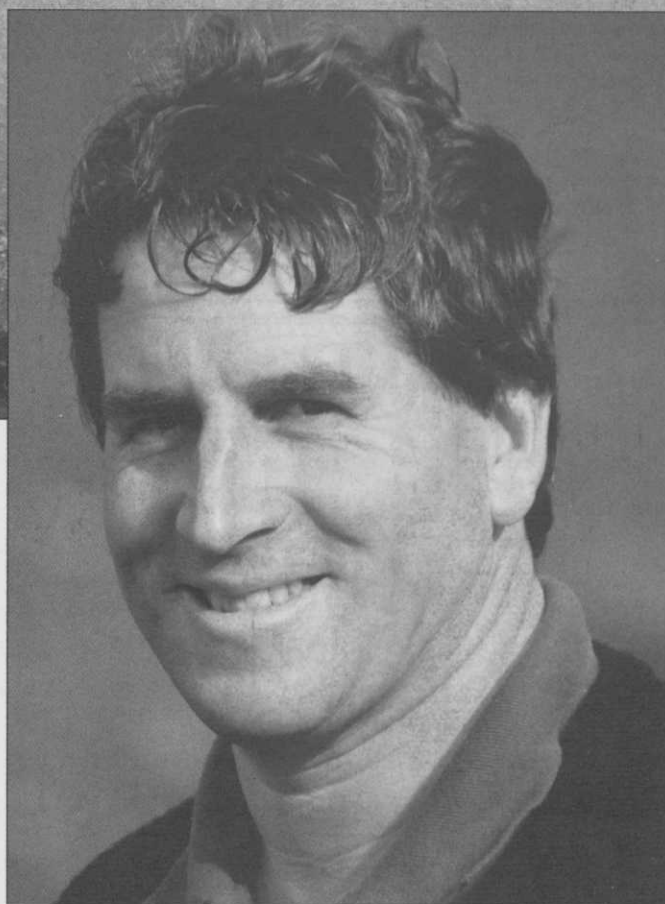
Yet the Parklands Course stood up to its first winter in fine style. Nine holes were in constant demand by visiting golfers whose own courses were waterlogged.

"These who wanted to play 18 holes were given the option of using the back nine – we advised them that some sections were less than perfect but overall, we detected a very favourable reaction," said Canford's director of golf, Keith Hockey.

"There were some iffy patches," said Trevor, "but we officially opened the back nine a few weeks ago."

Establishment of the Higher Course has been so successful in fact, that Keith Hockey had arranged a medal competition for April, 10 months after seeding.

Talking enthusiastically about the Parklands Course, Trevor told



Top: part of the flood plain – now the River course – photographed a month after seeding. Above: Trevor Smith, constructor turned course manager

me that the natural, gravel-based undersoil has proved to be a tremendous benefit in terms of drainage.

But it's the greens that have captured Trevor's imagination. "Constructed to full USGA specification, the putting surfaces have shrugged off the wet in brilliant fashion.

"Mind you, they required constant attention – and feeding – to get the best out of them," he said.

Contrary to traditional methods and starvation regimes, Trevor reckons that the reverse is the case. "I've discarded lots of my old habits and thoughts regarding maintenance of the greens. There's no other way!

"Sown with a 70% fescue and 30% bent mix, the greens really have come good – thanks to Rigby Taylor's Brian Robinson. Brian's experience has helped me tremendously."

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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

CLEVELAND

Keith Lough has handed over the treasurer's job to Gary Munro and the following is an up to date list of officers for the Cleveland section: chairman: Bruce Burnell, secretary/treasurer: Gary Munro, regional chairman: Ian Holoran, golf organisers: Bob Lawton and Chris Fiddel, entertainment: Kevin Heslop. Other officers are Roger Shaw, Keith Lough, Philip Walshaw and Ian Pemberton.

During the March meeting, an NVQ discussion with officials from Houghall College took place. A full report will follow in next month's issue.

Gary Munro has two meetings arranged for this coming autumn and suggestions are welcome for February and March 1996.

The section has a request for an autumn tournament and venue and full details will appear in the July edition of the magazine.

A friendly match versus Eaglescliffe Greens Committee, eight people per team, is being planned for late July. All people interested, please contact Bob Lawton on 01740 650466.

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members which mean, for the first time, we have over 100 members in the sec-

EVENTS DIARY

June 21: South Turf, Mootspur 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

tion. New faces are: Anthony Cheeseborough, Wearside Golf Club; Stuart Cook, Saltburn Golf Club; Robert Eversham, Hallgarth Hotel Golf Club and from Ramside Hall Golf Club, Jack Gash, Jason Stafford, Stephen Gott and David Robinson.

BRUCE BURNELL

SCOTTISH EAST

It's been a busy start to the season for me both on and off the course. I hope everyone received a form for the spring outing at the Glen Golf Club. If not, please do not hesitate to 'phone and let me know and I guarantee any problems will be sorted out. Membership of the section is now at an all-time high. Let's hope this trend continues. Sorry to hear

Willie Blair, our past secretary, has not been too well recently. Hope you're well on your way to recovery. In March we held a quiz night at the Black Bull in Dalkeith, which was won by Mike Williamson and his Torwoodlee terrors. A fine night was enjoyed by everyone. Well done to all the East Section members who have just completed the HNC course at Oakridge College - no easy feat, lads!

The committee at present are setting up a library for members. Watch this space for further details.

Congratulations to Stuart and Caroline Crawford from North Berwick West Golf Club and also Ronnie and Michelle Frame on the arrival of baby girls respectively. All the best from everyone in the East Section.

Date for your diary - a barbecue has been arranged at the Kilspindie House Hotel on Saturday, 10 June. Bring all the family.

And finally, thanks to Jimmy Neilson, Willie Blair, Andy Forrest and Elliott Small for helping me get on my feet as I take over as Section Secretary. Any news to 01721 722832.

ANDY FORREST
and ROBERT HOGARTH

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SCOTTISH NORTH

The North Section welcomes two more new members and two old members who have rejoined. The newcomers are Paul Teviotdale, apprentice at Arbroath and Alexander Campbell, a student at Elmwood College, who hails from Montrose. We welcome back Iain Gunn, now Head Greenkeeper at Strathpeffer and Mike Wilson who is in charge at Fraserburgh. Whilst on the subject of membership, it was most disappointing to see the amount of 1994 members who have not renewed their membership by the end of March. Hopefully this was an oversight and by the time you are reading this column, it has been rectified. We will never move forward if we lose more members than we gain each year, so have a word if you know someone who has not renewed and try to get them back in the fold.

The Scottish Conference in Glasgow was a great success as usual. Unfortunately with the distance involved, there were not many members from the North down. Nevertheless the hall was full and those that did travel found it very worthwhile.

I attended the Section Secretaries' annual get-together and found it very productive and informative. North members can look forward to more professional presentations at the outings, after all the tips picked up during the Presentation Skills seminar on Monday.

There has been a change of venue for next month's Scottish greenkeeping championships. Instead of being held at the Carnegie Club, Skibo, the championship has been moved five miles further North to Royal Dornoch. Unfortunately, Skibo felt unable to cater for the expected numbers, but will welcome any members in the area for the competition who would like to play the course. Thanks must go to Royal Dornoch for stepping in at such short notice and I can thoroughly recommend to anyone to make the

journey North to play this superb golf course. The date has changed to Monday, 19 June with the tee booked from 10.30am. Miss it at your peril!

IAN MACLEOD



WEST OF SCOTLAND

Well, the season has started and everybody will be busy cutting and preparing their courses.

On 5 March at Brox, a football match was arranged between the North and South of the River Clyde. A poor turnout on the day (only 16), was probably due to the snow elsewhere, but it did not hinder the enthusiasm. The eventual winners were the North, for a change, with a score of 11-7.

The best of the 16 then went on to represent the Section against Central. A good game was had by all, with a scoreline of four all. The return game has been arranged for Sunday, 2 April.

At the recent Scottish Educational Conference held at the Scottish Exhibition Centre, all speakers proved a great success. Particularly interesting talks were given by Ian McNab (Dumfries and County) on greens reconstruction, and Eddie Adams (St Andrews Old) on the 'Open' Championship preparation. A great deal of thanks go to all concerned, with particular mention to Steven Hogg and Elliott Small for their efforts.

If anyone has information of interest to

Around the Green



our members, please pass this on to myself at 0141 942 5554.

JAMES S TAYLOR

NORTH-WEST

This year's North West seminar was attended by 104 greenkeepers, golf club officials and members of the trade. The venue for the event was the magnificent club house at the Tytherington Club, which is the headquarters of the Women's European Tour.

The seminar kicked off with Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer, speaking about the opportunities at colleges for greenkeeper training and also the plans for local training initiatives, by setting up one day training courses at locations around the country.

The main speaker of the day was Jon Allbutt with his theme on 'Health and Safety on Golf Courses'. This is a subject that involves everybody employed on golf courses, from the greens staff to the catering staff. Jon gently led us into the talk with the legislation, which can be mind-boggling, but with his 'overview and update', he managed to simplify things a little.

The afternoon session was 'Health and Safety Policies and Risk Assessment'. The message from this was to bring in the expert, and there was none better than Jon. Have your course assessed and work within the rules of Health and Safety. Many thanks to Ken Richardson and Jon Allbutt for a most interesting and informative day.

I would like to thank John Millen, the caterers, and the Tytherington Club, for allowing us to use their excellent facilities. Thanks also to Sisis, Rigby Taylor, British Seed Houses and Acorn Supplies for supporting us with advertising and also the patrons of the Northern Region who attended the Seminar.

In the Section events on your fixture list, at the bottom of the page, it reads 4BBB. I have had many enquiries about its meaning. It simply means Four Ball Better Ball and if anybody is interested in entering, get yourself a partner and ring Paul Pearse on 01625 859258 and he will arrange the knockout.

Any problems or queries please ring me on 0151 724 5412.

BERT CROSS



SOUTH WEST

After our members' approval at the last AGM, the Section trophy cabinet, formerly held at Tracy Park Golf Club, was taken to Headquarters for their use on a relevant basis.

This was moved up when I attended this year's Annual Section Secretaries and Regional Administrators' meeting, which proved very informative. Not only was there a very useful half day course on presentation and public speaking, but also a talk from Fenchurch regarding the insurance entitlements available to members as part of their membership package. Hambro Legal Protec-

tion also spoke on our legal advice opportunities. These subjects could well be the possibility of a forthcoming Winter lecture as I am sure the majority of Section members are unaware of their full entitlement.

The Section matches against the Secretaries on 27 June, South Coast on 21 September and South Wales on 4 October all need teams. If you would like to be considered for selection please return the form in the last circular letter and your name will be passed to Team Captain, Dave Neale.

The usual reminder goes out again for the enrolment in training courses, First Aid and in particular, PA1 and PA2. A few people have in the past expressed an interest in PA1 and PA2 but numbers have to be greater to warrant a course. If interested, please give me a ring on 0117 9793127 and specify whether the PA2 instruction day needs to be practiced on a tractor or Cushman mounted sprayer, as this is important at the time of examination.

Congratulations to Jon Scoones of Woodspring Golf Club who takes up a position as First Assistant at Studley Wood Golf Club in Oxfordshire. We wish him every success at his new club.

The summer tournament takes place this year at Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol on 26 July.

I look forward to seeing you there in large numbers.

KEVIN GREEN

SURREY

The Greenkeepers Annual Gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath Golf Club was, as usual, a huge success, not only were we blessed with brilliant sunshine but also a superb golf course - condition-wise - to match. It would have seemed to any visitor to the course that Walton Heath hadn't had a poor winter. The course was as dry as a bone and the greens putted true. Congratulations therefore must go to Clive Osgood and his staff, who were amongst the winners. Thanks also, to members of the trade for their support, and the South East Regional Committee for organising the event. Finally, thanks to Walton Heath Golf Club for hosting the event.

Results are as follows: 1st prize: M Haynes, Walton Heath GC, 39pts. Handicap 0-10, 1st: A Donlevy, Walton Heath GC, 37pts; 2nd: M Smith, 37pts; 3rd: G Brown, 32pts. Handicap 11-15, 1st: R Ling, 38pts; 2nd: M Kirkham, 34pts; 3rd: J Robs. Handicap 16-24, 1st: D Smith, 37pts; 2nd: I Sutcliffe, 33pts; 3rd: G Speller, 32pts. Guests, 1st: G Winkless, 33pts; 2nd: J Russell, 32pts; 3rd: D Maltby, 32pts. Putting competition, 16 putts over 9 holes: Tony Dunstan won on countback. Longest drive, 1st: M Moss, 247yds; 2nd: I Warn, 241yds; 3rd: D Gibbs, 240yds. Nearest pins: E Dickinson: 3'1" 2nd hole; D Violer: 7'7", 6th hole; I Sutcliffe: 3'3", 10th hole.

Forthcoming events: Southturf Exhibition, Motspur Park - 21 June; The McMillan Tankard - Sunningdale Golf Club - 3 August - (Maximum 40 spots); The Parker Salver - Tyrells Wood Golf Club Invitation - (Club Secretary, Greens Chairmen etc) - 25 pairs only.

I would appreciate any items of news that may be of interest to members of our Section. Please contact me on 01737 832015.

DAVID GIBBS

DEVON AND CORNWALL

Mullion Golf Club was the venue for our March meeting.

With the sun shining and only a light breeze, our golfing members enjoyed probably the best golfing conditions you could possibly ask for in March on the country's most southerly course, which is situated on the Lizard in the depths of Cornwall.

Our thanks go to John Bradley of Barenbrug Seeds and Martin Samuel of Rigby Taylor who kindly provided transport to our most easterly Devon members. Our golfing members competed for the Supaturf trophy for Head Greenkeepers and Trade, Rhône Poulenc trophy for Assistants and this was the Section's qualifier for the Hayter Challenge Tournament. Our congratulations to Head Greenkeeper Gordon Tamblyn and his team who provided us with an excellent test of golf.

After an excellent lunch, John Palfrey, on behalf of Supaturf and Paul Clifton of Rhône Poulenc, presented the prizes to the following members: Supaturf Trophy: 1st: T Pipe (Honiton), 36pts; 2nd: B Lewer (Dainton), 34pts; 3rd: M Samuel (Rigby Taylor), 33pts. Rhône Poulenc Trophy: 1st: A James (Tehidy), 40pts handicap reduction 22 to 20; 2nd: J Mitchell (Perranporth), 37pts; 3rd: W Potter (East Devon), 35pts.

Congratulations and good luck to all who qualified. Our thanks to John Palfrey and Paul Clifton for presenting the prizes.

Qualifiers for the Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge, to be held at Carmarthen Golf Club on Thursday, 15 June are: 0-9: J Mitchell, T Ramsden, R Whyman, C Bland, G Aycliffe. 10-18: T Pipe, W Potter, B Lewer, M Parrish, K Piper. 19-28: a James, C Edwards, T Clark, T Ellis, T Martin.

Our thanks for the continued support and attendance of Cornish Hayter distributor, Martin Hennings. Prizes have now been despatched to the winners.

Our afternoon educational talk was presented by Peter Winter from the STRI. Peter's talk centred on the problem our host club have with the infestation of nematodes on their course. Our thanks to Peter for his excellent presentation, also our thanks and good wishes are extended to Mullion Golf Club – who are celebrating their centenary year – for kindly allowing us use of their facilities.

The Cornish get-together evenings start this month with the usual format of walking the course with host clubs, Head Greenkeeper, followed by a pint and pasty. For dates and venues, please phone Steve Evans on 01208 863647.

Was it all worth it?

At the beginning of February, I received an invitation to attend the 1995 Regional Administrators' and Section Secretaries' meeting to be held at Aldwark Manor on 12 and 13 March.

I was delighted to find out that this year the meeting would be held on a Sunday and Monday, with a 3.45pm start on the Sunday. This meant I would only have to take one day's holiday.

Then, I rang British Rail to find out train times from my nearest rail station at Exeter, some 60 miles away. With disbelief, I was informed that the first train North was not until the afternoon, arriving in York late

Around the Green



that night. After some discussion, I was informed that I could arrive in York at 3.45pm, if I travelled via London.

The arrangements were set. I had to catch the 8.40am train from Exeter on Sunday morning, which meant I had to leave home at around 7am. On drawing back the curtains that morning I saw to my horror an unknown car blocking my garage entrance. After trying the doors and with time ticking by, I phoned the police, hoping they could unlock the car so I could push it back a few yards. Within ten minutes a WPC arrived and because it was locked, she couldn't open it without the owner being present. She then proceeded to wake the neighbourhood. After nearly an hour, she found the owner.

With the time at 7.50am, I realised I would miss the train at Exeter, so I decided to cut across to Tiverton, but I had to be quick. On arrival at Tiverton at 9am, I was informed that I had missed the train by four minutes and the next train wasn't until 11.58am, but if I went down to Exeter, I may be able to catch the 9.32am Waterloo train. On arrival at Exeter, I saw the back end of the train disappearing out of the station.

With the next train leaving some two hours later, I had to decide whether to continue the journey or not, as I would miss most of Sunday's meeting. With all the problems I had encountered, I decided to continue and arrived at Aldwark around 7pm to catch the last half hour of Sunday's meeting, but in time for dinner and a few beers.

Monday morning arrived very quickly. It seemed like only four hours' sleep, but after breakfast it was down to work with Brin Bendon, our course tutor on presentation skills. This turned out to be an excellent workshop which took us up to lunch. After lunch, we had a nose around the offices before returning to the hotel for the open forum, which concluded the meeting. Unfortunately, I had to leave before the end to catch my last direct train home, leaving York at 4pm. I arrived home at 10.30pm, tired but satisfied. The two days were worth it.

My thanks to Hambro Legal Protection and Brin Bendon for their excellent presentations and to all the BIGGA staff and hotel staff for making me so welcome.

RICHARD WHYMAN

BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON

I hope by now all Section members have received the fixture cards with all Section and National events. If there is any member still without a card, please contact me and I will post one off to you.

Because of the publishing deadline, there are no results of the Hayter Tournament at Beaconsfield or the five-a-side football competition. These will be posted in next month's article.

At the last committee meeting the idea of organising a package deal for the BTME Show

next January was discussed. I have been making enquiries with local companies to get an idea of prices. The package would include travel and accommodation for three days and two nights around the Harrogate area. The cost is looking like £100 per head, all inclusive. I know January is a long way off, but because of the Show's success, if we leave it too long to book, trying to find accommodation will be very difficult. The sooner we get definite numbers the sooner we can make a booking. A deposit will be required to confirm your place. It's a long way to drive, so don't leave it late to book your place.

Our very own Secretary, Ray Clarke, is on the move this month. He has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at a course under construction near Marlow. Good luck to Ray from the Section.

Golfing venues to look forward to this year are Blue Mountain, Hadden Hill and Frilford Heath.

Any news or views, please contact me on 01491 578147.

LINDSAY T ANDERSON

KENT

I suppose that after three months it was time for the Kent Committee to get together and have a meeting. This duly took place on 28 March in the Rifleman Pub, Sevenoaks.

The main outcome for me was that it has given me something of interest to write about. The first item on the agenda was Greenkeeper education and specifically what courses we would like the GTC to run during 1996. This is always a subject guaranteed to cause a debate and so feedback from you – with suggestions for course content – would be most helpful.

The next subject for discussion was the golf days organised by this Section. Two more dates have now been confirmed. Firstly, at Herne Bay on 19 June in the afternoon. This date coincides with Herne Bay's Centenary celebrations and will include an evening buffet. The second date is our autumn meeting on 27 September at Birchwood Park, and I would like to thank in advance, all those involved in the organisation of these dates. Whilst on the subject of venues, the Kent Section is organising a fixture list for 1996 which will be sponsored by Sta-Brite Supplies Ltd. Our thanks go to Chris Sharpe for this, but it will be of no use unless we have some venues to put on it, so we need as many varied venues as possible please.

Getting back to this year's golf days, it was decided to run an Eclectic Competition across the first three competitions of this year (Littlestone, Herne Bay and Birchwood Park). All cards will be collected at the end of each day and scores allocated accordingly. This will also enable us to run a proper handicap system and handicaps will be allocated on the basis of your last card unless you have a bona-fide club handicap, which you can present on the day of the competition. I don't think that this system will effect the lower handicaps too much but should even out some of the more outlandish examples of banditry. The Eclectic Competition will be split into two categories (0-15 and 16-28) and we are looking for a sponsor. If you are willing to put up a prize etc, please contact me on 0181 464 8828 (Shortlands Golf Club).

Finally, Steve Johnstone of Gillingham Golf



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Club would like to thank his Captain, Len Snow and his Committee for their ongoing support which will continue through his period as Section Secretary and Regional Board member.

RICHARD PAGE

SHEFFIELD

On 6 April we held our final winter lecture, given by Mr Will Adamson of ADAS, who works on construction of golf courses. He gave a very interesting talk on the elements of a good course, the condition and presentation, the beauty and attractiveness and the qualities of the course. In particular, it was interesting to learn the construction of golf greens.

On 12 April, we held our first golf tournament at Phoenix Golf Club, which was in excellent condition. Thanks to Keith and his staff. The winner of the President's prize was Paul Unwin, of Hallamshire Golf Club. The following qualified for the Regional Final of the Hayter Tournament, to be played at Middlesbrough Golf Club on 4 July: Division 1, 0-9: Derek McJannet (Sherwood Forest), 72-0-72; Stephen Currie (Hicklehen), 82-9-73; David Chapple (Thrybergh), 82-9-73. Division 2, 10-18: Colin Hopper (Town Moor), 86-13-73; Neil Maltby (Wheatley), 88-15-73; Antony Whittington (Worksop), 92-18-74. Division 3, 19-23: Paul Unwin (Hallamshire), 81-27-71; Barry Lax (Worksop), 98-23-75; James Hall (Bondhay), 98-22-76.

Many thanks to our trade members who donated prizes – President, K Arnold, Les Purdy, Rhône-Poulenc, P Fell – Aitkens, Steve Burroughs – Amenity Turf Supplies, A Dyson – Gem, M Brears – Trident.

Our next golf tournament will be held at Cavendish Golf Club on 3 July at 10.30am.
RON ULLATHORNE

What



The number and range of greenkeeper training courses continue to expand as the demand for high quality training increases. This variety of provision can lead to confusion as to who

does what, where and how.

BIGGA education officer Ken Richardson, pictured, lists training providers and outlines the courses and schemes available for greenkeeper training.

TRAINING POLICY

Training policy for all greenkeepers is set by the Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC). The Committee comprises representatives from the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), the English Golf Union (EGU), the Golfing Union of Ireland (GUI), the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (R&A), the Scottish Golf Union (SGU) and the Welsh Golfing Union (WGU) and thus has connections with all aspects of golf in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The GTC headquarters at Aldwark Manor is staffed by two officers – David Golding, the Education Director and Sue Gudgeon, the Administrative Officer. The GTC is, currently, mainly involved in the introduction of National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications. This work includes membership of the Industry Lead Body for Amenity Horticulture, liaison with the National Council for Vocational Qualifications and the Scottish Council for Vocational Qualifications, identifying and training of Industry competent assessors (D32) and advisers (D36), monitoring the review of N/SVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping), production, sale and updating of the GTC Training Manual and translation of the Training Manual into French, German and Spanish, monitoring standards of greenkeeper training by colleges and other training providers and ensuring that all greenkeepers have access to good quality education and training as part of their terms and conditions of service.

TRAINING PROVIDERS

Many organisations have an influence on training policy as members of the GTC and some, for example BIGGA, have a major impact on greenkeeper training by acting as training providers. The following list is not exhaustive but does, hopefully, cover the main contributors to the provision of greenkeeper training and education.

you need to know about TRAINING

BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BIGGA has some 7,000 members in 31 different countries. It has strong links with the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America, European and worldwide greenkeepers' associations. BIGGA is a major provider of greenkeeper education, attempting to identify areas of training not provided for elsewhere, providing easy access to training and encouraging greenkeepers to enter, participate and continue with their education and training at all stages of their career. The range, variety and location of BIGGA training courses continues to expand and current training and education schemes are outlined below.

SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The autumn 1994 series of Supervisory and Management courses were designed, for the first time, to meet the underpinning knowledge requirements of the N/SVQ level 3 supervisory units. The course was split into four modules which covered Managing People, Managing Operations and Resources and Managing Information. From the feedback received from delegates, the courses were a great success and autumn 1995 will see similar courses being presented at Aldwark Manor with the addition of a fifth module which will meet the requirements of selected level 4 Management units. During the autumn and winter of 1995/1996, BIGGA also will be offering Supervisory and Management training in the regions. These two day, residential courses will reinforce and revise management topics covered during Aldwark Manor or other management courses, and provide an extra opportunity for all greenkeepers to acquire important management skills. Full details of these courses will be published in future editions of *Greenkeeper International*.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

The requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act should be of concern to all greenkeepers. Changes to legislation, introduction of new rules and the threat of prosecution, if problems do occur, mean that greenkeepers need to be kept informed. BIGGA is arranging a series of Health and Safety workshops which will take place during autumn/winter

1995/1996. The workshops will be based on golf courses in each region and will enable delegates to conduct written assessments, draw up plans and identify areas of concern. Again, full details of these courses will be published in future editions of *Greenkeeper International*.

PESTICIDE TRAINING

Escalating costs have caused the Aldwark Manor based pesticide training courses to be replaced by regional based non-residential pesticide courses. Each course will last for five days and will include training and examinations for PA1, PA2A and PA6 certificates. Courses will be presented on golf courses. Look out for details as they become known in *Greenkeeper International*.

COMMUNICATION COURSES

Good communication skills, both written and oral, are becoming more important as more greenkeepers are expected to be able to make presentations to committees and groups of golf club members. BIGGA, in cooperation with the GTC, will be offering a series of communication courses, in BIGGA regions, during autumn/winter 1995/1996.

NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND BTME SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Major events in the BIGGA calendar are the National Education Conference and BTME Seminar Programme. Planning is underway for January 1996 and we hope to have even more of an international flavour for next year's conference. Training workshops will also return during BTME week. The National Education Conference and BTME Seminar Programme give greenkeepers and golf course committee members the chance to learn from experts how golf and greenkeeping is changing and allows a free exchange of ideas from delegate to delegate.

REGION AND SECTION CONFERENCES SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

BIGGA is organised on a regional basis. The five regions are Scotland, Northern England, the Midlands, the South East and the South West and South Wales. Each region is subdivided into sections. Conferences, seminars and meetings held in each section and region during the autumn and winter months are designed to add to the training and education

opportunities offered nationally to try and ensure that the maximum number of greenkeepers have access to education and training.

MASTER GREENKEEPER CERTIFICATE

The award of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate indicates that the recipient has reached the highest standards of excellence within the greenkeeping profession. The scheme, which has recently been endorsed by the Greenkeepers Training Committee, is designed to recognise through a combination of experience and training, greenkeeping ability and a formal examination, those who are Masters of greenkeeping. The scheme has been running for seven years and it is indicative of the high standards necessary that only nine greenkeepers have been awarded Master Greenkeeper status. The scheme is currently being revised but no major changes are envisaged. Full details can be obtained from Headquarters.



ZENECA PREMIER GREENKEEPER

The Zeneca Premier Greenkeeper competition aims to find the greenkeeper who gets the best from his course with the facilities that he has available and aims to recognise services to the greenkeeping industry. The first prize winner wins a trip to the GCSAA Exhibition and Conference in the USA and his team will be awarded a prize of £500. Runners-up prizes include a weekend for two in London and a weekend for two at Aldwark Manor. The current titleholder is David Walden, pictured above.

What you need to know about TRAINING



TORO/PGA EUROPEAN TOUR STUDENT OF THE YEAR

The Toro/PGA European Tour award not only offers students the chance to widen their experience, but also offers them the chance to win the Toro scholarship. This includes a six week turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts, visits to Toro factories and a visit to the GCSAA show. The runners-up join the PGA European Tour team during a major tour event and are also invited to attend the PGA European Tour Greenkeeper conference.

TRAINING RESOURCES

BIGGA is a major provider of greenkeeper education aids and resources. These include video films, colour slides, booklets, magazine articles, audio cassettes and textbooks. A library has recently been established and plans are being formulated to allow all BIGGA members to have access. The latest BIGGA video which will cover course preparation as defined in the GTC Training Manual level two units is due to be completed about now and further videos are being considered. A booklet covering the ecological management of golf courses will be completed soon and an on-course grass identification guide is currently being written. Audio cassettes of both the National Education Conference and BTME Seminar Programmes are still available from Headquarters.

CAREERS ADVICE

BIGGA provides greenkeeping careers advice to individuals, careers teachers, careers officers and training and enterprise councils. Copies of the joint BIGGA/GTC career video "Keeper of the Green" are available, on loan, from the GTC.

EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

The BIGGA Education and Development Fund exists to promote and finance education programmes and training aids. Financial contributions from companies, groups and individuals help to provide funding for BIGGA Education and Training initiatives.

As can be seen from the above, BIGGA not only influences the training policy of greenkeepers but also provides training and education opportunities. Through its membership of the GTC, BIGGA has the opportunity to market its education and

training courses to employers, thus allowing them to invest in their staff, which in turn must produce better golf courses throughout the UK and Ireland.

GREENKEEPER TRAINING COURSES

The GTC grants "approved status" to 24 colleges that offer greenkeeper training courses. Some colleges are approved to offer Craft level courses (N/SVQ level 2), some are approved for training up to Supervisory level (N/SVQ level 3) and others are approved as regional training centres, offering courses up to Management level (N/SVQ level 4). The list of approved colleges appears twice per year in this magazine and copies of the list can be obtained from BIGGA Headquarters or from the GTC at Aldwark Manor. There is a wide range of courses on offer from short courses, lasting one day, or a number of days, to full-time courses lasting up to three and even four years. A list of courses offered, but not necessarily at all colleges, is given below.

PART-TIME COURSES

N/SVQ
- Level II (Craft)
- Day release and Block release
- Level III (Supervisory)
- Level IV (Management)
National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Turf Management

NB: Day release is one day per week throughout the academic year; Block release is a full-time attendance for part of an academic year.

N/SVQs

N/SVQs were introduced following a review of vocational qualifications in Britain, showing that very few workers had any work related qualifications. Therefore, in order to improve the quality of British goods and the professionalism of British workers, the government set up the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ). One of the tasks of NCVQ was to set up Industry Lead Bodies (ILB) which, for greenkeeping, is the Amenity Horticulture Industry Lead Body (AHILB). The AHILB also includes groundsmen, landscape, arboriculture and horticulture. The N/SVQs introduced, initially by the AHILB covered general amenity horticulture and were not felt to be suitable for greenkeeper training. Consequently, the GTC formed a panel comprising college lecturers and greenkeepers to assess the vocational training needs of greenkeepers. This review led to the introduction of the GTC Training Manual, which details greenkeeper vocational training requirements at Levels II, III and IV. Most approved colleges teach to the Training Manual standard and successful students gain both N/SVQ and GTC qualifications. A full review of N/SVQs is currently being conducted and it is hoped that

greenkeeping S/NVQs will match the requirements of the GTC Training Manual.

INDUSTRY COMPETENT ASSESSORS

The main change introduced by N/SVQ qualifications was to assess a candidate's ability to "do the job". Therefore, for the qualification to be valid, candidates must be assessed at the workplace, ie on the golf course and that assessment must be carried out by industry competent assessors (greenkeepers). More than 100 greenkeepers are currently being trained to D32 Assessor standard and some are also being trained to be D36 Advisors. The D32 and D36 refer to units of the Training Development Lead Body qualification which recognise competence in the two areas.

FULL-TIME COURSES

Full-time courses, ie. those studied full-time for one, two and three and sometimes four academic years include:

- National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Turf Management
- National Diploma in Turf Science and Sports-ground Management
- Higher National Certificate and Diploma in Golf Course Management

Students are now able to progress to degree level courses.

SHORT COURSES

Short courses offered at colleges include: Health and Safety Legislation, Pesticide Spraying, Chain Saw Courses, First Aid, Off-Road Driving, Safe Lifting, Machinery Maintenance and Repair, Tractor Operations, All Terrain Vehicle Driving.

INDUSTRY LIAISON COMMITTEES

Most colleges or groups of colleges that offer greenkeeping courses have an industry liaison committee. These committees are comprised of greenkeepers and lecturers. The committee's purpose is to ensure that greenkeeper training is meeting the needs of the greenkeeping industry by monitoring standards, considering changes and providing feedback to the colleges on the standard of student output.

OTHER TRAINING PROVIDERS

Many other associations, bodies, institutes, unions and groups provide training for greenkeepers. For example, the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley provide courses in greenkeeping and courses for Club Secretaries and Chairmen of Greens Committees. Golf unions conduct regular seminars for their members, which are open to greenkeepers. The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) have a programme of seminars and lectures.

The National Turfgrass Council, of which BIGGA is a member, hold seminars and various companies and dealers also offer courses and seminars.

In this article, I have tried to show the wide range of greenkeeper education and training. BIGGA, through its membership of the GTC and the NTC, has a major impact on training policy. Additionally, by providing training courses, training aids and resources and by providing links with other training bodies, BIGGA is a major provider of greenkeeper education and training.

ELMWOOD COLLEGE

Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB

provider of quality education and training

The Home of Greenkeeper Training!

Elmwood is host to the BIGGA contingent that will be looking after the course during the OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP - 1995 at St. Andrews, The Home of Golf!

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Half Board with transport provided.

Good company assured.

For details contact Miss M. Paisley, Domestic Bursar,
on (01334) 652781, ext. 277.

Landscaping exhibition turns spotlight on the environment

For the first time in its seven year history, the Landscape Industries exhibition will adopt a theme to underline its commitment to the future.

"Landscaping - an environmental legacy" will spearhead a push towards conservation and enhancement of landscape resources, for the benefit of both current and future generations.

Organisers feel the show now has an important role to play in tackling the landscape issues which affect the quality of the environment.

There are a number of exciting developments underway for the 1995 event. Support from all sectors of the industry is not only stable, but growing with new faces from organisations such as the Forestry Authority, the British Urban Regeneration Association and the London Ecology Unit.

Visitors will be able to make the most of their visit thanks to an improved layout which draws the outdoor stands and demonstrations closer to the indoor features and trade exhibits.

Concern in some sectors of an apparent disregard for maintaining green areas in urban developments, provides a focus on the role of landscapes in the urban environment. A daily programme of discussion lectures will take a look at the issues involved, with speakers from the London Ecology Unit and the Landscape Institute.

Trees and hedgerows have an important role to play in creating a natural environment in the urban situation and a new tree workshop will explore ideas in the establishment and maintenance of various tree species.

There's also a recycling focus, where discussion sessions will examine green waste recycling and composting.

One of the exhibition's strengths is its wide range of products and services on show. This appeals to the landscape and leisure professional as the broad spectrum of exhibitors ensures

there are a host of out-of-the-ordinary items as well as mainstream landscape products to see. And 1995 is no exception, with at least ten new companies making their debut at the exhibition.

Landscape Industries takes place on Wednesday and Thursday, June 7-8 at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. It is open from 9.30am to 5pm each day and admission, car parking and official catalogue are all free of charge.

Among the exhibitors are:

**Eric Hunter & Co
(Professional Tool
Suppliers)**

Hunter's already supply many landscape/amenity turf contractors, golf clubs and local authority DSOs nationally. Their range of tools, they tell us, will be difficult to sur-

pass. Hunter's have gained considerable recognition for service, reliability, quality and value for money. Their range of tools includes Bulldog, Spear & Jackson, Felco, Ceka, Rolecut, Sandvik, Griffin and Jafco fibre glass handled tools. Other products including Chelwood Rakes, the original Crown "Landscaper" Rake, Cooper Peglers, pressure sprayers and numerous other implements will be on show. Spend a few minutes handling the tools on display or contact Hunter's direct on 01207 270316 for more information or a catalogue.

Eric Hunter Grinders

There is a difference between grinding and sharpening mowers, as a visit to Hunter's stand at Landscape Industries will prove. Mowers sharpened properly with a relief angle cut better, stay sharper longer, use less fuel and the blades last longer. That's Hunter's argument and they claim to lead the field in accurate relief angle grinding. Both their Jupiter and Juno machines will grind both the cylinder and the bedknife, quickly and very accurately. Both are also water cooled, keeping heat and dust down. Hunter's well-engineered

products are forming a formidable reputation at golf clubs, local authorities and mower repair workshops throughout the country.

Jacobsen

The Jacobsen range of grass-cutting turf maintenance machinery will be represented at this year's Landscape Industries exhibition by Abbey Mowers.

Abbey Mowers, Jacobsen's dealer for the West Midlands, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire, will be exhibiting a wide range of machinery for the professional landscaper, contractor, greenkeeper and groundsman.

On show will be the new LF128, a high performance 5 unit ride-on fairway mower, powered by a 28hp Kubota diesel engine. Jacobsen promises excellent fuel economy, low exhaust emissions and low noise levels. Meeting all

CARB regulations, the LF128 will offer a cutting width of 100" and has one of the lightest footprints in the industry.

Also on show will be the new addition to the Jacobsen truck range, the SV Workhorse. The SV is available with either a 23hp diesel engine or a 34hp petrol engine and will provide a 1270Kg total rated capacity, giving a payload of 1000Kg. It has excellent 4-wheel stability with steering manoeuvrability equal to a 3-wheel vehicle, giving a turning circle of 32".

A&F Warehouse

A&F are a rapidly growing established supplier of all ground maintenance and agricultural equipment. Everything from nuts and bolts to sophisticated soil aerators and a whole lot more.

The A&F staff have gathered a wealth of experience over their



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Be it by mail order or just calling into the premises in Fernhurst, you can be sure of prompt service and helpful advice by experts.

Rhône Poulenc Environmental Products

Look out for Rhône Poulenc products at the Landscape Industries exhibition.

Spearhead, says the company, brings long awaited new chemistry to the amenity turf market. The pesticide sets new levels of excellence and controls not only the more common weeds in turf but also the problem weeds such as Slender Speedwell and the Clovers.

Vitesse is described as a powerful new way to fight turf disease

during the growing season.

Spearhead (trademark of Dow Elanco), contains diflufenican, MCPA and clopyralid. Vitesse contains iprodione and carbenazim. Read the labels before you buy: use pesticides safely.

Inturf

Continuously developing new products and systems for the sports and amenity turf industry, Inturf are experimenting with a completely new grass that will go into its markets for athletic grounds, landscaping and general purpose applications.

Not only does this turf promise to be extremely hard-wearing but it will also recover very quickly from excessive use such as on football grounds.

More information at the show, along with Inturf's original patented Big Roll turfing system, Lay'n' Play turf tiles and details of custom grown turf service.



Landscape Industries: an exhibition with a lot to offer its visitors

"You will not find a more comprehensive turf growing, turf installation or turf management service anywhere," said Inturf's

managing director, Derek Edwards. With Derek on the stand will be Simon Hannam and Chris Bradshaw.



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on Stand H12
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FURNITURE & FITTINGS



■ An automatic tee up playmat, complete with electric feed and deep pile synthetic grass, is set to spare the greenkeeper a few headaches when clearing up after over-enthusiastic golfers.

The ultimate forgiving device was put to the test at Charnwood

Golf Centre, Loughborough and proved to be a major attraction.

The practice mat is made from artificial grass used with some success by makers Range Servant over the last ten years. It allows mistakes and poor shots without shock to the player's arms – or

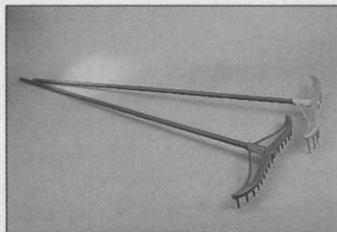
the greenkeeper's frayed nerves.

It works like this. There's a big tray into which the player tips his basket of balls – up to 80 or so. With a golf club, the ball to be played is pulled onto the synthetic grass, over the tee that then rises automatically to a pre-determined height. When the ball is played, the tee retracts leaving the mat free for iron shots from the surface. Every time a ball is pulled over the tee, it rises.

The head professional at Charnwood reckons the device offers both improved stance and swing practice, helping to speed up play. It also encourages the use of more balls, generating extra income for the range and better facilities for the player.

The Range Servant Automatic Tee Up comes complete with deep pile "grass" inlays, a rubber stance mat and sturdy ball tray. It requires an electric feed, 220/240 volt and costs just under £500 plus delivery and VAT.

Details: 01142 834242.



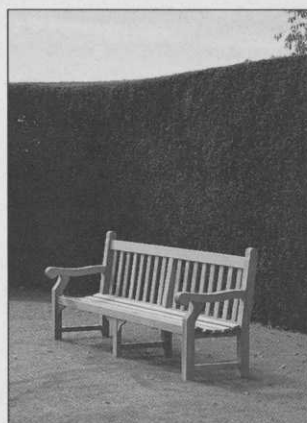
■ Tacit's Big Bird Bunker Rake (above) has a 6' shaft made from composite material and a sturdy 24" braced head for extra strength. Where this product really scores is that it's deliberately lightweight, which means it can be used for longer without wearing out the user.

Also from Tacit, something to stop greenkeepers constantly repairing or replacing plastic tee markers – an unbreakable one.

Made from heavy duty cast aluminium, and ribbed for added strength, these tee markers have no spikes to damage the tees or snap off and are raised off the ground to prevent scorching.

Tacit superior dimpled half golf ball design will eliminate all the problems that occur with plastic markers, say the manufacturers, for almost the same price.

Details: 01788 568818.



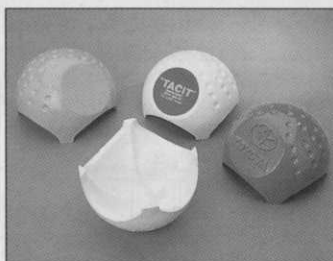
■ When even the keenest of golfers need to rest: enter the Gloster bench or chair.

The Gloster collection of outdoor, patio and conservatory furniture offers a range to cater for all golf club requirements, including an inscription service for commemorating events or club personalities.

Gloster uses teak, a highly close grain timber for its resistance to climactic extremes and for being practically maintenance-free. No paint or preservatives are required.

Probably the most important considerations to bear in mind when choosing furniture, is that it should be sturdy, attractive and require the minimum of maintenance. Weighing up to a hundredweight, the traditional teak bench is a long term investment: expect it to last 50 years or more.

Teak has been valued as the ultimate material for outdoor furniture manufacture, being warmer to the touch than stone or metal. It will also blend well with natural surroundings. Details: 0117 931 5335.



Unbreakable tee marker, from Tacit

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Talking point: a Pattisson's tee console, complete with ball washer

■ Pattisson's are acknowledged to be a one-stop shop for all course furnishings. From the tee area, Pattisson's range starts with the simple placement markers to their popular resin pear shaped and golf ball tee markers.

As an alternative, tee consoles come complete with a sign that can show anything from the course layout to yardage information. A ball washer, by Royale or one of the other makes, makes the tee console quite a feature of the tee area. The console can also

be finished off with a litter bin, towel and shoe cleaner. As with many of the Pattisson products, the console can be manufactured to a golf club's specification to maintain a consistency of style.

Specifically for the greenkeeper is the new pop up trimmer, a useful tool to cut around the sprinkler head areas that tractor mowers just can't get to.

Even the humble boot cleaner comes in an updated version: ask for the Pattisson catalogue on 01582 597262 and check out the "electronic boot wiper".



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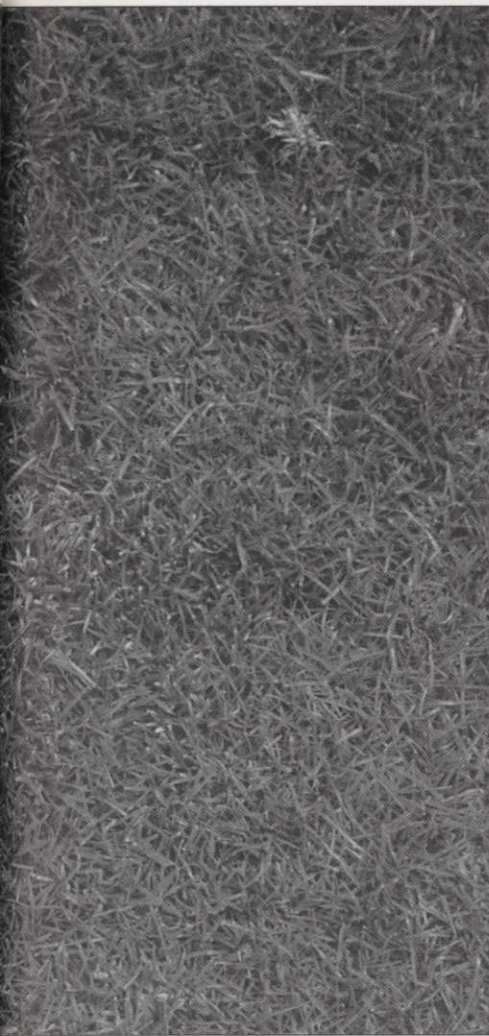
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Robert Laycock assesses the scientific evidence of the effect of soil phosphate on annual meadow grass

When a statement is repeated often enough and is rarely challenged, it takes on an air of respectability that it may not entirely deserve. The effect of soil phosphate on annual meadow grass is a case in point. Is there scientific evidence to support what is widely believed to be established fact? How many people have actually read the scientific papers which, it is claimed, demonstrate the phosphate-*Poa annua* link?

How many greenkeepers have stopped using phosphatic fertilisers on their greens without at the same time improving their aeration or surface drainage? A decrease in annual meadow grass under these circumstances could just as easily be due to relieving compaction as by reducing the phosphate input.

To verify and study in more detail an effect observed on the golf course a trial should be set up under strictly controlled conditions. For example, to study the effect of soil phosphate on the annual meadow grass content of golf green turf, an artificial green should be constructed and a range of levels of phosphate added, including one treatment to act as a control with no added phosphate. There

should be several replications or repeats of each treatment.

Variations among treatments are carefully recorded and the results subjected to statistical analysis. This shows the likelihood of any difference in annual meadow grass content among the plots being due to chance rather than a true effect of the treatments. Conversely, applications to a green can be stopped (without altering any other management practice) and the decline – if any – in meadow grass content monitored over time.

From 1895 to the present day, researchers have been applying fertiliser in various combinations to turf plots and carefully recording the results. The University of Rhode Island were first; later came the Board of Greenkeeping Research, later to become STRI, with a series of long term trials. Individual researchers such as Sprague and Burton in the 1930s and Juska and Hanson in the 1960s also performed similar work.

It was in the 1950s that the idea of a relationship between phosphate and *Poa annua* was first raised in a non-technical article in the USA. The idea took hold, but in the few scientifically conducted trials reported since

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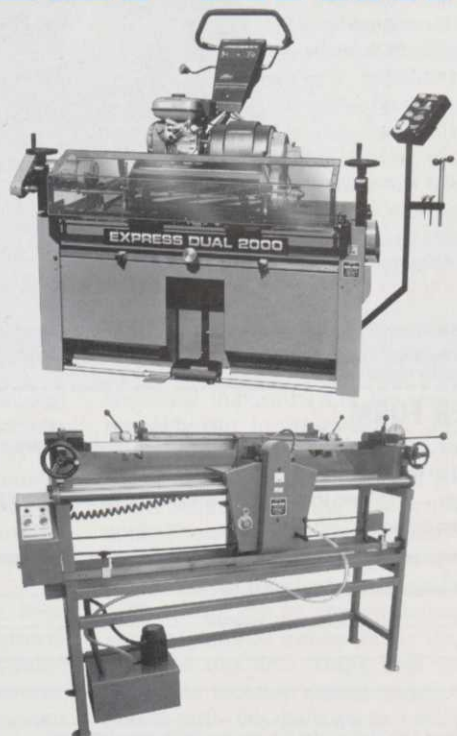
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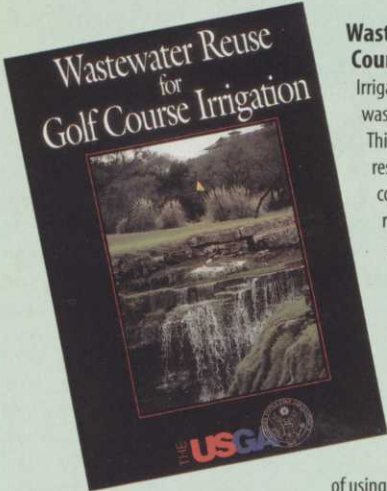
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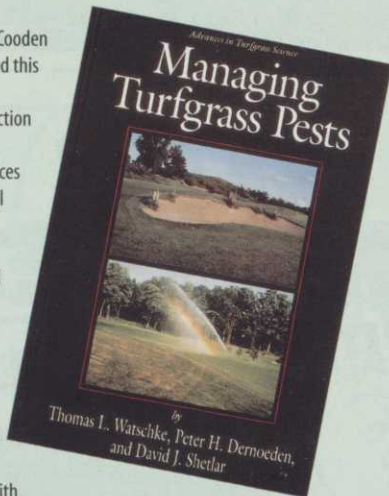
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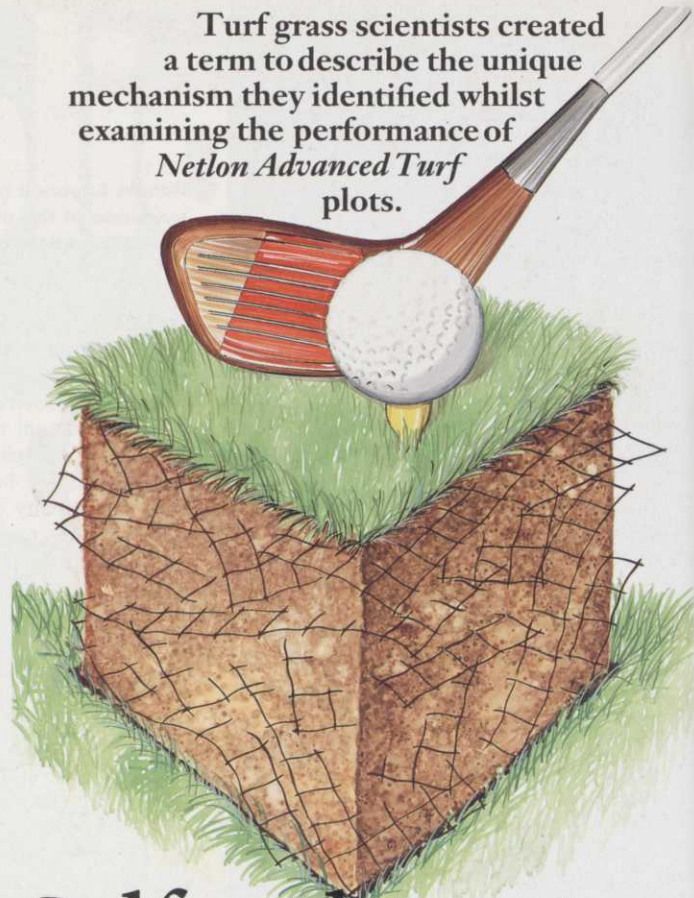
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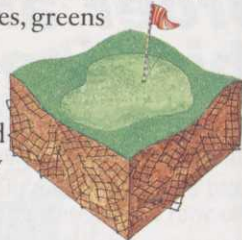
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then, firm scientific evidence for the claimed relationship has not been shown. Two widely quoted papers from the USA report research by Goss and by Waddington and their co-workers. Both papers are claimed to support the link between high soil phosphate levels and *P.annua*.

Goss's paper, published in the 1975 STRI Journal described a trial conducted using a variety of fertiliser combinations on an area of *Agrostis tenuis* turf which had been established in 1959. Part of the trial received no phosphate between then and when final assessments were made in 1974. The remainder of the plots received the very high rate of 8.6gm² P per year, but no intermediate levels. As well as phosphate, the plots also received combinations of potassium, nitrogen and sulphur.

Plots were assessed by eye for *Poa* content on 1-10 scale of five occasions between 1971 and 1974. These results were then subjected to analysis of variance. This type of analysis should not really be used with this kind of data, but it was and so we will consider the published results.

Before the trial had commenced and in 1966, the meadow grass was uniformly distributed among the plots. The final assessments of the nine pairs of treatments (with and without P) showed four of the phosphate treatments to have significantly more annual meadow grass than their zero P equivalents. The remaining five pairs did not show statistically significant differences and some zero P treatments contained more annual meadow grass than those with P. It is interesting to note that the treatment with one of the highest incidences of meadow grass was the one which had received no fertiliser whatsoever! This does not seem to me to be conclusive proof of the claimed relationship.

Waddington's work was conducted on a ten-year old area of 'Pennecross' creeping bent over a six year period. Agian, a variety of fertiliser types were used and the *Poa annua* content recorded. In this trial there was a range of phosphate levels, all high, and the plots were assessed by eye for percentage *Poa annua*. No lime was added to the plots, but the calcium content of the water was high enough to be remarked upon.

During the course of the trial, meadow grass content of the treatments varied up and down. Unfortunately, even before the trial had begun the plots which were to receive phosphate had a higher content of annual meadow grass than the no phosphate plots. Little wonder, then, that those which had received phosphate contained, on average, more *Poa annua* at the end of the trial. However when the average meadow grass content of the zero phosphate treatment was 5% and that of the high phosphate treatment after six years of treatment was only 8%, did it really matter?



'If we look at the behaviour of phosphate in the soil there is even less reason to believe that stopping its use could cause a decrease in annual meadow grass'

— ROBERT LAYCOCK

More recently, the STRI conducted research on the effects of various nutrients on fescue-bent turf, in trials financed by the R&A. In their series of trials no relationship between soil phosphorus and the annual meadow grass content of greens turf has been published except in the presence of lime.

It is true that relationships have been found between phosphorus and the growth of individual plants of *Poa annua*, even under laboratory conditions. But no one has conclusively proved that phosphorus applications increase annual meadow grass in greens turf. I hear of pure fescue greens with a high

phosphorus content. Why have not these been taken over by annual meadow grass?

The conclusion of all this is that it is important sometimes to reassess those things which have come to be taken for granted. The trials most often cited as demonstrating the relationship between phosphate and *Poa annua* are clearly not conclusive and are, some would say, flawed by their subjective assessment methods and inappropriate use of statistical techniques.

Phosphorus is one of the three major plant nutrients obtained from the soil which is classed as essential for the healthy growth of plants and therefore must be made available to them. But just because the evidence for its relationship with *Poa annua* is non-existent or, at best, shaky, it should not be applied haphazardly in large amounts to golf greens. A far better reason not to apply phosphate is because in most cases it is already present in the soil in greater than necessary quantities.

Surveys of the phosphorus content of established greens in the UK, West Germany and the mid-West of the USA have all shown that in the vast majority of cases there is an over-supply of phosphorus in the rootzone material. (It is interesting to note, incidentally, that a recent survey of agricultural grassland in the UK came to the same conclusion).

If we look at the behaviour of phosphate in the soil there is even less reason to believe that stopping its use could cause a decrease in annual meadow grass. Phosphates are strongly bound in the soil. They leach away very slowly even on the most sandy of root-zones. In fact their presence is used by archaeologists to detect the activities of man thousands of years ago.

A greenkeeper is going to have to wait decades before the phosphate levels of his greens fall away significantly. And all that time it will be available to the annual meadow grass. Ceasing to apply phosphate under these circumstances can have no significant effect on the amount of *Poa annua* in a golf green.

Before deciding on which fertiliser to use it is always wise to have a soil test performed and to consult a knowledgeable adviser about the implications of the results. It will probably not be necessary to apply phosphate to old greens. When present the fescues and bents found in old golf greens have a low requirement. But if it is necessary to apply phosphatic fertiliser, scientific research has not demonstrated conclusively its effect on the annual meadow grass population.

Phosphate can be applied without fear of encouraging *Poa annua* unless the fertiliser also contains lime. Using lime really does appear to increase annual meadow grass in greens turf – but that's another story.

● Turfgrass scientist Robert Laycock runs his own agronomy consultancy.

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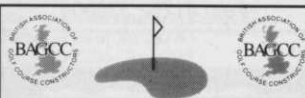
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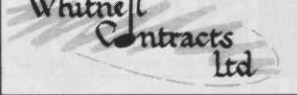
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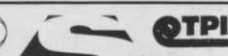
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HEAD GREENKEEPER

This exciting complex is at present under construction and will consist of a Championship 18 hole par 72 course, a 9 hole par 3 and Driving Range.

The successful applicant will be involved during the construction and have the ongoing responsibility for all aspects of the course maintenance and development.

A comprehensive knowledge of bringing on a new course and the maintenance and improvement of an existing course are essential, together with a sound knowledge of machinery.

The ability to direct and motivate staff is a fundamental requirement.

The salary is negotiable and will reflect experience and qualifications.

Applicants should send a full CV to:

**Mr C Linford, Galgorm Castle Estates, The Courtyard, Galgorm Castle,
Ballymena, Co Antrim BT42 1HL**

WAVENDON GOLF CENTRE

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Experience of vertidrain, boom sprayer and other modern machinery essential. No accommodation available.

Approximate earnings £11,500pa.

Applications with full CV including details of previous experience to:

**The Personnel Manager, Wavendon Golf Centre,
Lower End Road, Wavendon, Milton Keynes MK17 8DD**

East Herts Golf Club

wishes to appoint

HEAD GREENKEEPER

to succeed David Hunt who is retiring in October 1995 after 32 years service.

Applications are invited from persons of proven ability with appropriate qualifications and experience and possess the necessary management and supervisory skills to lead and motivate an enthusiastic team, organise work programmes and maintain Health and Safety requirements. A knowledge in the use and maintenance of modern machinery will be required.

A good financial package is available for the right candidate including a three bedroom detached house.

Applications in own handwriting together with full CV to:

**Mr R A Bond, Secretary, East Herts Golf Club,
Hamels Park, Nr Buntingford, Herts SG9 9NA.**

Closing date for applications: 1st July 1995.

Forest Hills

GOLF CLUB

Newgate Street, Hertfordshire

invite applications for a

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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

No accommodation.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Fairways Centre,
Walthamstow Avenue, London E4 8TA**

The London Golf Club IRRIGATION ENGINEER/ GREENKEEPER

Applicants are invited to apply for the above position.

This post will give the successful applicant a unique opportunity to join a dedicated maintenance team working from one of the most modern facilities within the Industry.

The successful applicant will be given full training on the use of our Rainbird Maxi 5 system and should have the following qualities:

- Sound knowledge of irrigation repairs
- Basic greenkeeping skills
- Dedicated with a positive attitude
- Self motivated

Please forward your CV in strictest confidence by 26th May to:

**Andy Wood, Golf Course Superintendent, London Golf Club,
Ash, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 7EN**

Eastham Lodge Golf Club

requires a

COURSE MANAGER

Applicants are expected to possess managerial, leadership and motivational skills, to have sound knowledge of work programmes, the use and maintenance of modern machinery, budgetary controls and current Health and Safety regulations.

Applicants must hold PA1 and PA2 certificates.

Salary negotiable, no accommodation.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

**The Secretary, Eastham Lodge Golf Club,
117 Ferry Road, Eastham, Wirral, Merseyside L62 0AP**

The life of Mr G Pennncross

Anna Joelsson Softing, head greenkeeper at Chalmers GC, Sweden, with a little story about the life of a creeping bentgrass seed.

It all began when I, a little seed, was born. I was a "test-tube" seed and was made in a huge clean and hi-tech laboratory in Pennsylvania, USA. They gave me the name Greg Pennncross and I got four stars (out of five) in the quality seed ranking list.

Flown over the Atlantic sea

My childhood was traumatic, just the fact that you are totally unaware of your origin can be confusing to a little seed. My upbringing was also demanding due to the fact that everyone wanted me to mature without delay so that they could keep the generous government and com-

pany contributions. At an early age I was considered mature enough to move away from my surrogate family which was growing on the turf. Without any warning came a big machine, which smelt horrible from diesel, and ran over my family turf. All over the neighbourhood seeds were being separated from their families. Between hard and cold metal rollers I and millions of my seedfriends were thrown into a huge sack without mercy. After that they put us on a big white Concorde, (disappointingly economy class), and we were flown to a little country called Sweden and a even smaller peasant village called Landvetter and taken to a big and famous golf club called Chalmers GC. We had just arrived when we were thrown into a dark and humid room with other species of grass-seeds.

But just because I had a rough

start in life, doesn't mean I'm racist. Hell no, they are also seeds although they aren't as green and pretty as me.

The life on a golf green ain't easy

In this little room time passed slowly and I was kept alive only with the little food storage I had under my seed shell. But suddenly one gloomy afternoon someone came and carried us out into the open, put us on to a jumpy and small vehicle and drove away with "full speed ahead". You had to hold on tightly! The storage packing was torn open with haste and I saw the light of day again.

Pale white working hands picked me up and raised me to the blue and white sky so impatiently that I almost fell off and the owner of the pale hands said to me: "Be a good sport, grow, get strong and make a family." She fed me well so that I would enjoy my life here. But the life on a golf green is not easy. My feet are always cold and the air is always filled with huge and horrible golf balls which can exterminate whole families if you've run out of luck. And still, this isn't the whole story – daily, heavy and overweight people step right on me with shoes full of spikes big as Indian totempoles.

Other terrible things

Every morning Anna (one of the older families on the golf green told me her name) comes along with her big Ransomes greens-mower and cuts my top off. You also have to cope with steelblades which cut down beside you, you better watch your feet! And if that isn't enough they throw sand right on you and bury you so deep that you sometimes have trouble breathing. After that they usually drag a steel net over my shoulders to even the sand or as I say just for the fun of it, the wicked people!

Cheering and swearing

But life wasn't all pain and misery – daily these golfers checked me over and with admiration in their voices said: "Look at him, girls, he's so good looking and green, much more handsome than the guy that was here last year". The golf balls that rolled over my backside also gave a thrilling feeling and then I heard cheering and occasionally a bad word.

The most beautiful grass in the world

In this environment I grew big and strong and time passed on. It became even colder and inhospitable. Anna gave me less and less to eat, the golf balls and the nailshoes stopped showing up and my top was cut less frequently, stopping completely in late October. And suddenly the weather changed and it got *really* unbelievably cold and it started to snow and this continued for what seemed forever. Anna came and checked on me occasionally but she never brought any food. Now I had come to the stage in both mind and life that I just didn't care anymore. And one day after heavy rain the temperature dropped and the water froze to ice. I began having trouble breathing, and felt more and more weak for every hour that passed. When I had come to the point where I had given up I felt the pressure over my chest easing. The ice began to melt and the temperature rose. Anna came with some refreshments and one day she came with a sack that I recognised. New seeds were spread out and right beside my right side a blond and well developed little seed landed, she was called Emerald Pennlink.

It's spring once again – the golfers return, life is great – and the rest I'll leave to your imagination.



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Can you lend Paul a hand?

Want to get close to Laura Davies and other top women golfers? Paul Hobden, course manager at Chart Hills Golf Club, Kent, wants volunteers to help him and his team rake bunkers and prepare the course for the Ford Ladies Classic, May 16-19. If you are free and can help out, call Paul on 01580 292222.



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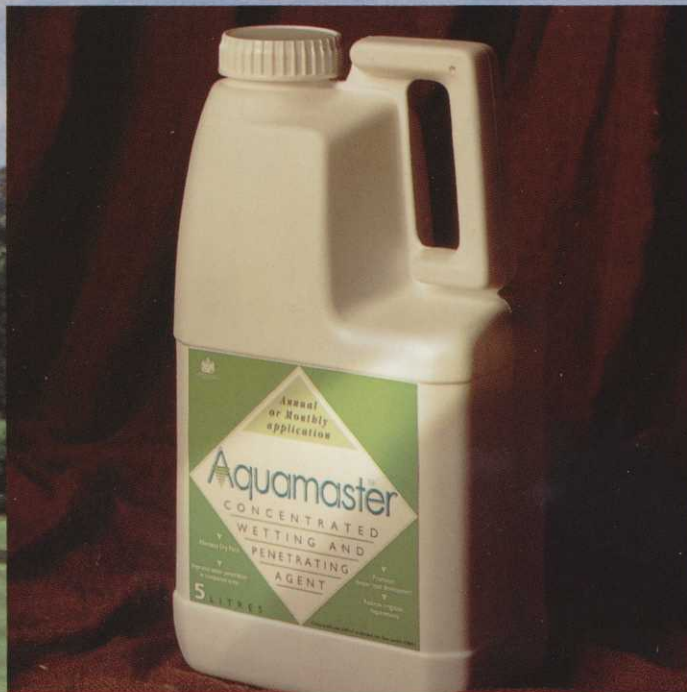
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