

GREENKEEPER

International

ALL DRIED OUT

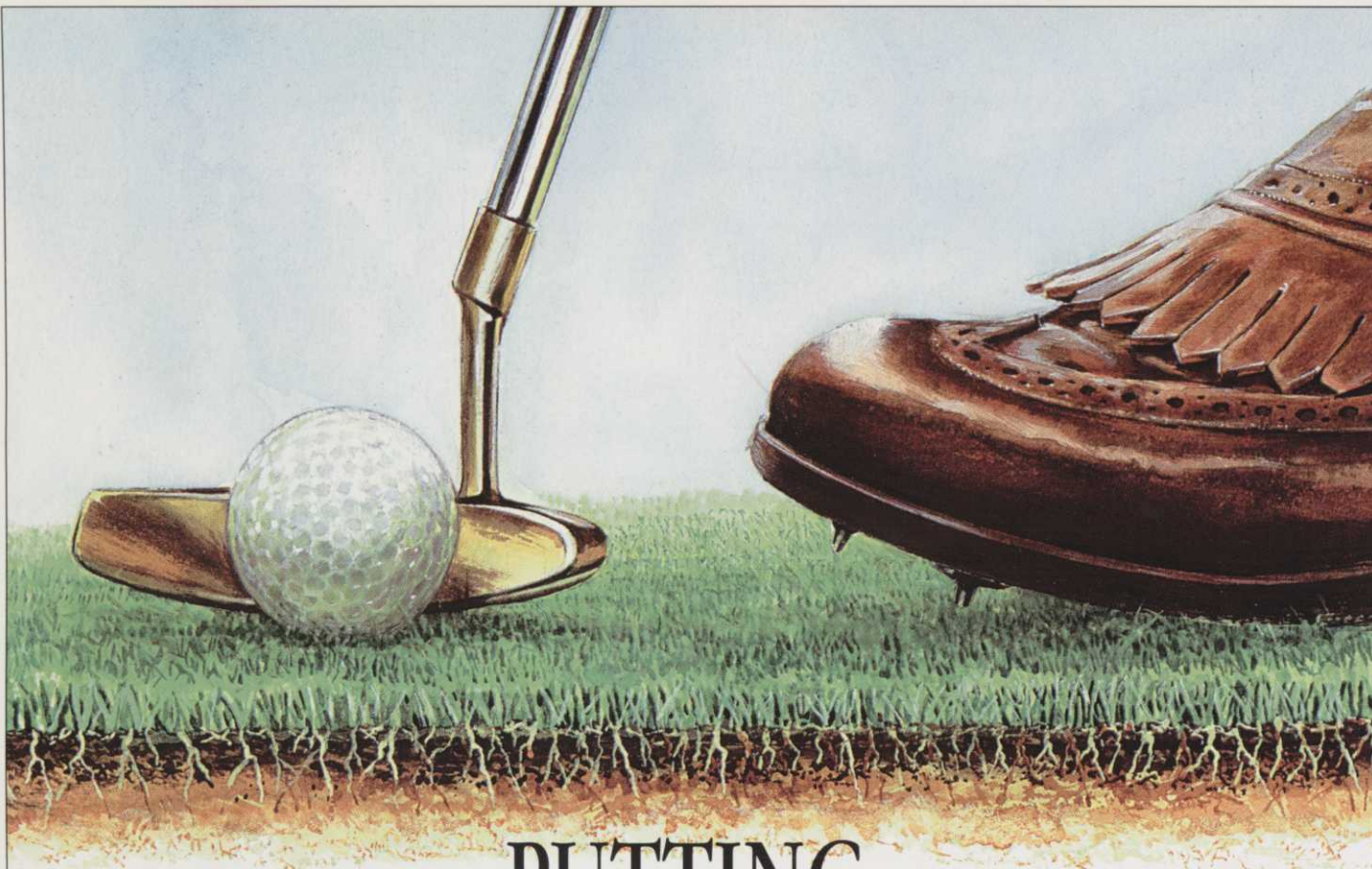
Heat is on for golf courses to find ways to beat the drought



Record entry and record temperatures in the BIGGA/Miracle Amenity Care National Tournament

■ Roger Mossop, left, presents Mark Cutler with the Miracle Amenity Care trophy



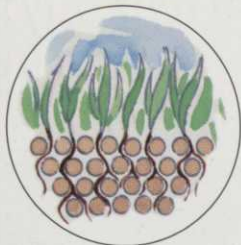


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Golf Greenkeepers Association

GREENKEEPER

International

SEPTEMBER 1995

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Tournament, in association
with Miracle Amentiy Care,
was an event to be
remembered for Mike
Sheehan, pictured, one of the major trophy winners. The event
will also be remembered for the blistering heat.. **Pages 10-12**



It's the water below surface that counts

Gordon Jaaback, an agronomist with practical experience in a
wide range of conditions, compares the use of water for turf
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Looking beyond the heat wave, Scott MacCallum talks with
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In a special autumn grass cutting feature, Hugh Tilley canvasses
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operation and understanding among greenkeepers and committeesPage 4

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potentially catastrophic impact on our courses. Special reportPage 5

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A parched landscape at Shipley
Golf Club Picture: Scott MacCallum

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Seeking a middle path

For many greenkeepers this has not been a good year. Reports to Headquarters indicate that greenkeepers continue to be hauled before their green committees with the prime accusation being 'the state of the golf course'. There seems to be little regard for the cold days of May and June when the grass was not growing to be followed by a heat-wave which in many cases burnt off what little grass had appeared. That is not to excuse the incompetent, idle greenkeeper but there is increasing concern within the Association at the treatment handed out by green committees often to men of vast experience where wisdom in greenkeeping matters would be difficult to deny. Frequently it seems that those who sit on green committees, professionals from many walks of life, act in an arbitrary and dictatorial manner which is quite alien to how they conduct their own businesses. At the receiving end is the greenkeeper and the result is stress and disillusion.

Greenkeepers are only too well aware, or should be, of the technical and practical expertise needed today to meet the highest standards of course maintenance. They labour under conditions unbeknown to their predecessors of twenty



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

to thirty years ago with the vast increase of traffic on golf courses and the demand for winter golf. The educational courses and programmes developed through BIGGA and the GTC in recent years have now set in place an educational structure which can accommodate greenkeepers at all levels. Even the mature greenkeeper, without pretensions to attend college, is catered for through the Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) Scheme as a means of recognising the experience of the years. In this day and age greenkeepers can only stand still at their peril. I believe that the great majority of greenkeepers well understand the need to move forward and do seek the support of their clubs to this end. This support is not

always forthcoming and sometimes reluctantly given. Many clubs still need to recognise that the golf course is without doubt their greatest asset and that their most valuable employees are, in fact, their greenkeepers. The educational processes include courses in communication and in this key area there is hope for the future. For surely it is the breakdown in communication which is often the root cause of the greenkeeper's problems with his green committee. Sometimes this breakdown is pre-empted by a failure of the greenkeeper to communicate with the golf club membership. Slowly but surely the quality of the training now provided is reflected in the growing confidence of the greenkeeper to communicate with the membership, initially in one-to-one situations and through judicious use of the club's noticeboard. Equally there is increasing evidence of the enlightened golf club allowing its Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper to address meetings of the general membership regarding the maintenance of the golf course and his role within the club.

Some Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers stand accused of lack of management expertise, and this after many years service. One is moved to ask exactly what has been going on during those years. If the employee concerned has stood still why has the club allowed that to happen? If the employee has sought to enhance his expertise has the club offered assistance towards his training and if not, why not? More often than not in these situations there are two sides to the argument and there needs to be a meeting of minds and compromise. I am not seeking to defend those who fail to meet acceptable standards. It is my belief, however, that even in this day and age most greenkeepers, by the very nature of their calling, remain industrious and concerned, as a matter of professional pride, to present their

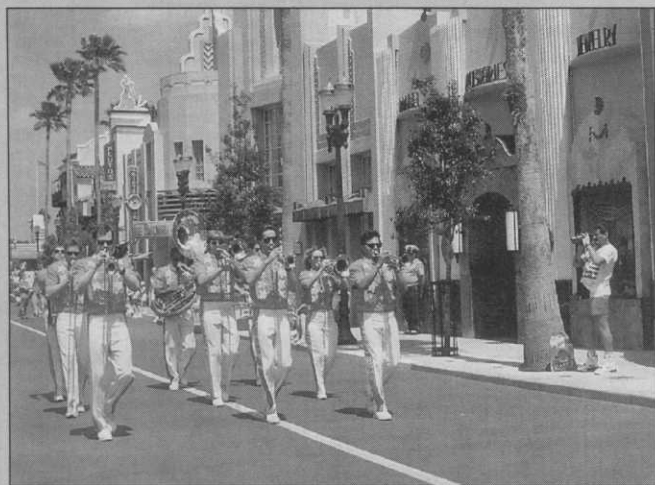
golf courses to the best possible standard. They can be frustrated by lack of resources and equally by the reluctance of clubs to budget for and support their training needs. Some clubs even object to their employees joining BIGGA as their professional association. Such restrictions are unnecessary and indeed clearly not in a golf club's interests. The enhancement of knowledge must ultimately lead to higher standards of greenkeeping, better-maintained golf courses and the plaudits of the members. I'm sure that green committees do not enjoy having members complaining any more than greenkeepers enjoy incurring the wrath of green committees. There has to be a better way of running the show.

My plea therefore is for better communication, cooperation and understanding. Unemployed greenkeepers represent the worst possible scenario – most certainly for the individuals and equally certainly for the golf clubs who have to find successors who may or may not be more competent than the individuals being replaced. Whatever the rights and wrongs of dismissals in the current year, it reflects no credit on the game of golf and there has to be a better way forward. It lies in education and training, in conciliation rather than confrontation and in an ability for those vested with green committee responsibilities to take the broad rather than narrow view in understanding the pressures under which the modern greenkeeper has to operate as well as respecting his ever-increasing skills and knowledge.

The **BEST** piece of
ADVICE I ever received



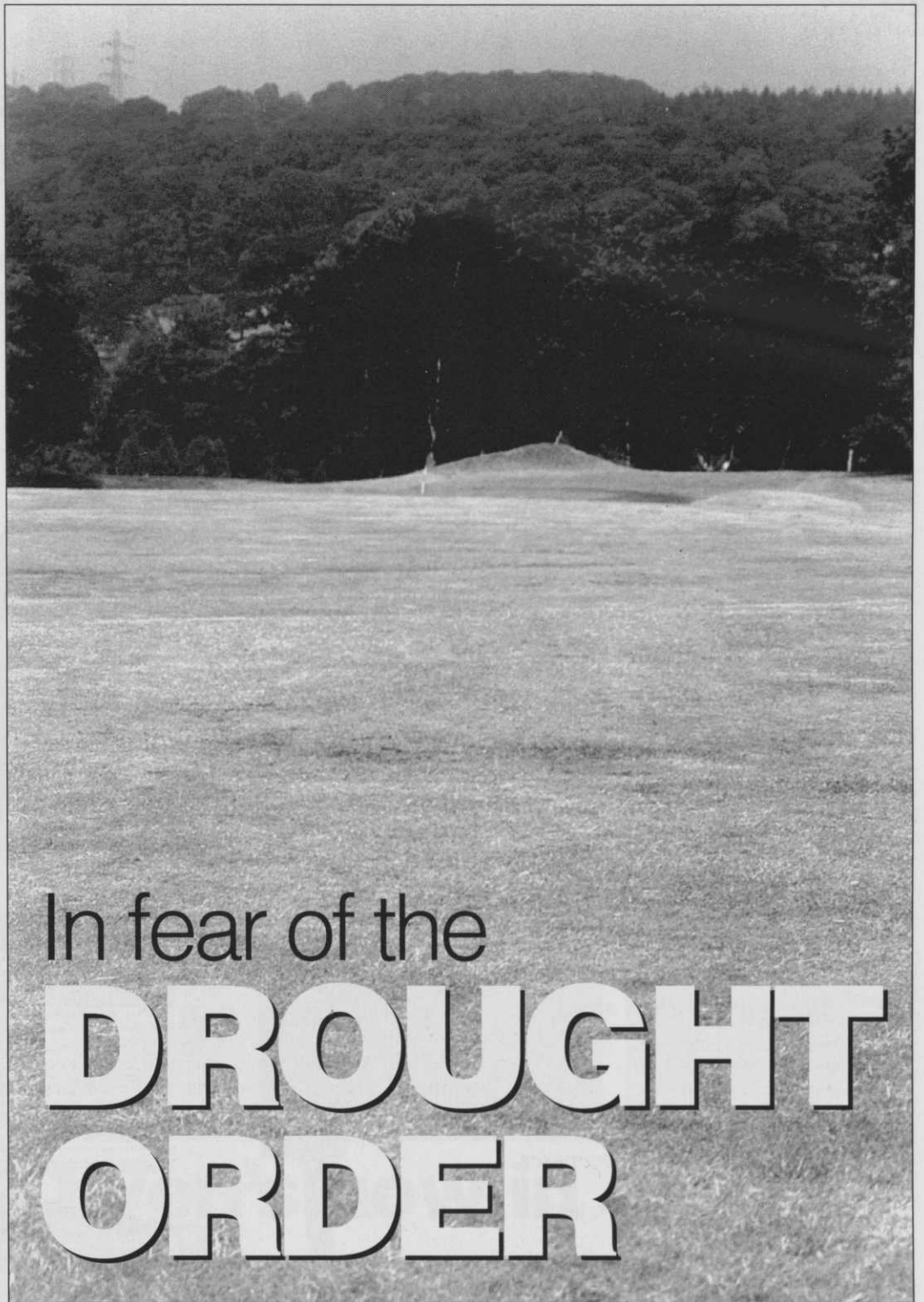
George Brown,
Course Manager at
Turnberry:
"Learn to eat
humble pie. You
often have to do
something that you don't
really want to do."



Travel with BIGGA to the GCSAA
Conference and Show in Orlando,
February 1996 See Page 9

NEWS

SPECIAL REPORT



In fear of the DROUGHT ORDER

The driest summer since records began in 1727 has seen golf courses, many already suffering hosepipe bans, bracing themselves for the potentially catastrophic impact of Drought Orders.

With normally lush courses turning yellower by the day and many already surviving on rationed water supplies the probability of a total ban by Drought Order on "non essential use" – which includes golf clubs – could see courses close and/or their greens being lost to the drought.

A spokesman for Yorkshire Water, one of the first companies to seek an Order, said that there would need to be a "significant amount" of rainfall before the need for the Order could be removed.

"Because of the British climate we work to fairly wide parameters but we are getting near to the edge at the moment. We have hit a level of water stocks we would not expect to hit until much later in the summer," explained the spokesman.

Yorkshire as a whole is perhaps the worst hit area in the country with 40% of expected rainfall over the last four months and West Yorkshire the worst in in Yorkshire with only 20% of expected rainfall between April and July.

Graham Hollingworth, Head Greenkeeper of Horsforth GC in Leeds, said that if the Drought Order came into effect it would be a disaster.

"We would have to close the course or at the very least move to temporary greens. As a greenkeeper I would prefer to close the course because even now there is damage done on the fairways.

"I was here in 1976 and it was bad then but this is as bad as it could get."

Ron Bramley, Secretary of Fulford GC in York, said that they had the benefit of a borehole from which they are allowed to take a million gallons between March and September with the authorisation of the water authorities.

Pat Murphy, Head Greenkeeper at usually lush Shipley GC, said that the streams which came

down from the hills beside the course had totally dried up.

"We would normally cut our fairways three times a week but I can't remember the last time we did them," he explained.

Christopher Hodge, Secretary of Keighley GC, said that they had been taking water out of a local river but that the National River Authority was often stopping them. "I call them every day and if the level is 30 millimetres below a certain mark we are not allowed to take. If we are stopped we are currently allowed to use the domestic supply but that will stop if the Drought Order comes.

"We are letting our greens grow longer sometimes going

from Tuesday to Saturday without cutting them. We are just keeping them alive watering them five minutes every evening. but if the Drought Order comes into effect we will just lose the greens. We can't really move to temporaries as our fairways are also so bad."

Clubs which had invested in tree planting projects in recent months were seeing many young trees die off before having a chance to establish themselves.

One potential solution to the threat of losing greens comes from South African-born agronomist Gordon Jaaback who has experience of working in arid conditions.

"I would suggest a light covering of straw over the greens pinned down with a net. This lets the light through and holds in the moisture, stopping evaporation," explained Gordon, who has also written a water management article on Page 15 in this issue.

"It must be wheat, not grass, straw and I would say that you would need two or three bales per green.

"Obviously while the greens are covered up you could still play off temporaries," he explained.

As *Greenkeeper International* went to press, and with the dry spell expected to continue, more water companies were seeking Drought Orders.

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French seminar puts you in picture

Packages are available to attend the International Exhibition for Maintenance and Upkeep of Golf Courses in Orleans, France, on November 18-20.

The packages which include three nights bed and breakfast at the Novotel Hotel in Orleans, lunch on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, buffet dinner on Friday and gala dinners with entertainment on Saturday and Sunday nights and entrance to the exhibitions, entrance to the lectures and all transfers from the hotel to the exhibiton and restaurants costs 1760

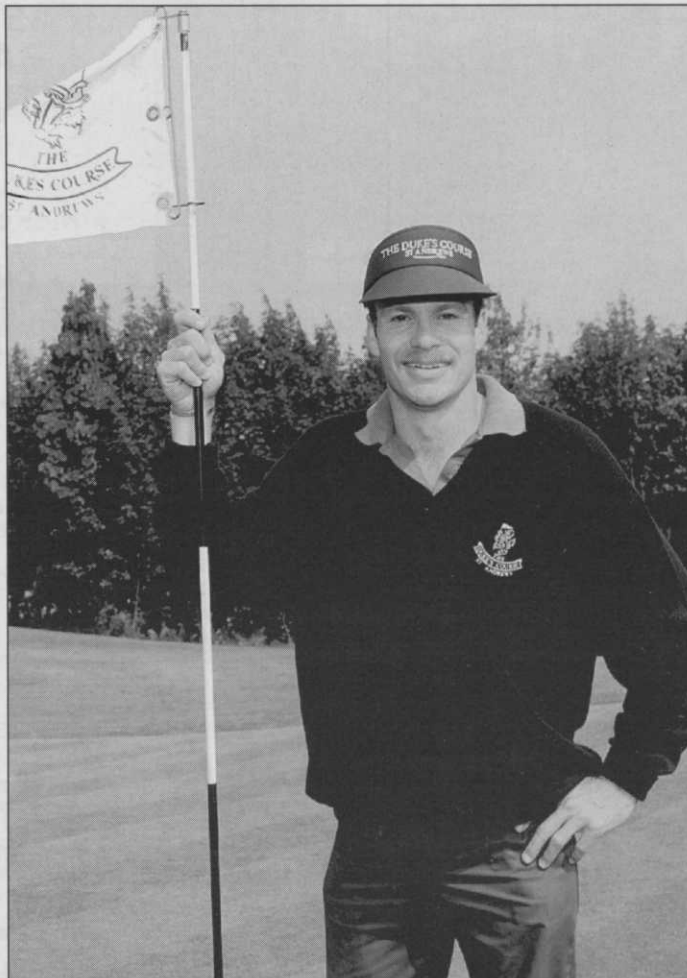
French francs (approximately £220) another 600 francs for a single room. A simultaneous translation of the lectures in English will be made if there are sufficient non-French participants. Otherwise transcripts will be provided.

Lectures include "Weed control of summer grasses" by agronomist JM Calderon-Rodriguez; "Time Management" by a speaker from the Business European Centre; "Irrigation Water Quality" by course designer Didier Comte; "Speed of the Greens" by agronomist Abdo Badra and "Safety, European Norms (material, phytosanitary products, users" by Christian Pisseau, of the National course in Paris.

Less formal events include a golf tournament at Bordes GC, a rugby match in Orleans and the gala dinners which are a "Mexican" evening and a "French Cancan" evening.

For further information contact M. Jean-Luc Duclos Tel: 00 331 3475 8790 Fax: 00 331 3475 8789.

NEWS



Owen's now in charge of the Duke's Course

Owen Browne, Head Greenkeeper at the new Duke's Course in St Andrews - pictured - has been promoted to Course Manager.

Originally from Melbourne in Australia Owen was originally employed by Greenmaw (UK) as one of the construction team working on the course and specifically involved in the construction of the greens, tees and bunkers as well as the installation of the irrigation system.

He was promoted to Head Greenkeeper in November '93 and was involved in the interviewing

and directing of staff and the establishment and maintenance of all turf and landscape areas.

In his new position Owen's duties will also include the ongoing maintenance and continued growing in of the new par-72 course and ensuring that the playing conditions laid down by course designer Peter Thomson are adhered to.

His Royal Highness the Duke of York attended the opening of the courses just prior to The Open Championship at St Andrews in July.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Nigel Tyler has been appointed Technical Sales Representative to the Amenity Division of County Crops Ltd. He was previously employed by Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd.

■ Geoff Walley has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at the new Mobberley GC. near Manchester.

■ Tony Dunstan, Course Manager at Mill Hill GC, Barnet, London has achieved his TDLB D32 and D33 assessor award at Oakland College, St Albans.

■ Club Car has signed a deal to continue as the official golf car supplier to the PGA until the year 2001, the PGA's centenary.

The new agreement is for 10 Club Cars for use by the PGA's seven regions and national headquarter's field staff at pro-ams and tournaments.

■ The first edition of the Golf Owners Operators and Developers Directory has just been launched. It is aimed at giving a comprehensive list of all suppliers to the golf industry. It carries the names of 549 companies and classifies the services and products which they offer under 241 different headings.

It can be purchased direct from the publishers, Golf Business Communications Ltd, 5/7 High St, Dorchester-on-thames, Oxfordshire OX10 7HH for £15 inclusive of postage. For further information call 01865 341580.

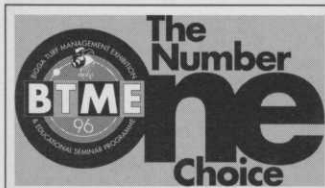
■ In August's issue we stated that Mike Ardley, was the Head Greenkeeper at Braintree Golf Club. The Head Greenkeeper at Braintree is, fact, Kevan Sharpe who has been with the club for 17 years. Apologies for any embarrassment caused by the error.

The BEST piece of ADVICE I ever received



David Walden, Greenkeeper of the Year. Thorpe Wood and Orton Meadows in Peterborough:

"Always try and better yourself. Never stand still and never think you've done learning."



Working for the good of the fine turf industry

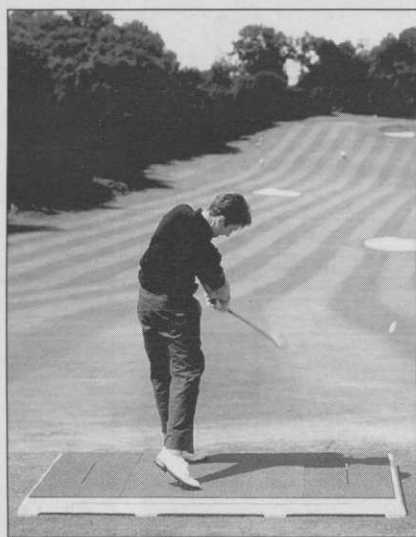
The second part of our prize competition is on Page 29

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AD REF 35

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AD REF 151

College's trophies to nine of the best

Oatridge College in Broxburn, West Lothian, at the end of the summer term saw nine students collect awards in greenkeeping and groundsmanship.

They were, standing from left, Jamie Martin, David Roy, Alistair McLean, David Atkinson and David Bryans. Seated, from left, Pamela Quin, Matthew Thomson, Derek Hunter and Thomas Meenagh.



GCSAA Conference and Show, Orlando, February 5-11, 1996

BIGGA's trip of a lifetime!

As in previous years BIGGA is offering you the opportunity to travel with us to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show at the Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida from February 5-11, 1996.

The BIGGA party will assemble at Gatwick Airport on Sunday, February 4 for departure to Orlando at 12.30pm. BIGGA is able to offer accommodation at the Holiday Inn, Gatwick at a cost of £39 per person for any members wishing to stay over the night before departure.

The Clarion Plaza Hotel, chosen by BIGGA to accommodate our party, offers excellent amenities including a heated swimming pool and whirlpool, three in-house restaurants, live entertainment and a night club. The Clarion Plaza has the added convenience of being a co-exhibitor hotel and is based next to the Convention Centre.

The GCSAA Conference and Show takes place between February 5-11 with the trade show on February 9-11. You will have the opportunity to attend educational seminars, programmes and the trade show bringing you up-to-date information on golf course management, technology and the latest trends in turfgrass management.

ITINERARY

Sunday, February 4

All participants will assemble at Gatwick Airport, for the 12.30pm direct flight with Virgin Airlines to Orlando arriving at 16.40 local time. The group will then transfer to the Clarion Plaza Hotel for a nine night stay on a room only basis.

Tuesday, February 13

Transfer to the Orlando International Airport for the direct flight at 19.10 arriving at London Gatwick at 08.15am on Wednesday, February 14.

PRICES

£530 per person based on twin shares or £710 per person based on single room accommodation.



The trip to Orlando will also give you the chance to see the sights: but there's nothing Mickey Mouse about the GCSAA show - it's the best there is. Picture: Walt Disney Company

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Please note: Registration costs for the Pre Conference Seminars which run from February 5-8 and for the Education Programme which runs from February 8-11 are not included in the package and bookings need to be made direct with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £585 or £765 (unless travel insurance is not required), adding £39 if accommodation is required for the night of February 3, to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Airedale, York, YO6 2NF to arrive by Friday, November 17 at the latest, together with name, address and contact telephone number.

Home studying gives Alan a chance of NVQ success



The Welsh College of Horticulture NVQ Amenity Horticulture Home Study Programme has proved a huge success for

Germany-based Alan Walton, pictured.

Alan, who has been in Germany since 1986, is currently Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Sennelager GC in Lisspringe.

"I had decided not to go to German college because I wanted to see if the standard of greenkeeping education in Britain was as good as reputed," said 33 year-old Alan. "I was pleased to discover the Welsh College of Horticulture and its home learning modules for NVQ Level 2 status.

"It must be said though that due to the level of information and competence required that only a relatively experienced greenkeeper can hope to do this course in the time I have done it. A total of six months studying and three weeks at college is not a long time for someone starting from scratch."

Graham Wright, the Greenkeeping Courses Co-ordinator said that the Home Study Programme allows the student to study at his or her own pace; study technical papers in an easy to read format and achieve NVQ Level 2.

"The potential users of the programmes are people who are part of rural golf clubs with small staff, greenkeepers who are apprehensive of college courses or living overseas, small companies unable to release staff for training courses or people undergoing a career change," explained Graham.

Anyone seeking further information on the home learning programme should contact Graham Wright on 01352 840861.

● The Greenkeepers Training Committee is now an approved centre for NVQs: for details call 01347 838640.

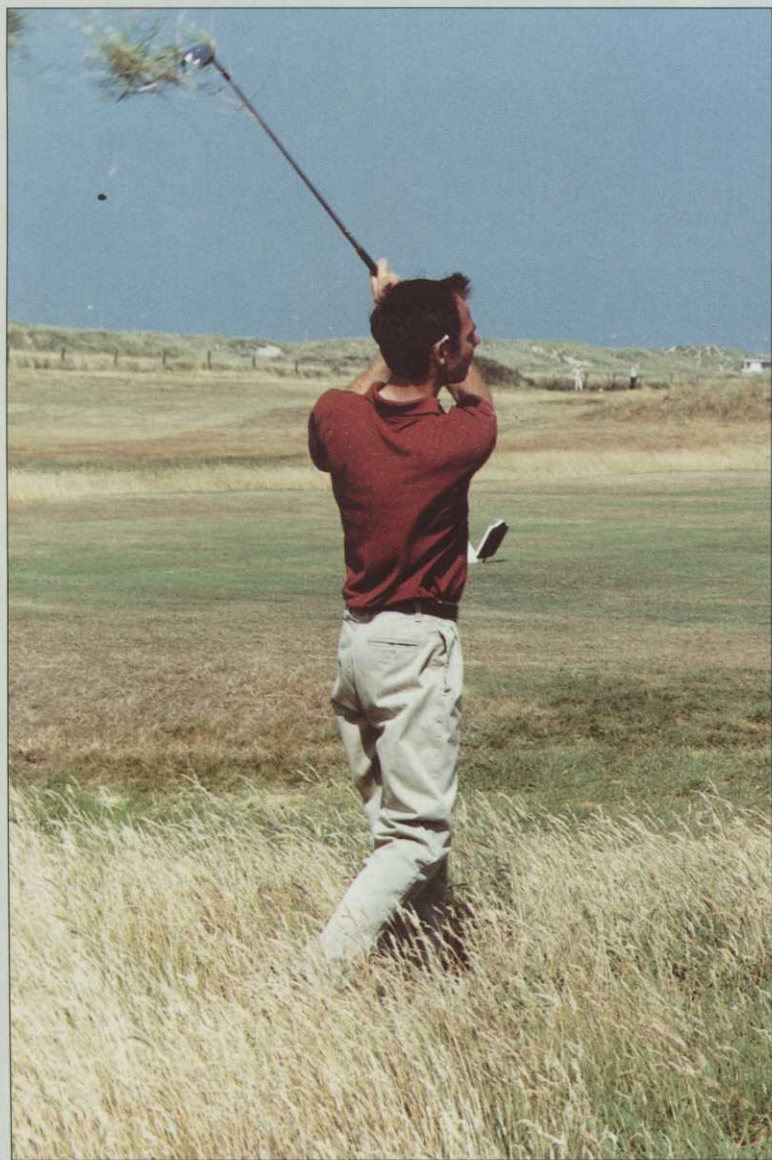
1995 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

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MAD DOGS AND GREEN



Richard Barker finds a bit of trouble on the final day



One of the St Annes Old Links watering holes

The National Tournament saw a record entry and record temperatures. Scott MacCallum was on hand to record events.

The National Tournament, major sponsor Miracle Amenity Care, has long been renowned for its weather. Over the years our intrepid men have coped with most that mother nature could possibly throw at them but this year they almost had to give best to some of the hottest conditions any British greenkeeper could expect from the north west coast of England in July.

From the relative comfort of the St Annes Old Links Clubhouse we counted them out

and some five hours later counted them back again looking as though they were, not finely tuned golfing machines but, overweight jockeys who'd been forced to sweat it out in the sauna prior to the big race.

It wasn't conventional galleries our men had watching them as they struggled manfully around the magnificent links course but rabid canines and anglophiles who'd happened out around noon.

The Monday night Lancashire Hot Pot evening was amended to become Lancashire Cold Salad evening and the "set in stone" club rules calling for jackets and ties to be worn after 8pm were finally relaxed allowing the oxygen supplies delivered by the local paramedics to be returned only half used.

Several players thought they'd become delirious and seen a mirage through the heat haze on the final day only to discover it was just Clive Higgenbottom dispensing drinks from his 4x4.

If you are catching my drift you'll appreciate that it was rather warm at St Annes Old Links for the Miracle Amenity Care National Tournament this year.

In many ways the stars of the week were Geoff Whittle and his team who produced a course in magnificent condition belying the fact that there had been fewer drops of rain over the course in the past few months than new jokes in Frank Carson's Blackpool summer show. Incidentally Frank and Eddie Large, Vaudeville (summer) members at St



Pots of success: from left, Mark Whittle, Robert Pearce, Mark Ellis, Chris Ball, John Berry, BIGGA Chairman Barry Heaney, Mark Cutler, Kevin Yeoman, Shaun Richards and Mike Sheehan

KEEPERS

"Sun Beams keep falling on my head": Barry Heaney finds a novel way of sheltering from the sun



The overladen prize table

Annes Old Links, teed off early during the tournament to fit in their regular games.

Rumour had it the sponsor's products had something to do with the condition and it that were the case what could be more fitting?

So what is there to report from the '95 National Tournament other than the searing temperatures? Well we had a record entry of 84 - although unfortunately a few fell by the wayside and didn't complete the 54 holes. Despite the pace of play which revived memories of that famous old fable "The tortoise and the snail" and taxed both concentration and patience good golf were required if a prize was to be lifted.

Ah yes the prizes. If ever there was incentive to spend a little more time on the practice

ground this was it. Televisions, CD players, cameras, radio cassettes, luggage, binoculars were just a few of the rewards on offer if that little white ball more or less did as it was told during the three days.

But back to the golf. The first man out on the first day led the way for much of the opening round. Kevin Yeoman, off a handicap of 25, produced a fine nett 67 to concentrate the minds of those behind. Kevin, Dartmouth G&CC, looked like holding on until Mark Cutler, Edgbaston GC, came in with a nett 66 of his handicap of 15. The scratch prize went to Shaun Richards of Taunton and Pickeridge GC who shot an excellent 73.

Shaun, who currently plays off 0.7, might have been challenged by Barry Holt who was



MAD DOGS AND GREENKEEPERS

going well until the 12th when he inadvertently dunted his putter and the head fell off. Putting with a 3-iron taxes even Ben Crenshaw and Barry dropped several shots on the home run. It was Barry's second piece of misfortune in successive National Tournaments. Last year at Dartmouth, if you remember, he was leading going into the final round but ended up knocking the first three shots of the day out-of-bounds.

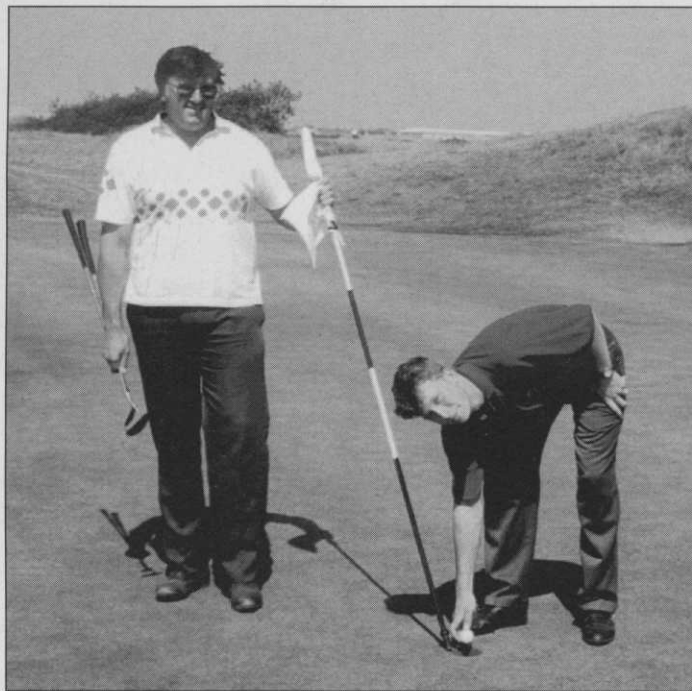
The Monday evening entertainment was provided by The Chorley Mashers a three piece Lancashire folk group who could turn their hand to anything from the traditional tunes of the area to spoof Buddy Holly songs. The music and the witty repartee with the audience was the ideal accompaniment to the heat wave's stand-in for the Lancashire hot pot.

By Tuesday, despite a little more breeze, St Annes Old Links was resembling a scene from the London Marathon with drinks stations placed strategically around the course and desperate competitors making slight detours from their preferred route to quench an aching thirst.

The men who were coping best were Mike Sheehan, of Mere G&CC, who was combining his on-course heroics with a dual role as Bert Cross' right hand man and tournament administrator, Kevin Yeoman, Shaun Richards and Dean Eldridge of Ellesborough GC who had the advantage of his lovely girlfriend caddying for him. All had either clinched trophies already or put themselves in position to win one of the 54 hole awards.

Tuesday also saw the holding of the Vitax Putting Cup over St Annes Old Links excellent putting green – a bowling green in a previous guise. The man who proved to have the magic putting wand this year was Mark Whittle of Mentmore GC who flew round in a mere 33 strokes – in putting terms three under-par.

The Gala dinner on Tuesday night was a huge success with an attendance of almost 150 which was a record for any dinner held in the club. The catering staff did a marvellous job coping with the numbers and serving up such an excellent meal. The main speakers at the dinner were BIGGA Chairman, Barry Heaney; Club Captain, Leon Gaskill and Dewi



Above: James Seisun retrieves the ball after his hole-in-one on the 9th
Below: Dewi Morris displays a National Tournament shirt



Morris, England scrum half in the recent Rugby World Cup. Dewi, a late replacement for Bill Beaumont who was called away on business, was in fine form recounting tales from the World Cup and spilling the beans about the nicknames of some of his team mates – his recent retirement from international rugby obviously allowing him to speak more freely! We can only hope that he doesn't bump into Brian Moore or "Captain Darling" alias "Bum Chin" alias Will Carling in the next few weeks.

With all to play for on the

Wednesday the golf reached spectacular heights. None greater than 18 year-old James Seisun's tee shot on St Annes Old Links signature 9th hole – see cover of July's magazine.

James, of Farnham Park GC in Bury-St-Edmunds, who has only been playing the game three years, hit the perfect tee shot, it bounced twice before finding the bottom of the cup before an appreciative audience including Miracle Amenity Care's Roger Mossop whose enthusiastic leaping up and down and cheering alerted those in the clubhouse to

the feat. It was James' first hole-in-one and, needless to say, clinched the nearest the pin competition for the day!

At the head of the field the battle was fierce with Mike Sheehan and 22 year-old Mark Cutler eventually winning the Miracle Amenity Care Trophies in the 1-14 and 15-28 categories respectively and Shaun Richards clinching the best gross Hardi Amenity Sprayers Trophy with an excellent three round total of 222. Mid Anglia won the Jubilee Cup thanks to the combined efforts of Robert Pearce, Mark Ellis and Mark Whittle.

RESULTS

54 Hole

Nett (1-14) 1. M. Sheehan 211; 2. C.J. Ball 212; 3. D. Eldridge 215.

Nett (15-28) 1. M. Cutler 210 (Miracle Amenity Care Trophy); 2. K. Yeoman 210; 3. R. Pearce 214.

Winner of the Hardi Amenity Sprayers Trophy for Best Gross – S. Richards 222.

Section Team and winner of Jubilee Cup – Mid-Anglia R. Pearce, M. Ellis and M. Whittle 661.

36 Hole

Nett (1-14) 1. M. Sheehan 139 (David Royale Cup); 2. D. Eldridge 140.

Nett (15-28) 1. K. Yeoman 136 (Pattison Cup); 2. M. Cutler 142.

Nett (55+) 1. W. Shipley.

Monday

Nett. 1. M. Cutler 66 (Fisons Bowl); 2. K. Yeoman 67; 3. J.H. Borja 68.

Gross S. Richards 73

Longest Drive A. Clarke.

Nearest Pin S. Sullivan

TUESDAY

Nett C. Ball 67 (Standard Golf Trophy); 2. N. Rawlings 69; 3. M. Sheehan 69.

Gross. D. Eldridge 74.

18 Hole Putting M. Whittle (Vitax Putting Cup)

Longest Drive M. Ewan.

Nearest Pin P. Fitzjohn.

WEDNESDAY

Nett. 1. J. Berry 68 (W. Hargreaves Trophy); 2. M. Cutler 68; 3. I. Rose 70.

Gross. S. Richards 75

Longest Drive A. Peel

Nearest Pin J. Seisun 9th (Hole-in-One); B. Holt (16th)



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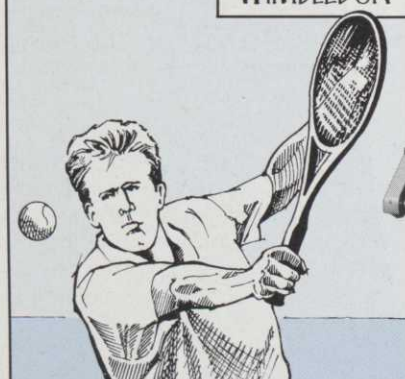


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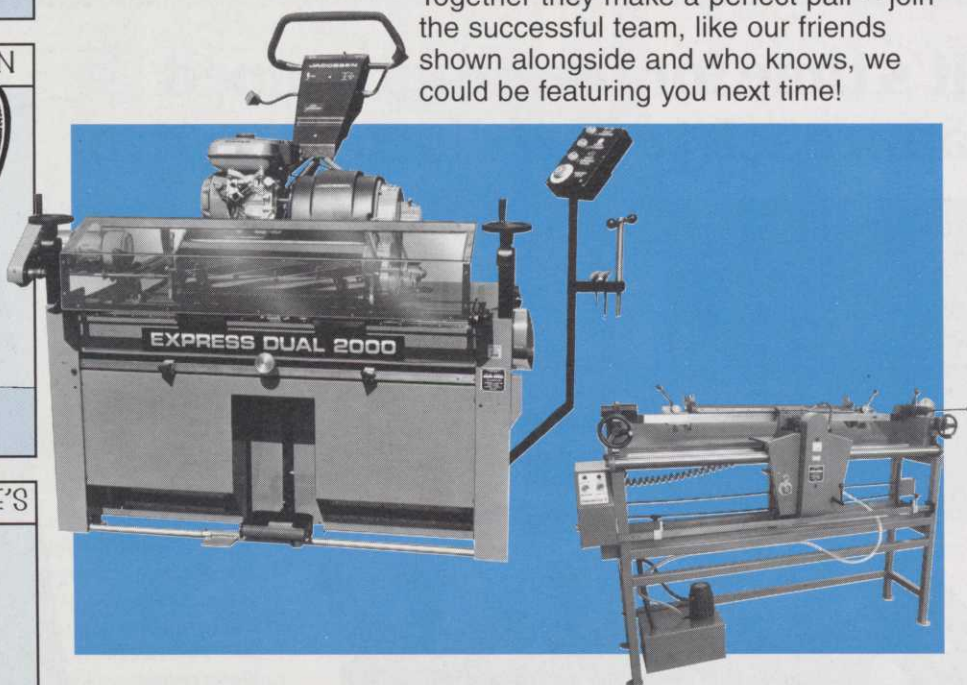
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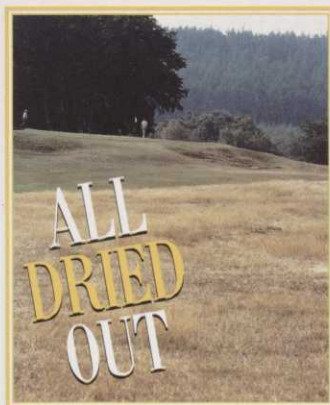


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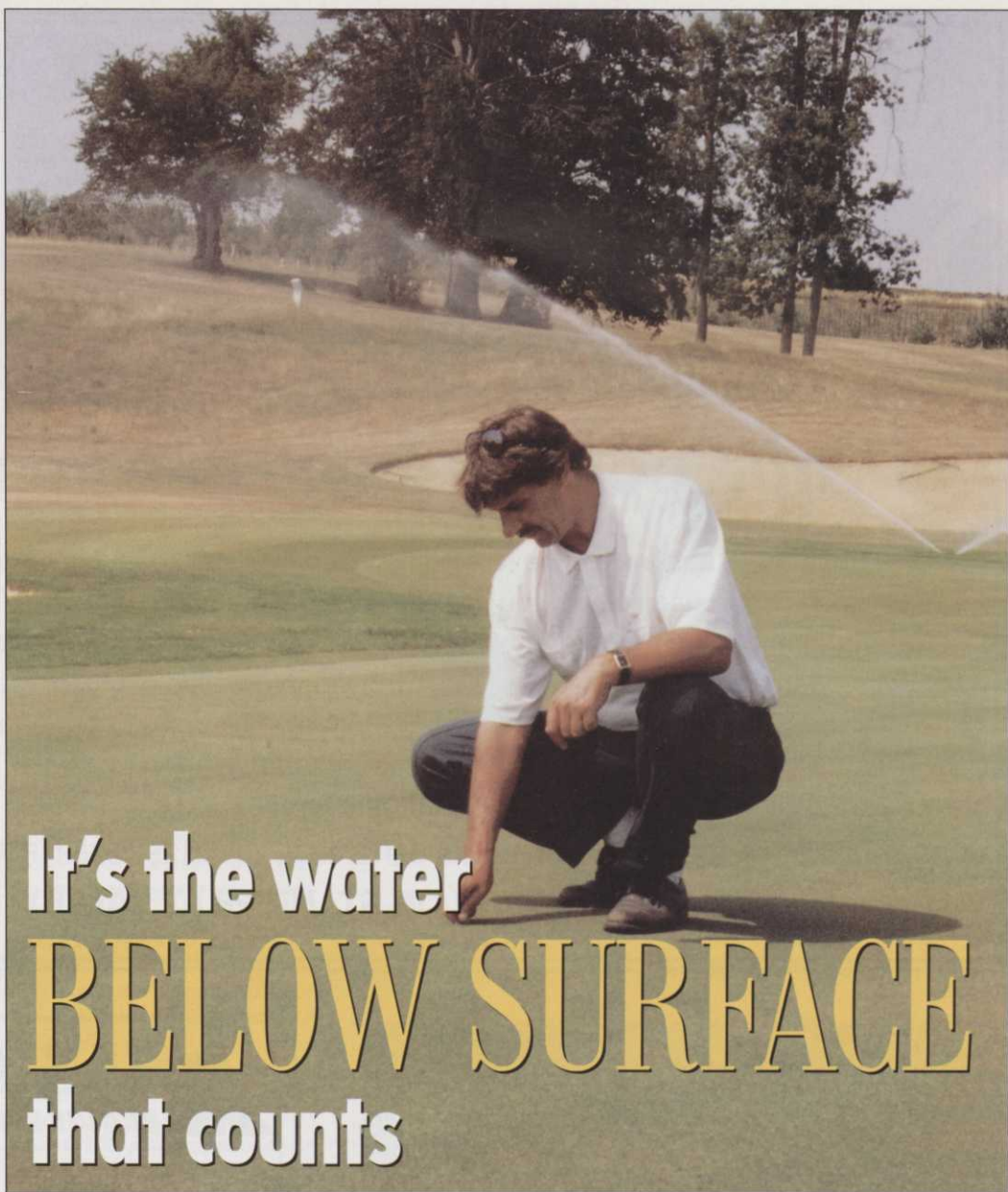


Gordon Jaaback compares the use of water for the purposes of turf maintenance at two different golf clubs.

The wise management of water use becomes vital in the extended heat wave conditions we have been experiencing. Understandably water applied is most productive if it is sufficient only to meet the turfgrass needs and is applied to a depth where it can be utilised with minimum loss to evaporation and drainage. Applying only enough water to meet the demand implies that it is essential to monitor the use of the water applied and consequently gauge when the next applications should be made.

Continuous daily applications involve greater evaporation losses and also lead to shallow root growth that is quick to die back at the time of water restrictions or irrigation failure. Thatch accumulation is encouraged. Grass cover can be unhealthily succulent; anaerobic conditions develop easily and grass is more prone to disease attack. The increasing costs of water too are of concern and it must be expected that in the future supplies of potable water will not be as readily available for maintaining turfgrass areas.

Looking to those in Britain that share a concern for wiser water use, the following case studies give personal accounts that are worthy of consideration. The two Course Managers have taken a closer look at irrigating and beyond into water conservation and self sufficiency in water supplies. One, confined to main line water supply, soil greens and a restricted irrigation installation, has striven to find the actual water needs of his greens; the other, with enormous needs to sustain growth on large sand greens and tees as well as sand carpet fairways, has sought to contain and control water flow



It's the water BELOW SURFACE that counts

Mike Smith has the task of controlling and monitoring the movement of water cost effectively over an expansive course

on the course. Both consider water as a priceless resource in golf course maintenance and not the everyday commodity that is taken for granted by so many.



Peter Negus at Willingdon Golf Club in Eastbourne, West Sussex

Peter, pictured, has been severely restricted in water use – the course being dependent on main line water supply and a limited irrigation installation. With the

rapid increase in costs over recent years to a gross price of £1.00 per cubic metre (which is discounted in his circumstance), he has always sought ways to reduce his need.

Actual need

In 1993, Peter's club sought the professional services of A & P Hill Irrigation Monitoring Services to assess accurately the actual daily water losses from his greens. Using the Neutron probe, they concluded that the average daily loss in the summer was in the region of 2mm rising to a maximum of 3mm on the hottest days. Peter, in turn, proceeded in 1994 to apply a regular daily application of 2.5mm in dry conditions. He assessed this measurement by installing measurement cups and relating to actual metered flow rates to irrigated greens installed with part circle sprinklers. He did find, however, that with this approach dry areas still developed in the heat of summer and

wetting was not thorough.

In 1995, he was encouraged into applying water to penetrate at least to the depth of root growth and observing the water use with a soil probe. With his concern for healthy turfgrass and particularly the degree of turgidity (succulency) he was able to gauge when the next application was necessary establishing an irrigation interval in keeping with the heat and resultant water demand. (A more positive means of gauging the irrigation interval is based on measured water losses from an evaporation tank which bare a constant relationship with total water losses from grassed cover.) Peter has, however, installed a simple evapotranspiration gauge which measures evaporation and makes the adjustment – and this will serve the same purpose.

Programming

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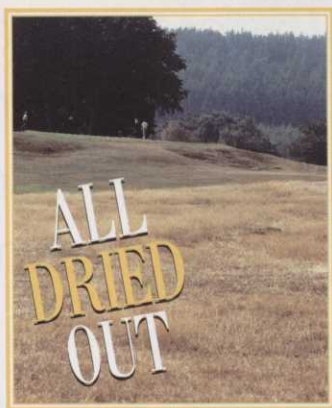
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Oct 3 Oct 4 Oct 5	TDB 1 TDB 2 TDB 3	Tractor Driving Basic	1 Day	Safe operation Tractor systems Practical instruction Trailer use	£60
Oct 10 Oct 11 Oct 12	IDE 1 IDE 2 IDE 3	Introduction to Diesel engines	1 Day	How it works Basic maintenance and repair Safety	£60
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Nov 7 Nov 8 Nov 9	DEF 1 DEF 2 DEF 3	Diesel engine fault finding and overhaul	1 Day	Covers basic fault diagnosis and rectification Rebuilding	£60
Nov 14 Nov 15 Nov 16	ESS 1 ESS 2 ESS 3	Electrical safety systems	1 Day	Covers basic electrical systems How it works Testing (for operator)	£60
Nov 21 Nov 22 Nov 23	SEM 1 SEM 2 SEM 3	Small engine maintenance and repair	1 Day	Covers how it works. Basic maintenance. Adjustments and repairs. Fault finding	£60

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green at one time and the plan to complete three repeat cycles, each of 5-7 minutes, in one night, Peter is only able to irrigate nine greens. Separating nine drier greens from the total, he has been able to stagger the irrigation of the two sets of greens with no noticeable difference in putting performance. During May, which was very dry but cool, he found he was able to restrict watering to five day intervals without the quality of the putting surface suffering. Applying a total of 71h to 10mm in repeat cycles each of 2'hmm he found he got deeper penetration of water to the depths he desired.

Furthermore, he found that now in the hottest part of the prolonged drought period he has not found it necessary to apply 7.5mm more than twice a week – believing that his maximum need will not exceed 15-17mm per week. Small night applications are, however, applied to follow up liquid tonic applications and light sand dressings.

For example, recent recorded applications were:

- 27 Jul applied 10mm
- 31 Jul applied 5mm
- 01 Aug applied 2mm to follow liquid tonic
- 04 Aug applied 3mm to follow sand dressing
- 06 Aug applied 8mm.

Peter's real significant finding is the lack of dry areas and the reduced need for hand watering. Also, by drying out the surface he has a less succulent but more healthy grass cover – and at significant less cost.

Mike Smith at Moatlands Golf Club in Paddock Wood, Kent

Mike has the challenging task of controlling and monitoring the movement of water cost effectively over his expansive course. With full circle sprinklers, irrigating greens, tees and surrounds, together with 20 ha of fairways, demands a considerable storage supply. His reservoir capacity is 40,000 cub. metres and in both 1993 and 1994 he was able to

meet his watering requirements and replenish the reservoir by the beginning of the next spring, mainly due to his efforts in recovering drainage water.

Sprinkler coverage

With greater emphasis on green irrigation using full circle sprinklers, applications of water are not uniform. Sprinklers are individually controlled in accordance with conditions throughout the green – high dry areas receiving more than low wet areas. Furthermore, a schedule allowing for the troublesome east wind operates with adjustment to sprinklers assisted by the wind and to those hindered. Seldom is the application to a green a set precipitation and yet with negligible variation in evapotranspiration losses throughout the course the targeted amount of water to be made available is the same on all greens. Still, whatever allowances are made to secure the same precipitation at any point on a green the effects of wind and run-off within the thatch layer still make it difficult to obtain even wetting and there remains the need to hand water parts of individual greens.

Generally under the dry conditions experienced in July, Mike's approach has been to operate 2-3 soak times (repeat cycles) in a night of irrigation applying a total of 7-10mm per night. With generally three full days before irrigating again (two on exceptionally hot days) his application rate is 15-21mm per week.

Effect on putting

He finds the repeat soak times necessary to secure adequate penetration to reach the 'water front'. Allowing the surface to dry out to a degree, Mike finds the best putting surface occurs just before the following irrigation at the point of 'turn' when the turgid leaves losing water become 'hardened'. This is before the point at which temporary wilting is reached and is generally an indication that irrigation

Contact!



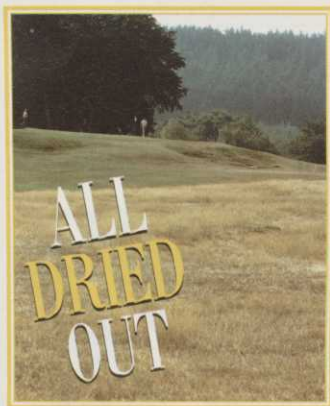
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'Soil greens hold more water than sand greens to the same depth and different grass species vary in their water use rate... this is more noticeable in conditions of limited supply'

should be commenced soon. At this point, it is interesting to note the stimpmeter reading goes from 9 to 10.5 due to the reduced resistance of the more hardened grass leaves.

Water recovery

The most significant aspect of water management undertaken at Moatlands is the recovery of drainage water from greens and gully drains on fairways. In 1993, only 20 ha was subject to recovery with the necessary pump installation. The amount collected and pumped up to the reservoir was 16,147 cub. metres. In 1994, the recovery area was increased to 45 ha and the amount pumped to storage was 48,867 cub. metres. With annual rainfall of 691mm and 839mm in

the respective years the collection represented 11.6% and 12.9% respectively of the potential rainfall for the two years.

With increasing water costs it must be of increasing economic importance to seek self sufficiency in water supplies on a golf course – and it is encouraging to learn that off barely 20 ha sufficient water (16,147 cub. metres) was collected to be able to irrigate greens and tees on the average golf course in the period of a year. (10,000 cub. metres supplies sufficient water to irrigate 2 ha of greens and tees using part circle sprinklers).

Concluding thoughts

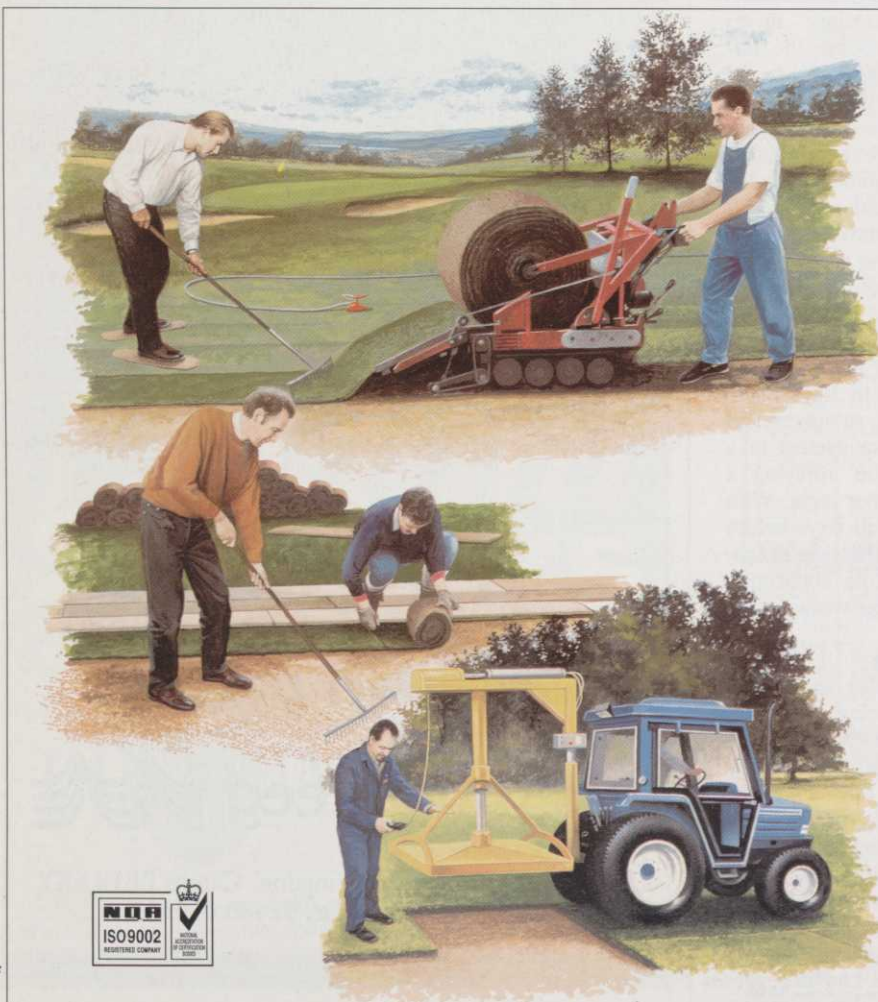
It is interesting to relate Mike's experiences with creeping bent on sand greens to those of Peter

Negus with bent/meadowgrass on soil greens. Both have approximately the same water need, rely on repeat soak times and allow the surface to partially dry out. This also underscores the fact that provided there is adequate water supply to the root system and no water is lost to drainage there is no difference in the water demand when comparing soil to sand greens – this must not be confused with the fact that soil greens hold more water than sand greens to the same depth and that different grass species vary in their water use rate though this is more noticeable in conditions of limited supply.

Surely the over-riding need in times of drought is the continual monitoring of moisture in the rootzone with a soil probe. Water

in the surface layers, so vulnerable to evaporation loss, is of little value compared to that well within the depth of the root system. Thought should be given to attaining deeper penetration of water below the thatch layer, allowing the surface to dry out – and to managing irrigation of turfgrass into a more 'hardened' state than the present consistent unhealthy succulence that results from daily watering.

■ Gordon Jaaback is an agronomist with practical experience in a wide range of conditions. He has long advocated a wiser approach to irrigation and the need to conserve water. Having made a special study in soil:water:plant inter-relationships, he advises on cost-effective benefits in turfgrass maintenance.



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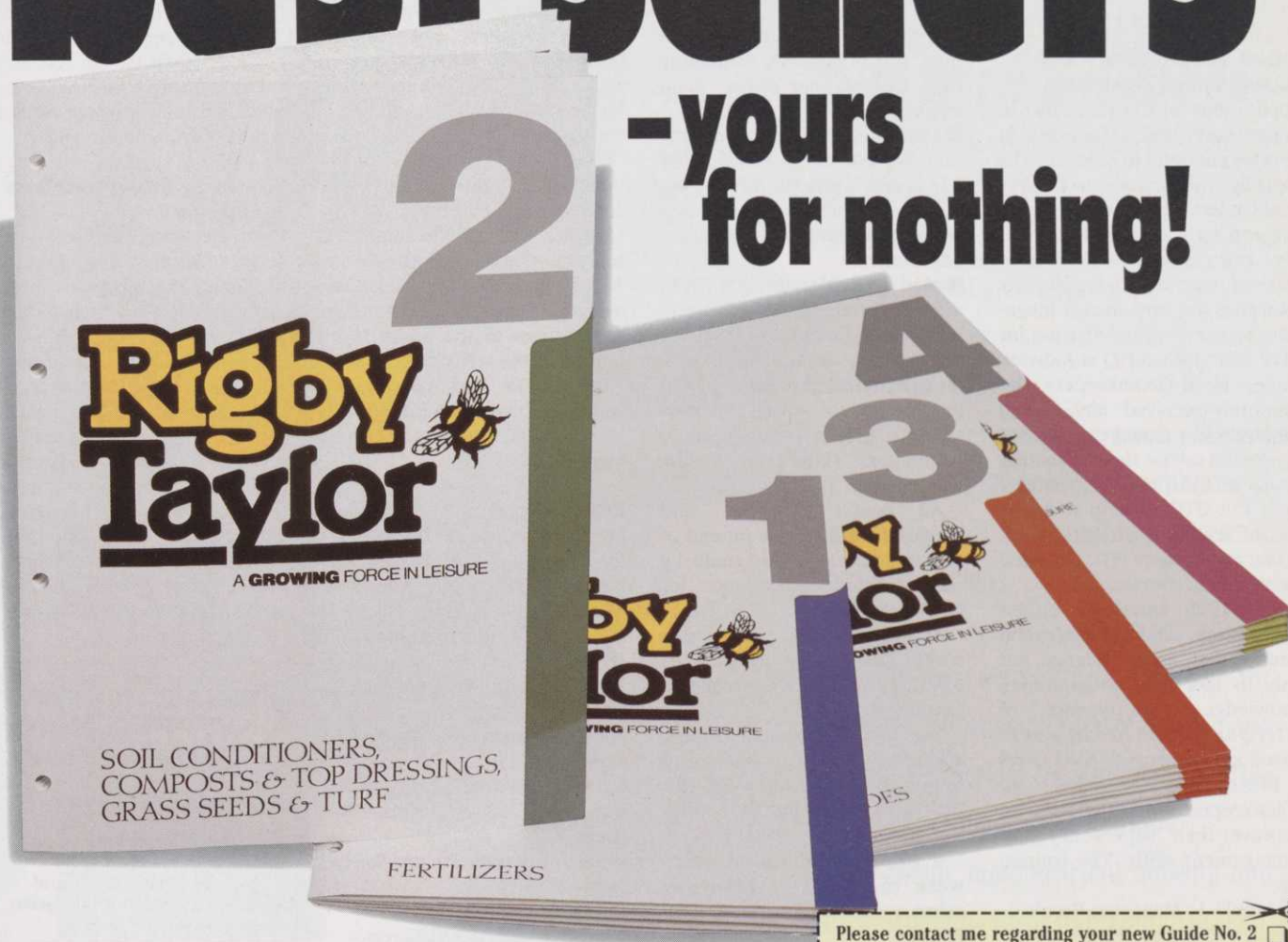
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Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

A further reminder for those greenkeepers considering attending this year's supervisory and management courses, at Aldwark Manor and Elmwood College, next year's supervisory and management courses in Ireland, the Midlands, the North, the South East and the South West, information on the BIGGA library and an update on the Massey Ferguson Machinery Workshops.

BIGGA SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT COURSES

Applications for this year's BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses continue to come in. The courses, which proved to be very popular last year, provide greenkeepers with important supervisory and management skills. Be sure to reserve your place by returning the card in this magazine, together with a cheque for £117.50 to BIGGA HQ at Aldwark Manor. Head Greenkeepers who have not received any formal supervisory or management training should advise their clubs that grants of £150 may be available from the GTC to help with the cost of sending their greenkeepers on one or more GTC endorsed management courses.

The 1995 series of BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses has been designed not only to meet the underpinning knowledge requirements of S/NVQ Level 3 Units but also to introduce elements S/NVQ Level 4. BIGGA courses are open to all greenkeepers who need to improve their supervisory and management skills. The courses are:

■ Module 1: Managing People 1. October 16 - October 20. Cover-

ing team building, interpersonal skills, leadership, time management and computers in greenkeeping.

■ Module 2: Managing People 2. October 30 - November 3. Covering assertive communication, influencing skills, grievance and discipline and computers in greenkeeping.

■ Module 3: Managing Operations and Resources. November 6- November 10. Covering planning and organising, estimating cost, budgets and project management.

■ Module 4: Managing Information. November 13 - November 17. Covering writing memos, letters and reports, communication skills, collecting and recording information.

■ Module 5: Management Techniques. November 20 - November 24. Covering level 4 management techniques. Topics include maintenance and improvement of service and operations, project management, negotiation skills and quality assurance.

All course delegates and employers will receive an end of course summary. This could be used to provide evidence for N/SVQ assessors.

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

The cost per week, including accommodation, all meals and tuition fees is £420+VAT for BIGGA members and £475+VAT for BIGGA non-members.

If you need advice on which week to attend or have any other queries call me on 01347 838581.

Send your application NOW.

Regional Supervisory and Management Courses

Places on the Scottish Region two - day supervisory and management course are still available. These residential courses, which will be held on October 16/17 and October 18/19, have been introduced to make management training more accessible to all BIGGA members. Each course costs £50 for BIGGA members and £150 to non-members. Reserve your place by sending a deposit of £10 to BIGGA HQ.

The Northern Region courses will be held during the week commencing February 12, in Cheshire and in Yorkshire, the Midland Region and the South Eastern Region in the week commencing February 5, three two day courses in the South West Region in the week commencing February 19 and 1 two day course in Killarney, Southern Ireland, in the week commencing March 4.

BIGGA Library

Books and videos have been flowing in and out of the BIGGA library at a steady rate. New titles added recently include:

- Essentials of Health and Safety at Work
- Pesticide Regulation Handbook - A Guide for Users
- Work Equipment - Guidance on Regulations
- Guide to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and dangerous Occurrences
- Management of Health and Safety at Work
- First Aid At Work
- General COSHH ACOP, Carcin-

gens ACOP and Biological Agents Workplace Health Safety and Welfare

Storage of Approved Pesticides: Guidance for Farmers and Others Our Health and Safety Policy Step by Step Guide to COSHH Assessment

Business Accounting Golf Course Putting Green Construction Guidelines Fertiliser for Turf Sands for Sports Turf Construction and Maintenance

Full library lists can be obtained from Regional Administrators or from BIGGA HQ.

Massey Ferguson Machinery Workshops

Plans are being finalised for the series of three Massey Ferguson Machinery Workshops.

They will be held during March/April 1996 at Elmwood College, Oaklands College and at a location in the Midlands. The programme, covering all aspects of tractor use and maintenance, will last for four days. Each college will be asked to nominate up to two students and Massey Ferguson/BIGGA will select 12 students to attend each workshop.

The cost of training, travel and accommodation will all be met by Massey Ferguson.

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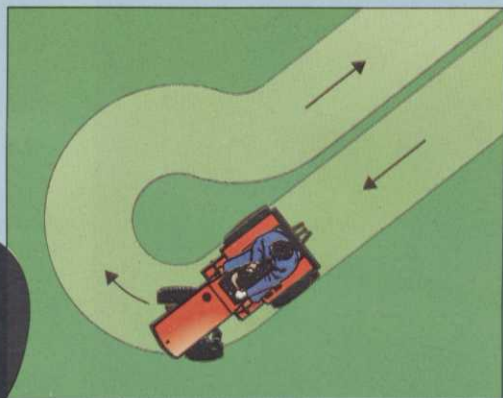
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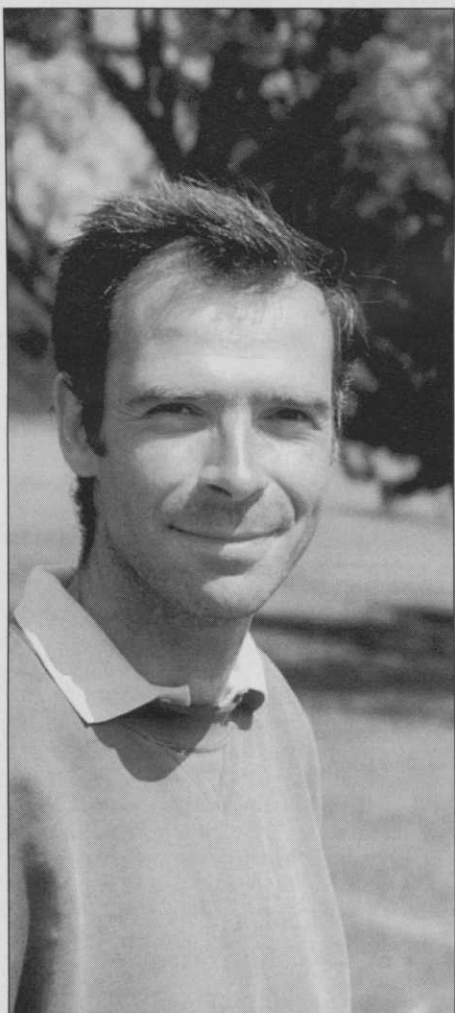
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In the bleak



Richard Barker: Gets nine months out of his course

Few golfers enjoy temporary greens but in this country they are a necessary evil. Scott MacCallum talks with Richard Barker about the subject.

Some things in life are all about selling. Convincing people that their pint pot is half full and not half empty; they're so many years young rather than old and reminding them of the two 40 footers they holed when they want to dwell on the three footer they missed on the 18th green. It all adds up to making them feel brighter, more positive.

It is this technique which should be employed when the hoary subject of winter greens rears its head at the club. No-one likes playing on them but in the eyes of the greenkeeper they are a necessary evil and it's a case of selling members the idea that the alternative to winter greens is not the retention of the regular playing surfaces but a closed course – so they are a good thing after all!

Well that's the defence Richard Barker of Kirby Muxloe GC tries to employ when the groans go up.

Like every greenkeeper in the land Richard

knows he will get an ear bashing when winter greens are discussed and like every greenkeeper in the land he tries to soften the blow when they inevitably come into operation.

"I'm aiming to get an all year round surface with annual vertidrainage, slitting, hollow tining but in reality we get nine months play out of the course and for the other three months we've got to be looking at the possible use of temporary greens," he explained.

It is a problem which is relatively new as it's only recently that we've wanted to play golf all the year round. Previously it was only fanatics who didn't put their clubs into hibernation from November until March.

"The club has nothing written down but my policy is to keep the greens in play as long as possible and move on to temporary greens when they are not fit to be played then ultimately, when they are not fit to be played, the course has to be closed. Like many greenkeepers I am accused of being over cautious and they are probably right but the alternative is to be cavalier with the greens and that could be catastrophic.

"Given the choice I would like to keep the temporaries cut out all year which is what

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mid-winter

some golf clubs do but the committee here requested that I don't maintain them during the year for the simple reason that they think it reminds people that they are going to have to be used. I think it would be better if I could keep them cut out and top dressed, with a white line round them and deemed GUR to keep divots off them.

"So I'm faced with preparing temporaries around August time. I don't make them too big which is possibly a fault of mine – around 10 metres by 10 metres – but I don't want to spend too much money and time maintaining them. Scarify them with a Sisis auto rotor rake and try to give them a couple of top dressings with a 70/30 sand soil mix and maintain them a couple of times a week. I would expect them to come into service around mid-December and have them usable right through to April.

"I always come off the green when there is a good frost but I know some greenkeepers will play them because they say there will be no damage done. The most dangerous time is when the frost is coming out but even if the frost is still three or four inches deep I would still rather come off.

"Generally at the start of the season we might find ourselves on half a dozen temporaries and 12 greens it depends upon those which remain wet or always hold the frost longer. But through the season as a rule it will be all temporaries or no temporaries," he explained.

One of the problems with temporary greens is that any hazards or playing characteristics of the hole are often lost.

"I always try to position the green in front of a bunker or to one side or towards trees albeit they have no leaves on them so that there is still some definition to the hole.

"I generally move them to one side of the green or slightly short. I also try to put them to the side where the tee is for the next hole just to prevent people walking back over the approach to the green nearest the exit."

Another ploy to make the playing of temps



Put it between two bunkers and a tree to give a little interest

more enjoyable is to put in the oversized hole pots as this means that a few long putts are holed and the players have the odd chip in which always keeps the members happy. When they start missing putts even the best temporaries greens will be lambasted.

"I put the large pots in last year and the move was received very well by the gents but not by the ladies. The problem with the ladies is that they have been told that they can play winter medals they can play on temporary greens so long as it is a measured golf course but they cannot play to an oversized hole. The R&A ruling is that it is up to the individual golf club what they decide to do."

Another alternative is to have a local rule where you have a maximum of two putts on

every hole.

"The reason I don't have temps on the front of the green is that in frosty conditions the ball tends to bounce through onto the green and you're not really achieving anything.

As a low handicap player himself Richard is well aware of another problem which afflicts the better players in the club.

"I think it's about time the individual golf clubs, the R&A or the golf Unions came up with a different handicapping system in the winter. The biggest problem I've encountered in the winter through the use of temporary tees and greens is that it makes the course very short and the lower handicapper can't give shots to the higher handicapper.

Giving the members the chance to make a

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In the bleak mid-winter

Moving tees can help vary length and relieve wear areas



decision is another way in which problems later can be removed.

"Last year I got two or three tee mats and put them side by side and marked in chalk please try these tee mats and let me know which one you prefer because people do not like tee mats. None of them was the answer but those who did express a preference made the decision. I wouldn't recommend that in many aspects of the job but in this instance it worked and they chose the most expensive mat. I took this to the committee and the answer was fine we'll get them.

"If I had an unlimited budget and unlimited

room I would have different tees that would encourage different walk ways and different wear areas. I think that is the whole idea about using temporaries both tees and greens is to rest those areas which get worn during the season. We would build a tee which is 30 yards away we could make a straight hole into a dogleg shorter longer. Winter golf is not all that serious and you can do things with the positioning of tee and green that you wouldn't do in the rest of the year.

"Ideally if you have the room you give the golfer something different with the playing characteristics of a hole they enjoy it more

than just playing a shorter version of the original.

"I either position the tees right at the front or right at the back and make the hole longer and rest the original positions," he explained.

"Like many greenkeepers I struggle to know how best to handle the temporary green situation and I'd be delighted to hear from anyone who has bright ideas about making them less of issue."

■ If you have kept the members on your side though the use of some clever ploy why not write to *Greenkeeper International* and share it with your colleagues.

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A severe Challenge

The final of Hayter Challenge this year will be just that – a Challenge as the intrepid men who have already battled through the sectional and regional qualifiers have then to pit their wits with the might of West Lancashire – a course which can test the best.

You want proof? It has regularly welcomed top professionals particularly for final Qualifying for The Open Championship when it is played at Royal Birkdale but the professional course record is still a well preserved 66. That is high when you see scores at other qualifying, and indeed Open, venues. One point of note. In his first year as a professional Nick Faldo led the qualifiers at West Lincs for the 1976 Open with two rounds of 72 and 69.

You also get an idea of the difficulty when Head Greenkeeper John Muir asks if we really want to play off the back tees for the Hayter Final.

"If we have a breeze it's like other people's winds and many people would struggle to make the carries," he explained.

And you believe him because if you read the

HAYTER

club's excellent brochure you'll find a piece about John Hawkesworth, a former Walker Cup player now competing on the European Tour who returned a 68 in the Youths' Championship of 1982.

"Unfortunately it was not recognised as an amateur record because the R&A ordered the 10th tee to be brought forward – because players could not reach the fairway with their drives into the teeth of a gale!"

It's not just the carries which are long. The whole course takes a bit of beating. Off the back tees it is 6767 yards and there are nine holes over 400 yards, five of them par-4s.

"It really is a traditional links course. The first four holes follow the shore and it is two loops of nine one clockwise and the other anti clockwise so you have to be able to play in all winds," said John, who heads a team of

six at West Lincs.

Another feature which West Lincs has which is a feature common among many of the top links courses is that it runs along a railway line.

The club was established in 1873 and was one of the original 24 clubs to contribute to the cost of the Amateur Championship trophy.

Like many clubs at the moment it is very dry adding to its links feel but unlike many clubs John Muir says he can remember it much drier than it was in the middle of August.

"Earlier in the year the water table was as high as it has been for 60 years and even now it is now as low as it was in '84 or '87," he explained.

So the 63 players representing the seven regions battling it out at West Lincs had better ensure that their games are honed for the occasion. I'd recommend a crash course of hitting 3-irons and keeping them low under the wind.

■ Photograph by Brian Morgan



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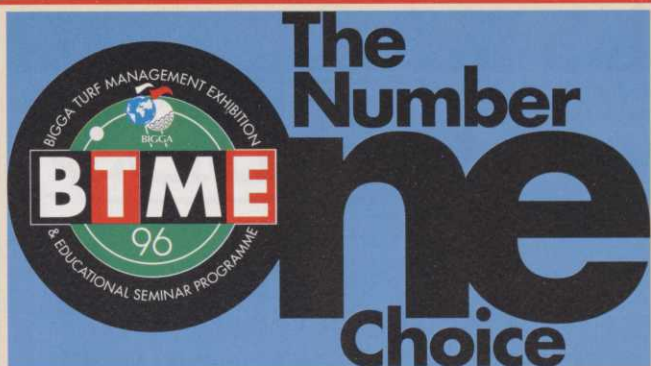
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'F' DAY LOOMS!

"F" Day is fast approaching for the 1996 BTME at Harrogate on January 24-26. The "Fully Booked" sign is being dusted down with a mere 200 square metres still available at time of going to press.

Among the new companies joining 145-plus companies exhibiting next year will be Rhino International Ltd which has taken over 20 square metres in Hall B, and Dennis Ltd.

Louise Lunn, Exhibition and Marketing Executive, said, "The range and diversity of companies which have already booked ensure that visitors to Harrogate next year will have ample opportunity to discuss all their needs under one roof."

The Learning Experience '96 will provide a varied, interesting and topical education programme. Workshops have been re-introduced by popular request and two two-day workshops will run alongside the National Education Conference on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 January.

Workshop 1 will cover the design and construction of a new golf course while Workshop 2 will introduce the techniques of stress management.

New at Harrogate for '96 will be the introduction of the STRI Chairman of Green/Secretaries Course. This joint STRI/BIGGA initiative will allow Chairmen of Green and Secretaries not only to be introduced to the technicalities of turf management and visit the technical laboratories of the STRI at Bingley but also to sample the unique Harrogate atmosphere and perhaps visit BTME 96.

The BTME 96 Seminar programme is nearing completion and includes speakers from the USA, Canada, Switzerland as well as the UK. Speakers include Course Managers, representatives of Golf Associations, Chairman of Green and representatives from associated industries.

Attending Harrogate in January '96 will be a true learning experience.

SEPTEMBER QUESTIONS

1. Which new company has recently booked over 20 square metres at the show?
2. With which Institute is BIGGA holding a Chairman of the Green/Secretaries course?

Normal competition rules apply

First prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry to all the education seminar sessions.

Second prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK, two nights accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education seminar sessions.

Third prize: One night's accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education seminar sessions.



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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Cleveland

A recent visit to the STRI trial grounds sponsored by Barenbrug proved very interesting and our thanks go to N. Shedden of Aitkens Sportsturf for organising the event. Grasses need to be tested for wear and stress to help us find future hard wearing species.

Don't forget young greenkeepers now need the backing of their golf club to book in at their green-keeping training college.

Another reminder. Always ensure that you dispose of waste oil legally. Clean empty pesticide containers and keep records of having these collected by licensed contractors. Are you organised?

Bruce Burnell

South Coast

This year's autumn tournament is to be held at Fern-down GC on Tuesday, October 3, not as previously arranged on October 10. It will be an afternoon competition followed by an evening meal and prize giving. All those wishing to take part should send a cheque for £14.50 together with their handicap to Mark Webb, 12 Line Road, Alresford, Hants SO 2 49LD Tel: 01962 733061. All cheques to be made payable to BIGGA, South Coast Section.

Bob Cully

North Wales

May I offer my congratulations to the following greenkeepers for achieving their D32, D33 assessors course run by the GTC:- Brian Anderson, Abergele & Pensarn; Fred Grundy, Harlech; Roger Kelly, Harlech; David Goedridge, Denbigh; John Edwards, Padeswood and Buckley; David Lewis, Conwy and Diane Lythgoe, Rhos-on-Sea.

We now have the opportunity to offer both our services and knowledge to the young greenkeepers of today and I hope that it will go from strength to strength.

Many thanks to David Golding and Sue Gudgeon who have got the ball rolling and sown the seeds and it is now up to us to get them planted and produce quality greenkeepers.

It seems to be the month for congratulations as the following greenkeepers have completed their NVQ level 2:- Darren Anderson, Abergele & Pensarn; Daryl Davies, Flint; Daniel Hayes, Northop Country Park; William Jones, Bull Bay; Steven Jones, Pwllheli – also awarded the Mommersteeg Merit Prize; Trevor Johnston, Eastham Lodge – also awarded the Rufford Merit Prize and Simon Shakespeare, Denbigh.

Can I remind all members of our golf tournament at Chirk Golf and Country Club on October 11. Entry forms will be out shortly and I would appreciate prompt replies.

A point which has been raised on several occasions in the past is the policy of inviting guests to our day. You are allowed, indeed encouraged, to bring a guest however in doing so you are responsible for his conduct during the day and standard of dress both on and off the course. Indeed the whole idea of bringing a guest was that you actually played and sat down for your meal with that person.

I look forward to seeing you all in October and anticipate a good turn out. I am also looking for sponsors and anybody with any ideas, please get in touch.

T.P. Evans

EVENTS DIARY

September 5-7: SALTEX, Windsor Race Course
September 13-14: Hayter Challenge Tournament Final, West Lancashire Golf Club, Blundellsands
January 24-26, 1996: BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, Harrogate International Centre

West of Scotland

There's very little to mention hence the omission last month. The only point of note being the Hayter Qualifier at Cardross. Well done to Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride, Martin Corey, Balmore and David Mowatt, Glasgow. The section wishes you the best of luck at the final. Maybe this time the Scots could manage a win.

The response to the five-a-side tournament has been very poor with only two clubs willing to take part. If you are interested please phone on 0141 942 5554.

James Taylor

North East

The autumn 18 hole competition will be held at Garesfield on September 28 – the first time we will have visited the course. Tee off times are from 10am to 11.30.

The matches against the Cleveland and South East Scotland sections have yet to have a date but they will probably be in October.

Paul Wilkin has moved from Stocksfield to Matfen Hall and Andy Bowes from Matfen Hall to Prudoe. We wish them well in their new jobs.

Congratulations to Tony McLure, Head Greenkeeper at Whickeham GC, on winning the Durham County Strokeplay Championship again.

All section secretaries have been informed that any member failing to inform the necessary persons of not being able to play in any national or section events will face disciplinary action from both regional and sectional levels.

Jimmy Richardson

South Wales

The section's summer competition was held recently at the Maesteg GC, where 22 players competed for the Birdie Cup, President's Shield and the John Duncan Cup. A typical, traditional and warm welcome hailed from the valleys (and when I say warm I mean warm, at least 85 degrees) and with a course tough and teasing and presented in first class order, thanks to David Jenkins and his staff, it ensured a fine day was had by all.

Our sincere thanks to our ever faithful sponsors of this competition RS Bird Ltd who provided the prize table and to the company's representatives Gareth George, Huw Thomas and Steve Clifford who were in attendance. George Beck made the presentations on behalf of Roger and Jeffrey who unfortunately missed the event for the first time in 10 years.

Results: Birdie Cup. 1. Adrian Panks, Caerphilly GC, 78 (gross). President's Shield. Peter Edwards, Trefloynne GC, 67 (nett). The winner of the John Duncan Cup was new member Dave Morgan of the Vale of Glamorgan G&CC.

Amazon Groundcare Equipment held an invita-

tion day recently at Bowood Park G&CC. A splendid setting for what is a super golf course, a good test of golf among beautiful surroundings. The weather was hot, too hot I heard some say but glorious nevertheless, as were the facilities and the hospitality.

After lunch Dr Robert Taylor from the STRI, along with his colleague Heather, made a presentation on Ecology and gave a preview of his new book which can be purchased now at BIGGA HQ Price £3 for members and £10 for non-members.

A splendid day, compliments of Amazone and Rod Baker. Many thanks and I look forward to the next one.

Bookings are now being taken for the Region's annual trip to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, at Harrogate next January. The cost, the same as 1995, at just £99 is surely a bargain. You should all have received a booking form but if you haven't or you require any further information contact me on 01792 233923.

Date for your diary September 9/10. Walker Cup. Royal Porthcawl. Peter Lacey

London

The summer tournament was held at North Middlesex GC in July and the course was in excellent shape thanks to the hard work of Stuart Dodd and his staff. The turnout was good and the results were as follows.

1. Darren Stanley, 34 pts (on countback); 2. Chris Carpenter 34 pts. Guest prize went to John Penn, 37 pts. The longest drive was hit by Ian Semple and the nearest the pin was won by Craig Handyside.

I would like to thank Alan Perry, the club Captain and John Penn, the Greens Chairman for taking part in the tournament and the club for allowing us to use their facilities and for making us so welcome. I would also like to thank the trade for its support and especially Dennis Smith for starting everybody off.

As many of you might know by now our Chairman, Douglas Smith, has decided to retire from his position on the committee. Doug has served on committee for several years and with his help our section has improved immensely. We will miss Doug and wish him all the best as he leaves our section.

Our first workshop is being finalised for the autumn and this will be held at Mill Hill GC with the subject – Preparing Your Risk Assessments. This will hopefully be the first of many small workshops to be run this winter and details will be sent out nearer the time.

Please contact me with any information on enquiries on 0181 959 5629.

Tony Dunstan

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

Due to the lack of entries the summer golf day at Blue Mountain had to be cancelled. My apologies to the golf club and to the few people who did enter. Unfortunately the Hayter Challenge tournament was played on the same day thus regular supporters of our golf days were committed to play in the latter event. This proved to be a well organised day with 60 competitors battling it out for some great prizes. Thanks to Hayter for the day and also thanks to Erewash Valley GC for hosting the event. Sadly nobody

from B,B&O section played well. In fact we all played rubbish – none worse than me who travelled 250 miles to NR! There's always next year.

There is a couple of changes on the committee. Firstly Dave Childs has resigned as Chairman. He has moved from our section to take up a new position at Sheringham GC in Norfolk. Dave has served on the committee for several years, the last few as Chairman. Good luck with the job and thanks for all the work that you have put in to keep the section together.

The second change is the resignation of Ray Clark as Secretary. Ray has just taken over as Course Manager at Marlow and fears that he has not got the time to carry on with the secretary's duties.

Roy Wates has stepped into the Chairman's seat and I have taken over the Secretary's duties.

The next event in our area is the Saltex Show at Windsor Racecourse. See you all there. Once again any comments phone me on 01491 578147.

Lindsay T. Anderson.

Devon and Cornwall

With the summer drawing to an end you can all look forward to the beginning of our excellent winter meeting programme which has something for everyone. The programme starts at St Mellion G&CC on Wednesday October 26 and I would like to remind you to send all your entries back to me with the correct money by the closing date on the entry form, as meals have to be booked in advance.

Also a reminder about our dress code at meetings which is jackets and ties for lunch and no jeans or shorts to be worn at all.

Venues and speakers for the forthcoming winter programme are as follows:

October 25, St Mellion, Speaker Roy Battishill; November 22, Manor House, AGM; December 13, Okehampton, After dinner entertainer; January 17, Fingle Glen, STRI Conference; February 21, Newquay, Speaker to be arranged; March 27, Churston, Speaker to be arranged.
Richard Whyman

East Midlands

Our section was successful in retaining the Hayter Challenge Regional Trophy on July 5 at Erewash Valley. On behalf of all section members who competed on the day I would like to thank again our sponsors Hayter. Also thanks should be given to our host club, Erewash Valley for staging the tournament. I would also like to thank Roger Willars for organising the event. Good luck to the three members of our section who were successful in qualifying for the Final, Richard Barker, Ian Dunmore and me.

Congratulations are extended this month to Glenn Millar of Ullesthorpe Court GC for the latest addition to his family – a baby boy.

Around the Green



Some more results have come in for the Singles and Pairs competition. Dave Mitchell, Springwater, beat Jamie Bedford, Birstall, and Russell Riley and David James, Scraftoft, beat Gavin Robson and Andy McGreal, Lingdale. A reminder to all entrants that both finals must be played before September 30.

This year's AGM and Texas Scramble will be hosted at Kirby Muxloe GC on November 8 followed by the Christmas Tournament which will be staged at Birstall GC on December 13.

Antony Bindley

North of Scotland

Congratulations to Section Chairman Andy Wilson and his wife on the arrival of their twin girls recently. I hope mother and babies are well.

While on the subject of new arrivals the latest new members to the section are Richard Aitken, assistant at the Carnegie Club, Graeme Duncan, assistant at Letham Grange and Alexander Smith from Perth who starts a course at Elmwood College this month. Stuart Hogg has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Fortrose and Kevin Fowler returns there as an assistant. Also I believe George Paterson's brother is working on the course to keep the family name going there.

Unfortunately the one day seminar due to be held in the north in conjunction with the STRI has been put off until next year due to other commitments.

Good luck to the Scottish team in this month's Hayter finals especially North members Kevin Peace, Inverurie; Sandy Reid, Letham Grange and Patrick Wood, Newmacher and maybe Brian Cocker who is sitting as first reserve.

The GTC is proposing to run another D32/33 Assessor training course this October/November but need about 12 candidates so anyone interested please contact me to book a place or for more information.

I was lucky to be part of the Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open this year and thoroughly enjoyed it. It was great meeting old friends and making new ones. An added bonus was my good friend Steve Cadenelli coming over from the USA for Arnie's last stand. It gave us a chance to catch up on all the news and I met a few of his friends who were also over. Hopefully next year I will be able to go over and

meet them all again at The Masters in April (any contributions towards the airfare will be gratefully accepted!) The course was set up just like a true links course should be and with the wind blowing was a great test for them all.

Finally I am sure everyone in the section would join me in wishing Walter Woods a long and happy retirement as until the Central Section was formed he was a very active North member seen at all the outings and events.

Iain Macleod

South West

The morning's short thunderstorm over Bristol may have signalled the start of some welcome rain for this parched section of the West Country but alas it only provided more humidity for what turned out to be a very sticky summer tournament held this year at Long Ashton GC on July 26. There were a few stories of 9s and 10s on some holes after the round but also some excellent scoring on an interesting course made more difficult by the dry conditions.

On a point of order several people neither made their tee off time nor appreciated who they were playing with. With this in mind please either turn up well before the first tee off time and find who you are playing with or ring me prior to the event for a start time. It helps the day run much more smoothly. With those problems behind us the day went very well with 46 people playing in the annual medal competition and prizes and trophies, among others, for the best Head Greenkeeper and best Assistant scores. Those in the winning frame were best Assistant and winner of the event outright, Paul Cunningham nett 66, back nine from Nick Perkins. Best Head Greenkeeper Marc Haring nett 67, Nick Perkins nett 66, back nine, David Bougen nett 66, Simon Shipley nett 68, Andy Parker nett 69, back nine, Ian McFarlane nett 69.

Many thanks to Long Ashton GC and Secretary Barry Manning for their hospitality and for allowing us course courtesy. To Ivor Scoones and his staff for providing some extremely good putting surfaces and to Roy Garland, Clubhouse Manager and Bev Woods, the Stewardess for a very good evening meal.

Trade members played a large part in providing prizes for presentation and thanks go to Avoncrop, B.S. Mowers, Miracle Amenity Care, Rigby Taylor, T.H. White and Vitax.

Anything that you feel requires discussion at this year's AGM to be held on November 9 at Saltford GC should be put in writing and returned to me by the end of September for discussion by the Section Committee first.

Finally good luck to all South West Section members taking part in the Hayter Final this year at West Lancashire GC on September 13 and 14.

Kevin Green



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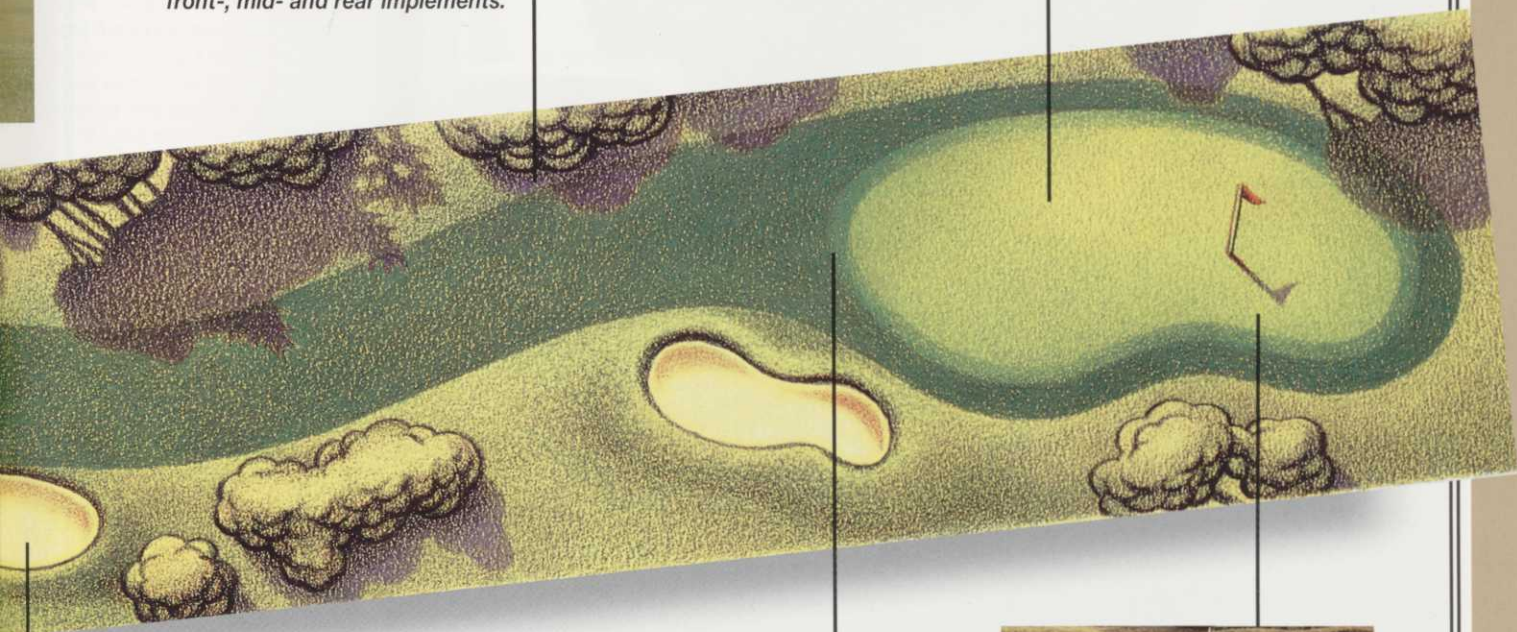
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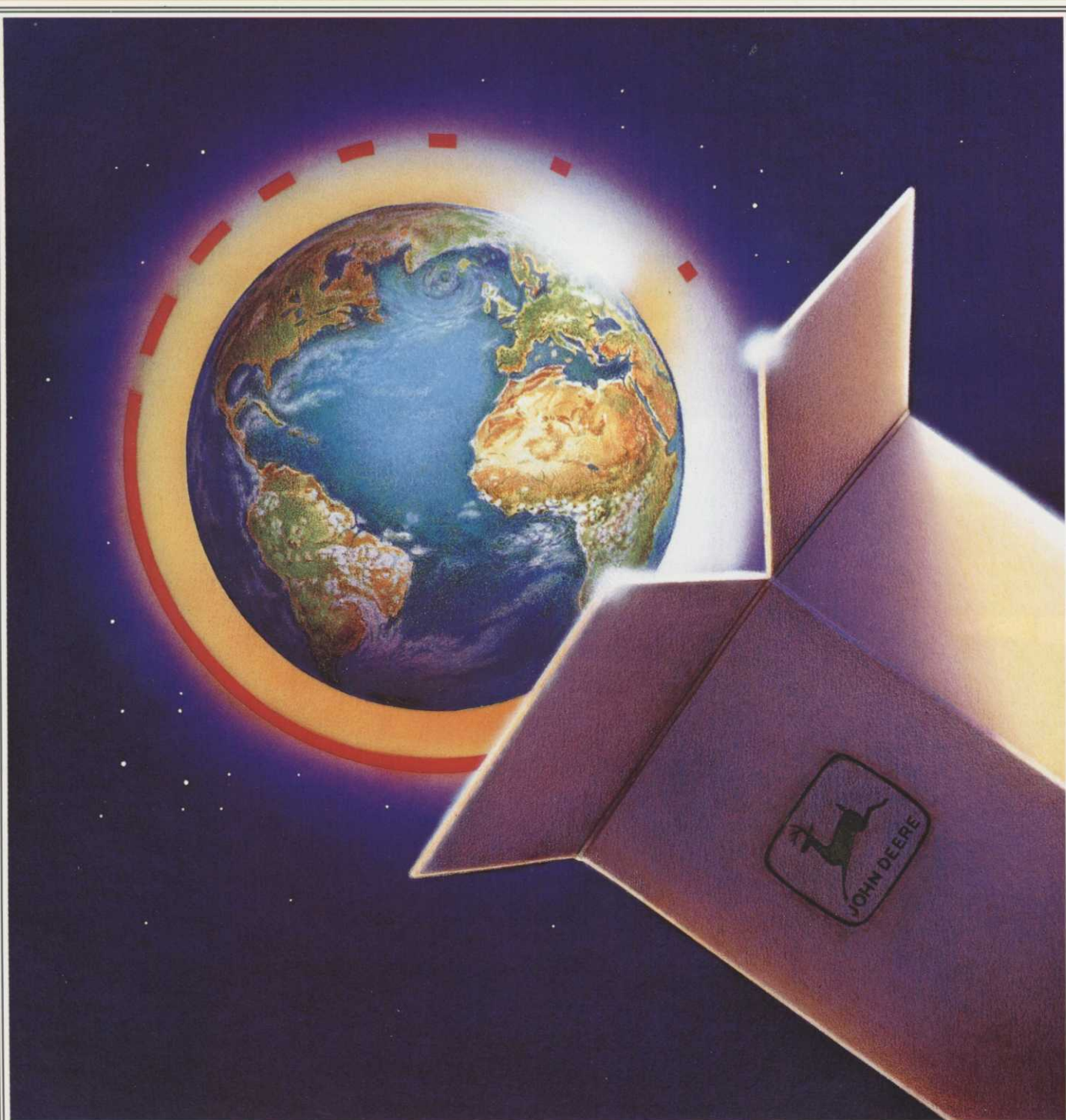
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Mid Anglia

The regional final of the Hayter Challenge tournament was held at Erewash Valley GC in early July. We had 13 players representing the section with the best 10 scores counting for the team prize. Although we had some good individual scores the best of which were Ronan McKeown and David Coleman with nett 70s we came 4th overall in the team competition. Thanks to all the players from Mid Anglia for turning up and to Roger Willars for organising the event so well. Other scores were Gary Boulton and Jim Burton, 72; Steven Cherry, Mark McLoughlan and Eddie O'Hanlon, 73. Eddie, of the Chesfield Downs Family Golf Centre, was the only individual to secure a place of any sort in the national final – a reserve position in the 10-18 handicap section.

The qualifying event for next year's competition will be the spring tournament at John O'Gaunt GC on April 29. Our summer tournament, a 36 hole event, was held on July 18 at Brickendon Grange GC near Essendon, Herts. The event was sponsored by Boughton Loam so thanks to Nick Baldwin for taking part in the golf and for supporting our section with prizes donated. Thanks also to our other regular Trade supporters who came on the day. The course itself was playing short with the very dry conditions and the greens were rolling nicely with some lengthy putts dropping. Our thanks to all the green staff in their efforts and to the other staff at Brickendon for looking after us on the day so well.

The full results of the golf event were as follows:

1. John Wells, Brocket Hall, 74pts; 2. Steve Cherry, Woburn, 73 pts; 3. John Moorhouse, Brocket Hall, 72 pts.

Best morning. S. Nightingale, Paveham. Best afternoon. R. Saunders, St Neots.

Nearest Pin. K. Bunting, Ashridge. Longest Drive. S. Barrett, Knebworth.

A total of 34 members played golf on the day and it was good to see some new faces taking part. I would like to thank Richard Saunders in particular for his organisation of the event which was excellent.

Occasionally an event occurs in our section of great interest and that can be said of John Wells' success in obtaining the prestigious Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

John is not only the first to obtain this qualification in the section but also the first in the whole Midland Region. He is one of only six British greenkeepers to hold this award. I'm sure everyone in the section will be behind me in congratulating John on his success.

John obviously sets himself very high standards on his course and we will all have the opportunity to see Brocket Hall GC when it hosts our autumn tournament on October 26. The format will be 18 holes in the morning followed by lunch and the AGM. Due to restrictions on tee times available the event will be

Around the Green



kept to 40-45 people maximum on a first come, first served basis, using the appropriate entry form sent to Richard Saunders by NO LATER than October 5.

All handicaps are now being recorded by the committee as well as all cards handed in at section competitions so we can keep closer tabs on members' handicaps some of which seem to go up and down at will. Any alterations deemed necessary by the committee will be relayed to the members before any competition.

Gerald Bruce, Section Secretary has a new telephone number should you wish to contact him outside working hours. It is 01422 826454.

A fixture card for next year's events should be with you by the beginning of October plus an entry form for the Texas Scramble event on Friday December 1 at Ashridge. Details to follow.

Paul Lockett

Midland

Summer of '95 is certainly proving to be a real scorcher! Wonderful for us but not for the course.

I would like to congratulate all the Midland section players who took part in the Hayter Challenge Tournament on July 5. I have been told that it was a very enjoyable day for all concerned. I also had a great day, laid out on the beach at Widemouth Bay, Cornwall enjoying the view.

The finalists were: P. Holtham, P. Richmond, R. Thomas and A. Roberts.

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Midland Section: Simon Marshall, Michael Canning, Gregory Hunt and Ian Savage while a belated welcome to what must be one of our most far flung members Gordon Farrington.

East Anglia beat the Midland section 5.5 to 3.5 at Letchworth GC. Congratulations to them and a thank you to Bob Pilsbury for sponsoring the day.

The Midland section would like to congratulate Mark Cutler on winning the 54 hole Miracle Amenity Care Cup at the National Tournament.

Kim Blake

East Anglia

Over 40 members took up the challenge of playing in the summer tournament at Thetford GC on August 9. Early queuing at the bar brought reward for some – a

pint with their ploughman's lunch put some with early tee off times in good form. Dennis Smith kept everyone in good order on the 1st tee and a fine job he did as starter for the day. Very dry is the natural condition of this Breckland course and in mid summer heat very tight lies were the norm. The course was in superb condition and the greens putted well, fast, true and consistent. Ian Willett and his team should be very proud of their course. A lot of very hard work must, as you would appreciate, go into maintaining a golf course that is located on the driest soil type in what is arguably the driest region in Britain.

Richard Goodenough, Captain of Thetford GC presented the winner's shield (to his own greenkeeper I must add) and the prizes.

Overall winner. Ian Willett, 36 pts.

0-9 handicap. 1. R. Plummer 34 pts; 2. A. Carter 33 pts 3. M. Virley 32 pts

10-18 handicap. 1. I. Willett 36 pts; 2. A. Day 35 pts on countback; 3. T. Russell 35 pts.

19-28 handicap. 1. C. Willcox 35 pts on countback; 2. T. Huddleston 35 pts; 3. E. Hart 33 pts.

Guest Prize. 1. C. Willcox 35 pts; 2. M. Sail 34 pts; 3. S. Seago 33 pts.

Nearest the pin. 1st hole. I. Willett; 3rd hole. T. Tyrell; 11th hole. A. Toomey 16th hole. A. Blackgrove.

Longest Drive. 13th hole. M. Day. 18th. G. Longshaw.

The Captain, by then joined by Colin Willcox, the Vice Captain and Chris Wilkinson, the Manager, thanked the participants for returning to Thetford GC on his invitation in 1994. Sam thanked Ian and his staff for the "cracking" condition of the course and then introduced Tim Russell from Lakenheath in his first competition and Regional Administrator Geoff Hills who travelled up from the south coast to be with us for the day. Geoff will be helping both the section and individuals with admin matters – Sam will have details if needed. The final thanks went to the trade which supports us at these meetings with its presence as well as prizes! Many thanks to: Avoncrop, Ben Burgess, C.M.W Collier Turf Care, Ernest Doe & Sons, greenkeeper supply co, Kings, Lubrication Engineers, Mommersteeg Seed, Parker Hart, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrook & Sons, Sisis, Sta-Brite, Symbio, Turf Actant. Also Ian Harris, West Middlesex GC and Norman Arter, Thetford GC for their help.

All thoughts are with Roger Eade, Stowmarket, who has just undergone a major operation – hope your recovery is swift and complete. Lyndon Upham and Ian Willett have gained their D32 Skills Assessor certificate enabling them to assess staff on NVQ courses. Ray Mitchall has moved on to Benton Hall GC.

The autumn trophy will be played for on Tuesday October 10 at Cromer GC. If you are not receiving

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St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor*

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

AROUND THE GREEN

entry forms for the competitions contact Dave Wells - 01702 522202. Dennis Smith is hoping to organise a coach to the Cromer meeting departing from Southend then moving up through the region. Anyone interested should contact Dennis (Parker Hart).

Finally if you are thinking of playing in a competition beyond the East Anglia section take note. Always make sure you have a national or a BIGGA handicap. A young greenkeeper from our section competed in the National Tournament at St Annes Old Links and produced a storming final round, including a hole-in-one, to win the major prize. Or he would have done had he had an official handicap. Unfortunately he was playing off an unofficial handicap given to him by one of his former bosses two years ago and the organisers had no option but to disqualify him. He did, however, win a prize and a bottle of whisky for his "Nearest the Pin" hole-in-one so he was able to drown his sorrows. The three cards, and excellent they were too, he completed were also sent on to our competition secretary so he will have a BIGGA handicap for next time.

Stephen Millard

Kent

I mentioned last month that the Birchwood Park golf day would be on September 25. This is wrong. The correct date is Wednesday September 27. We have the tee booked from 8.30am then again from 2.30pm with dinner being served from 7.30pm onwards. Steve Johnstone will have to confirm numbers two weeks prior to the day so it is important that you all return your booking slips along with all money as soon as possible. I have also been informed that Birchwood's Head Greenkeeper Neil Carter is moving on and that his number two Mark Drake is taking over. Congratulations and good luck to both of them.

Prompted by an inquiry from Tenterden GC the Kent section has decided to organise a one day First Aid Course. These have been very successful in the past so prompt booking will be advisable once all the details have been sorted out. We have also decided to try and organise a day trip to France which will include a round of golf, dinner and either ferry or rail crossing. If you are possibly interested please let me know.

Richard Page

Removing barriers to help potential golfers

I have just read with interest your piece "Small is beautiful" and agree entirely with the content.

The article asks "So where can the young and, indeed, the old learn the game" and also quotes: "There is nowhere in this country where a beginner can feel comfortable and have all the facilities available to become handicapped golfers."

- Well now there is!

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David Moss

Proprietor

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Feet on the ground

Regarding the article on "Ditching the relics of the past - say Americans" in the July issue you asked, do you feel the title "greenkeeper" is insufficient for today's responsibilities? To some extent this is true. But let's not get carried away with the notion that everything in the garden is rosy. A lot of this thinking comes from the colleges which fill students' heads with thoughts of big pays, fancy titles and big budgets. Well for most of us it is not like that. There are many greenkeepers in Britain - approximately 10,000 - and out of these how many earn more than the average wage? Not many.

Let me finish by saying that BIGGA has made big strides, as has greenkeeping. But let's not get carried away with ourselves. Golf clubs dictate to us what our wages and conditions are. So we can call ourselves Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers... whatever we like but in reality we have a long way to go before the word "greenkeeper" will be obscured from Britain's golf courses.

Duncan Peddie
Head Greenkeeper
Alloa GC

Oz connections

I am working on Pinehurst No 2 course through a programme organised by Ohio University. I used to work as a demonstrator/sales rep for Andrews of Sunningdale, then Gibbs of Bedford, selling Ransomes and Kubota around the London area.

While working on the course a few weeks ago I met a group of Australian superintendents who were doing a tour of the States.

John P. Odell, Superintendent of Royal Sidney GC told me that Gary Miller, who used to work at

Stoke Poges GC in Bucks was killed in a boating accident at the beginning of 1995. John wondered if anyone knew him back in England.

He was also interested in organising an England/Australian Superintendent Exchange Holiday.

If you are interested or could help in any way contact the Australian equivalent of BIGGA or John P. Odell himself at Kent Rd, Rose Bay, NSW 2029. Fax: 02 371 5024.

Peter Morrison
Pinehurst, North Carolina, USA

Vote of thanks

On behalf of everybody at St Andrews Links, I would like to thank all the BIGGA members for their valuable contribution to the 1995 Open. Their presence provided confidence with the knowledge that support would be available in any circumstance.

On a personal note, I was very proud to be part of an association which has progressed in such a dramatic fashion over the years and is such a credit to the Board Members and staff.

Walter Woods
St Andrews Links Supervisor

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Controlling finances

Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager at Letchworth GC, continues his series on effective golf course management.

Managing money – why are we so apprehensive about this subject?

There is certainly no need to be. Perhaps it is because we are handling our employer's money and there is a certain fear of making mistakes.

Perhaps it is because of the extra work involved in setting a budget system in place and having to monitor it.

It may be a mixture of both, coupled with a lack of confidence in our own abilities. Whatever the reason, we must overcome these fears, because I do not believe that a Course Manager can effectively manage a golf course unless he is responsible for the finances involved. I would like to convince every Head Greenkeeper (Course Managers know this already) that it is worth taking on this responsibility and explain how to carry it out successfully.

The following statements should help con-

vince those greenkeepers who are sceptical:

(a) You will be perceived as a much more important member of staff, an honest and more responsible individual.

(b) You will save the golf club money because you are the only one who is least likely to make a purchasing mistake because of your training, expertise, experience and knowledge of golf courses.

(c) You will find that all other tasks on the golf course will have much more relevance, and you will therefore become more self-motivated, contented and confident in your position.

(d) You will be paid more because of the obvious benefits to the golf course, and ultimately the golf club as a whole. Assuming everyone is now convinced let us now move on to what is involved:

1. FORMULATING, PRESENTING AND AGREEING BUDGETS

(a) FORMULATING BUDGETS

Separate into three sections.

- Capital (annual expenditure on new machinery)

- Maintenance (annual expenditure on machinery maintenance)

- Materials (annual expenditure on course materials)

All itemised using today's costs and updated, presented and agreed annually.

Some tips on formulation

Capital must be spread as equally as possible. The Club cannot afford to buy all new machinery in one year. Even if they could it is not cost effective!

Always name training as an item – it is just as important (if not more so) than any other item.

When calculating machinery maintenance 5 – 10% of purchase price per annum is a fair rule of thumb. However, every golf course is different and therefore wear and tear will be different. Because of this only use this as a starting point. Once you have formulated and controlled several years' budgets, forecasting will become much more accurate.

(b) PRESENTING BUDGETS

Following various experiences over the years I

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Making sure figures

now firmly believe in direct contact with the person who will be making, or the person most likely to be influencing, the decisions (usually the Treasurer).

In this way that person can question you face to face on any item, and request clarification/reasoning/justification before final approval by a Finance/General Committee. I believe this to be a very important point. If the information comes through a third party (eg. a Green Committee Chairman or even a Green Committee) so much can be lost in translation, and the probability is that the golf course will not get the finance which is required, and everyone suffers because of this.

If you have formulated and presented your budget properly and the finance is available, you will get agreement.

If you have formulated and presented your budget properly and the finance is not available, then the financing of the course as a whole needs further investigation, i.e. annual subscription levels and/or allocation of finances. In summing up this part – if you do the job properly you will get the appropriate

finance for the golf course in every instance.

There is, quite frankly, no considered alternative.

2. OBSERVING TIGHT COST CONTROL AND ENSURING COST EFFECTIVENESS

Watching every penny – that is all that title means. The best advice I can pass on is: "Imagine the money you are controlling is your own."

The pressures today in getting purchasing decisions right are greater than they have ever been, but if you follow that simple principle you will not make many (if any) mistakes.

Running an accounts ledger is vital in keeping track of costs, as well as being an accurate record for consultation as and when required.

The invoice for any purchase you have made will arrive at the Club – this must be passed to you for approval. You would then sign it, date it, code it, and record it in your accounts ledger, before passing it on for payment.

If when monitoring your expenditure you

realise you will over/underspend inform your employer/treasurer immediately. Informing them at the end of the financial year is too late!

3. REACHING A REASONED FINAL DECISION REGARDING TEE BUYING OF MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

On the selection and buying of materials it always seemed to me that there was too much time wasted in looking through catalogues, seeing visiting representatives, as well as calling on stands at appropriate exhibitions. I found that the allocation of a week in the depth of winter was the answer.

During this week the following would be carried out.

- (a) Full stock take.
- (b) Greenstaff meeting on the annual course programme (a good time to discuss/review golf course policy). To determine what materials will be required over the next 12 months.
- (c) Invite three/four company representatives to call – give them two hours each (if necessary). This gives you the time to give



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bowling green, cricket wicket or tennis court, Hydroject complements conventional aeration methods. And for large turf areas, Toro's Fairway and HC4000 heavy duty aerators cover up to 1.5 acres per hour with ease.

add up...

them your list of requirements, and give them the time to discuss alternatives, new products and any change in company policy. (d) Require them to submit quotations, including discounts, by a stated date (usually within four weeks). You will then receive three or four quotations on all your annual requirements and can make the necessary decisions on purchase, recording your decisions and reasoning behind them, taking note of the differing specifications involved, before ordering.

If you need anything extra during the course of the year because of changing circumstances, or there is news of a new product, contact can be made by telephone.

Buying machinery is a little different, however, and the following advice may be of some help. All staff must be involved in the decision of what particular machinery to buy – they will after all be using it. If they have been involved, you are more likely to make the right decision, and the machinery will be better maintained.

The decision on what particular machine to buy will be based on many factors, but the

main one from your employer's point of view will be cost. That is why it is necessary to put down in written table form a system which will justify your decision whenever questioned which it surely will be. Never accept any incentive to buy in any way, shape or form. Your professional judgment is based on many factors and bribery, which it is effectively, is not one of them.

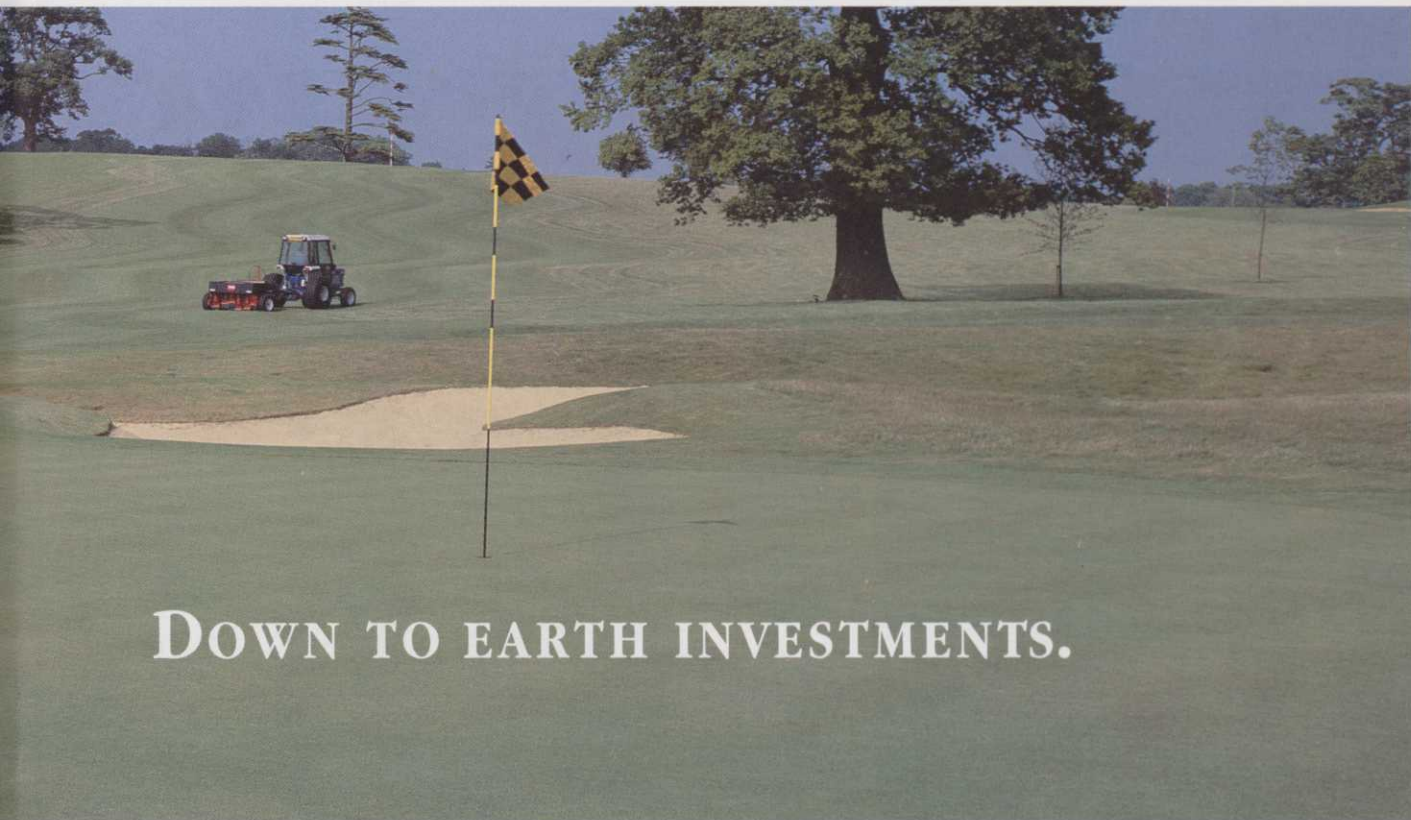
In conclusion I must state that I am not an accountant – I do not believe I need to be. I rely heavily on my treasurer for financial advice. He is after all the expert in financial matters.

I do feel however that because of my knowledge of golf courses and the costs involved, I am more likely to make the right decision than anyone else in the golf club. That is why I believe that a golf course budget should be the responsibility of the Course Manager.

	RED MACHINERY	BLUE MACHINERY	YELLOW MACHINERY	GREEN MACHINERY
MACHINE RELIABILITY	2	7	9	10
POWER UNIT	2	8	9	10
		7	9	10

ITEM	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
FAIRWAY CUTTER	1983	15K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MOWER CUTTER	1981	11K	11K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GREEN TRAPLE	1991	17K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TRACTOR 1	1991	14K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TRACTOR 2	1994	16K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TRACTOR 3	1995	16K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TRACTOR 4	1995	11K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RUBBER WARE	1995	8K	8K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ASPIRATOR 1	1992	4K	4K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ASPIRATOR 2	1994	3K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOP DRESSER	1993	3K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TRAILER 1	1994	2K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TRAILER 2	1991	2K	2K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ETC.	1991	2K	2K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ETC.											
TOTALS											
AMOUNT BUDGETED		51K	27K	41K	23K	23K	17K	17K	2K		
ACTUAL EXPENDITURE											

Top of the charts: to be successful, make plans says Duncan McGilvray



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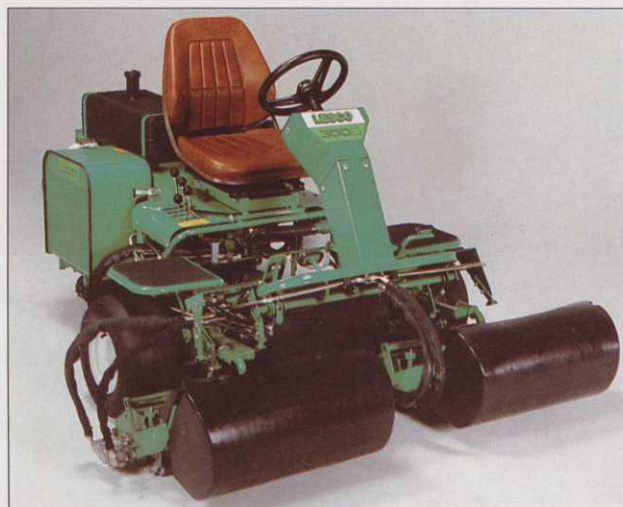
Hugh Tilley canvasses opinion on the Fairway Mowers currently on the market.

On most golf courses fairways were once seen as little more than the strip of grass joining tee to green, a strip to be cut regularly to allow the golfer to find

and play his ball fairly easily. However recent years has seen a change in their perception with greater emphasis on the "play" aspect. As a result most fairways

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are now better defined and faster, and as well as more frequent and closer mowing, many now have irrigation in part if not in their entirety so that they can be kept green. Visual attractiveness has become important on many courses, either because members are calling for the course to be "pretty", or because there is a need to attract players with more than just the quality of play. This too calls for more regular mowing and a better quality of cut. These changes have required many clubs to rethink their mowing strategy. Plenty of greenkeepers are now prepared to mow fairways two or three times a week, and while few box off clippings yet, except perhaps for a match, this is a possibility with most of the new ride-on fairway mowers. Better definition may also be necessary as semi-roughs are cut shorter to speed play.

The main manufacturers of golf



Ray Day driving a Jacobsen LF128

course machinery have all met the changing scene and now produce ride-on machines. They have also read the requirements for lightweight machines with generously sized tyres which allow cutting to be carried out

with zero turf damage irrespective of ground conditions. Recent mild winters have allowed grass to continue to grow – thus needing to be cut. Nevertheless there are clubs where trailed ground drive gang mowers are used, usu-

ally because they cannot or do not want to justify the cost and complication of hydraulic drive to the cutting units. In any case most courses already have a tractor. Others have gone part way and use a tractor for the prime mover with hydraulic drive to the cutters. A sharp well set trailed cylinder unit, used regularly, should cope with fairway cutting without problem – and many will assert produce as good a result as any hydraulic unit. All the greenkeepers *Greenkeeper International* spoke with aspired to a self propelled dedicated fairway unit.

The Jacobsen LF128 at Saunton Golf Club, North Devon

Saunton has two links courses, and an important part of the club's needs were to buy a machine to relieve the work load on its existing fairway mower. That the new machine was the

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- Cawdor Golf Club
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- Chirk Castle Golf Course
- Clitheroe Golf Club
- Collingtree Leisure
- Crompton & Royton Golf Club
- Delapre Golf Complex
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- Ely City Golf Club
- Glenbarvie Golf Club
- Gleneagles Hotel
- Goring and Streetley Golf Club
- Haggis Castle Golf Club
- Harpenden Golf Club
- Harrow School Golf Club
- Hellidon Lakes Golf & Country Club
- Kinross (Green Hotel)
- Leashowe Golf Club
- Leek Golf Club
- Lingfield Park Golf Club
- Lymm Golf Club
- Malone Golf Club
- Massereene Golf Club
- Mere Golf & Country Club
- Milltown Golf Club (Dublin)
- Mold Golf Club
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"A quality machine that gives a superb finish to our cylinders, and saves money." Mr. Derek Green, Head Greenkeeper of Royal Liverpool Golf Club.

NEW 1995 JUNO



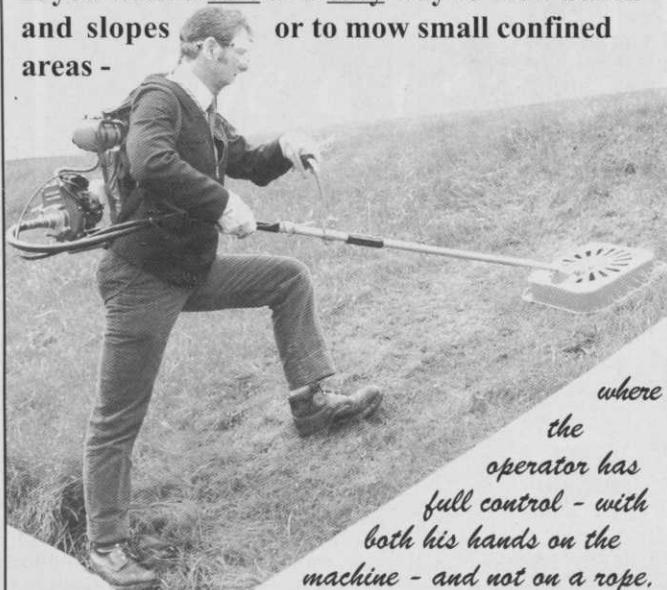
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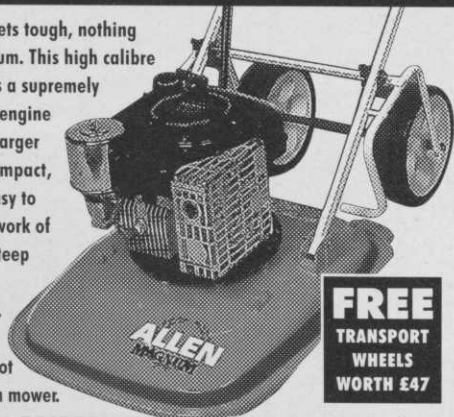
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AD REF 126

recently introduced Jacobsen LF128 is a comment on the LF100 which has operated on the course for five years with few problems. Prior to buying the first machine the club looked hard at a wide range of machines including trailed and mounted gangs and rotaries. Ray Day, Head Greenkeeper, stated that the important improvements over the older machine were the stronger and more reliable hoses and fittings, and four wheel drive. There were also other important detail improvements which added to the overall superiority. Four wheel drive was specified mainly for the odd occasion and slope when slip and the subsequent turf damage was a real possibility. To date it has been more of an insurance measure than a necessity. The machine has also greater clearance and this was seen as useful as there are a number of humps or mounds to clear to reach some of the fairways.

The '128' designation refers to the 28hp engine output, and this comes from a 3 cylinder Kubota diesel engine. Supplying distributor was MST at Tiverton, who has been very attentive but not yet required to prove an ability to supply urgent parts or service.

Ray commented that he found the machine very comfortable and easy to drive, a view echoed by the other greenkeepers who have used it. The pedal operated lift, hydrostatic transmission and steering made end of run turns quick and easy and this shows particularly on cross cutting.

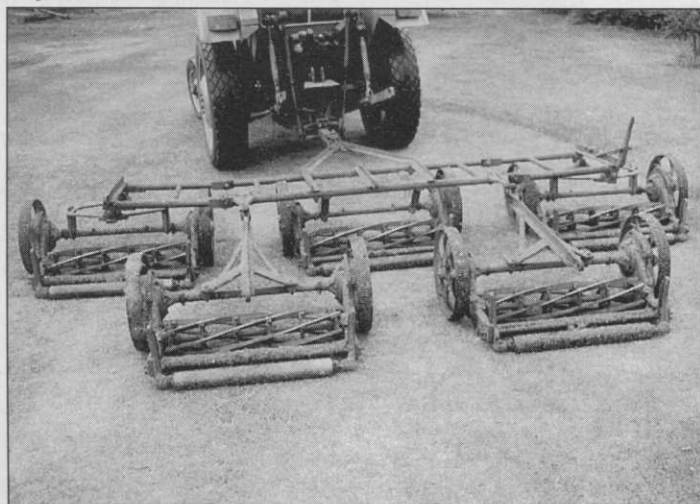
Prior to changing to dedicated fairway mowers the course had a tractor mounted set of gangs. Overall weight (of tractor plus mower) and a tendency to bounce when operating fast were the more important reasons for the change. Ground following is normally very good on the LF128 with a positive down pressure available on rear rollers, however severe undulations do result in some lift off. There are cutting five units, 22 inch wide to give a 100 inch overall cut and the 5 inch cylinders are seven bladed. Grass catchers were supplied as standard but have not been used. Normal summer cut height is 3/8 in. but this increased for winter, (and presumably dry spells). These heights are close to the middle of machine's range.

The club has a full time mechanic who undertakes all servicing, sharpening and most repairs. Routine servicing is simple, cutting units are easy to remove and so are back lapped weekly on the bench. Sharpening - relief grinding - is normally carried out twice a year, unless something untoward happens, like picking up a bolt, as happened when *Greenkeeper International* visited. There were no complaints on bottom blade wear, but the club uses genuine replacements, as they have found cheaper alternatives didn't last very well.

Lloyds Leda gang mower at Burford GC

Burford's set of standard Leda

Lloyds Leda at Burford GC



REAL WORLD TEST
Fairway Mowers
 GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

mower units with their "golf course frame" were bought in 1968, since when they have had one major overhaul which cost around £3,000. Ground driven, the units are simple and extremely reliable, and this is a major part of their attraction. Head Greenkeeper, Barry Holt, stated that he is extremely happy with the quality of cut produced, and although he has tried powered gangs he still feels that the old Leda units are more than a match for them. During the growing season the fairways are cut twice a week.

Greens surrounds, approaches and etc. are usually cut with ride-on tees triples which are more manoeuvrable than the trailed gangs. The course staff, limited to just five, means that cutting output is very important, and the Leda gangs give this.

The five gang unit, has cutters which are 30 inch (760mm) wide and have six bladed 7.5inch (190mm) diameter cylinders driven by 17inch cast steel wheels through gear trains. The size of the cylinders, their speed of rotation and the ample clearances means that grass is thrown well clear the rear roller and even in wet conditions there is no grass being picked up and then dropped off in a lump, a point Barry emphasised, so no scrapers are required. Setting the height is a simple spanner task, but is not often required. There is positive location which ensures level setting.

Barry said that having a towed mower was no problem as there would always be a tractor available for trailer, loader and other work. Fitted with the correct tyres marking the turf has not been a problem.

Maintenance on the Leda units is extremely simple, a grease round about once a month with back lapping carried out perhaps twice a season and regrounding during the winter overhaul. This overhaul is carried out in-house and includes a complete strip of all assemblies and a check for wear on ratchets, springs and bearings. Bottom blades last several seasons and Barry believes that the units are still with their original cylinders. Some welding has been carried out on the

frames. The club is split by a road but lifting the units for transport across this is quick and easy.

The John Deere 3235 at Manor House Hotel GC & CC - Castle Combe.

"Greens quality finish" was a major requirement for Course Manager, Paul Bishop, at Manor House Hotel G&CC. Other necessary features included hill safe four wheel transmission, user friendly operation and servicing, and a supportive dealer backed by an efficient parts service.

The club is owned privately by the owner of the Manor House Hotel and as such needs to attract and retain discerning golfers. Location in the Cotswolds area of outstanding natural beauty means that the quality of landscaping and overall visual attraction are a vital ingredient of the course, and one which Paul is working hard at enhancing, hence his preoccupation on quality of finish. Cross cutting is a must.

John Deere offers two engine powers and two cutting unit specifications to suit all golf courses

Paul Bishop aboard a John Deere 3235



world wide, Manor House's selection of the 32hp (Yanmar diesel) engined version with standard 5inch, 7 blade cylinders perfectly reflected the use anticipated - temperate climate and high quality cutting. The 5inch cutting units, with rollers front and rear, have a short 'wheelbase' so follow ground contours better than the larger units.

In keeping with the requirement for quality finish and stripes, the machine has hydraulic down pressure, which is set using a key thus preventing the operator adjusting or mis-adjusting it during work. This pressure will be reduced or removed for winter work.

Transmission is hydrostatic with four wheel drive automatically engaged when required, however an important consideration at Castle Combe was the fact that the drive is positive, so that de-accelerating gives positive braking to all four wheels, something which Paul considers is essential on the course which has some considerable slopes. A "Roll Over Protection System" has also been fitted, with a roof giving the

greenkeeper some protection from sun or rain. Grass catchers are available but not purchased while fairway groomer and verticut attachments are options for the future.

Ease of operation, with one touch single lever lift/pto engagement and two-pedal speed/direction control, was another reason for selecting the JD 3225. All the four greenkeepers who have used it like it, and all rated it as extremely manoeuvrable.

Operators undertake their own daily servicing, checking levels and greasing round etc, while the club's mechanic undertakes other service routines. Back lapping, carried out in-situ using the machine's reverse drive facility, is undertaken approximately every other week, while full sharpening is not expected to be required more often than once a year.

Quality of design and build were other factors on which Paul made comment. In particular he commented on the fact that all hoses were well routed (over the units), clear of the ground and fully protected. His only disparaging remark concerned the parking brake lever which sometimes drops under the pedals.

Huxley HD138 hydraulic reel mower at Andover GC.

Andover is only a 9 hole course, private and with limited means, this meant that whatever it buys on its limited budget has to be cost effective and have a long life expectancy. The club has close and favourable relationships with Huxleys - "they have always treated us well and we have always had favourable deals" said Tony Broad, Chairman of the Greens Committee, "thus it was natural that we should look at their products". Nevertheless a range of machines was considered before the club bought the Huxley HD 138 hydraulic reel mower for the 1995 season. Huxleys also took the previous gang mowers, which "were falling apart", and gave a very generous allowance.

Greens staff is two and a half, thus as well as being reliable any fairway mower had to have a reasonable output. In the event Andover has cut its fairway mowing time down from eight hours



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Huxleys HD138 Hydraulic Reelmower



to about five since using the new units. Chris Sturgess, Head Greenkeeper, said that as well as saving time this was also saving fuel. No less important was the fact that the new mower gave a far superior quality of cut.

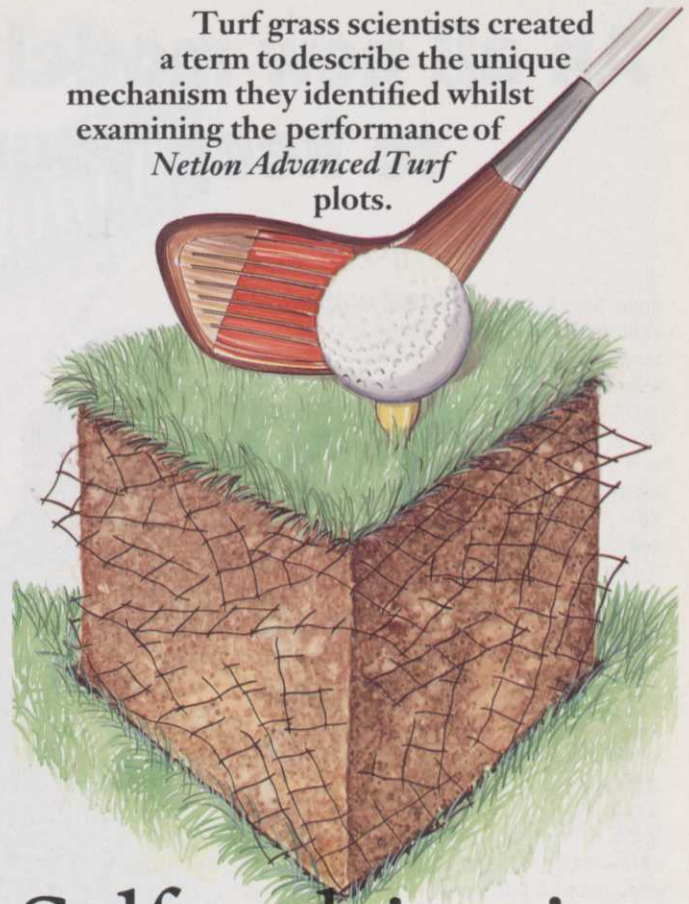
Cutting width is 138inch, with five 30inch wide, 8inch six bladed cylinders, driven hydraulically from a pump mounted direct on the tractor's PTO. The cutting units are mounted on a trailed carrier which also carries the oil reservoir so making the whole outfit quick to attach and detach, and, because there is no PTO shaft, relatively manoeuvrable. Andover GC's HD138 has the twinroll option which allows the cutters to 'float'. Chris said that they have not found any tendency to bounce. Cutting the practice area (the only suitable place with grass) in damp conditions did show some clumping of the clippings, however the wire scrapers were very effective, and Greenkeeper International was assured that no clumping has been seen on the fairways. The club's Ford 1920 compact tractor was more than capable of handling the mower, (35hp + is recommended) and even operating in far from ideal conditions on a site which sloped significantly there was no sign of slip or loss of control, although the driver was given the warning "take care when turning".

Maintenance is limited to a weekly grease of the few nipples plus a visual check of oil level and the condition of the hoses. At the time of writing there had been no problems, Huxleys had made a post installation service check and tightened up one hose. The sharpening regime is to backlap as necessary with relief grinding undertaken by the supplier during the winter service. Tony reckons that the technology of this mower is far enough advanced to allow the club to take the machine into the next century. The assumption is for a ten year life, and written down over this period, unless repair and maintenance costs spiral, Andover GC and both Tony and Chris are satisfied that they have value for money and inexpensive fairway mowing.

Ransomes Hydraulic 5 at Lee-on-Solent Golf Course

Lee-on-Solent GC's fairway mower is now six years old, and likely to be replaced within the next two seasons. Head Greenkeeper, Stephen Pellatt, while not committing the club, said it is likely that the next mower will also be a Ransomes Hydraulic 5 just on the past record of this machine and the supplier, Rows of Chichester. Tees triples are used for approaches and aprons which removes any problem of manoeuvrability around greens

Turf grass scientists created a term to describe the unique mechanism they identified whilst examining the performance of *Netlon Advanced Turf* plots.



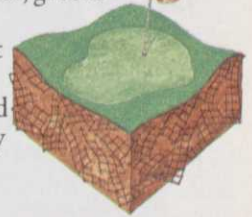
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etc. Lee-on-Solent is a fairly flat course but undulating, it straddles two roads, so the ability to pick up the gang and move quickly and easily is vital.

All fairways can be cut within an eight hour day, but not all are cut each time as variations in soil type and moistures means that only the wettest most fertile need cutting three times a week. Cross cutting is carried out as most fairways are wide enough with sufficient semi-rough surround to allow this.

Stephen reported that the cutting units stay "on cut" well, backlapping is normally carried out about once a month, with a full regrind being reserved for the annual overhaul, which is carried out by a part-time mechanic.

During the time the club has had the machine reliability has been very good, it is a robust outfit, however chafing of hoses and one burst has occurred. Now it is



Stephen Pellatt drives a Ransomes Hydraulic 5 at Lee-on-Solent

a fairly regular routine to check for chafing then move and retie the hose so that another part takes the rub. There are no scrap-

ers on the machine, most broke off at the brackets and, as they were not considered essential, they were not replaced. One

bearing has collapsed and wore the roller so the whole assembly was replaced, but over a six year life this cannot be considered a problem.

Height of cut adjustment is not altered very often, however it is easy to carry out. No problems have been experienced with uneven cut due to rollers slipping in the bracket, nevertheless this is checked regularly. Normal cut height is 5/8inch

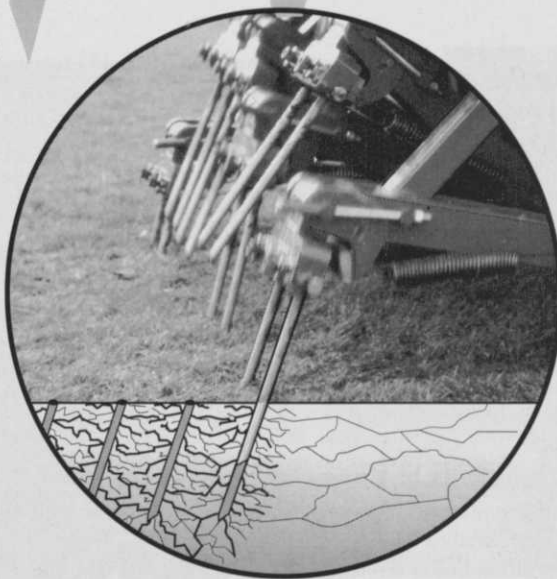
Stephen said that Rows are very good and have already demonstrated alternatives to him including Ransomes new lightweight fairway mower. They have competition in the area, with other makes, and the club is well aware that there are other options, however satisfaction with the capital and running costs as well as with the quality of cut and ability of the Ransomes Hydraulic 5 means that it has an advantage when it comes to replacing the current machine.

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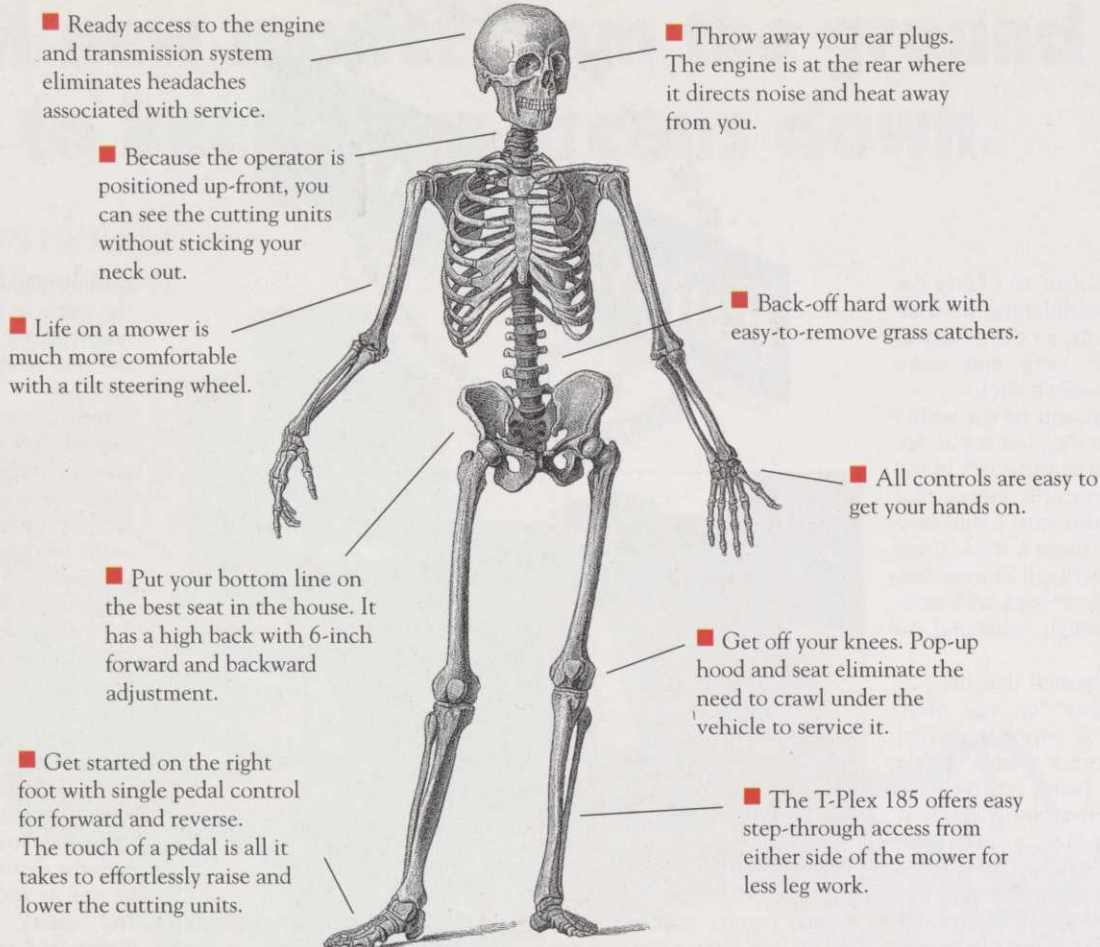


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Carl's master class

Carl Horrax, pictured right, is a graduate of Myerscough College and worked on a placement at Pinehurst No 2 before being recommended to Marsh Spencer, Superintendent at the Augusta National. Carl, 21, has worked at the famous Georgia club since February and will return home with tales of a high tech paradise for the greenkeepers charged with maintaining the most pampered course in the world. These are his impressions.

The first two things about the Augusta National which stood out in my mind when I arrived were how immaculately lush and green everything looked and how the television cameras don't do the course justice. Television cameras make the course look rather flat but in fact the contouring is impressive – particularly from the steep drop off the 10th tee to the relatively flat 13th fairway.

Then once I had got over the initial shock and saw the greens for the first time I quickly discovered why they are the most terrifying in the world. The undulations on the greens are incredible and it can only be described as classic Alistair McKenzie work. This combined



with the firmness and the close mowing makes even the best golfers in the world cringe at the thought of putting on them.

The Augusta National has a crew of 41 people for the 18 hole "Masters" course and the 9 hole par-3 course – venue for the annual pre-Masters par-3 tournament – this includes the management and the four qualified mechanics. The Golf Course Crew is solely responsible

for the course and doesn't look after the large area around the clubhouse, the trees and shrubs or the cabins located around the course. All these areas are taken care of by a separate Nursery Crew of another 16 people.

A great many of the Golf Course Crew are extremely well qualified. There are eight who already have two year degrees in some form of turf management and there are two others

'Within the workshop is a separate grinding room... There is also a separate welding room... and finally there is a spare parts room which puts your local Ford dealer to shame. Honestly, this place is amazing...'

who are presently studying for degrees on a part time basis. Then there are the six students who work on the course for a year and who are the best students from the top American turf universities.

The maintenance facilities at the Augusta National for an 18 hole course must be the best in the world. You really have to see it to believe it. The reception area more resembles a hotel lobby than the entrance to a golf course maintenance facility. In the Superintendent and First Senior Assistant's office you could easily picture Richard Branson sitting behind the desk and not a golf course superintendent. It really puts it into perspective that our industry has finally been given professional recognition by the golfing industry.

The crew room has everything that you could possibly require from microwaves, fridges, snack and drinks machines to the latest magazines and journals to read. Next door to the crew room is another crew room filled with rows of desks and resembling a class room. In fact this is used for weekly crew meetings and is especially busy during the week of the Masters. Another impressive thing about Augusta is that it has a Soil Lab. As a result of this I've learnt that diagnosis of diseases by visual appearance isn't the most effective method because disease appearance isn't always like that in a text book. So by taking samples of the diseased grass plants and looking at them under the microscope you can diagnose the disease by the spores and pathogens present. This is a cost effective method of disease control on most courses but especially Augusta National as it keeps the fungicide use down because you're spot treating the diseased and area and because you are identifying the disease before it gets established.

As you can imagine a golf course like the Augusta National will not be short of machinery. For transportation around the course everyone is assigned his own vehicle, either an EZ-GO, Toro Workman or a Cushman. It seems like a perfect world and in many ways it is. But at first I thought that it was a total waste of money because probably eight vehicles never get used as the people assigned to them spent almost all their time operating machinery. Then I found out that a lot of the machinery, especially transportation equipment, is leased and gets replaced every two years and so it is just as expensive to get everyone a vehicle. Perhaps one or two of the larger courses in the UK would benefit from this method of obtaining vehicles.

When it comes to general equipment it is a case of they've got it and if they don't have it they don't need it.

The two pieces of equipment that I expected to see but that they don't have is a verti-drain and a core master. A verti-drain is something they would love to use on the fairways but because under the surface there is a



At ease: Greenstaff relax in spacious surroundings of a "crew room"

mass of cables, pipes and wires some of which are very shallow the risk is too high. Both of these pieces of equipment are used for green aeration but the aeration service is contracted out.

As you can imagine a course with so much machinery requires a huge mechanical workshop and, as you would expect, that is what they have. The workshop is very well organised and has everything from huge hydraulic ramps that comfortably carry a Ransomes 300 to small hydraulic tables for the pedestrian mowers. Within the workshop is separate grinding room equipment with four reel

grinders and eight portable backlappers. There is also a separate welding room with both gas and mig welding facilities. And finally there is a spare parts room which puts your local Ford dealer to shame. Honestly, this place is amazing.

The Augusta National is irrigated wall-to-wall. There are 2100 Toro 650 or 670 heads on the main course and a further 550 on the par 3 course. It is run from a Toro Personal Computer in the irrigation room and from this computer you can do everything. There are 68 satellites around the course and from there you fingertip control of the irrigation. The Augusta National has three pump stations while the average course is the UK has one at most. Water is extracted from the two ponds on the par 3 course to irrigate the par 3 course. The main course is irrigated with purified canal water or straight from the mains water supply and in most cases it is the mains water which is used. The third pump station is located down by Rae's Creek and it is there for emergency purposes when if need be water can be taken from the Creek.

The irrigation room doubles up with the weather centre. In the room are four different lightning detectors, including one which is a PC which can track the lightning. There is also a separate personal computer which receives new weather images every 15 minutes so you can identify quickly whether or not a storm is building around you and you know when to get the golfers off the course and when to get the Golf Course Crew off the course. Lightning is very dangerous and the Augusta National takes no chances.

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Ransomes 250 - Rough.....	2
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Toro Workman - Transport.....	4
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The Art of Grass



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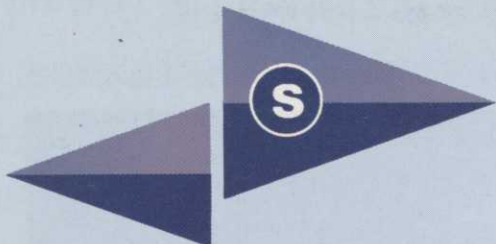
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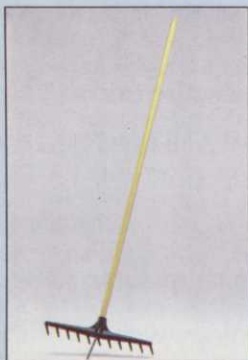
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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

It is not morbid to think about making a Will. Let us face it we none of us live forever, and unless there is a Will what we leave goes in accordance with the law under what are called the "Intestacy Rules".

Most people think that everything will automatically go to their wife or husband as the case may be. To quote the old song "It ain't necessarily so". Property in joint names will usually go to the survivor, but if the property is in just one name its value is taken into account in assessing how much goes to the surviving spouse, which in fact is limited to £125,000 plus your personal bits and pieces ("personal chattels" the law calls them) and after that some goes to children and some is in trust for the surviving spouse. If there are no children, the survivor gets £200,000 and a share in anything over the rest of which is divided between various relatives.

Even with a small estate is far better to have a Will, if only because you then have proof of what it is that the deceased wanted, and of course you have the deceased's choice of executors (the people who actually have to carry out the wishes), and not in accordance with arbitrary arrangements of law.

It is also important to remember that in the eyes of the law a relative is not a relative at all unless they are a blood relative. Your stepchild does not count, nor do the children of your spouse's brothers or sisters. Furthermore nowadays more and more people tend to live together without getting married and as the law stands not a surviving partner is unlikely to be able to obtain any provision even by going to Court. This may be altered soon, but it would still involve a Court case and it would be so much easier just to make a Will.

How do I make a Will?

There is no mystique about it. All a Will has to do is to set out what it is you wish to be done with your estate. You do not have to itemise each and every item (except in so far as you wish to leave a particular item to somebody) and providing the wording



is clear there need be no formality. A Will was admitted to probate which merely said "All to Mother" and this was valid. There was a slight difficulty, however, because being a Yorkshireman he called his wife "Mother" and the Court finally had to decide whether he had meant to leave everything to his Mother or Wife! The point is that even such a vague Will as that will be accepted by the Courts who will do their best to make sense of it.

Except in the case of servicemen a Will has to be in writing and has to have two independent witnesses. The witnesses can be married to each other, and indeed can be anybody in the world other than people who are mentioned in the Will or their spouse. The only legal rule is that a witness cannot be blind, mad or drunk! the Will-maker and the

two witnesses should all sign on the same occasion and no one should leave the room until all three signatures are complete and on the Will.

There are various companies which do publish Will forms and these, in general, are very good. Before you fill one in just stop and think what you want to do, who you want to appoint as executor, and whether there are any special ideas for your funeral. If there are, then do tell your executors. It is only in Hollywood films that they have an official "reading" of the Will and ideally the executor should open the Will to see what it says immediately on learning of the death. I recall a very sad case when a family opened the Will after the funeral to find that the first words were "I wish my body to be cremated" and they had just come back from

burying her! It was very traumatic and although it ended well by having the body exhumed and then cremated it was a very gruelling experience for everybody.

I would just put in one word or caution. If there are children under 18 involved do get the Will professionally drawn. The intricacies of Trust Law are not suitable for the DIY Lawyer!

In order to deal with a dead person's estate (unless it is quite small) it is necessary to get a document called a "Grant of Representation" which is issued by a Probate Registry which is, in fact, a branch of the Courts. The way of applying for this is quite straightforward and I would invite any BIGGA member who finds his or herself in the position of having to do this to give us a call here at Hambro Legal Protection Ltd when we will be only too happy to act as a guide through the process. It is rarely necessary to involve a solicitor in this part of the business, although once a Probate has been obtained it may be necessary to have a solicitor to deal with the actual conveyancing of the property.

If you do have any problems regarding Wills, intestacy or anything else of this nature please do not hesitate to telephone us. It is one of the benefits you have by virtue of your BIGGA membership

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

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Terry Farkin, Head Greenkeeper at Dartmouth Golf and Country Club:
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rather than listen to everyone else. Dartmouth is a new course and everyone likes to give an opinion but you've got to go on your own instinct."

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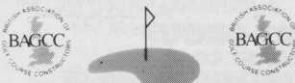
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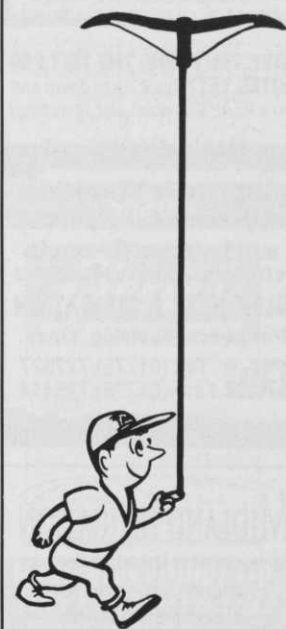
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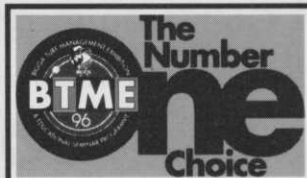
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Where and when is it? Oak Hill, New York on September 22-24.

Why is it called the Ryder Cup? It was named after St Albans seed merchant Samuel Ryder who offered the gold cup for a biennial match between the golfers of Great Britain and Ireland and the United States.

You said Great Britain and Ireland. Haven't I seen Seve Ballesteros, Bernhard Langer and Jose Maria Olazabal play major roles in the Ryder Cup? Well yes. The rest of Europe was brought into the fold in 1979.

Why was that? It was becoming too easy for the Americans.

Too easy? Yes. Of the 22 matches which had been played since 1927 and up to 1977 US had won 18 of them, GB&I three and one had been tied. GB&I hadn't won a match since 1957 and before that 1933.

Whose idea was it to bring in Europe? Jack Nicklaus wrote to Lord Derby, President of the PGA, saying that the matches would die if the GB&I team wasn't strengthened.

Who were the first "Europeans" to play? Seve Ballesteros and Antonio Garrido.

How did they do? They won one point between them and Europe lost 17-11.

Have they made a difference since then? Undoubtedly Europe lost by the narrowest of margins in 1983, won in historic fashion at The Belfry in 1985. Retained the Cup in the States for the first – ironically defeating US Captain Jack Nicklaus on his home Muirfield Village Course – and tied when it was played again at The Belfry in 1989.

How about since then? Europe lost by the narrowest of margins in both 1991 and '93.



So in effect we haven't won it for eight years? Well yes. I suppose so.

Why is that? Europe has a small core of superstars and they generally have to play all five matches in the three day Ryder Cup format and are often tired when the crucial singles come along on the Sunday.

What are our chances this year? Er. Not good.

Why? We changed our selection process so there was a fair chance we couldn't pick our best players.

How do you mean? We've gone from three Captain's picks to two Captain's picks and with some of our best golfers playing on the US Tour and others not competing too often on the European Tour several have not managed to get into the 10 automatic places.

That was a little silly wasn't it? No comment.

How important is the Ryder Cup? It's the most important team event but the players would all rather win a Major than win the Ryder Cup. It does induce severe patriotism among

the spectators though and is the only event where you will hear cheering for a missed putt.

Why is that? Well a missed putt by one is a won hole or match for the other side.

Any examples? Bernhard Langer missed a six footer which would have halved the 1991 match at Kiawah Island and the whole of America went wild.

Is that the most famous putt in Ryder Cup history? Probably or it might be the birdie putt Sam Torrance holed on the final green of The Belfry in 1985 to clinch the first win since 1957.

What's the most famous non-putt? That would be the 18 incher Jack Nicklaus gave Tony Jacklin in 1969 which guaranteed the first tied match.

Will that happen this year? Not likely. Nicklaus wasn't universally popular with his teammates then and would be lynched now.

Any other famous shots? Christy O'Connor hit a superb 2-iron to the 18th green at The Belfry in '89 to defeat Fred Couples and Nick Faldo had a hole-in-one at

The Belfry's 14th two years ago.

You keep mentioning The Belfry. Since Europe's involvement has the match ever been played outside the UK? No but in 1997 it is to be played at Valderrama in Spain as a mark or respect for all that Seve has done for European golf.

Has it ever been to Ireland? No.

Why not? Haven't got a clue. It should have gone in '97 and Spain in 2001 but golf politics work in mysterious ways.

Politics? Oh yes. It got so bad that Lord Derby who was President of both the PGA and the PGA European Tour renounced Presidency of the European Tour.

Why? Well it used to be that the Ryder Cup was run by the PGA but when the European Tour was born in the early 70s the Ryder Cup players were members of it and not always the PGA as well – particularly when the European players came on board. The Tour therefore wanted more control of The Ryder Cup but the PGA didn't want to give it up as, particularly nowadays, it generates huge sums of money in television rights and sponsorship deals.

Any examples? Well that's why you'll find that the matches when in Europe will now always be played on relatively new courses which are prepared to pay for the privilege and not one of many wonderful traditional courses Europe boasts.

Any others? Most people won't see it this year because the television rights have been sold to BSkyB.

Most likely to happen? Uncle Tom Cobley and his friends will be allowed inside the ropes blocking the views of the paying galleries, the American wives will be dressed like Auntie Samantha and provide enthusiastic chants of "Go USA".

Least likely to happen? Europe gets back on the winning track and Bernard Gallacher is praised for his handling of the team.



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Photograph taken in May 1995 courtesy of West Hove Golf Club, Sussex showing spring carryover from October 1994 – applied Sierrablen NK - 15.0.22+Fe on left hand fairway compared to untreated right hand fairway.



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