TURF MAINTENANCE ● SPRAYERS ● CHAIRMAN'S YEAR STURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION BIGGA

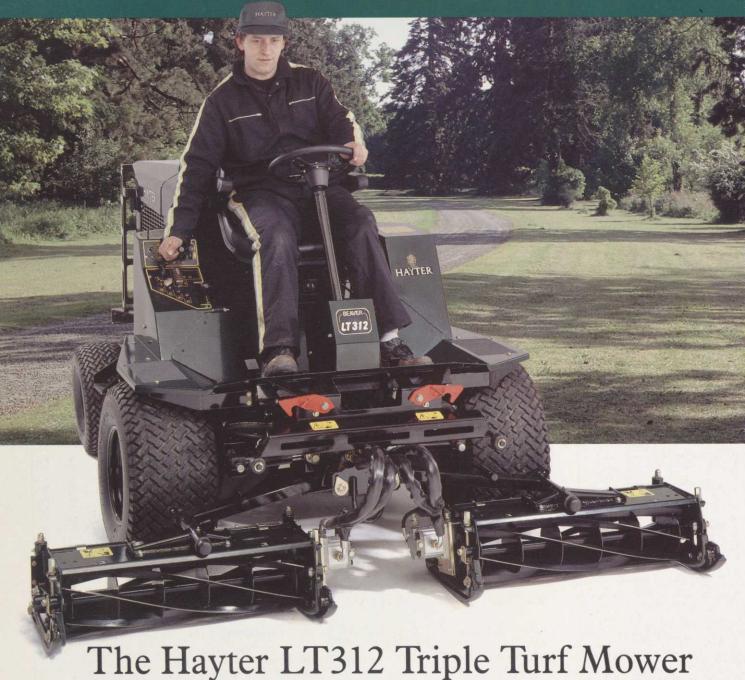


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International

FEBRUARY 1996

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Pictures from BIGGA's main event - and there's more inside



URF MANAGEMENT EXHIB

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

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Here's to the next time

SUNDAY JANUARY 21

It's that time of year again, BTME week. For some reason I appear to be taking an over keen interest in the TV weather bulletins but then before the week is out... Off to the Majestic Hotel where Ken and Sami are busying themselves with preparations for registration. Conference set looks impressive. Registration goes smoothly with everyone seeming to be impressed with the new conference folders. Our international guests arrive and join us for an excellent dinner. I end up on a table which produces an interesting debate between Jeff Collinge and Billy McMillan nobody else had much chance to speak. The week seems set fair but you couldn't say the same about the weather - it's cold outside.

MONDAY

Conference and Workshop One are off to a good start but our lecturer for Workshop Two on Stress Management Techniques, Brin Bendon, is missing. 9am rolls on to 9.20am and I am feeling distinctly stressed. Ken is growing paler by the minute. Finally Brin's car is spotted and we help him out, broken ankle and all. He had been planning for a 9.30am start. Stress levels are running high. Should be a good workshop - wish I could go. The day goes well, while a conference highlight is the presentation of Master Greenkeeper Certificates to John Wells and David Winterton. So to the conference dinner with speeches from the Chairman and Peter Wilson from Ransomes followed by an hilarious after dinner speaker in David Gunson - the ex-air traffic controller had flown all the big names including Buddy Holly, Jim Reeves and Ricky Valence... A good end to the day - but it's getting colder...

TUESDAY

Down to the George Hotel at 8.30am for the start of the Chairman of Greens/Secretaries course. Sense of deja vu. First lecturer from the STRI has failed to arrive. Course introduction is delayed for 15 minutes until a breathless Tim Lodge arrives. Car problems. My immediate thought is to join



BY NEIL THOMAS

Brin Bendon's workshop. Day Two continues well with an early indication of Joe Vargas' talents... Short Board of Management meeting with Dean Cleaver elected as Chairman and then off to the exhibitors' cheese and wine gathering. The third annual Hayter Dinner in the George Hotel follows. superbly organised by Kim Macfie and Barbara Garton. This event is now a Tuesday fixture during BTME and not to be missed. I walk back to the Majestic Hotel - am I becoming paranoid about the weather?

WEDNESDAY

Here we go. 8.15am and Hall A is already well populated. Board Members arrive and the Chairman, broken leg, fractured shoulder and all, is ready for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Chairman's ever present wheelchair pusher and minder, Per-Olof, is also in attendance. Our Swedish friends are much appreciated. The ribbon is cut and great numbers hurry in.

11am - first flurries of snow. I'm on the phone to Leeds Weather Centre - assured there is little to worry about. Viscount Whitelaw arrives for Chairman's luncheon and tour of the exhibition - his enthusiasm for BIGGA knows no bounds. Off to the AGM. Revised Constitution and Rules are approved - we continue to move forward. This year the karaoke night actually takes place. Sami's been hiding her singing talents - she seems almost semiprofessional. I refuse to become involved but I should have known better. There's obviously been an orchestrated attempt to get me on board with the 'BIGGA Boys' and I have no option but to join in a terrible rendering of 'Uptown Girl'. The evening is highlighted by one of Joe Vargas' other talents - the appearance of 'Elvis Presley' in full regalia brings the house down - a great evening noted for repeat next year. It's now very cold indeed.

THURSDAY

7.30am BTME Steering Commit-

completed at 7.55am just as fire alarm goes off and hotel evacuated. We eventually return to a hot breakfast. Exhibition is again very busy but complaints about heating in the Royal Hall - note to consider alternative venue for 1997. The International Symposium takes a great stride forward towards the probable formation of a European Golf Greenkeepers Association to represent the interests of greenkeepers throughout Europe. Off to the banquet. The numbers are swelling at the doors long before kick-off time for this 'sold out' climax to the week. For a year I have lived with the fears that it will not reach the standard of last year with Tom O'Connor and Linda

Nolan. My fears are groundless.

Lyn Paul sets the standard, a

great voice and, as we found

talking to her after the show, a

really nice lady. Stan Boardman

was on top form giving a great

performance. This event really

has become a social highlight of

the year for both our members

and the companies. Book early

for 1997. A late night for many

and it's no longer just cold out-

tee. Well supported even if all

brains are not totally function-

ing at this early hour. Business

side...

A thin white blanket of snow but nothing to worry about as yet. The bleary eyed faithful arrive at the Exhibition Halls and Joe Vargas attracts a good audience to his seminar. Much talk of the previous evening's banquet and show begins to turn to talk of the weather. The flurries are increasing. I pull the plug on the show an hour early at 12.30pm. The evacuation of equipment and personnel is impressive. Late afternoon and the snow is setting in. 24 hours later it is still snowing but its all over and I can stop taking the tablets. We made it and it's been a great week.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success and particularly to our exhibitors without whom there would be no BTME.

I hope they had a successful week and are planning to return. Our planning for 1997 is already underway - here's to the next time.

Geof Hills: a tribute

It is with much regret that I have to advise members of the passing of Geof Hills, Regional Administrator for the South East Region. Geof was taken ill on the Friday morning of the BTME and admitted to hospital in Harrogate where he subsequently passed away early the following day. Geof joined the staff of BIGGA in May 1995 as the first employee Regional Administrator covering the South East Region. Geof had followed a varied and interesting career path which included duties as an inspector in the Northern Rhodesian police as well as ten years in that country as a Game Ranger. His early career had been in the role of greenkeeper/ professional at Bexley Hill Golf Club and in the 1980s he became Course Manager at the West Lake Golf Club in Cape Town before in 1987 taking up the post of Secretary/Manager at Sene Valley Golf Club in Folkestone.

Geof had settled well into his role as Regional Administrator and was well-liked by all who came into contact with him. He had a quiet, courteous and efficient manner and quickly became very committed to the cause of BIGGA. He greatly enjoyed BTME week which had given him the opportunity to meet many of the South East Region's members. Geof had much to offer the Association and he will be sadly missed. We send our deepest sympathy to Marianne, his sister Pam and all his family.

An Open invitation to help at big event

Applications are invited from members to join BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support team for the Open Championship at Royal Lytham & St Annes GC.

Members wishing to be considered must be working greenkeepers and should be available from Wednesday evening July 17 to Sunday evening July 21, 1996. The opportunity to take part in the most important golf event of the year is open both to team members from previous years and also those members who are wishing to participate for the first time.

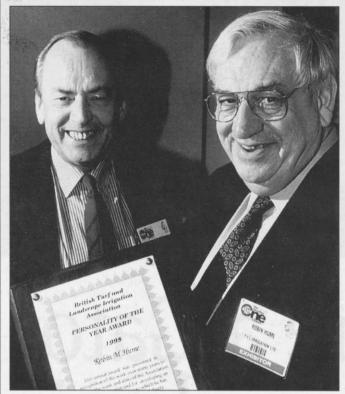
Duties will be allocated on a rota basis over the four days of play and include early morning course preparation, bunker raking while matches are in play and evening course maintenance. Members may also be also asked to co-operate with the gathering of information for distribution in the Press Centre which helps raise the profile of the Association at the Championship. All members of the Support Team will be expected to remain on the course throughout the day and be available in the event of any unforeseen circumstances arising.

Accommodation, all meals and transport will be provided by the Association but successful applicants will be expected to pay their own travelling expenses from home to the Championship and return.

Those members wishing to be involved should put their names forward in writing to John Pemberton,
Administration Manager at BIGGA's HQ, Aldwark Manor,
Aldwark, Alne, York Y06 2NF to be received no later than March 18, 1996. All candidates' names will then be placed into a draw to select the successful applicants.

If you have not been to this event before in this capacity and wish to learn more about what will be expected please do not hesitate to contact either John Tel: 01347 838581, Bert Cross Tel: 0151 7245412 or Elliott Small Tel: 01259 731445.

NEWS



Robin Hume has been named the first British Turf and Irrigation Association (BTLIA) Personality of the Year. The award was presented during BTME 96.

"Robin was nominated for this new award in recognition of his outstanding contribution in assisting in the establishment of BTLIA sponsored educational courses in irrigation," said Association Chairman Philip York.

"Robin not only helped to provide the framework for the development of block courses, designed to promote a greater understanding of the turf irrigation techniques, he used and continues to use his extensive knowledge, gained in this country and in many parts of the world," he added.

'Food blender' tackles debris

Charterhouse Turf Machinery's latest import, the Eliet shredder, is giving golf courses the chance to re-cycle general debris and use it as compost or walkway material.

The shredder works in the same way as a large food blender with 24 reversible blades mounted on a 500mm shaft at compound angles. It drives at 3000 RPM and will digest virtually any vegetation. The different gratings, with varying apertures, are available to produces ideal results for any type of material.

Further information can be obtained from Charterhouse Turf Machinery Tel: 01428 661222.

Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, in conjunction with Dowdeswell Engineering are pleased to announce the signing of an agreement for future development and cooperation.

Initially Charterhouse will be marketing the Dowdeswell Titan range of Spikers together with the Dowdeswell Roller Mowers and the re-designed Dowdeswell Camcorer.

FLYING DIVOTS

- Bert Senior, who worked for Parker Hart for over 40 years, has died at the age of 68. Bert was Tractor Workshop Manager at the company's Worcester Park Headquarters for many years and spent the last four years working part time in the Sales Department. He is survived by his wife Sheila.
- York based company Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd has taken legal action to prevent another turf grower from infringing its Rolawn trademark when another company began advertising as "Rollon Turf" and "Roll On Turf"

In the High Court of Justice in London Mr Justice Jacob order that Mr Alan Le Blond of Sunderland Tyne & Wear be restrained from infringing Rolawn's registered trade mark and that Mr Le Blonds use of the terms "Rollon" and "Roll On" infringed Rolawn's trade mark. He also ordered that Mr Le Blond should pay Rolawn's costs in bringing the action.

"Rolawn's management and staff have spent over 20 years working extremely hard to build up the company's brand name and top class reputation. We are simply not prepared to allow anyone to misuse our good name," said Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director Terry Ryan.

- Rolawn is offering a reward of £5,000 for information regarding two break-ins in a week at the Elvington Headquarters at the end of January. On each occasion valuable computer equipment was stolen. Anyone with information should call Terry Ryan on 01904 608661.
- Phil Chiverton, Course
 Manager at The
 Buckinghamshire Golf Club,
 who featured in December's
 Greenkeeper International,
 has been named Employee of
 the Year by the club's owners
 and has won a trip to the
 company headquarters in
 Japan.
- The photograph of the Toro greens mower which appeared on the January Issue of Greenkeeper International was not, as it should have been, a Toro 3200-D but a much older machine. We apologise for the confusion caused by this error.



Where a Gator goes is your business

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

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

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

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

For more on the most versatile utility vehicle made today, see your local John Deere dealer.





NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE

Experts join forces to improve standards

Six leading consultant agronomists have joined forces to form a new materials testing laboratory for the golf industry.

The laboratory known as European Turfgrass Laboratories Ltd (ETL Ltd) will be accredited by the USGA Green Section and run to the highest standards to give rapid results for construction work not only in the UK but throughout the world.

The six consultants – pictured from left, Eddie Connaughton, Mike Harbridge, John Hacker, John Souter, George Shiels and Jack McMillan – are well known



throughout the UK and Europe for their high standardised based on both scientific training and practical experience.

Their individual companies McMillan Shiels, Grass Technology International and Professional Sportsturf Design (NW) Ltd continue as independent companies but now have access to a rationalised laboratory service.

It will be staffed with qualified and experienced technicians and a laboratory manager responsible for liaison, co-ordination and quality control.

The new laboratory opened for business on February 1 and details of specific services and charges can be obtained by calling 01786 449195.

FLYING DIVOTS



■ John Bradley
has been
promoted to
Sales Manager
by Barenbrug
UK having
previously been
working as

Area Manager for the company.

His new role involves supporting distributors as well as consolidating and developing the sales team with the end result of increasing the usage of Barenbrug varieties and mixtures in the UK.

■ Rhône-Poulenc Amenity is the new name for Rhône-Poulenc's golf, sports turn and industrial weed control pesticide business.

"We think it is important for our customers that we have a title that reflects which business we are in," said Austin Davies, the Rhône-Poulenc Amenity Business Manager.

- David Rycroft, who is currently a Senior Lecturer within the Institute of Irrigation Studies at Southampton University, is to join Professional Sportsturf Design (NW) Ltd.
- The telephone number within the Sovereign Turf advert on page 57 of the January magazine should have been 01603 664209.

Deere's new range at Belfry

The Belfry – world-famous venue of the 1985, '89 and '93 Ryder Cup matches, and headquarters of the PGA – has invested in nine new John Deere machines worth over £100,000, to assist in course preparation and maintenance throughout the complex.

The purchase comes during an £8 million development programme by De Vere Hotels at The Belfry which includes the new PGA National Training Academy opening this month and a third 18-hole golf course, the PGA National Course, is due to open in spring 1997, alongside the Championship Brabazon and the Derby Course.

Dr Wolfgang Kumpf, lawn & groundscare equipment director for Britain & Europe, flew from the company's European Office in Germany formally to hand over

the new machines to Derek Ganning BEM, Course Manager, and his team of three Head Greenkeepers

The Belfry's new range has been supplied by local John Deere groundscare dealer GME Ltd, part of the Mitchells Group of companies, and includes: a 3235 lightweight fairways mower; two 2243D diesel greensmowers; two Gator 6 x 4 utility vehicles; two 2653 utility tees mowers; a 955 33hp compact tractor; a 1200A bunker rake.

"The John Deere machines fitted the bill," he says. "All the equipment we use at The Belfry has to win the approval of all 32 greens staff; following the latest tender John Deere was their top choice for ease of operation and adjustment, quality of cut and serviceability."

Training centre opens

Staff from machinery dealers and customers throughout Britain and Europe are beating a path to Ransomes' superb new International Training Centre at Ipswich.

The building is fully equipped to provide training and instruction in the operation, care and maintenance of all Ransomes, Cushman and Ryan turf equipment. In addition to engineer and operator training, the building is used also for product familiarisation courses for Ransomes and its dealers' sales staff.

"We are proud of our new centre," said Mike Prentice, the company's technical training officer. "First-class training facilities are an essential part of the total support we provide for our machinery dealers, owners and users."

CHALLENGE

Welcome from across the globe

To the names Ryder, Walker, Curtis, Solheim and Dunhill you can now add Hayter if the enthusiastic welcome given to the new Hayter International Cup from all corners of the globe is any gauge.

The Hayter International Cup, which runs alongside the Hayter National Final this year, has already been warmly received by virtually all the invited nations and a successful inaugural event, at West Lancashire Golf Club, this September is all but guaranteed. The Americas team comprising representatives from USA, Canada and Argentina is already complete while the Rest of the World team is all but confirmed.

The Hayter International Cup will be played every two years, alternating between the United Kingdom and the USA, with the four home nation representatives being selected from their performances in the scratch to 12 handicap category in the Hayter Challenge Final the previous year.

The road to the Hayter Challenge Final at Fairhaven GC in September has now been laid with sectional events and the regional finals in place.

Those who survive the first hurdle can look forward to the Regional finals at the following venues: Scotland, Royal Aberdeen May 29; South East, Benton Hall, June 6; South West and South Wales, Salisbury and South Wilts, June 12; Northern, Abergele & Pensarn, July 3 and Midland, Peterborough Milton, July 16. As ever some fine golf courses and excellent days, even if you don't quite make it through to the final, to look forward to.

• Kim Macfie gave more details of the Hayter International Cup at the Hayter Dinner during BTME 96 where he also presented Hayter's annual Outstanding Award for Dealers to Gibson Machinery Sales of Kirkham.

BARRY YEAR

FROM BLIZZARDS

From blizzards to broken legs... and a lot of fun in between. Outgoing Chairman Barry Heaney remembers his year in office

t is convention to urge those about to tackle a new task to 'break a leg" by way of wishing them luck. BIGGA's outgoing Chairman Barry Heaney waited until the end of his year in office before taking the statement literally.

"I was walking down the driveway outside the house on New Year's Day when I slipped on the ice and crashed. I've broken my leg just above my ankle and have also fractured my shoulder," explained Barry as he recuperated in his home the week before RTMF.

The pain in his leg was eased by the memories he has collected in a year in which he has clocked up the miles both home and abroad, dined in the Savoy and met one of golf's true legends.

January

The day I took over as Chairman is one everybody will remember. It started snowing about half past three in the afternoon and by half past four Harrogate was at a standstill. My wife, Joan, left for Harrogate in plenty of time but ended in my hotel room at quarter past eight at night having walked the last mile to the hotel. She was absolutely shattered and furious at having missed me being presented with my Chairman's Jacket.

Harrogate was like a disaster area that night. People were stranded but it was super because everyone pulled together and were helping each other out. Beds were shared, rooms were shared and the hotels were absolutely brilliant bending over backwards, lending out blankets for people.

February

We went to the GCSAA Show in San Francisco. I sat on the International Forum which involved 26 representatives from different countries, representing BIGGA along with with Neil Thomas. It was a full three hour session discussing the problems with environment conservation throughout world and the way in which different countries handled it.

San Francisco was breathtaking



On top of the world... well, almost: Barry gets a better view at The Open

and Joan and I enjoyed it tremendously. Debbie Moore, of Agrowe, also took me to Half Moon Bay and Lake Merced courses which wee beautiful. When the show was over we went down the Monterey Peninsula and it was very interesting. I am friendly with Charlie Tadge, a Past President of the GCSAA, and his wife Carolyn and he arranged golf course visits for me while Joan had sight seeing trips. It was a marvellous holiday. I travelled down the famous 17 mile drive and had the pleasure of visiting Pebble Beach, Spyglass, Cypress Point, Spanish Bay and several other magnificent course. It was interesting to see how the other half lives. I played a few holes at Pebble Beach and a full round at Cyprus Point.

It was an experience I'll never forget. On the course there were eight golfers and I counted 16 greenkeepers – and that was the winter team. I watched them hollow coring the greens and top dressing with sand and every bit was worked in by hand by eight men in a line. I've never seen that before.

March

After the excitement of the first two months this was the quiet month for me.

April

Things started to liven up. We interviewed for a new Editor and there was no doubt about the fact that in Scott MacCallum we got a professional Editor who knows something about the game of golf – both sides of it. I've also spoken to greenkeepers in every part of the country about the magazine and they've said how nice it is to have an Editor who wants to talk

and listen to them.

My first visit of the year was to the Central Section in Scotland and the Hayter Qualifier at Aberdour and Joan and I were invited by Past-Chairman John Crawford. The course for the time of the year was excellent and the weather was wonderful. John does a wonderful job in Scotland and, having just taken on a new job at Stirling, I don't know how he finds the time.

At the end of the month I was invited to a seminar and luncheon by the Agricultural Engineering Association at the Savoy Hotel which was extremely special. I met a lot of old friends there

Later that day travelled down to Bristol for Westurf. After a mixup British Rail up-graded me to First Class for the trip down. All that high living!

It was nice to meet up with Gordon and Marion Child who work so hard for the Association as well as past Chairman Ivor Scoones.

I also attended the Golf Course Architects seminar and dinner at Wentworth and grabbed a chance to talk with Chris Kennedy who was preparing for the Volvo PGA Championship.

May

I was invited to the dinner for Peter Hayes retiral as Chief Executive of the STRI. It was nice to see him and wish him well. He has always been a friend to the Association and was the Chairman again this year of the Education Conference at Harrogate.

June

Back down in the smoke for the South East Hayter Qualifier at Stockley Park. Another very enjoyable day and it gave me an opportunity to meet a lot of lads whom I hadn't met before but a lot of old friends as well. It also allowed me to meet Geof Hills, our first employed part time Regional Administrator. How refreshing it was to meet such a gentlemen whom you would have thought had been in the job for years. It was a huge blow to the Association when Geof died so suddenly just after BTME in January and our thoughts go out to his family.

Before too long I was back down south again this time for Southturf. How Geoff Hills managed to handle Southturf after so little time in the job I'll never know but he had definitely done a first class job.

July

At the Northern Hayter Qualifier at Middlesbrough. It was a nice duty to make a presentation to another Past Chairman George Malcolm and thank him for all the work he has done for the Association at all levels.

Then to Erewash Valley for the Midland Region Hayter Qualifier and, this time the chance to play with Kim Macfie. I remember I produced a Barnes Wallis bouncing bomb tee shot off the 1st off the middle of the pond and finished about 100 yards up the fairway. I then won the match by holing a bunker shot on the 16th.

From there to The Open at the Home of Golf, St Andrews. One of the highlights was being invited to the Association of Golf Writers Dinner with Kim Macfie, Bill Lynch and Scott MacCallum. It was extremely enjoyable and I'll remember it for the rest of my life.

On the Wednesday came the highlight for any golfer or green-keeper – the privilege to make a presentation to Arnold Palmer in front of the clubhouse at St Andrews. I'll treasure the memory for the rest of my life and I feel it was appreciated by Arnold Palmer who made everyone so comfortable.

After The Open it was on to the National Championship at St Annes Old Links. It was dry sunny and very warm all week. It's always a pleasure to meet so many old friends. Unfortunately I picked up a bit of food poisoning and was quite ill for a time.

TO BROKEN LEGS...

August

This was a quiet month. I only had one function in August and that was Northern Section Golf Day at Harrogate. It was nice to be invited and meet up with lads from my own Region.

September

The Saltex Show at Windsor. It was very rewarding. We all worked very hard and it gave me the opportunity to meet Janet Adamson for the first time. I can only say that we are very lucky to have such a Membership Services Officer with so much talent at her fingertips.

On to the Walker Cup at Royal Porthcawl. What an experience! Rain, Pythium, Fusarium, Take All? This argument is still raging but what a wonderful weekend. How refreshing to see our amateurs performing on the same or a higher level than the Americans and to come away with victory was tremendous. The weather had left David Ward, the Course Manger, with major problems but he still produced an excellent golf course. Putting surfaces may not have looked the best but they certainly played well and were appreciated by both sets of players. I also met the Secretary of Royal Porthcawl who was only too pleased for the support of the BIGGA back-up team and praised the Association highly.

West Lancs and the Hayter Final. We had representatives from all five regions as well as the boys from Ireland. What a bunch of lads they were. I don't think I've ever seen Elliott Small as happy as he was when he collected the team prize for Scotland

Kim Macfie dropped me as a partner but he lived to regret it – I took him to the cleaners!



Presenting the BIGGA trophy for achievement to Arnold Palmer



The Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year presentation

In late September Joan, Neil and myself were invited to the Swedish Conference and Exhibition in Jonkoping and were invited to join an Open Forum with greenkeepers from all the countries of Scandinavia as well as America. What came through very strongly was that they want to take a lead from BIGGA and want to work closely with us. The Swedes are our best friends anyway and Neil has a very good relationship with them.

We were met by Per Olofdjung, President of the SGA and taken to his golf course and that was extremely interesting. He took us to see his sheds and the greenkeeping staff's accommodation was superb. It would do a lot of golf club secretaries and managers good to take a look at the way things are done in Sweden. They look after their staff extremely well and even have a cleaner who comes in once a week to clean out the staff accommodation.

Tommy Lindelof, Chief Executive of the SGA and his wife Helen, picked us on and took us on a sight seeing tour of Stockholm and to have such a guided tour was unbelievable. A visit which Joan and I will treasure forever.

October

We had the Toro Student of the Year Award. Dean Cleaver and Ken Richardson as Education Chairman and Education Officer, do a power of work on this award. it is not an easy task to find a winner such is the quality of candidate today.

I was delighted to be on hand to present the trophy to James Braithwaite who was a very worthy winner

The Kubota Challenge at The Belfry. Oh dear. This is one which I'd rather forget. I don't think BIGGA came out of it with any flying colours at all. Our lads did their best but it wasn't good enough on the day. It did give me the opportunity on behalf of BIGGA to make a presentation to Brian Hurtley, a great friend to BIGGA, who is retiring. He was the first person to sponsor BIGGA and Kubota are still one of our biggest supporters.

Off to Dublin for the Irish greenkeepers show where we had a stand. The Irish Greenkeepers Association had just changed their name from Greenkeepers to Golf Course Superintendents and this was worrying to us because we didn't know what would happen to greenkeepers just below Superintendent level. However after a meeting we were given assurances that every class as of greenkeeper would be accepted. This was pleasing and I wished them all the best and offered them any help that BIGGA could

November

East Midland's section AGM at Kirby Muxloe and the opportunity to accept a the first cheque for the BIGGA Building Fund. It was very forward thinking of the section and I do hope that other sections will feel able to do the same.

I also was the guest of honour at the Sheffield Union of Golf Clubs Dinner n the Cutlers Hall in Sheffield the Association which was a big thrill for me.

December

The 11th of December was one of

the happiest times of the year for me because we combine our regular Board meeting with our Christmas Dinner and it gives the Board a chance to say thank you to the staff and the Regional Administrators for all the work they have done.

We also made a presentation to Walter Woods, our first Chairman, who has retired from St Andrews. Walter has been a figurehead whom anyone could look up to and say, "Yes that's the chap I'd like to follow and be like." Thank you Walter.

From there over to North Wales Section for their AGM.

I ended the year well but started the new year very badly when on New Year's Day I slipped on my drive and ended up with a "pot" on my leg and a hair line fracture in my shoulder.

■ It's been a year which I will never forget for the comradeship and friendliness of all greenkeepers everywhere I've been. It was also nice to get to know some of the office staff a little bit better. What I have found that all the staff are so helpful, so friendly, nothing is too much trouble.

It would be remiss of me not to thank the review body for all the time and work they have put in to bringing this document to final conclusion.

As for 1996 I do think that Dean Cleaver will provide the continuity that is needed for the Association to continue its progress but he has got a more difficult year than I had. The Association has move forward so quickly since 1987 but we now have the address the situation of the office accommodation which is becoming an increasing problem.

The Chairman's job is becoming more time consuming because greenkeepers don't just want to see their Chairman in the magazine, they want to see him at functions on their patch.

I am indebted to Wortley Golf Club for agreeing that I could have all the time I wanted to fulfil my duties and that allowed me to do the year justice. I was determined that I would visit every region and I have been to functions in every region.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank Joan for all her support throughout the year. She has accompanied me whenever she has been able and organised me so well that I was able to enjoy the year!

LETTERS

Many thanks 1

May I take this opportunity of thanking everyone concerned with the running and general organisation of the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper Award, in particular Pat Murphy and Richard Minton who I know devoted a great deal of time and effort throughout the year. I am sure I speak for the other finalists in saying how much we enjoyed our time at Aldwark where the hospitality we received was second to none.

It was also my first opportunity to visit the BIGGA premises adjacent to the hotel. I, for one, expected the offices to be sited within the hotel itself which is not the case. I can now fully appreciate and understand the need to acquire alternative, more spacious, and more suitable office accommodation.

Finally may I wish everyone at BIGGA a very happy and prosperous new year.

Mike Goodhind

Miracle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year Tytherington Golf Club

Many thanks 2

I would like to send my thanks to BIGGA and the Hambro Legal Helpline. My appreciation goes to both for the help and support they offered throughout my Industrial Tribunal.

I was delighted that I was successful in the tribunal and that the outcome was that I was unfairly and constructively dismissed from my previous job at a golf club in Bristol.

I am now seeking another job on a golf course in the Bristol area and, having won my case, as sure I will not be prejudiced against.

Mark Powell, Bristol

Many thanks 3

Just to let you know that I got a job through placing an advert in the November issue through The Job Club and to thank Greenkeeper International for its help.

It was a good Christmas present to have and I start the job in March at Willow Valley Golf and Country Club.

Andrew Smith

Brighouse, West Yorks

Service now puts legal eagles to work for you

Up until now members have been able to receive legal advice for any problem with regard to employment situations but they couldn't receive any legal representation until after they had been dismissed.

Now, in a major new advance for Membership Services, they will be eligible for representation at all levels of employment dispute including representation at disciplinary hearings.

"My information from Hambro's is that this is very much an innovative service and I'm sure that members will come to regard it as a very substantial benefit of membership of the Association," explained Executive Director Neil Thomas.

"I'm delighted that BIGGA is able to offer this new service for our members and it should further safeguard their employment rights."

"Talking of membership benefits I would remind all members with renewal dates of December 31, 1995 and January 31, 1996, who have not already sent renewal forms and payments that they should do so immediately if they wish to receive the benefits of this new service and their March Greenkeeper International and subsequent issues," added Neil.

The new service is available from April 1 for an initial six months trial period when it will then be reviewed.

As from April 1 1996, BIGGA is pleased to announce that an arrangement has been made with Kirbys Solicitors which complements the current 24 hour Legal Helpline and Legal Expenses Insurance offered by Hambro Legal Protection by offering all United Kingdom members the opportunity, where practicable, to be represented at any disciplinary hearing brought by their employers.

David Burton, of Kirbys, Solicitors of Harrogate, has, for many years, advised BIGGA in respect of employment matters. He has 18 years experience of working in the employment field and regularly sits in Industrial Tribunals as a part-time Chairman to adjudicate on employment disputes.

He is assisted by Tim Tyndall who has previously worked with an employment unit of a major city legal firm and has extensive experience of presenting Industrial Tribunal cases throughout the country.

Members have derived considerable assistance from the legal advice received from the Helpline and have, where necessary, achieved a high level of success when represented before Industrial Tribunals supported by Hambro. Our new arrangement will provide expert support when appearing at an internal disciplinary hearing.

We know that some employers will still dismiss their employees without affording that employee the opportunity to deal with the complaint that has been made against him. Good industrial practice however dictates that before anybody loses their job either by reason of alleged misconduct, redundancy or illness that employee should be given the right to know why it is that his job is being threatened, he should have the right to have his say and to demand that his explanations are at least given proper consideration by his employer.

It is now hoped that members will be assisted by skilled representation at such interviews

If members contact the Helpline and report that they have been summoned to attend a disciplinary interview, Hambro will provide advice and a contact telephone number to arrange representation. Kirbys will then, if at all possible, arrange for either David Burton or Tim Tyndall to meet with the member, prior to the meeting, and thereafter to represent him at that meeting.

It has to be recognised that there can be no certainty that representation can, in fact, be made available. If Kirbys are not given enough notice (three days would normally suffice) there may be practical difficulties in arranging for a solicitor to attend. In that event, however, strenuous efforts would be made on our behalf to negotiate a postponement of such a meeting to a mutually convenient date. An employer who refused such a request may well be considered by an Industrial Tribunal to be behaving unfairly.

It also has to be understood that there is no absolute right to legal representation before such hearings. Employers will sometimes argue that disciplinary hearings are not appropriate for lawyers to attend. The ACAS Code of Practice, however, makes it clear that employers should allow employees to be accompanied by a

Trade Union representative or by a fellow employee of their choice. Many of our members will not have Trade Union representation available and may consider it inappropriate to be accompanied by such other members of staff as may exist, particularly if those members of staff are in a subordinate position. In those circumstances, legal representation may be a reasonable option available and if such representation were to be denied by your employer and if you were dismissed subsequently prospects of persuading an industrial tribunal that there had been a material procedure unfairness would again be fairly high.

If you are refused representation by your employer you may still receive advice and support from the Legal Helpline on the conduct of your disciplinary hearing.

The clear intention of course of such representation is to try to ensure that members do not lose their job or have any other penalty unfairly imposed upon them. It is hoped that in many situations the presence of a legal representative will serve to make employers realise the seriousness of pursuing disciplinary proceedings and to ensure that such proceedings are properly and fairly conducted.

In the event that the outcome of such a meeting is unfavourable to the member, advice will then immediately be available as to whether or not an internal appeal should be pursued (if available) or whether, in the unhappy event that a dismissal has occurred, an application to an industrial tribunal should then be pursued. At this point, a Hambro claim form for legal expenses insurance cover will be made available to enable you to pursue your claim.

This service is free of charge to all members. As far as we know this is a facility which is unique to BIGGA members and it is not known how much demand there will be for the service. Accordingly, the arrangement is being launched on a six month trial basis. If it is clear that this service is of value to members, arrangements will then be put in hand to extend the service, hopefully, to become a permanent feature of the many benefits of BIGGA membership.

■ Next month, David Burton will explain when a dismissal may be unfair and how Industrial Tribunal proceedings are conducted.



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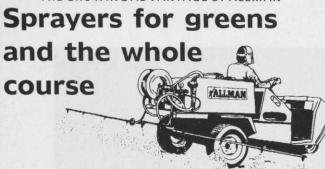
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LET US

Hugh Tilley takes a look at sprayers on the golf course

The requirements of health and safety have made hundreds of sprayers across the country obsolete and forced many clubs to review their spraying arrangements.

Spraying is not a preferred task, partly due to the mystic and concern which surround the whole practice. Nevertheless all clubs have some requirement for applying chemicals such as fungicide, fertiliser, herbicide and iron perhaps fertilisers and growth stimulators to greens, tees and fairways. Although it is not a preferred task most greenkeepers still wish to keep control of the process and retain the ability to apply materials such as fungicides as necessary with minimum delay.

Thus while there are a number of contract spraying services available these tend to be used for specific tasks such as herbicide treatment of fairways or for specific chemicals which are regarded as more toxic or needing greater precision in application.

While there are many sprayers on the market many are adapted from basic agricultural models. However recently a few manufacturers have studied the amenity market and produced units both for mounting on turf maintenance vehicle and compact tractors which are designed for the golf course. Many golf courses also have pedestrian machines such as the Allen Walkover as well as knapsack or hand held sprayers, however these are mainly seen as tools for spot treatment and often for specific herbicides and/or fungicides.

Pedestrian machines if equipped with a reasonable width boom would be suitable for a small 9 hole course but we did not find anyone regularly using such a machine, although several admitted having one in their shed.

Neither hand held and knapsack machines offer the precise application of a pedestrian machine, but are often used for spot treatments such as around the clubhouse, walkways or trees etc. Ultra low volume application using a hand held spinning disc machine is easier on the back if more expensive than a knapsack unit.

In theory controlled droplet application (CDA), using spinning discs, perhaps with air assistance, should be an effective option for several chemicals. However the need to stick to label recommendations has placed considerable restrictions on CDA particularly if seen as a means of reducing application rate. Development of CDA has also been restricted by the cost and complication of the disk/s, by its early championing of low rate usage and by the fact that conventional hydraulic nozzles have become considerably more efficient. No greenkeeper using a CDA machine was located.

Hardi AMPS 300 at Salisbury & South Wilts

Course manager Kerran Daly at Salisbury has a Hardi sprayer mounted on a Cushman Turf Truckster. Having used it for a year he remains very pleased with it and there have been no major problems although he is able to offer suggestions for detail improvements.

The combination is very manoeuvrable and has been used mainly on the greens for a variety of materials including iron, fungicides, herbicides and liquid organics. In fact during the season it seldom removed from the Cushman. The machine was purchased from T H White and Kerran said it represented good value for money. In addition it has a good parts and service back-up. One of the most important reasons for selecting this machine was its boom, which is 6m wide, and in Kerran's view very stable, well made and securely mounted. He is particularly critical of other makes on which booms sag or bounce - thus preventing accurate application. The quick and simple fold and lock system for the boom means that operators use it and don't chance having the boom unfold during transport. Boom end nozzles are a little vulnerable because the boom protection loop is only designed to protect against grounding.

Another very important "like" is

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SPRAY

the easy of mounting and demounting of the unit with four sturdy legs and although these are not adjustable (between pin holes) this was not seen as a problem. Kerran was happy that the machine was safe on its legs even if full - a possibility if the Cushman broke down. The pump is driven through a short P.T.O. shaft which is easy to connect and gives a positive drive in contrast to the belt and under chassis drive Kerran has experienced with other machines. The Hardi has a two piston diaphragm pump, which is considered essential for use with iron which provides ample capacity.

Controls are mounted on an adjustable arm which enable them to be placed just where the operator wants them, and they are easy to operate. Calibration is simple to carry out, however after initial calibration rates are now taken off a chart. Once set the Cushman maintains its governor setting well and although there is some loss of speed when going up hill this is not considered to be a problem. Sighting poles are used to guide the operator and avoid misses or overlaps. Most spraying is accomplished using 640 litres per hectare, however the triple turret nozzle holder makes altering rates very easy. Currently Salisbury have the original nozzle sets as supplied but think that it would be more ideal to have two sets of the most used ones in place so that the operator can simply flip one round should it get blocked when at work.

The unit has, as standard, antidrip nozzles, clothing storage box and clean water tank. Filling is all through the top, this is relatively high and narrow so there is a danger of spillage. Kerran's wish list for Hardi is for a larger - 400 litre - tank with a wider flatter profile and a bigger filler. He commented that uprated axle on the Cushman could take the extra weight, and the extra width and lower profile would give better rear vision and stability. Another criticism is the tank contents gauge which operators find difficult to read and not very exact when it comes to part loads. One problem, which Salisbury have been told is unique, is that their tank suction hose has on several occasions washed out of its location when working and then "floated" on top of the chemical in the tank.

However the overall verdict is that the machine is a very professional unit, strongly made and will all the required features.

Allman skid mounted sprayer on a Cushman at Paulton's Golf Centre – Ower in Hampshire

This 27 hole private parkland club, mainly pay and play, was first opened about 18 months ago



Kevin Unsworth: the Allman does everything he asks of it

and the Allman was their first machine, although it was ordered from Rowes of Chichester by Course Manager Kevin Unsworth prior to his arrival on the strength of his past experience with Allman machines and their back-up. Paulton's Park also has an Allen Walkover machine which has yet to be used.

Again, mounted on a three wheeled Cushman Turf Truckster

the unit is extremely versatile and manoeuvrable although with an eight metre boom Kevin considers that it is often too wide. The boom itself is in five sections with 1m two nozzle wing sections which fold independently, but the spray line is in three independent sections. There was a weakness in the boom mounting however Kevin mentioned this to Allman at IoG last year and they immediately came and fitted a modification free. It should be possible to isolate or remove the outer wing sections and Kevin is looking at inserting isolating valves, however he realises that the machine will then need recalibrating for a six metre width.

The 300 litre tank is relatively high, possibly higher than necessary and Kevin said he certainly would not like to have to put chemicals direct into it. He would like some means of positively locating the filler hose in the tank neck but reckoned that making something would not be difficult – it just needs a little thought and some time.

The Allman pump is a single diaphragm unit and Kevin has reservations about it's capacity to meet his output requirements should he want to apply larger volumes at higher speeds, for



The Hardi AMPS 300 at Salisbury & South Wilts GC

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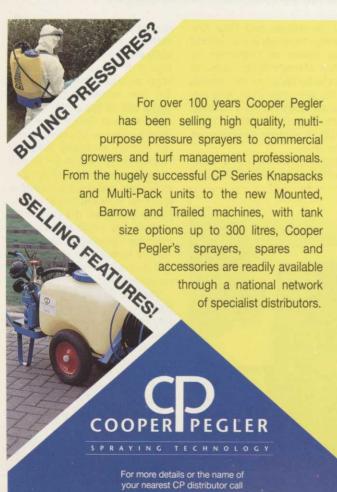
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instance for fairway work. Currently most work is carried out at a rate of 600 litres per hectare and pump output has proved sufficient. A range of materials has been put through the machine including both nitrogen in the form of Micro-flow, iron, herbicides and fungicides. The course which is ex agricultural land had a residue of clover and mayweed so significant fairway spraying was needed.

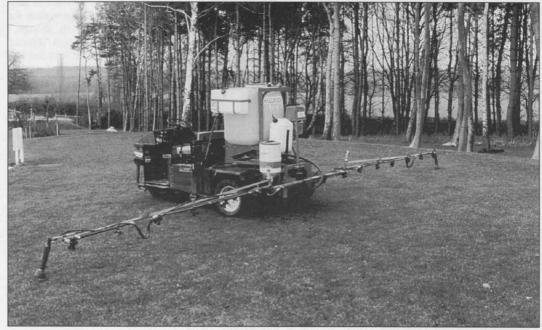
Calibration is simple but setting is now mostly based on the clubs own application log sheet. The boom has turreted nozzles making it easy to switch jet. Nozzle output checks are carried out from time to time. Driving accuracy is ensured by a foam bout marker, and Kevin considers this an essential "extra", far superior to dyes. For greens he uses the foam extremely dilute so that all he gets is little more than a stain on the turf, and no upset golfers. On fairways the full rate and blob is used.

The machine has a low level chemical induction tank and this works well, although as it does not have its own strainer stray bottle tops and seals can get into the plumbing. This induction system also allows a probe to be used to suck direct from original containers. Clothing locker and clean water tank are standard but are considered to rather clutter the machine.

Fitting the unit to the Cushman and removing it is not very easy, especially with only one person, nor did Kevin consider the three legs sufficiently strong or stable to take the machine with water in it. The legs are screw adjustable but are not considered suitable for jacking the unit off the bed. The unit has a single catch to lock it onto the chassis - not very firmly and Kevin said there are times when he is apprehensive about it detaching itself. The pump has a belt drive which mounts to the P.T.O. with a tensioning link.

Operating the sprayer is simple and, without a cab, the controls can be positioned on their arm very handy to the operator, likewise the bout marker control which is electric is close to hand.

No breakdowns or other major problems were reported and the



The Allman 300C skid mounted sprayer at Paulton's Golf Centre

machine has done all that has been asked of it.

ALS contract spraying service at Telford Golf & Country Club

Telford Golf & Country Club has its own compact tractor mounted Hardi sprayer, however the staff find this not suitable for fairways and semi rough because of time and labour pressure and other reasons thus they employ contractors Amenity Land Services of Wellington, Shropshire.

Telford is an 18 hole par 3 championship course, playing about 70,000 rounds per year and attached to a 100 bedroom hotel. It has 61 managed hectares, about half of which is sprayed each year for the control of broadleaf weeds. Course Manager is Ivan Beetlestone and he normally has a meeting with ALS's Bob Bolland early in the year to programme his requirements and discuss problems and solutions.

Ivan said that it just was not worth the aggravation and problems for his staff to try to do such a large area – which would tie up staff for several days – and be at greater weather risk. Because of the strength of their chemical buying and rate of work ALS are able to be extremely competitive so that it was possibly cheaper and certainly more cost effective

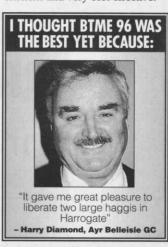
than for the club to undertake the work. ALS has specialist knowledge, larger equipment and dedicated experienced personnel which ensured a fast efficient job. Ivan said he has never had a complaint about their conduct on the course, nor did he have anything but praise for the job they did. They normally start work early on the fairways/semi rough and with two machines cover about 5 ha. per hour, each taking 9 holes so that they keep well ahead of golfers. The work is normally finished about 11 o'clock.

ALS use mostly 4x4 pick-up trucks which they customise, particularly with firmer springing, and a 9m Hardi boom sprayer. The comprehensive specification includes speed/area meters and foam bout markers.

At Telford a typical herbicide application would be a dicamba, MCPA and CMPP mix which ALS use at maximum label rate - to ensure maximum effect. Jonathan Carr of ALS said it is just not worth trying to cut the cost and then have to go back and respray. They also apply the active ingredient with the fairly high rate of water - 200 - 300 litres per hectare to get optimum coverage. He stated that increasing numbers of greenkeepers are asking for liquid fertiliser to be added so that the grass is pro-

moted as the weeds die out. The company said that spraying golf courses is their main and highest profile activity and there are a significant number of courses on which they also undertake significant work on the greens, mostly worm treatment and fungicides which they aim to get on within a day of a call. For greens work they use a tandem axle trailed engine-on sprayer towed behind a compact tractor or ATV. ALS are also used at Telford to spot treat or "tidy" around tree areas for which an ATV is used with a sprayer mounted on it.

In summary Ivan said he had no hesitation in recommending ALS, he has found them to be efficient and very cost effective.





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Time to look to the future

ow that the dust is beginning to settle after a busy but successful week at Harrogate, it is time to look forward to education and training provision for the rest of 1996. Firstly, though, I would like to echo Neil Thomas' comments about the very sad loss of Geof Hills. We were just getting to know Geof and, especially as I had been recently working closely with him on the South Region Management Courses, his untimely death was a great shock and I will miss him.

The rest of 1996 seems set to continue to be busy, starting with Regional Management Courses. Although a great success in most regions, the Plymouth Course was very poorly supported and I have had to cancel it. Courses at York and Chester were very well supported with 32 delegates in total. Killarney, Birming-Brighton, Bournemouth and Bristol were all well supported and applications are rushing in for the extra courses at Mildenhall and Bedford, with the Hemel Hempstead course already fully subscribed.

Massey Ferguson Tractor Appreciation Workshop

The first of three Tractor Appreciation Workshops for selected college students takes place at Warwickshire College from February 19 to 23. Further workshops will be held at Oaklands College from March 11 to 15 and at Elmwood College from April 1 to 4. Any college still wishing to nominate delegates should contact me as soon as possible. Nominated students will shortly receive joining instructions for each workshop.

Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

As Mike Goodhind, the 1995 Miracle Professional Premier Green-keeper heads for Florida and the GCSAA Exhibition and Show, the search for 1996's winner begins. A leaflet explaining the rules of the Competition, giving the prize list and containing an entry form is enclosed in this magazine, so why not enter yourself or nominate your choice. Remember, the winner will be heading for Las Vegas this time next year.

Toro/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year

The 1995 Student of the Year,



Education Update BY KEN RICHARDSON

James Braithwaite, is struggling through the snow in the USA at the start of his 10 weeks in the States. Entry forms and explanatory leaflets have been sent to colleges so please think about your entries, ensure that you meet the entry deadlines and make sure that any student nominated understands the rules, and more especially, that the Regional Finals will take place in early September with the National Final taking place in early October.

BIGGA Lending Library

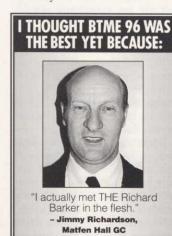
The number of titles now exceeds 200 with more books on order. Remember, it costs nothing to borrow books for up to six weeks except the return postage. For more information or for a copy of the book list, contact me at HQ.

National Education Conference and BTME

Finally, thank you to all delegates who attended the Workshops, National Education Conference and BTME seminars at Harrogate last week, for making the Learning Experience a success. Those that did not attend missed some excellent opportunities to add to their greenkeeping knowledge and skills. However, video tapes of the Conference and Seminars will be available, for purchase, soon. Anyone wishing to buy a tape or tapes should contact me at HQ. The cost of each tape will be:

Per National Education Conference and Seminar speaker £6 per tape, except Dr Joe Vargas Seminar at £10 per tape.

Written transcriptions of each session of the Conference will also be ready for purchase during February.

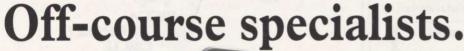


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This is a new and innovative time saving product, designed to remove dew from the greens, it is made from extruded aluminium for effort-free operation and a long life.

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This new addition is shown in our new 1996 Centenary Catalogue on page 19.

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Hepworth Mineral and

Then Hepworths decided to take a greater interest in the golf industry they did so in the same professional manner which has made them a huge force in every other area where sand is a vital component.

Even now the sports sector is a mere 10% of the company's total business but a look at the number of tankers, each carrying the familiar Cuthbert the Camel logo, heading to golf courses and sports grounds up and down the length of the country gives a hint to the

scale of Hepworth Mineral and Chemical Ltd (HMC).

GOLDEN KEY

CIRCLE

30110

"We decided to go into the golf sector in a more structured way about four years ago when it was apparent that there was an increase in the number and quality of courses being built," said Trevor Leadbeater, Hepworth's Marketing Manager.

As ever this was the type of statement which would have had competitors becoming just a little uneasy.

"It is very much a specialised product required for this market and because of this we decided to re-structure our approach into this expanding sector of the industry.'

The "weapon" which the company developed to ensure its move into the sports sector was successful is the "Pro Sport" brand, featuring high quality

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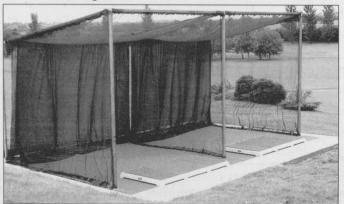
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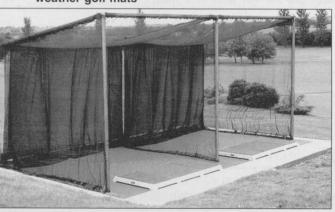
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AD REF

foundationis built on sand

graded sand, root zone and top dressing.

"'Pro Sport' was borne out of the fact that we have such a good processing capability and combined with quarries spread up and down the length and breadth of the country which produce sand to the required quality it is a combination which gives us an excellent range of root zones, top dressings and bunker sands,' explained Trevor.

"A coarse grade sand "Pro Sport" is extremely rare in the UK. You can get it but it will be mixed up with finer sand and you get the coarse and fine sand binding together and becoming an impermeable mass which water can't get through.

"The thing we are good at is pulling out and selling the coarse grade products which lets water pass around them."

The specialist bunker sands are designed so that they doesn't plug and can also be sculpted. They also comes in different shades so the club can have its preference of really white through to dark.

The company is in the process of setting up its own in-house testing facility so every 1,000 tonnes of material is routinely tested to make sure it conforms to our specifications before it goes out.

"Every batch is tested before it goes out anyway but a full spec is done every 1,000 tonnes and to have the in-house facility will give us a lot more flexibility."

The geographic spread is important because it means people or clubs who buy it don't have to pay huge haulage costs.

Hepworth has 17 quarries in the UK and five of these produce



"Pro Sport" root zone, top dressing and sand - Levenseat, in Central Scotland, Chelford, in Cheshire, Messingham, near Scunthorpe, and Leighton Buz-

zard and Redhill in the south.

Trevor identifies the emergence of a much more discerning British public for the take up of "Pro Sport".

"The British public is a much better and more critical consumer of leisure prod-

ucts than ever before. If a golfer finds that his course is closed for two months of the year because of waterlogging he is not happy particularly if he discovers a pay as you play course not far away

constructed with all year round in mind is open."

A big move has been the branding of the "Pro Sport" brand name on what is a com-

modity product.

"When you brand something gives you opportunity to promote in a serious way and engender a certain amount of brand loyalty.

Up until now we have felt that we have had a solution to their

problems but we haven't really banged the drum about it too much. What we are going to do is a structured education of the greenkeeper via the Golden Key and be a lot more promotionally

Looks familiar:

'Cuthbert" and

Hepworth's

active in telling people what we have got."

To the layman the processes involved in maximising the benefits of a quarry are a real eye opener. Sand emerges in particles of various sizes and shapes and these are then poured through sieves of different sizes ranging from coarse (some of which is used in the North Sea Oil Industry); down to extremely fine taking in industries like the water filtration industry, the glass making industry and industrial foundry industry.

It goes into products as diverse as soap power and the set for Channel 4's Crystal Maze - apparently they wanted a sand of a very distinctive colour.

Having so many eggs in so many different baskets has helped insulate Hepworth from the ravages of the recession.

"People asked us if we suffered when the building industry slumped but we didn't. When one industry is suffering another is picking up," explained Trevor.

About 160 people work at Hepworth's magnificent, recently extended, headquarters, Brookside Hall near Sandbach in Cheshire with 15 people dedicated to the sports side of the business.

"We aren't an operation which is going to be here today and gone tomorrow. This is the start of a long association with the leisure industry.

"With the Golden Key I believe it will be the start of a good relationship which we can build up with greenkeepers and hopefully they will be impressed to see the variety of solutions we have for the problems they've got," concluded Trevor.



Working for the good of the fine turf industry

The ever more difficult goal of improving on the vear before was achieved, yet again, by BTME 96 which saw record attendances and an approval rating which would put Santa Claus in the shade.

Over the three days of the Show 4,967 people took the opportunity to visit, a figure which is 22.6% up on the 1995 total. If that looks like setting ourselves a daunting prospect for next year we are already on the way to setting new records in '97. Since returning to Aldwark Manor the post has been heaving with yellow application forms from exhibitors requesting more stand space for next vear.

As one letter reminded everyone "there are only 356 booking days to go!" which is very true but for goodness sake don't leave it until the 356th day as we invariably sell out well before the final deadline.



TO HARROGATE FOR BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION 1996

PRESS OFFIE PRESSTARION HALL C
HALL C



New top team looks ahead

The Annual General Meeting on Wednesday evening was a resounding success with the revised Constitution, which had been crafted by the Review 2000 committee over the last two years, being passed unanimously by the substantial number of members who attended.

The new Constitution saw Board of Management Members Robin Greaves, Gordon Moir and

Chris Mardon stepping down and Guardians appointed in the shape of Bill Lawson and Brian Gilbert, representing the R&A.

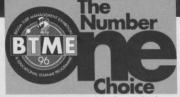
Outgoing Chairman Barry Heaney helped his successor, Dean Cleaver, Course Manager of Gay Hill GC in Birmingham, into his Chairman's Blazer (pictured below) and Dean then thanked Robin, Gordon and Chris for their work while on the Board of Management.

A new Vice Chairman will be appointed at the next Board of Management meeting in March.



BTME is a rare occasion for Past Chairmen to meet up and 1996 was no exception. In addition to a Past **Chairmen's Dinner** on Tuesday night they gathered together at the Chairman's Lunch the following day. Pictured are five of the recent Past Chairmen, from left, John Millen, John Crawford, Roy Kates, George Malcolm and Ivor Scoones





Working for the good of the fine turf industry



Alec Davies of Dibsbury Golf Club won the Mommersteeg Prize draw of a visit to the Mommersteeg Headquarters in Holland, BIGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver made the draw on the Friday of BTME 96.



Richard Whyman of Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club won the Vitax Draw made by BIGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver. Richard qualified for the draw having purchased the new Ultra Flow Diluter launched at the Show and he wins a £150 BIGGA voucher



It was rare for anyone to leave BTME empty-handed. Here, BIGGA's Neil Thomas (above) and John Pemberton (below) hand out vouchers to lucky





Elected to greenkeeping's elite

John Wells, of Brockett Hall, and David Winterton, of Donnington Grove were each presented with their plaques and Master Greenkeeper blazers by outgoing BIGGA Chairman Barry Heaney.

John and David join the elite band of 11 Master Greenkeepers throughout the world - Laurence Pithie, Gordon Irvine, David Whitaker, Kerran Daley, Anthony Davies from the UK and Richard McNab, Terry Buchan, Bob Maibusch and Bill Montague from the United States.

The award of Master Green-

keeper shows that the recipient has reached the highest standards of excellence within the profession and is based on experience, ability and education. John Wells is pictured left, with David Winterton on the



The three winners of the BIGGA BTME 96 competition run on three consecutive months of Greenkeeper International were welcomed to the show by Pat Murphy, Chairman of BIGGA's **Education Sub-Commit**tee. Paul Compton, Stephen Hartshorn and Mark Rankin, who each won trips to Harrogate and entry to seminar sessions.



Meeting the visitors and exhibitors: Lord Whitelaw on his trip around BTME



Barry Heaney's accident slowed him down but as Neil Thomas said, he'd be pushing to find another Chairman as good as Barry.





The ideal showcase



Barenbrug has
launched its 1996
Barenbrug Amenity
Grass Seed Mixtures
Handbook. It
includes an
improved at-aglance mixture
selection guide
featuring 17 BAR
range mixtures
six of which have

been reformulated and enhanced for '96. It also includes two new cultivars which make their debut.
Barlinda is a perennial ryegrass and sister to Barclay which is the hardest-wearing ryegrass available for groundsmen using fertiliser. It has a good resistance to leaf spot and good colour throughout the year.
Barvictor is a smooth-stocked meadow grass whose colour blends well with ryegrass and fescues. It is idea for golf tee use and inclusion in turf production mixtures.



The Grass Roots Trading Company

chose BTME 96 to launch GreenGrass, a permanent green pigment designed to restore colour to dormant or discoloured turf and not harm the turf in the process.

GreenGrass can also be preapplied to divot mix to produced a natural green colour.

Available in five litre bottles GreenGrass is used diluted, the ratio of GreenGrass to water depending on the desired intensity of the colour. A single litre will, however, cover between 100-300 square metres.



BTME 96 saw the launch of the **Ransomes** Fairway 305 – a dedicated fairway mower designed to build on the worldwide success of the Fairway 300. Changes to Ransomes' product development and production means that the Fairway 305 is the first of many machines which can be built simultaneously

at Ransomes' factories at Ipswich and Johnson Creek, Wisconsin in the USA. The principle standard features of the Ransomes Fairway 305 are a 2.94m (116in) cutting width, a 38hp (28kW) water-cooled diesel engine and full-time four-wheeled drive, with the ability to engage two-wheel drive for transport.

The Fairway 305 will be available for demonstration from early Spring and will cost £28,090 with seven knife cutting reels and £28,190 with 11 knife units.



A new American-designed machine which claims to double your green's root mass made its UK debut at BTME 96. **SubAir** was developed by American Golf Course Superintendent Marsh Benson and features a blower which spreads air into the integral drainage system below the root zone of a USGA spec green. This oxygenates the root zone to increase root zone vigour and transfers water vapour to the root zone from the perched water table.

Further information can be obtained from IPU Industrial Power Units in Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 452138.



Hardi International launched a new range of Hardi-Rogers Windfoil Boom assemblies to suit de-mount, mounted or trailed Hardi Amenity sprayers. The 4.5 metre boom is available in two versions the full hydraulic folding version which is ideal for large golf course complexes or the budget model with manual fold normally sold to traditional golf courses or local authorities.

Also launched was the new range of Hardi-Rogers Ecofoil and Greensfoil Walking Boom units. Both are available in two sizes with one and two metre working widths.

Finally the new Hardi Amspread 300 which is a 250 litre tractor mounted spreader capable of applying most mixtures accurately in rate and width.

Hepworth Mineral and Chemicals Ltd introduced a new product to its Pro-Sport range or root zones, silica sands and top dressings. Pro-Sport Green is a specially formulated divot mix for golf courses consisting of silica sand and sterilised soil to which a harmless green dye has been

will allow grass to grow quickly through the mixture.

Pro-Sport Green is available to golf courses through the HMC national distribution

added. It is intended to fill divot marks and

Moneystone chose the show to launch its own range of liquid turf care products which includes liquid fertilisers, liquid blood and bone, sulphur based products, iron products, pH adjusters and a soil penetrating wetting

British Seed Houses launched Lex 86 a new which germinates and establishes itself quickly to form a high density low-growing amenity ryegrass with a fine leaf texture and a consistent mid-green colour through both summer and winter. Other pluses of Lex 86 is it cleanness of cut, its good resistance to disease and its excellent winter hardiness and drought tolerance. It is also well suited for mixing w with low-maintenance fine fescues

British Seed Houses also launched its Grade A catalogue at the show.

Maxicrop International launched a new seaweed extract based plant growth stimulant/fertiliser formulation at the show. Maxicrop No 4 FineTurf Fertiliser combines the full benefits of Maxicrop Seaweed Extract with a zero phosphate fertiliser formulation. The company believes that it is an ideal, inseason turf stimulant with added nitrogen and potash.

Toro Commercial Products launched the industry's first 7-plex fairway mower – the Reelmaster 6700-D – at the show and showed three other turf maintenance machines that are new for the '96 season. The 6700-D is a powerful four-wheel drive fairway mower with seven cutting units and a cutting width of 133 inches designed to give a quality cut at high levels of productivity. It is being introduced to meet the need for producing a good-looking aftercut appearance to fairways by providing high quality cutting in tough thick or fast growing grass.

for the industry



Working for the good of the fine turf industry



A feature of the new mower is Toro's new L-I-N-K-S cutting unit suspension system which allows the cutting units to hug the turf and reduce bobbing.

The three other machines new to the '96 season are the Reelmaster 6500-D, the Greensmaster 3200-D and the Reelmaster 2300-D.



A low cost portable backlapping machine has been introduced by Ransomes' company, Supreme Mowing Ltd. Known as the Ecolap the new unit is suitable to anyone wishing to restore a keen edge quickly and economically to mowing cylinders between major regrinds. The Ecolap is ideal for backlapping cutting cylinders of 4in to 10in and has a quarter horsepower single-phase electric motor giving a fixed lapping speed of 140rpm. Supplied with a universal joint and drive adapter, three different cylinder drive sleeves and 500gm of lapping compound the Supreme Ecolap costs £375.



Green Link International and Farmura Ltd have produced BIGGA's first Official Desk

Planner for all

Head Greenkeepers.

Printed in full colour and headed by the BIGGA logo the planner has been designed to provide greenkeepers with a useful work

aid that can be used throughout the year. The Desk Planners are being distributed to all UK golf clubs where there is a BIGGA member by representatives of Blazon distributors. All eligible clubs should receive their planner by the middle of February.



The new SISIS Cultiseeder, a pto driven disc seeder with a working width of 1.2 m was launched at the Show.

The coulter discs vibrate using a new patented system to ensure a clean deep cutting action without the weight often required by disc seeders. Compaction problems are therefore reduced. The discs can be preset to the required depth at 50mm spacings and are mounted on two independently floating units to follow ground contours.

Service Chemicals launched "alleviate" a treatment, based on tenside hydrophobe chemistry, for the specific treatment of dry patch and water repellent soils in turfgrass

It is unique and offers a completely different approach to the management of dry patch and is designed to complement the need for ordinary wetting agents. Alleviate should also be used preventatively to get the best results and is fully compatible with the Turfex traditional wetting and penetrating agent managed application.

Headland Amenity has expanded its Seamac growth stimulant with the addition of Seamac Pro-Turf specially formulated to stimulate grass development and colour. The free flowing, filtered liquid combines concentrated plant stimulants, derived from seaweed with the key nutrients associated with maintaining grass condition and colour nitrogen (2.5%), iron (6%), sulphur (3.4%) and magnesium (2%).

Available immediately Seamac Pro-Turf is £27.50 per 10 litre pack and is recommended for use at 35 litres/ha in 200 litres of water.

The new 1900 series Tri-Kings from Jacobsen has been launched for '96. Among the new features are the three piece



hood assembly which folds back smoothly and the rear cutting unit which slides back to allow total access and ease of maintenance. There is also a major upgrading of the hydraulic drive system incorporating heavy duty wheel motors and automatic 3WD which cuts in when mowing and out when downhill. Power steering is standard and the new Tri-King is available for five or 10 blade reels with a seven blade unit sheduled for introduction later this year.

The T44 5-cylinder mower from **Hayter** is the most powerful and versatile in the Hayter range. It has a 3500 mm (11'6") cutting width and is ideally suited to golf course fairways, sports grounds and other amenity areas. Available with fixed or floating heads for heavy or fine turf areas the high output mower has fully hydrostatic two and four wheel drive with a 48hp Kubota engine. It can also be supplied with a hydraulic tilt kit for use in conjunction with the fully floating cutting heads.

A new larger pack of Levington Turfclear, the dual fine turf fungicide and worm cast control product based on carbendazim was launched at the Show. Sales of the Turfclear have increased dramatically over the past three years and as a consequence the company has introduced the five litre size.



Dean Cleaver was delighted to meet a satisfied BTME 96 exhibitor in the shape of Kim Macfie of Hayter's who had clinched another sale.



It's showtime!

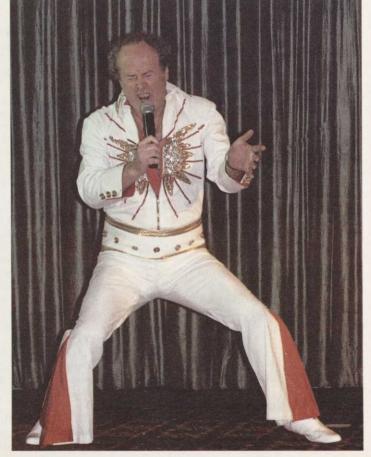


The Karaoke night was a big hit with the star of the show Joe Vargas, pictured below who gave fuel to the rumour that "There's a guy talks down the conference claims he's Elvis." Also making a bid for stardom were the BIGGA Girls and the Miracle Boys, pictured above and left. Photographs by Scott "Paparazzi" MacCallum





Following in the successful steps of Linda Nolan and Tom O'Connor last year Lyn Paul and Stan Boardman were given the task of ensuring the Banquet guests were whipped into a frenzy of enjoyment and hilarity. They were both up the job and ensured the continued soaring success of the **Banquet Evenings.** Stan Boardman got on so well with the German guest sitting nearest to the stage that by the end he had been bought a drink to cement the friendship.



Machinery maintenance

Roland Taylor offers some useful advice on machinery maintenance and getting the most out of your equipment.

There are three good reasons for having a maintenance programme in 1996.

The first is, of course, safety.

The Health and Safety Provision and Use of Work Equipment regulations 1992 states the following under section 6 (Maintenance).

1. Every employer shall ensure that work equipment is maintained in an efficient state, working order and good repair.

Where machinery has a maintenance log this will be kept up to date.

The word "efficient" relates to how the condition of equipment could affect health and safety and not to its actual productivity.

The document stresses the

importance of machinery being maintained so that its performance does not deteriorate to a level where people's safety is at

Under the sub-section entitled "Routine Maintenance", it states that periodic lubrication, inspection and testing as recommended by the manufacturer, plus any specific legal requirements should be carried out. Any components that are found to have failed, or are showing signs of possible failure before the next scheduled service should be repaired or replaced.

In addition to the safety aspect and keeping the machine operational, routine maintenance should be looked upon as a preventative exercise that will help to provide early warning signs of possible future breakdowns.

2. Caring for the environment. A major component of any powered equipment is the engine and regardless whether it is petrol or diesel it is a potential source of pollution. Manufacturers have made great strides in recent years to reduce the amounts of emissions that their power units produce, but the fact still remains that the levels of pollutants emitted are governed by the carburettor settings and the general condition of the engine.

Noise and vibration are two other factors that need to be taken into consideration. That hole in the exhaust will increase the decibel rating considerably. A badly balanced or damaged blade is not only dangerous it also sets up vibration throughout the machine.

3. Preventative measures. Any maintenance programme should include an overall inspection of the machine to identify any possible area for potential problems. Nuts and bolts sometimes become loosened. Belts or chains

wear and become loose, these will require adjusting or renewing. Rotary blades and flails showing any signs of damage or excessive wear need replacing immediately. Cylinder damage will generally have already been identified in the deteriorating quality of cut.

By carrying out a general inspection of the whole machine every time it is in for an oil change, little things can be dealt with before they become big breakdowns.

Any machines used on a golf course will at sometime be working in a fairly hostile environment. It is subjected to high levels of dust, dirt, grass clippings, sand and chemicals so keeping it clean should be part of any programme. Regular removal of these deposits reduces the possibility of:

- · Engine damage
- · Poor performance



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Machinery maintenance

'Oil is the engine's life

- · Drop in efficiency
- Damage to metal components through corrosion
- The machine is easier and more pleasant to use and service.

There are plenty of pressure washers (see December issue) on the market to make this task easy.

Considerable advancements in the design of equipment, engines and components have led to longer periods between services. While this is a bonus it does not reduce the importance of carrying out regular inspections within the intervening time, in fact it increases it.

With the new season only just weeks away, now is an ideal time to take a look at your equipment maintenance programme for 1996.

Engines

The most important component of any piece of machinery is its power source, which always needs to give optimum performance and therefore requires regular attention. A majority of readers will have machinery fitted with diesel engines. These require similar servicing to their petrol counterparts with certain exceptions such as spark plugs.

There are five main areas to be considered: Oil, air, fuel, electrical systems and emissions.

Oil

This is the engine's life blood and as such requires constant monitoring. Its main function is to keep friction (heat) to a minimum. For this to work satisfactorily the oil has to be of the right viscosity and used in the correct quantities. During use it is subjected to extreme temperature fluctuations and is polluted by the combustion process plus normal engine wear. As a result lubrication deteriorates and the oil will require changing.

How often this is done will depend on the manufacturer's recommendations and the quality of the oil. Levels should be checked every time the machine is used and topped up if necessary. A consistent drop in the amount of oil shown on a dipsticks is a good indicator of excessive use of oil, and is a sure sign that something is going wrong and needs attention.

Oil Changes

There are two other areas where we are now seeing developments in the types of oils available – two stroke engines and hydraulic systems.

Smokeless two-stroke oil has been around for over 30 years. It is only now beginning to be recognised as beneficial to the operator, the engine and the environment. The basic ingredient of their latest introduction is a colourless, odourless (isobutylene) that is changed to become a non-toxic water white liquid called polyisobutylene. When the correct formula of this highly combustible oil is added to the petrol and introduced into the combustion chamber, it decomposes to its the original gas which produces water vapour and carbon dioxide. Both these are harmless and do not pollute the air with oil smoke.

Conventional refined petroleum base oils have high boiling temperatures and do not readily decompose during combustion. They are converted into a dense oil vapour that forms clouds of oil smoke. This remains in the air until it cools and then settles on the ground and eventually rain washes the oil into streams and rivers.

Another disadvantage with petroleum based oils is the formation of residual tar-like deposits which build up in the engine. These find their way into piston ring grooves and exhaust ports. The engine's performance very quickly begins to deteriorate.

A smokeless oil produces no carbon residues, so its detergent action is more effective in dealing with carbon and gum deposits produced from burning petrol. As a result the engine is cleaner and performs better.

Biodegradable oils for hydraulic systems are now on the market. These are manufactured from rape seed oil and are claimed to have superior lubrication qualities to mineral oils. They are also said to be user friendly and minimise traditional non-allergic health complaints such a eczema and irritation of the respiratory tract. Tests have shown that within 21 days about 87% or more of the oil is broken down. In trials carried out by the

blood and requires constant attention'

Turf Research Association it was found that when the oil came into contact with grass, discolouration occurred but there was no long term damage to the root system. Biodegradable chain oil has been available from chainsaw manufacturers for a number of years.

Air

The highly efficient air filtration system on an engine is designed to ensure that dirt does not enter the combustion chamber. Blocked filters cause an engine to run rich, and the pollution levels emitted rise sharply, so does the amount of fuel used. Starting becomes difficult.

A foam cartridge is the most common air filter used and these need regular cleaning, especially in a dry, dusty season like the one we experienced during 1995. If a filter is found to be excessively dirty or damaged it will need replacing with a new one.

Air is also used as a coolant and for it to be effective it needs to flow freely through the cooling fins on both an engine and the hydrostatic transmission unit. Dirt and grass clippings tend to block these and as a result restrict the amount of air passing through them. In this case the temperature begins to rise dramatically and if the obstructions are not cleared, the units will eventually seize-up or catch fire. Again, this is likely to occur more often in dry dusty conditions, so regular checks need to carried out, especially under guards and covers.

Petrol

One of the most common engine problems in spring is failure to start and the culprit is stale petrol. When investigating the cause it is often discovered that fuel left in the system has damaged carburettor components and piping.

In this situation drain off any liquid in the system, dismantle the carburettor and clean all the parts with a proprietary cleaner, fit new ones if necessary and fill the tank with fresh fuel.

Modern fuels have a limited life so unless a stabiliser is added the system should be drained prior to the piece of equipment left idle for long periods.

Electrical system

Electronic ignition consistently produces a highly efficient spark. However, the spark plug does require some attention since its life and performance does depend on how much it is fouled-up rather than actual electrode wear. There are a number of factors that contribute to this build-up of carbon including the shape of the combustion chamber, engine running speed and operat-

ing temperature. It is not worth cleaning a spark plug – always replace it with a new one of the correct type for that particular engine and with the correct gap setting.

Emissions

These depend on how efficient the combustion process is and this is reliant on the correct mixture of air and fuel. As has already be shown, blocked air filters can change this ratio, so will a badly adjusted carburettor. Fluctuations in engine running temperature or a fault in the electrical system can also alter the levels of emissions. It is important that carburettor settings are correct and are regularly checked to ensure they have not changed. Badly worn engines, while being extremely inefficient, are also a major source of pollution.

Transmission and other



Ask for directions!

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Machinery maintenance

hydraulic systems

Hydraulic systems are commonplace on today's machinery and like the engine these require regular attention if problems are to be avoided. On some applications systems work at extremely high pressures – often as much as 10,000psi.

For this reason and to obtain long life only the correct oils should be used.

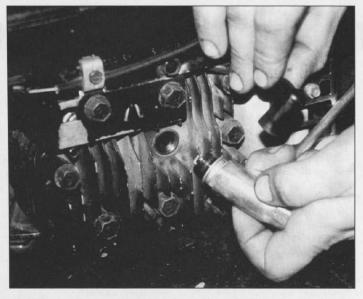
One of the most important factors to bear in mind when dealing with hydraulic systems is cleanliness. The introduction of any dirt or water will spell disaster.

A daily inspection of the whole system is recommended and particular attention should be paid to the following:

- Is the oil at the correct level? A drop in oil level could mean a leakage. It may only be small at this stage, but it needs further investigation.
- · Does the oil look dirty?
- How is the system performing, are there signs of it slowing down? A pump may be wearing.
- Is it noisy? This is often the symptom of a blocked filter.
- Has the operating temperature increased? The cause needs to be found.
- Hydraulic hoses which show signs of chaffing need to be rerouted or replaced. Signs of leakage from joints also need attention.

Periodically clean or replace any filters in the system in accordance with the machine's instruction manual.

If a problem does occur then call in a hydraulic specialist.



Grease

Sealed bearing assemblies are today commonplace and require no attention. However, greasing points can be found on some pieces of equipment. It is very easy to over-grease, so care is needed – overdo it and the grease is forced back out of the nipple or seal where it hangs in a blob, attracting dirt, sand and any other foreign matter that is floating around.

Belts, Chains and Guards

These days, chain or belt drives usually have an automatic adjuster. It is worth making sure that these are working correctly and that the belts are not fraying or splitting. In the case of chain drives these will require some form of lubrication.

Guards that are showing signs of fatigue or damage should be repaired or replaced.

Cutting Systems

In the introduction we talked about the safety aspect regarding cutting systems. Other problems are also associated with blunt or damaged blades:

- The power requirement to drive them increases considerably.
- Greater stress is placed on the engine and components such as bearings, belts and chains.
- The quality of cut rapidly deteriorates and the turf may be damaged.
- An unbalanced blade is highly dangerous and vibration sets up throughout the machine could cause metal fatigue.

In the case on a rotary or flail mower where it is known that the cutting system has come into contact with an obstruction, the blade carrier should be inspected thoroughly for any sign of broken welding or distortion and replaced if necessary.

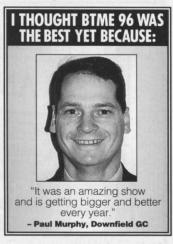
Knowing your machinery is important factor in avoiding problems. Always be on the look-out for a change in the normal pattern.

• Does the engine sounding different or has it suddenly becoming difficult to start?

- Are the hydraulics slower or noisier?
- Is there an alteration in the overall noise of the machine
- Are drives less smooth in their take-up?
- A hot spot is one of the biggest symptoms of a problem.
- Has fuel consumption increased for no apparent reason?

All these are strong indicators of a possible problem that needs further investigation. By acting immediately the chances of that frustrating breakdown at a most inconvenient time are greatly reduced.

Today's golf course equipment has to be cost effective, efficient and consistently produce a high standard of finish. This will only be achieved if is cared for, maintained and serviced regularly. Time invested in this is well spent and will pay dividends all round in the long run.





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BEFORE.....

A golf fairway left to its own devices



AFTER.....

The same fairway after a two week application of AquaGro

YOUR COMMENTS

Brocket Hall Golf Club John Wells, Course Manager "It is the best wetting agent I have ever used."

Turnberry Hotel Golf Club George Brown, Golf Courses & Estates Manager "I do not normally get excited about new products but I must admit that the results we have had from Primer 604 have been

admit that the results we have had from Primer 604 have been outstanding in this difficult year. Having done trials on our championship course, we had fantastic results and I will be using it on all other areas of the course in the future."

West Kilbride Golf Club Jim Paton, Head Greenkeeper "Since I started using Primer 604, I now have 100% grass cover on all greens, after many years of dry patch problems."

"I said I'd want my money back if it didn't work; I'm not asking for a penny."

Murcar Golf Club

Chris Pearson, Head Greenkeeper "Drought conditions are a thing of the past and dry patch problems are no more - thanks to Primer 604."

Sherwood Forest Golf Club Kim Kirkham, Head Greenkeeper "Ilsing on a monthly programme we

"Using on a monthly programme we were delighted with the results. We will use Primer 604 again this year."

Carnoustie Golf Club

John Philp, Course Manager
"We have had excellent results from
Primer 604 during our summer
spraying programme on both the
Championship and Burnside courses.
It out performs all previously used
products."

ITS A FACT!

Plain water does not uniformly wet soil. It penetrates the soil unevenly, runs off or lies on the surface due to the soil being water repellent. It behaves in an erratic manner causing observable defects in the grass growth and coverage.

In order to get the best from turf playing surfaces we need to offer nature a little help by using the range of Supaturf Water Management Products: Primer 604, AguaGro and InfilTRx. These products have differing specifications and varying degrees of sophistication, but all work to make water wetter by reducing the surface tension. This encourages the water to work its way to where it is needed into the root zone of the grass. As a result the grass grows healthily and stays green.

"I am a long time user of AquaGro, but find that Primer 604 is better than anything else I have used before. I used it on a bowls green where dry patch had occurred and it has been "cured"it does the trick" Richard Shepherd, Contractor PRIMER



Water Management Produc

PRIMER 604 MATRIX FLOW SOIL SURFACTANT

Primer 604 is the result of several years extensive research and is the only Matrix Flow Soil Surfactant available. It is environmentally friendly, does not burn or scorch and needs no watering in. It literally primes the soil to allow water penetration into the root zone and encourages it to do so in a matrix, or even distribution pattern. Launched by Supaturf in 1995 and already used by the country's leading groundsmen and greenkeepers

Primer 604 is available in liquid or spreadable granular form.

- DOES NOT BURN GUARANTEED
- DOES NOT SCORCH
- DOES NOT NEED ANY EXTRA WATERING IN AFTER APPLICATION
- TREATS 18 GREENS WITH ONE 600 Ltr TANK
- MIXES EASILY WITH WATER IN ALL CONDITIONS
- STAYS ACTIVE FOR UP TO 45 DAYS
- BENEFICIAL EFFECT BUILDS UP WITH REPEATED APPLICATIONS

AQUAGRO SOIL WETTING AGENT

For many years now a favourite product in the golf fine turf markets. AquaGro is a broad spectrum wetting agent and is suitable for all soil types e.g. sand, loam, clay etc.

It is essential when using AquaGro to accurately follow the correct application and dilution rates and to properly water in after application. If you are not an experienced user please send for the Supaturf product information sheet and ask for a free Water Management Products Programme, which we will be pleased to tailor to your exact needs and circumstances.

AquaGro is available in liquid form and in 1Ltr packs suitable for use with the Dilute 'n' Shoot application system, or pellet form for use with the Advantage automatic mixing application system.

INFILTRX SOIL PENETRANT

InfilTRx is a soil penetrant, specifically developed to be applied through irrigation systems. It produces excellent water penetration with economy when treating large areas of fairway or sports fields. It cannot claim the premium performance of Primer 604, but this is reflected in the price. A golf course can treat a typical fairway for as little as £25 per month and will benefit from a greatly improved appearance and playability.

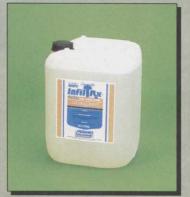
> InfilTRx being used through an irrigation system



The Primer 604 rang



The AquaGro range



InfilTRx 20 Ltr drum







ts at their Professional Best

HOW PRIMER 604 WORKS

The unique ability of Primer 604 to encourage a matrix flow of water in soil, vertical and lateral movement, is demonstrated by photographs A and B. These images are computer enhanced photographs of water movement through an American style sand green. In photograph A of an untreated green, the typical fingered flow pattern is clearly seen. This irregular flow denies water to areas of the soil profile and water related problems occur e.g. dry patch. Once treated however with Primer 604 as shown in photograph B, the fingered flow movement is removed and the water flows evenly to where it is needed and only where it is needed - the root zone.

THE PROOF THAT PRIMER 604 WORKS

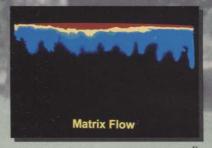
Don't just take our word for it. The Sports Turf Research Institute - STRI, has also conducted tests with Primer 604 compared to old technology wetting agents. They used a golf course in Yorkshire over a 7 month period. The results are demonstrated in charts C and D. As you can see, Primer 604 out performed the competition dramatically, even our own AquaGro. Proving its unrivalled performance.

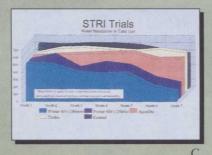
The visual benefits of the use of Primer 604 are demonstrated in photographs E, F, G and H. Here, an active golf course was used for a trial where a hole was treated with Primer 604 on the forward or short tee for a season, whilst the back or long tee on the same hole was not treated. The effects are dramatic. The untreated tee has suffered severe dry patch (photo E) and a core taken after the season (photo F) cannot hold its form and crumbles to dust. The treated tee however is looking fresh and healthy (photo G) after only two applications of Primer 604, and the core is uniformly moist illustrating the effects of matrix flow (photo H). A remarkable result.

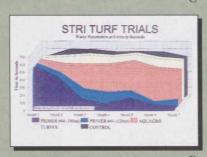
WORLD RESEARCH WITH PRIMER 604

Primer 604 has undergone trials around the world, specifically in North America, UK, Mainland Europe, Australia and Japan. These trials, on more than 50 sites, have all proved that Primer 604 is a major advance from standard water management products, dramatically improving the water penetration in the upper 2cm of soil. It was found that after only one application of Primer 604, soil hydrophobicity was reduced in 50% of test sites, after two applications this was observed in 78% of sites and after 3 applications in 94% of test locations. It was also established that the higher the application rate (within application guidelines) the greater the beneficial effect. Outstanding.









WE CAN PROVE IT!

As you would expect the Supaturf range of water management products have all been subjected to extensive field trials and scientific tests that prove their performance and beneficial effect. The pictures and illustrations on this page show the results of some of these trials and tests. However as the performance of surfactants is rather complicated we suggest that you send in the coupon on reverse of this leaflet for an information sheet and/or your own personalised Water Management Products Programme. Both contain much more information than we can provide here.

In the examples on this page, we have concentrated on the performance of our premium product Primer 604 to demonstrate its superior performance characteristics.





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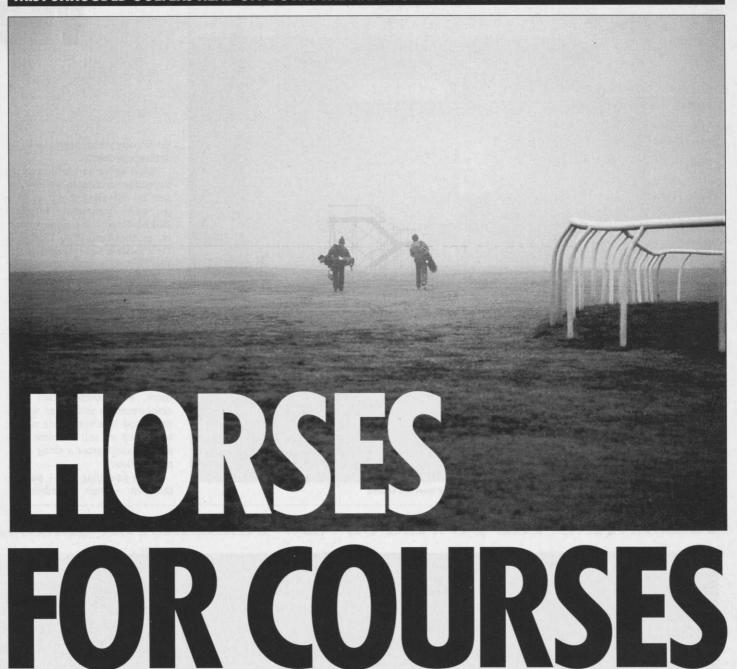
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The new golf course at Newbury Race Course is destined to be a success if the effort put in by its Head Greenkeeper and the rest of the staff is anything to go by.

ark Anderson, Head Greenkeeper of Newbury Race Course Golf Club, has more reason than most to feel he was standing in the wrong queue when it came to handing out the easy lives. He doesn't let it get him down though, despite being one of the busiest greenkeepers in the country on one of the most problematic golf courses.

Busiest? That's quite a claim especially as the industry is not exactly renowned for its shirkers.

But how many greenkeepers can claim the following roles:

(1) Head Greenkeeper (2) He helped design six of the holes; (3) Licensee of the bar with name above the door – he had to go before a magistrate; (4) Barman; (5) Occasional chef doing everything from bacon butties to full roast dinners; (6) A Sparsholt College student on NVQ Level 3; (7) Handicap Secretary (8) Assistant Race Day Manager for the Race Course. Eight jobs!

Fortunately no-one's yet asked him to ride a horse but no doubt if they did he'd be in there mixing it with Willie Carson and Frankie Dettori coming up the final furlong.

"You've got to be adaptable," he says by way of explanation, although he admits he does take it to the extreme a little. "I'll always try something. If I can't do

it I'll find out that I can't and if I can it's another string to my bow."

Most problematic golf course? Another big claim but how many people can say they've got gun emplacements and even American tanks buried under their course as there are rumoured to be at Newbury.

"The 6th hole is on a dumping ground used by the US army. They stripped off layers of granite bedding and sleepers and deposited them all over Berkshire but most of it is still here. I believe there might even be a few tanks buried below the 6th green."

This does not just provide some unusual contouring but causes some major problems for the greenkeeping staff. "Concrete posts are now beginning to come through. You don't know they're there until you've hit them with a machine because they're just under the grass. I put in a new bunker on the 3rd and we came across five feet long concrete posts just half an inch under the surface. All you can do is dig them out."

If that were not enough there is a gun emplacement under the 6th green.

"It's six to seven inches below the surface of the green but about three feet deep. We found that when we vertidrained for the first time, the back of the tractor started to lift off the ground.

"In the middle of the 5th fairway we have an area of hard core which is about a metre thick and two inches under the surface of



Mark with some of the concrete blocks which have been removed from the course

'We

the fairway which causes us a few drainage problems.

"What we've had to do is strip the surface and try to make channels by chiselling it out to give the water somewhere to run," said Mark, who is a former finalist in the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

If that weren't enough there are other problems with trying to put drainage in on the 6th because according to archeologists it is an ancient Saxon burial ground. So they have to get approval before they can do anything.

"In the middle of the course there are another two gun emplacements and areas where they used to empty their cinder bins which are still complete inert and we can't grow a thing – it's pure clinker."

In his disarming way – pardon the pun – Mark describes the

PRESENTING THE POWERFUL NEW REELMASTER SERIES.



also get deer, big time...'

problems thus, "It has certainly created a challenge which is sometimes enjoyable sometime not."

These are just some of the problems the course has but being in the middle of one of the country's better known race-courses brings other problems which would bring a tear to a glass eye.

"On National Hunt days the racegoers are allowed into the middle of the course where 12 of the holes are and they use the mounds around the greens to get a better view. We do fence off the greens but the horse racing world is the same as the golf world and fences are there to be climbed over not gone round.

"We get voluntary aeration when the ladies march over the greens in their high heels. Fortunately we don't have too many problems with horses escaping and running over the course because they are usually in full flight and take a direct route across the green. They don't stand and do 'Riverdance' on the green.

"The knacker's van goes around the inside of the track with the horses and has a tendency to drive up the bankings on the side of the greens in a five tonne truck to get a better view if a horse goes down.

"The day after a race meeting the first thing we do is walk round and check the damage."

What else does Mark, and his team of four, have to put up with. Well...

"We also get deer, big time, and have had to put an electric fence around the 11th tees. We have a huge rabbit population and people who come three times a week pick up between 20 and 40 rabbits a time. It's not even denting the population."

If Mark has any benefits it is

that he works well with his immediate boss Dave Davey, the Works and Facilities Manager/Golf Centre Manager, who has been extremely supportive in working a limited budget to the full.

It has meant Mark picking up the sort of wheeler and dealer skills which should earn him the title of Newbury's Arfur Daley.

"Most of our equipment is second hand and I've acquired it all for the grand total of £32,000. It's been fun and I've had a lot of help from Dave, who has had to OK the bills."

"At the moment we have between 10 and 15,000 rounds a year of which pay and play is around 8,000. I'd love to get that up to 25-30,000. My ambition is to suffer from compaction through play – it's also the ambition of my bosses and their accountants!"

"My ambition is to become the

Machinery list

Jacobsen Greensking IV Jacobsen Turf Cat with Flail Deck Holder C500 Ransomes Hydraulic 5 Gang Mowers Ford HST 1520 Compact tractor (Bought new) Allen National (Bought new) Cushman with Top dresser Ransomes Auto Surtees (2) Sorrell Roller Four Inch Greens Slitter Flymos (2) Wheeled Strimmer Hand Strimmer Scott's Fertiliser Distributer

top dog in my trade. Not the all seeing all knowing type but to get to the stage that I know the job and can go anywhere and make an improvement to a course —

SO DEDICATED, THEY EARN THEIR STRIPES EVERYTIME.



Whatever the season, whatever the weather, this greenkeeper cuts a fine swathe through thick, uneven turf to produce the perfect fairway.

For the new Reelmaster fairway mowers boast many new, innovative features resulting in a cut like never before.

Rugged, powerful and durable, they have the lightest of touches. Their

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The new L-I-N-K-S™ system

the turf to get into dips and hollows for a close, all-over cut with no "bobbing", even at speeds in excess of 7mph.

The Reelmaster 6500D, with its 5-gang mower, and the 6700D, a 7-gang mower, both offer impressive cutting technology with all-interchangeable variable speed, automatically controlled reels to handle fast-growing, tough seasonal grasses.

Quiet in operation thanks to Toro's advanced noise reduction, the powerful 38hp and 42hp diesel engines will help these machines reach inclines other mowers can't.

To win your stripes, give us a call and we'll walk your course with you and recommend the best machine for your needs.

You too can trust Toro expertise and quality. Simply telephone 01480 476971 and we'll arrange for a local dealer to contact you.



Bringing perfection to play.



Mark surrounded by his team

leave my mark.

"I want a Golf Club to be proud to have me rather than just be seen as a necessity - an asset to the club."

Mark's Spring Turf Maintenance Programme

Our spring maintenance is normally a continuation of our build up from winter. We start moving from the more physical maintenance - trying to put in drainage and doing construction - into the realms of fertilisation to build up the grass for the coming season girding its loins so to speak.

We give it a little bit of a kick with another application of winter feed 5-5-15 around mid March before getting into the realms of solid tining because the greens as so young - I wouldn't hollow tine yet.

We vertidrained with the Shattermaster last autumn we will hopefully solid tine again about April with an initial heavy dressing of 80/20 top dressing. The fertiliser regime is all the way through the growing period with the teaspoon method keeping the grass fed but always on the want.

Not putting down full applications but putting down part applications but not leaving it too stressed that it is beginning to suffer. It needs to be wanting to put down roots to glean nutrients out of the soil.

Being high content sand greens it obviously leeches away rather quickly so that's another reason we do little and often. If we did apply large amounts of fertiliser it would only be leeched away and it can be a very costly exercise.

The grass species which I use on the greens are fescues and bents are grasses which are associated with poor fertility and to encourage those types of grasses I want to keep them wanting rather than fat cat fed.

I change my fertilisers regime yearly as using the same over a period of years leads to problems. I'm not a great believer in straight fertilisers - sulphates of iron, sulphates of ammonias because I believe that restricts bacterial growth through the root zone.

Applications of organics through spraying Turfmaster Agrocrop etc.

We do have to be careful with fertilisers, specialised chemicals, selected weed killer and fungicide worm control and wetting agents because it can affect the horses.

Our watering is from a bore hole. We handwater but hopefully if we make enough money I'll have a water system within the next couple of years. We've got water beside each of the greens and we lay out hoses and manual sprinklers.



Hard at work removing turl

THOUGHT BTME 96 WAS THE BEST YET BECAUSE:



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David Ward, Royal Porthcawl GC



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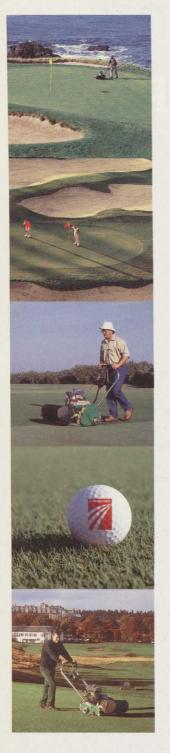
Turfclear* from Levington is now available in a brand new presentation, which is unique in the Turfcare chemical market. Turfclear WDG in water soluble sachets - an idea that really makes your life easier. Turfclear WDG is a highly effective fungicide proven against Fusarium Patch and Dollar Spot, which also controls worm casts. The water soluble sachets mean no more painstaking measuring.

For more convenience and control

The sachets come in measured doses which you just add to water to get the correct application level required. The sachet and contents dissolve readily for easy application, and the systemic action Carbendazim quickly gets to work on the problem.

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





To all those

course managers who

ask for nothing but a

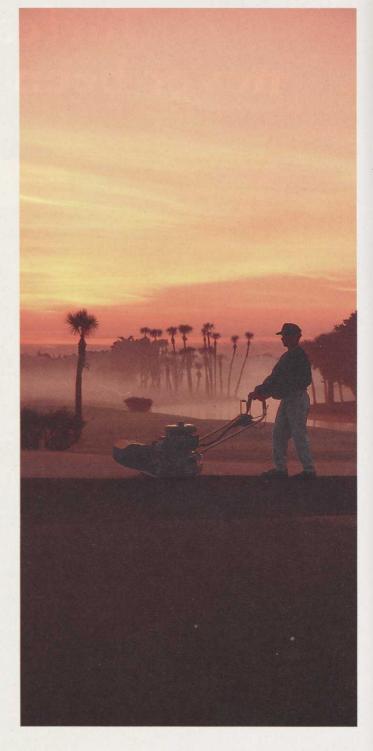
consistent cut from their

greens mower, who are

intensely passionate

about perfection, we offer

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Ransomes[®]
Greens Super 55.

The results of your turf management program are most obvious on the greens. Here, your success is measured in micro inches. For a mower that meets your need for a flawless cut, put the Greens Super 55 to work. The GS55 is a masterpiece of balance. It automatically hugs the ground without relying on the operator's ability to read the green. The result is an even, consistent cut for ultimate playability.

The Greens Super 55 is the only machine that can meet the productivity and performance expectations of perfectionists like you. It is so well engineered it performs as if you designed it yourself. For a free demo, call 0500 026208.





Health and experience Safety at Work

Does your golf club employ five or more people? If the answer is yes, did you know that the law requires the club to have a written statement detailing the general policy, organisation and arrangements that have been put in place to ensure the health, safety and welfare of its employ-

This statement must be on display or be readily available for inspection at all times.

And that's not all. Under the same law - the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSW Act) employees also have a legal duty to take reasonable care of themselves and others and to co-operwith their employers regarding their legal obligations. Contractors don't escape the net, either. They are legally bound to ensure that their activities are not a danger to themselves or to oth-

The fact that this legislation has been on the statute books for more than 20 years makes it all the more disturbing that there are still many employers and employees who are unaware of its existence, let alone its implications.

Enforceable by the Health and Safety Executive on local authority courses and by the District or Metropolitan Council at privatelyowned clubs, the penalty for noncompliance with the HSW Act can range from a fine of £5,000 for individuals and £20,000 for organisation up to an unlimited fine and even imprisonment in serious cases.

If that wasn't enough, six additional pieces of legislation were introduced in 1993 in response to European directives aiming to harmonise health and safety standards across Europe. The new regulations actually support rather than add anything to our existing HSW Act with the result, says Roger Bainbridge of leading safety consultancy firm, IRPC Group Ltd, that Britain leads Europe in health and safety mat-

"Having both the Health and Safety Commission and Executive means that we are probably the only country in Europe with a permanent and dedicated agency to report on and enforce the appropriate legislation," he commented.



Full safety measures must be followed when using workshop equipment. Never allow an untrained person to operate a machine without skilled supervision. Below: the 'CE' marking shows that a machine has passed rigorous safety tests and is certificated as safe for use as tested



"The problem is that virtually every work place in the country is bound by the regulations and the HSE has neither the time nor the resources to check on them all. The onus lies very much with individual companies and organisations to ensure that they are complying with the law.

"If they don't know or understand what they should be doing, then advice and guidance is available from the local authority environmental health department or the health and safety execu-

If both advice and practical

assistance are needed, specialist consultancies such as the IRPC Group are able to tailor individual programmes to answer, control and implement all health and safety matters required by law, taking the burden off the employer.

Ignorance of the existence of a piece of legislation is no excuse in the eyes of the law, stresses Roger Bainbridge. "The rules were made for good reason," he said. "Ignoring them, flouting them or delaying their implementation is storing up trouble. Meet all the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act and you'll not just improve the safety of everyone involved with the club's activities, but you'll also satisfy the latest European regulations."

Two principal areas of concern on golf courses relate to the safe use of machinery and pesticides. Both activities should be covered thoroughly by the club's health and safety policy with particular emphasis being placed on sound instruction and training of staff.

Under the HSW Act, it is unlawful to ask or allow someone to use a machine if they have not been instructed in its safe and proper use by a competent person. If, for example, the club's engineer is ill or on holiday and a cutting cylinder needs regrinding, it should be taken to the supplying dealer rather than ask an

untrained person to attempt the job.

The law demands that all operations be assessed to determine their potential risk. Having identified a hazard and its associated risks, it is the responsibility of managers to determine who is likely to be affected and to examine the existing safety measures and controls, ensuring that these are followed. They should then consider whether any additional measures can be taken to minimise the risk further.

Grass cutting and pesticide application are two jobs with clearly identified associated risks. If a task has to be carried out, it is essential that the most suitable equipment is used, that it is properly serviced and maintained, and that it is operated under the safest possible conditions.

Staff should be trained in a machine's correct use and should be supplied with appropriate safety protective clothing and safe and properly maintained equipment. If an employee chooses not to use the safety equipment supplied, he or she can face personal prosecution for contravening the HSW Act.

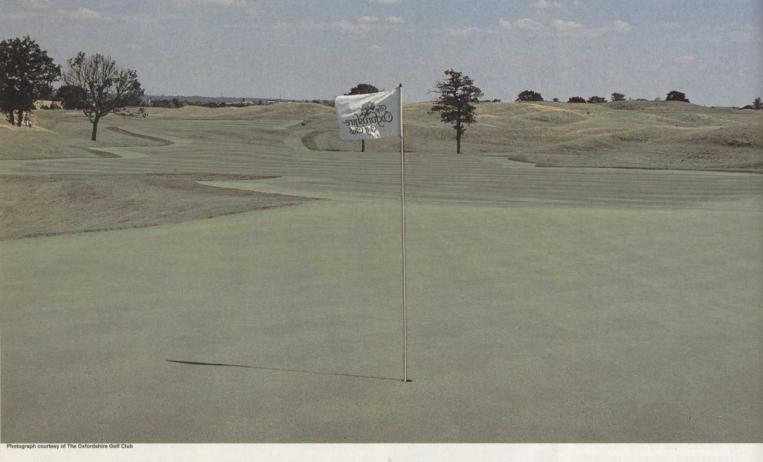
Similarly, manufacturers go to great lengths to design safety into their equipment, a fact certified by the 'CE' marking which should be found on all powered machines now sold within Europe. Altering the original specification of the machine in any way could affect its safe operation and invalidate the 'CE' marking, causing problems with insurance claims in the event of an accident.

Golf course staff with concerns or queries about any aspect of health or safety are advised to speak first with the club's management to ascertain what general or specific arrangements have been put in place.

The IRPC Group is able to provide club management, commitand directors comprehensive advice and assistance with golf course health and safety issues. For further information, contact Roger Bainbridge on 01455 894222.

■ Next month: We take a closer look at those golf course operations demanding particular attention to health and safety.

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The number of golf courses in Britain continues to rise steadily and golf course designers are well aware that trees and woodlands can be used not only to enhance the amenity of the course but also provide an opportunity for improving Its strategy. However less well known are a number of problems specific to the well being of trees on golf courses. John Nicholson of Eamonn Wall & Co explains

The growth in the popularity of the game of golf

There are currently 1700 golf courses in England, 118 in Wales and a further 440 in Scotland, this century seeing a rapid rise in the popularity of the sport, especially "south of the border" In fact, in 1888 there were only 57 courses in England and 73 in Scotland.

Although most of the early courses were links the vast majority of courses created over the last 80 years have been inland such that these now out-number the former by a factor of six to one. Most of these inland courses have varying amounts of woodland.

The history of trees within design

Trees and woodlands played little or no part in the design of golf courses until the first quarter of the century, when golf progressed to the heather and pine heaths of Surrey and Berkshire. It was in this period when it is said that the first tree planting plan was included in the designs of H.S. Colt. (Cornish 1982), Colt however was still very reserved about the use of trees within the strategy of a golf course.

"Trees are a fluky and obnoxious form of hazard, but they afford rather good protection, and if a clump of these exists at such a spot it might well be considered justifiable to leave it standing." - H S. Colt, Some essays on Golf Course Architecture, 1920.

Trees can he used not only to improve the aesthetics of a golf course but also as an integral part of its strategy, however, great care must be taken when doing so as the three dimensional hazard a tree forms can easily become detrimental to the quality of play. It is therefore wise to have regard to the fine line which divides woodland design from golf course architecture and one should not he afraid to draw on the services of a recognised architect if so required.

Trees at risk from golf balls

Trees are at risk on golf courses. It may not be thought that golf balls do a lot of damage but they do. A golf ball weighs 45g and



Bark to basics

travels at between 70 and 80m per second (up to 180mph).

Anything material that comes within the line of play is therefore likely to suffer severe damage. Because of the large numbers of rounds of golf which are played annually on most courses (typically several tens of thousands) then by sheer chance alone contact with trees on the golf course

is inevitable.

Golf balls can affect both young and old trees alike. Damage to the bark, cambium, phloem and xylem layers is often so severe that the tree is permanently disfigured. Crown die-back may occur as a result of damage to the trees transportation system. Young trees can suffer by being snapped at the point where they

emerge from the protection of the shelter.

The shelters themselves may be damaged, and if not replaced quickly the sharp edges of the shelter (as a result of impact damage) can inflict often fatal abrasions to young trees.

Trees on certain parts of the golf course are more likely to suffer damage by golf balls than in

Tough on turf disease

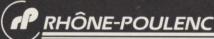
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Bark to basics

other parts. There are two contributory factors to this. Firstly because the majority of golfers slice the ball trees on the right hand side of a hole are always at greater risk.

Secondly trees which are positioned at 180 to 230 yards from the teeing ground are endangered, because they are more likely to suffer the affects of a ball travelling at near maximum velocity. Maximum velocity is achieved close after impact with the club head.

Therefore trees planted at such a distance on the right hand-side of the fairway are most certainly at imperil. If new planting is to occur on golf courses, damage to trees can be reduced by avoiding these areas.

Planting in such areas is not only detrimental to the health of the trees, but may also eventually adversely affect, the strategy of the golf course. The strong hazard a mature tree forms often results in the player having no choice but to "chip out" sideways. Whereas trees which are planted in a more sympathetic position, between the landing area and the green will allow the skilful player to manoeuvre the ball around the obstacle, making for a fairer and more interesting game and giving the player the choice as to whether to attempt the adventurous shot or to simply play safe.

Damage to trees can be further reduced, by correct species choice and by appropriate protection. Thin barked species such as Sycamore and Beech are more vulnerable than the thicker or spongy barked species such as Oak, Ash or Pine. The exception being Lime, although thin

THOUGHT BTME 96 WAS THE BEST YET BECAUSE: 18 hours of workshop and every single minute a pleasure - George Barr, Ham Manor GC

skinned its unique cell structure means that the damage incurred is not as critical as to most other

However all trees do suffer damage to some extent, the wound openings allow entry to fungal predators and the resulting stress further predisposes the tree to secondary pathogens.

Protection to new planting may be afforded in two ways, firstly physical protection by the use of guards and secondly protection through the rules of golf.

It is natural for golf clubs to have a reluctance to implement rules giving free drops from newly planted copses, as it disrupts play and is never popular with members. Tree planting is a long term strategy and therefore the implementation of a rule for the relatively short period, say 5-10 years would seem inconsequential. However the pressure committees are put under by members whose only interest is that their game is not disrupted is immense, this short term mentality is however detrimental to the long term management of the golf course.

It is therefore difficult for committees to implement rules for the protection of trees. One method may be to introduce dropping zones of long grass so no advantage is gained and so that the player has to find his ball first. This resolves the argument that a ball can not be lost in ground under repair and allows the grass around the trees to be left long reducing maintenance for the greens staff and benefiting the trees growth as long grass is less competitive for water and nutrients than close mown sward.

It is however still a brave decision for a committee to make, but it will ultimately benefit the course, save the members money and is the right thing to do.

To summarise, if you are about to plant trees on golf courses then you should consider the follow-

- 1. Plant trees which are resilient to damage in areas of possible
- 2. Establish trees in suitably sized tree shelters for protection.
- 3. Avoid planting trees at drive length on the right hand side of the fairway.



Typical die back semi mature rowar

- 4. Establish 'Dropping zones' away from newly planted areas. 5. Avoid planting
- adjoining fairways where damage is likely to occur from both direc-

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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Devon and Cornwall

Over 70 members and trade attended our Christmas meeting which was held once again at Okehampton Golf Club on December 13.

Our golfing members who competed for the PJ Flegg Trophy were treated to a pleasant dry day to test their skills against the excellently presented course which was a credit to head man Richard Wisdom and his staff

Roy Battishill and Gordon Child, two members in the twilight of their golfing careers, paired up together to produce, with the Mullion boys, the best score of the day, as experienced campaigners Roy and Gordon came strong at the end to win on the back nine from Gordon and David. Also this year our President John Palfrey donated a bottle of port for nearest the pin on the short 12th which was won by D. Smith.

After an excellent Christmas dinner Des from P.J. Flegg presented the golf prizes for the morning's Greensome competition to: 1. G. Child, Churston, and R. Battishill, St Mellion, 39pts (on countback); 2. G. Tamblyn, Mullion, and D. Manley, Mullion, 39pts; 3. T. Blackburn, Crediton, and T. Clark, Crediton, 37pts.

After our golf presentation we were entertained by comedian "Yan Dare" who kept us laughing up to the raffles which concluded a superb day. The first raffle was for two hampers kindly donated by Avoncrop and Peter Andrewartha and won by Dick Parr and Bill Mitchell. The second raffle contained over 40 prizes kindly donated by members and the trade.

Our thanks go to P.J. Flegg for donating the day's golf prizes. Also thanks to our President John Palfrey of Avoncrop for supplying the wine with lunch and the President's prize.

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

Dates for your diary: February meeting Tuesday 21 at Newquay GC; March meeting on Wednesday 27 at Churston GC; Westurf Trade Show at Long Ashton GC Bristol Wednesday May 1.

Richard Whyman

East Anglia

Is this two reports in a row I ask myself? Now read on.

Our AGM was at Bury St Edmunds and we wish we had. It was raining and cold. Typical AGM weather really. The golf was off and so was the menu.

Never mind better luck next year.

About 40 of us turned up and sat around having a mardle (a what? Ed) as you do before bringing the AGM forward to 12 noon, as we had

done last year, which seemed a good idea at the time. Unfortunately those who came for the AGM in the afternoon missed it. Well, I suppose you can't please all of the people.

After 49 cups of coffee and one or two jars the AGM got on the way. Uncle Sam stood up as Chairman for the last time as he has decided to step down after going on seven years. He has a style all of his own which will be missed, I'm sure.

I digress; we had a lively discussion about Essex man doing his own thing but in the end they decided that they would miss their day out with the "rusties" and decided to stay, much to the relief of their country cousins. Where is Southend anyway?

Then came the good bit, the election of officers. It must have been one of the quickest I can remember. We had Ernie Hart leading the way for this. He did such a good job that he overlooked his own position as President, but as we did last year, we decided to leave him there so the positions are as follows.

President Ernie Hart; Vice President Bob Chesham; Chairman Dave Wells; Treasurer Richard Pride; Secretary Andy Sheehan; Handicap Secretary Alan Carter; Scribe Mick Lathrope; Assistant Scribe Steve Millard; Regional Board Richard Pride, Dave Wells and Andy Sheehan.

You will notice that I have got an assistant scribbler. That's because he can spell and write joined up.

We had a little chat about regional training. They are going to make us jump through rings and stop us getting stabbed in the back. (I'd like to see that). Anyway, I'm sure Frank Newberry will be in touch.

Then we dished out the pots:-Spring Shield, Bill Chapman; Summer Shield, Mike Fance; Autumn Shield, Ian Willit; Winter Shield, Steve Piggot.

Next year's fixtures are as follows: Hayter Qualifier, Walderingfield, April 18; Caldecott, June 18; Stableford, Abbots, October 9. There is also a Colliers Seminar for Head Greenkeepers at Haverhill on August 22 and the Hayter Regional at Benton Hall on June 6.

Then what did we do? Ah yes. We thanked the trade boys for their support over the years and if I don't give them a mention they won't support us any more. So here goes. C.M.W, who incidentally sponsored the Turkey Trot which ended up being raffled and won by Colin Rushbrook – talk about sticking together. Where was I? SISIS, Kings, Rigby Taylor, Colliers, Rhone Poulenc, Doe's and anyone else who knows me.

Thank you Bury St Edmunds GC for your hospitality – your tea and coffee were good.

I can't go without one last mention of Uncle Sam Sylvester and, of course, his mother who is in her 90s and still takes phone messages in a manner that would put a lot to shame.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing Sam all the very best for the future and thanking him for all he has done for us in the past. Happy days Sam

I think I'm going to cry... Mick Lathrope

Midland

As we start his new year I would like to think that all the members are happy with they way the Section is running. During the last few months a few interesting comments have been put my way by Trade Members who say that they would like to see different things being organised for their benefit. the only thing that I can say from the Secretary's and Committee view point is that we can only do so much - and with the support of the members. If any member has a point of view to put forward, please write or telephone me so I can put them forward to the Committee for discussion. Without your comments we cannot improve on what we have already achieved.

If anybody has any interesting snippets of news eg births, marriages, achievements, etc please let me know so I can incorporate them into the column. The column is here for the use of our Section members, through me, to pass on such news and information.

New members to welcome to the Section this month are as follows:-Kenneth Baskerville, Dean Houghton, John Spiers, Ian Richards, David Richards, Tony Lloyd and Michael

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

Scottish Region - North

Sad news has reached me about the untimely death of James Smith, formerly Head Greenkeeper of Hopeman Golf Club. James retired due to ill health but unfortunately passed away in November at the age of 63. Our thoughts go out to his family.

Question. Where do greenkeepers go on a Saturday in the winter?

Answer. Victoria Park, Dingwall, home of Ross County FC. I go fairly regularly, but at the County verses Caledonian Thistle local derby, I counted seven other greenkeepers from local courses present. Another regular was George Paterson until his move to Ireland last July, but I'm sure he is being kept up to date with results etc.

A word of warning for Section

members. The Scottish Region were so desperate for a final speaker for next month's Conference near Edinburgh that they asked me to make up the numbers. There being nobody else I accepted. I'm sure all the other speakers will more than make it worthwhile to attend, though, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Our thanks must go to Richard Aitken Seedsmen who have agreed to sponsor this year's 200 Club printing and mailshot..

A few new members to welcome this month, three of Paul Murphy's staff at Downfield have joined us, Steven Banks, George Macphail and Paul Cunningham along with two apprentices, Steven Davie from Craigie Hill and Barry White (some career change!) from Stonehaven.

Finally as I write this in late December, winter has arrived with a vengeance. the snow started falling on Christmas Eve and continued on Christmas night giving us quite a covering. Fortunately we in Tain did not lose our electricity, but many further north did and with day time temperatures anything up to 20 below zero it must have been a cold time for these folk. I just hope you had your New Year stock of drink in early to keep the spirits up! Iain Macleod

North West

Congratulations to Mike Goodhind, Course Manager at The Tytherington Club, who scooped the title of Miracle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year. Mike moved to Tytherington from Cavendish and has made vast improvements to the course. Well done Mike, you certainly deserve the title.

By now you should all have received your fixture list for the year, which has been kindly sponsored once again by Rite Feed. Section events are open to all N/W members, and I hope they will be well supported

The seminar at Mere on March 26 is aimed at everybody involved in the golf business including club officials so please try to interest them in attending the seminar with you. All applications for the seminar must be sent to Howard McAddey, 44 Roseneath Rd, Urmston, Manchester, M41 5AU. Tel: 0161 747 3063 including your payment in full.

For golf tournaments a deposit of £10 will be required at least one week prior to the tournament in order to arrange meals and tee times. I would like to welcome all new members to the N/W section and hope you will come along to the section and national events and enjoy the company of your fellow green-keepers.

It is with regret that I have to

inform you of the death of North West member Keith Harle who died sadly just before Christmas. He began his career aged 16 at Disley GC before moving on, two years later to Sandiway GC where his parents were Steward and Stewardess. Aged 21 he returned to Disley where he remained for 44 years, 25 of them as Head Greenkeeper.

He retired in 1992 at 65 and sadly only enjoyed two years retirement before his death.

He was a member of the BGGA and BIGGA for many years and is sadly missed by his son Paul, who is Head Greenkeeper at Crewe GC.

Once again I must remind you about the Mere seminar on Tuesday March 26. You will all have received an application form with your fixture list so please make every effort to attend and bring along your Secretary and Greens Chairman.

We are almost into the golfing calendar and the first event is the Annual Match against North Wales on Thursday April 11. I will require a team of 16 for the match so if you have the killer instinct and the will to win ring me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

North East

Matfen Hall GC has appointed Vinny Price as Course Manager. Vinny was previously Head Greenkeeper at the Nick Faldo designed Charthills in Kent.

His first task is re-designing the bunkers and approaches on the 2nd and 3rd holes while another idea is replacing the fescue and bent aprons and surroundings with dwarf rye grass.

The spring competition will be held at Matfen Hall GC on April 25. The Autumn competition is yet to be announced.

Any members with information for section news please get in touch with me. Tel: 01661 886084.

Thanks to Terry Charlton again for providing the coach for the BTME. Jimmy Richardson

Northern

It is with some surprise that I find myself back at the helm of the Northern Section and once again penning the Section notes and I would like to begin by thanking all the Section Committee for their efforts last year. We have had some problems over the past 12 months and, on behalf of

Around the Green



the Section, I must apologise to our members and friends in the trade. Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible! I hope to be able to hand over to a new secretary in the near future and, in fact, may well have done so by the time you are reading this.

There is a foot of snow outside at the moment which fortunately arrived after the end of BTME in Harrogate (unlike last year!). Once again, it was an excellent show and I was delighted to see so many of you on the Region stand "chewing the fat", especially old friends like Brian Carr, Robert Gee, David Hannam, David Whitaker, Chris Raper and Ian Tomlinson who are now all scattered over Britain and Europe. It really is good to be able to catch up with people at Harrogate each year.

I would like to thank and congratulate Barry Heaney on an excellent year in office as our National Chairman, he has done a first class job and I know has also enjoyed himself. It is just a pity he had to finish his year on a pair of crutches!

Congratulations to Pat Murphy, our other Regional representative on the Board of Management who has just been made Chairman of the Education Sub-Committee. There are now very many opportunities for you as members to become better educated and better greenkeepers as a result. This improves you as people and also benefits your golf club. Why now ring Pat or HQ at Aldwark and see what is available. It costs nowt to ask!

Many thanks to everyone who helped us out at the show. I can always rely on Colin Garnett, Telford Jarvis, Ian Thomson, John Waite, Alan Gamble, Dennis Cockburn, Graham Oxley, Phil and Chris Sutton – thanks guys, you did a great job.

The first and most important event for your diary this year is the AGM to be held on Wednesday February 28 at 7.30pm at Roundhay GC, Leeds. this has been called as the AGM in December at Ganton was not in

accordance with the constitution. Please try to attend and I look forward to seeing a good turnout.

So what is in store for this year's golf then, do I hear you ask? First of all it is to the seaside for the Spring Tournament and Hayter Qualifier at Scarborough, South Cliff on April 24. Howley Hall is the next venue for President's Day on June 12. I am sure our President, Bill Mountain, will do his utmost to join us. For those of you not aware of the fact, Mrs Mountain suffered illness last year and is still recovering and our thoughts and very best wishes go to them both.

Wednesday August 15 is the annual Roses Match which will be at Whitefield GC. If you would like to take part in this fully sponsored event please forward your name to me. For many years now this match has been very kindly sponsored by Pattissons who celebrate their centenary this year – congratulations to them and thank you for the support.

Invitation Day is on September 4 at Bingley St Ives GC. This is a good opportunity to bring along your club Captain or Greens Chairman and to meet fellow greenkeepers.

Our final comp is at Malton and Norton GC on October 9. Last year our tournaments were generously sponsored by Martin Brothers, Bill Mountain, Yorkshire Mowers, Adamsons and Pattissons. I would like to thank them and hope they will continue their support. It is very much appreciated.

If you would like to play in any or all of the golf days, please forward your name and deposits (10%) to me as soon as possible as numbers are limited so early booking is advisable. It would be nice to see some new faces this year as well as the old ones who fancy a knock.

On the social front the Annual Dinner this year will be on March 16 at Shipley GC. This dinner dance is open to all and is always a good night out. Why not get a few friends together and come and join us. Contact me for tickets.

Back to education now – the Northern Region is hosting a seminar entitled "Forward Together" at the recently refurbished Mere Golf and Country Club in Cheshire on March 26. There are some very good speakers and the cost is only £20 including lunch. You should already have received an application form so return it quickly if you want to go as

this event is always a sell out.

Don't wait to book for any of the events I have mentioned and if you have any news, gossip or even a complaint do contact me at 5 Lynam Way, Madeley, Nr. Crewe, Cheshire or on 01782 750539 or 0850 235554.

On a sad note, on behalf of the Northern Region I would like to pass my condolences to the family and friends of Geof Hills, my fellow Regional Administrator from the South East, who was taken ill as he left BTME and sadly died the following day in hospital.

Robert Lupton

South Coast

We had a good turn out for our Turkey Trot, AGM and Christmas Dinner at the Royal Winchester Golf Club.

The Turkey Trot was won by Pat Bell with 40 points, 2nd was Phil Wentworth with 39 pts, 3rd was A. Stevenson with 38 pts and 4th Terry Patchin also 38 pts (decided on the back six).

On completion the AGM took place. Ken Lodge stood down from Chairman and was replaced by Allan Mitchell. Allan's position as secretary was filled by Jeff Drake. The section committee is now:- President Jim Fry; Chairman Allan Mitchell; Secretary Jeff Drake; Tournament Organiser Mark Webb. Kerran Daley, E McCabe, Bob Dennis, Tony Gadd, John York and Ken Lodge.

Everybody at Royal Winchester once again did us proud. The course was in superb condition even though the greens were sprinkled with white top dressing. The food was of its usual high standard and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Everyone was very impressed with the new clubhouse – the previous one was destroyed by fire 18 months ago.

Thank you Royal Winchester for making us so welcome. Last but not least our thanks go to Rigby Taylor and John Deere, our sponsors for the day. They were once again represented by Mark Wilton and Nick Clarice.

Only one thing spoilt the day. That was one of our members failing to return his trophy. Please, gentlemen, if you are not playing in the tournament make sure that someone brings the trophy along. There is nothing worse than someone going to the prize table and having no trophy to present.



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THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP O

Our last winter lecture will be held at Arlesford GC at 7pm on Wednesday, March 6. The speaker will be Tony Gadd, the Course Manager at Barton on Sea GC. Barton on Sea has seen some major changes over the past few years and Tony's talk will be about these changes. This has all the prospects of being a very good talk. Don't miss it.

Westurf will be with us again on May 1. There are some alterations to the show this year. They layout of the show is being improved and the BIGGA stand is being enlarged. More details next month. Please lads, make a big effort to support Westurf this year. If transport is a problem contact me on 01329 282362. I look forward to your calls.

The Section is holding a seminar at Sparsholt College on Wednesday March 20. All those wishing to attend please forward your names to Jeff Drake on 01722 330277. Some very good speakers are being contacted

Make sure you don't miss out. Ken Lodge

Northern

The annual Christmas golf competition followed by the AGM was held at Ganton Golf Club on Tuesday December 12. The winners were as follows:- 1. R. Johnson 40pts; 2. T. Jarvis 39pts; 3. J. Waite 38 pts; 4. A. Gamble 37 pts; 5. D. Collings 36 pts; 6. A. Baxter 35 pts.

After the meal the Chairman thanked Ganton GC committee for allowing the courtesy of the course which was in excellent condition thanks to David Spurden and his staff. Thanks were also expressed to the catering staff for an above average meal.

The meal was followed by the AGM at which 27 members were present. the following officers were elected:- President W. Mountain, Acting Chairman Alan Gamble, Acting Secretary Marcus Cordingley. Committee T. Jarvis, J. Waite, R. Smith, D. Cockburn, A. Lofthouse and C. Garnett.

A permanent Chairman and Secretary are to be elected at an early committee meeting.

I would like to take the opportunity of wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year although due to printing deadlines you will not read this until February. Alan Gamble

Surrey

Due to snowfall in early December this year's Turkey Trot had to be cancelled but thanks must go to Effingham Golf Club for allowing us still to hold our AGM and traditional Christmas dinner later on in the month.

There are two new faces on our committee this year, Grant Dooley from Walton Heath and Roger Glazier form Foxhills. Also we see David Andrews step down as Chairman after doing our Section great service over the last few years. A thank you to David and also James Watson who steps down as treasurer. A thank you for your services.

Taking David's place as Chairman will be Derek Walder, who in the past has been Section Secretary. This responsibility will now be shared within the committee.

Congratulations go to Peter Broadbent and his wife upon the birth of baby Tilly. She was born on December 8. Hope all are well.

Please don't forget to return gentlemen's dinner ballot forms if you wish to receive an entry form.

Our second winter lecture is due to be held at Walton Heath Artisans on February 12. British Seed Houses are the speakers and it begins at 7.30pm.

Any greenkeepers interested in a visit to Ransomes Ipswich on February 14 please contact Derek Walder on 01737 246088. Transport has been provided by Prices/Ransomes. Please support this excursion.

David Gibbs

East Midlands

Our Christmas Tournament was held at Birstall GC in Leicestershire on December 13, (sorry I was unable to attend the day). Thanks to all committee members who rallied round to make sure the day was such a success. The winners in the Stableford competition were as follows. Category 1 1. P. Tatlow, Kedleston Park, 33 pts; Category 2 1. M. Hopkins, Kirby Muxloe, 33 pts.

Thanks should go to Birstall GC for courtesy of the their course and to the kindness and hospitality shown to us – and for a great Christmas meal. Not forgetting Roger Willars and his staff for presenting the course. Also I would like to thank Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day.

On November 22 the Midland Region visited Sketchley Grange for the annual seminar. This was well supported by Section members and again I would like to thank Roger Willars for organising a great day.

A snooker evening has been arranged for members on February 28 at the Willie Thorne Snooker Centre in Leicester. Any member who has not received a form can give me a ring and I will forward them a copy. Please remember to send your form and a cheque for £8.50 to The Secretary before the closing date should you wish to attend.

A series of lectures has been arranged courtesy of Brooksby College for the benefit of all greenkeepers - the dates and speakers are as follows:- Thursday February 22, 7pm. John Bradley, Barenbrug UK Ltd. Cultivar development and modern seed mixtures.; Thursday February 29, 7pm. Stuart Rich, Hewitt Sportsground. Aspects of modern sportsground and golf course construction; Thursday March Howard Storey, John Deere UK. Machinery developments and mowing trends.

If anybody requires any further information on any of these lectures they can contact Ann Hurt at the college Tel: 01164 434291.

It is with deep regret that I report the death of Stan Fretter. Stan was a life member of the Association and was Section Secretary of the section for many years. He also worked at the following golf clubs, Kirby Muxloe, Kibworth, Leamington Spa and Lingdale. Our condolences go to all his family, especially to his wife, Grace, who is a keen supporter of the Association herself.

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

Firstly my apologies for no write up in last month's magazine but with no events there was nothing of importance to report. However this month's should make up for it.

The Turkey Trot was played at Frilford Heath in December. This was followed by the AGM in the evening. This proved to be a popular venue with 13 teams taking part (only 12 finished – read on for details). The format was teams of three with two scores counting combined – a fun format. Results: 1. R. Clark, C. Jacobsen and P. Reeve, 86 pts (Personally I think the newly appointed Chairman should hand back his prize as he drafted in a couple of bandits to pick up the silverware, desperate as they

were for decor in their new mess room – points of view on a postcard.)
2. R. McNiven, P. Young and M. Rodgers, 79 pts. Nearest the Pin. D. Goodchild. This proved popular with his team mates as they received a prize as well. So well done I. Rose and G. Butler.

The above results could have been so different if only Russell Lucas and team mates had played the correct last three holes. For those of you not familiar to Frilford is is made up of three courses and yes, you've guessed it, old Russ became confused when walking to the 16th tee on the Green course and somehow played the last three holes on an adjacent course - instant disqualification. To make matters worse one of the trade sponsors was a partner. Oops! It was all taken in good spirit and a few laughs were had by all at the bar. Sorry Russell, but I'm sure you will get me back for writing this.

Many thanks to all at Frilford for their hospitality on the day especially to J. Kleynhans, Secretary; Sid Arrowsmith, Course Manager, and his dedicated team. Also thanks to the catering staff for a superb meal. Thanks also to all the Trade members for the wonderful prizes provided. Without your support throughout the season these events would not be possible.

The AGM went ahead without any problems – nothing major to discuss. P. Helps and S. Irvine resigned from the committee. Thanks to them for all their work this past year. Their places were filled by T. French from Lambourne and B. Wall – the return of the Messiah! Only kidding Bernie. Ray Clark was appointed Chairman and G. Butler, treasurer.

Please give your support at events this coming year. Even if you can only attend one event that would be great. We need all the members support to make the season a success. Lindsay T. Anderson

South West

Puckrup Hall Hotel & Golf Club played host to the Christmas Tournament for 1995, sponsored by Roffey Brothers. On arriving we were confronted with a very grand complex which, as the day progressed, provided some excellent facilities for the event.

After familiarising ourselves with the essentials, it was onto the 1st tee to spend the next three hours trying

TS EFFECT IS SHATTERING Tyour free Buile to competition elief send this compon to Charterhouse Turk Marchinery Ltd., Pet: 10128 661227 Fax. Odd 28 661218 Peter State Marchinery Ltd., Pet: 10128 661227 Fax. Odd 28 661218 Peter State Marchinery Ltd., Peter Odd 28 661227 Fax. Odd 28 661218 Peter State Marchinery Ltd., Peter Odd 28 661227 Fax. Odd 28 661218 Peter State Marchinery Ltd., Pet Charterhouse Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which we require are to survive. We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts. Comment From Walter Woods St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor Address: Position: Name: URSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD/

to keep warm in an extremely cold wind. The weather may have been cool but the atmosphere was good and the golf speedy – thanks to an extension of the foursomes format now accepted each year for this event. All this, combined with a young course in excellent condition with many interesting features made for a good morning's golf. Thanks are given to Trevor Williams and his staff for their efforts in preparing the course so well.

After a few drinks in the bar and most people having been press ganged into buying raffle tickets on at least three occasions it was into the restaurant for the meal. Over an hour and three courses later everyone was in full agreement as to the excellent food and service that they had received.

As previously mentioned Roffey Brothers were the sponsors for the event and thanks go to them and to Phil Greenway for not only providing trophies and prizes but also supplying the wine for the meal.

Mike Woods, Secretary of Puckrup, presented the prizes to the top five pairs with scores as follows: 1. Wayne Vincent and Phil Greenway, 48 pts; 2. Paul Legg and Nick Wilson, 38 pts; 3. Peter Cox and Mark Freeman, 36 pts (back nine); 4. Richard Minton and James Williams, 36 pts; 5. Matthew Hawker and Steve Mitchell, 32 pts.

Thanks go to Mike and Golf Professional Kevin Pickett for their organisation and participation and to Puckrup for their hospitality.

Again this year we were entertained for the next hour or so by a comedian who, thankfully, proved much funnier than last year's thanks to a continuous stream of near the mark jokes and stories.

The day was completed with the drawing of the raffle and a special thanks must go to the many trade members, too numerous to mention, who provided prizes for the table. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The first event of 1996 is on Wednesday February 28 at Stinchcombe Hill GC, Dursley, Gloucestershire.

Kevin M. Green

Mid Anglia

Our last golf event of the year, at Texas Scramble, was held at Ashridge GC on December 1. One hundred people played on the day and by all accounts, the course was in superb condition. Our thanks go to Jim Cassidy and his team and to Ashridge GC for letting us stage the event.

Thanks to Colin White of Avoncrop, our new sponsor, for all his help on the day, and for making the event a success. The results are as follows. 1. R. McKeown, Al Wilkin, C. Querin and M Squire, Arkley GC, 55.3; 2. A. Grew, E. Thompson, J. Clarke and S. Giardina, Berkhamsted GC, 58.3; 3. G. Simkins, C. Ayres, S. Mason and S. Smith, Mount Pleasant GC, 59.4.

It must be noted that the winning team from Arkley had an incredible 14 birdies in their round! The longest drive was won by Alan Grew (No surprise there). Nearest the Pin was S. Giardina.

Around the Green



On the Wednesday before the Texas Scramble, our Regional Seminar was held at Hinckley once again. All the speakers were excellent and the range of topics covered were diverse. Jim Cassidy's talk on construction of a new putting green and Bob Taylor's Ecological Perspective session were particularly good.

I'm sure everyone in the Section will be behind me in congratulating Chris Brook of The Family Golf Centre who came runner-up in the Miracle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year award. Chris spent two days at Aldwark Manor for the competition and said he enjoyed the experience immensely. All I can say is the greenkeeper who won must have been exceptionally good to beat Chris into runner-up spot.

It is the Midland Region's turn to host the National Golf Tournament this year. the event will take place at Seacroft GC, Skegness, Lincolnshire on August 5, 6, & 7.

Finally I would like to mention our next section event, a course visit to Ashridge GC in the company of Jim Cassidy. This takes place on March 6 at 1pm.

Sheffield

On December 14 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to Nick Bissett from Askham Bryan College for a very interesting lecture on the structure of education in greenkeeping which was enjoyed by a good number of our members.

I hope it's not another 25 years until we see Nick again!

Our next lecture will be on March 7 and will be given by Mr Bill Oliver, Amenity Sales Manager of Hardi Sprayers Ltd at Rotherham GC at 2.30pm.

Just one new member this month – Andrew Williams from Forest Pines GC.

One more amazing thing happened recently. Carlisle United beat Hull City 5-2. That is quite amazing wasn't it Derek!

South West and South Wales Region

If you have not booked your stand space at the "new look" Westurf Trade Exhibition at Long Ashton GC, Bristol on Wednesday May 1 you are strongly recommended to do so.

This year more emphasis will be put on machinery demonstrations in the central area, backed up by a public address system to announce trade information on every type of turf care product, whether it is being demonstrated or not. Let us spotlight your company's news, snippets, updates etc. It's up to you.

As you are probably aware, Westurf is organised by the South West and South Wales Region of BIGGA and a lot of the proceeds go towards educational events within the region. Our regular colleges, Pencoed, Sparsholt and Cannington will be joined this year for the first time by Hartpury College. These colleges are each given a grant to provide some form of benefit for our greenkeeper trainees. You will find their stands alongside the IOG and STRI.

Westurf is a service provided for everyone connected to or with an interest in the fine turf industry. It is the ideal opportunity to see, in this part of the world, the most up to date technology available for the care of grass – your grass! Don't waste this opportunity and support your region. Drop in on the Association's stand for membership details or just to rest your legs and have a chat. During the day our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, along with Board members will be holding a forum to answer your queries.

Among the exhibitors will be Avoncrop Amenity Products with its large pavilion accommodating Levington Horticulture, Farmura, Maxicrop, Rocol Safety Products, Miracle Professional, Supaturf, Scotts UK, Amenity Technology and Headland Agrochemicals.

Other early birds to book in for this great show with the friendly atmosphere include Ocmis Irrigation, Roffey Bros, Symbio, Turf Irrigation Services, Rhone Poulenc, Bioseed, Bowcom Ltd, Better Methods-Europe, Western Trailers, Gannon YK, H. Pattisson and Co, Sisis and Encore Leisure.

Put this date in your diary – May 1 '96. Some of our long standing exhibitors will well remember when Westurf was last in May. We had a heat wave. Here's hoping!

For information ring 01803 844056.

Marion Child

West of Scotland

We now start a new year with everything looking fine. The season looming around the corner and all the winter work is finished – or so we hope. News to-date covers the AGM and games night with mention of a football trial.

The AGM arranged at Claremont Bowling Club on December 7 was, for a change, very well attended. Some 33 people attended with varied views expressed and relevant discussion raised.

Nice to note the increased number of younger members present – long may it continue – although I feel this was in part due to the games night which followed.

This suffered with regard to time scale as a result of the increased discussion at the AGM.

Two events were placed and as time progressed the matches were restricted in time to accommodate the numbers, The two games were snooker and bowls with John Scott and Bob Stevenson winning the snooker and Gary Dingwall and Stuart Breakwell winning the bowls. Everybody appeared to enjoy themselves with plenty of amber nectar consumption.

The event was successful due to the facilities provided by the Claremont Club and thanks should be extended for stepping in at the last minute. John Scott needs a special mention for arranging the facilities and providing the scrumptious pies at half time. A mention is required for two other helpers, Robert Bruce for aiding with the provision of pies and Drew McKechnie for running the events.

A football trial was arranged for December 3 at Ibrox but only 14 people turned up which was very disappointing. These people are now the nucleus of the team to play against East Section. A report will be given in the next issue.

Congratulations are to be extended to Jim Easton who has recently been appointed Course Manager at the Dullatur Golf Complex. The Section wish him well and look forward to seeing him at the section events.

Election of committee members as a result of the AGM. Retiring members were Roy Auld of Scottish Grass and Gordon Kerr. New members are Kenny Hunter of Huxley's and Gary Burns. The Section welcomes them onto committee and I look forward to working with them.

Any information members may have of interest can be given to me on 0141 942 5554 Stuart Taylor

Kent

This is the 10th year of BIGGA and the Kent Section has now over 200 members. If your subscription was due on December 31 this is the last magazine you will receive, so renew now to take advantage of all the benefits and be able to take part in all the activities that your committee is planning for 1996.

Unfortunately due to ill health and holidays the Turkey Trot and the AGM were cancelled – in any event Chris Mardon had closed West Malling due to snow. The AGM was rearranged to be held on January 16 with 13 members in attendance. the old committee was voted in again with the addition of Huw Morgan of Wildernesse GC.

The Hayter Qualifier is due to take place on April 16 at Sene Valley GC. In the past this has been combined with the Rigby Taylor Shield to make a 36 hole event but it proved too much for some of the golfers! Now the Rigby Taylor Shield will be contested during the summer, reducing the Hayter day to 18 holes. Further details will follow in March

The Annual Gentlemen's Dinner is on March 8 at Walton Heath, Entry forms are limited and as such are sent out to members who support the section the most. If you want to play in this event in the future be sure to attend events held this year.

The local management courses are this month. There are still some places left so phone Ken Richardson at HQ for more details.

Anyone with any newsworthy items please report them to me before the first of each month for inclusion in the following month's magazine.

We are, once again, looking for golf venues. Any Course Managers who think that it may be possible to arrange something at their club, please let me know.

David Wood

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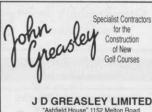
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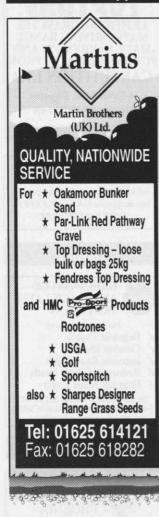
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who are committed to ambitious medium/long term plans to develop further this already prestigious course, require an

ASSISTANT COURSE MANAGER

To work directly with the Course Manager on the full range of both maintenance and development. This is a permanent, full time post for an ambitious, forward-thinking professional. Salary commensurate with position – no accommodation available.

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

Please forward full CV to:

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

Closing date: Monday 4th March 1996



Tyrrells Wood Golf Club

Leatherhead, Surrey

wishes to appoint an experienced

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

for its old established Downland Course.

Applicants should have the following skills:

- 1. NVQ Phase I and II
- 2. Spraying Certificates PA1 and PA2A
- 3. Experience with irrigation systems
- 4. Machinery and maintenance.

Salary in region of £15,000 subject to experience.

Applications in writing giving full CV-to:

Mr AE Watson, Course Manager, Tyrrells Wood Golf Club, The Drive, Tyrrells Wood, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8QP

RECRUITMENT

Following a period of continuing growth our Specialty business requires a Specialty Sales Manager with responsibility for the entire DowElanco specialty chemical range for use in amenity, sports turf, vegetation management, forestry and professional pest control markets.

specialty sales manager

The position will involve planning, forecasting and implementing sales through key accounts across the UK. This will also include running training workshops and providing constant support and motivation to field based customer staff. You will therefore be expected to maintain an up to date knowledge of key issues and trends within the market place.

DowElanco is one of the world's leading researchbased crop protection and specialty chemical manufacturers with an ambitious programme for growth throughout the 1990s.

We are dedicated to achieving continuous improvements in fungicides, insecticides and herbicides whilst safeguarding the interests of operators, the public and the environment.



Educated to graduate level, ideally BASIS qualified with relevant technical and/or commercial skills, you will have strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work independently. The successful candidate will join a small proactive team in both the UK and Europe and will report to the UK Specialty Business Manager.

This position represents an opportunity within a top international organisation. Salary and benefits – which include pension, life insurance, and private health care schemes, are highly competitive and career prospects within DowElanco both in the UK and abroad are second to none. Location is negotiable, to allow easy access to our UK customer base. A company car will also be provided with this position.

Please apply in writing with full CV and career details to Glyn Jones, Human Resources Manager, DowElanco Limited, Latchmore Court, Brand Street, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1HZ.



Llanwern Golf Club

invite applications for the post of

ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

We are a progressive club seeking a suitably experienced person.

Applicants to apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, Llanwern Golf Club, Tennyson Avenue, Llanwern, Newport, Gwent NP6 2DY

King James VI Golf Club

require an

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have greenkeeping qualifications, fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and machinery maintenance. PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates advantageous.

Salary negotiable but no accommodation.

Apply in writing or send CV by 23 February 1996 with two references to:

Greens Convenor, King James VI Golf Club, Moncrieff Island, Perth PH2 8NR

West Middlesex Golf Club Ltd

invite applications for the position of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must have suitable experience in all aspects of course management and be capable of taking full responsibility in the Head Greenkeeper's absence.

No accommodation available.

Applications in writing with CV to:

The Secretary, West Middlesex Golf Club, Greenford Road, Southall, Middlesex UB1 3EE



RICHINGS

GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

invite applications for the position of

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

Qualified and self-motivated, good salary. Single accommodation may be available. Apply in writing with CV to:

S Adby, Course Manager, 56 Leas Drive, Iver, Bucks SL0 9RD

LEADING IRRIGATION COMPANY

Due to expansion we require the following staff

DISTRIBUTION SALES

-OTE £38,000

Experienced Sales Professional to manage a newly created team of four sales representatives. The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate a proven track record in the industry.

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- OTE £20,000

Four representatives are required to provide geographic cover throughout Europe and Wales. Applications should be forwarded by either experienced sales professionals or individuals with industry experience that wish to move into a sales career.

Applications with full CV should be forwarded to Box No. R/8/96, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF

Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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

The suitable candidate must hold minimum qualifications of City & Guilds Phase I as well as PA1/PA2 Spraying Certificates.

Advancement to Deputy Head Greenkeeper would be expected for the right candidate.

Written applications with full CV are invited and addressed to:

The Secretary/Manager, Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club Ltd, Wormdale, Newington, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 7PX

St Neots Golf Club, Cambridgeshire

requires a

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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

Well established, warm, friendly club, excellent rates of pay and good working conditions, Write with full CV telling me why you are the right person for this position. ASAP.

Mr AR Peck (Club Manager), St Neots Golf Club, Crosshall Road, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 4AE

Fishwick Hall Golf Club

now requires a hands-on

COURSE MANAGER

Applicants must be fully experienced greenkeepers with a knowledge of machine maintenance, chemical usage and storage and health and safety regulations. An ability to keep records, manage, motivate and demonstrate skills and standards is also required.

Excellent opportunity for the right person. An ability to play golf will be an advantage.

Applications in writing to the following address:

Fishwick Hall Golf Club, Glenluce Drive, Farringdon Park, Preston PR1 5TD

Birchwood Park Golf Club

requires a

WORKING HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful candidate will have all relevant qualifications as well as experience in all aspects of turf culture, machinery maintenance, irrigation maintenance and the ability to lead and motivate staff. He/she will report to the Course Manager on a daily basis and be responsible for certain aspects of the management of the course.

Please send written applications with full CV to:

Mark Drake, Golf Course Manager, Birchwood Park Golf Club, Birchwood Road, Wilmington, Dartford, Kent DA2 7HJ

Cathcart Castle Golf Club

invite applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

for established undulating parkland golf course situated on south side of Glasgow.

Applicants must be qualified, experienced and self-motivated with proven ability in organising and carrying out work programmes along with the ability to lead, motivate and manage existing staff.

A sound and practial knowledge of maintenance and use of greenkeeping machinery is also required.

Salary to be in accordance with current greenkeeping salary scale.

Application in writing with full CV including current salary to:

The Secretary, Cathcart Castle Golf Club, Mearns Road, Clarkston G76 7YL.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON GOLF CLUB

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Previous experience essential Apply in writing enclosing full CV to;

The secretary, Stratford on Avon Golf Club, Tiddington Road, Stratford upon Avon, Warks.

Harborne Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants to have Phase 1 PA1–PA6 or equivalent examination passes.

Salary negotiable.

Applications in writing with full CV including current salary to:

The Secretary
Harborne Golf Club Ltd
40 Tennal Road,
Harborne,
Birmingham B32 2JE

Waterville Golf Links, Co. Kerry, Ireland

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Waterville, one of Europe's most prestigious Links Courses, requires a Head Greenkeeper.

The successful applicant must be a fully qualified and experienced Greenkeeper, with managerial skills. He or she should demonstrate sound knowledge and a practical experience of good greenkeeping, equipment maintenance, staff organisation, supervision, motivation and have a proven record of golf course management.

Please send written application with full CVby fax or post to:

Mr Noel Cronin, Secretary/Manager, Waterville Golf Links, Waterville, Ring of Kerry, Ireland Fax: 003516674482

PANSHANGER GOLF COMPLEX

Assistant Greenkeeper

Up to £13,221 p.a.

Flexihours 42 per week including weekend working

Applicants must have previous experience in managing fine turf, preferably on a golf course, be proficient in machinery operation and tractor driving and hold a current driving licence. Greenkeeping and/or landscaping qualifications are desirable, although not essential. You should be reliable, physically fit, with good communication skills and enjoy working with the public. A handicap golfer would be preferred.

For an application form telephone (01707) 357187 or for further information telephone David Steele, General Manager, on (01707) 333312.

Closing date: Friday, 1st March 1996.

Panshanger Golf Complex Old Herns Lane Welwyn Garden City Herts AL7 2ED





Goodwood Golf Club Ltd.

Established 1892

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

on this free draining, rolling downland course.

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

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

Family accommodation is available.

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

The Secretary, Goodwood Golf Club Ltd., Goodwood, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0PN

Closing date: 31 March 1996

It could be YOU!

Success in the Miracle **Professional Premier** Greenkeeper of the Year competition carries much prestige and the face of the 1996 winner could be the one which eyes you up the shaving mirror every morning.

one of the biggest boosts any greenkeeper could have to his career must be to win the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award - even reaching the final bring its rewards and smartens up the CV.

The competition, which this year sets out to identify the seventh champion greenkeeper, has a record to make Opportunity Knocks, New Faces or Stars in their Eyes envious when it comes to identifying talent.

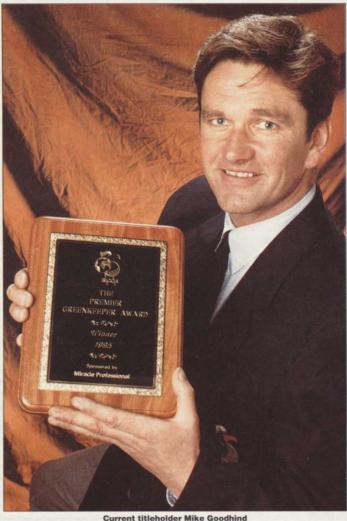
Anthony Davies. David Whitaker and Gordon Irvine are each also Master Greenkeepers while the other winners. Ian Harrison, David Walden and holder Mike Goodhind are all Champions of the highest possible calibre and a credit to the industry.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working on the competition," said Richard Minton, of Miracle Professional and the man who has spent many hours and days travelling to golf courses and judging the eventual winner.

Last year's gruelling schedule gives a flavour of the effort and commitment Richard and Pat Murphy, a member of BIGGA's Board of Management, put into assisting the eventual identification of the winner.

"I met Pat at Heathrow at 8 am and we drove an hour and a half to Brockenhurst Manor GC. After the course visit we drove to Chesfield Downs GC and completed the second visit. We stayed over night in Enfield and the next morning visited Dyrham Park GC. After lunch we drove to Shipley, Pat's home as he had to be home for the evening.

"The next morning we were up at 5am to fly from Leeds to Glasgow, picked up a hire car and drove to Troon. After the course visit we drove back to the airport and flew to Manchester - getting into the hotel about 7.30. The next morning it was up early again to visit the final course the



Miracle

Professional

PREMIER GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR

Tytherington Club in Macclesfield. Ironically it was the final course which produced the winner," said Richard.

"In all we had driven over 1,000 miles, taken two flights in the space of three days and visited five golf course - each excellent in their own, different, way."

the course visits have been completed the second phase of the final takes place at Aldwark where Manor

each contender is interviewed by a panel including Richard and Pat as well as Roger Mossop, Business Manager of Miracle Profesand Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA.

"Around 70% of the total mark is weighted to the golf course, the sheds, record keeping and how the budget is handled etc as it is

important that the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year's course reflects the standards we are seeking. People will visit the course expecting to meet the highest possible standards.

"However, the interview stage is also important but we try to ask open ended questions so the

finalists can say as much or as little as they want." Anyone can nominate a candidate for the title, from assistants

Chairmen of Green. You can even nominate yourself! Once the entries are in each region selects three representives before holding a regional final during which the golf course will be visited by an established BIGGA greenkeeper and a previous finalist, who select each region's national finalist.

"In most years two or three of the finalists have stood out as potential winners but last year the winner could have been any one of the five finalists. That shows the general improvement in standards since we launched the award," he explained.

There is often a wide variety and type of golf courses represented in the final and Richard uses a simple thought process to judge the finalists.

"Mentally I put each of the guys into the others' job and imagine how they would cope. That way you can say 'well he has a £100,000 plus a year budget but could he cope with a budget of less than £20,000 a year' and conversely 'could the guy who does a great job on a small budget cope with the pressure of having £100,000 plus year budget to

Also greenkeepers shouldn't think that the course should be presented to Captain's Day standard for the course visit.

"I go with well respected greenkeepers who know that disease can strike at any time. For example what we might mark down for is if nothing was being done about it or there was no chemical to rectify the situation in the sheds," said Richard.

"We certainly wouldn't want someone to hold back his hollow tining until after our visit. because that would be very wrong."

Another misnomer is that Miracle Professional customers would receive preferential treatment throughout the competition.

"I have visited 25 finalists and in that time been surprised to see so many different manufacturers' fertiliser in the sheds. Seeing more of our product during our visits would certainly be gratifying," he added.

"It is also refreshing to see how much the finalists enjoy the event. Although they all want to win they are genuinely pleased for a colleague if they don't lift the big prize. It's all very friendly and after the dinner we usually all go Ten Pin Bowling. It's great fun."

■ Next month we will look back at how winning the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award has affected the career of previous winners.

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OF DRY PATCH - SEARCH AND DESTROY •••

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