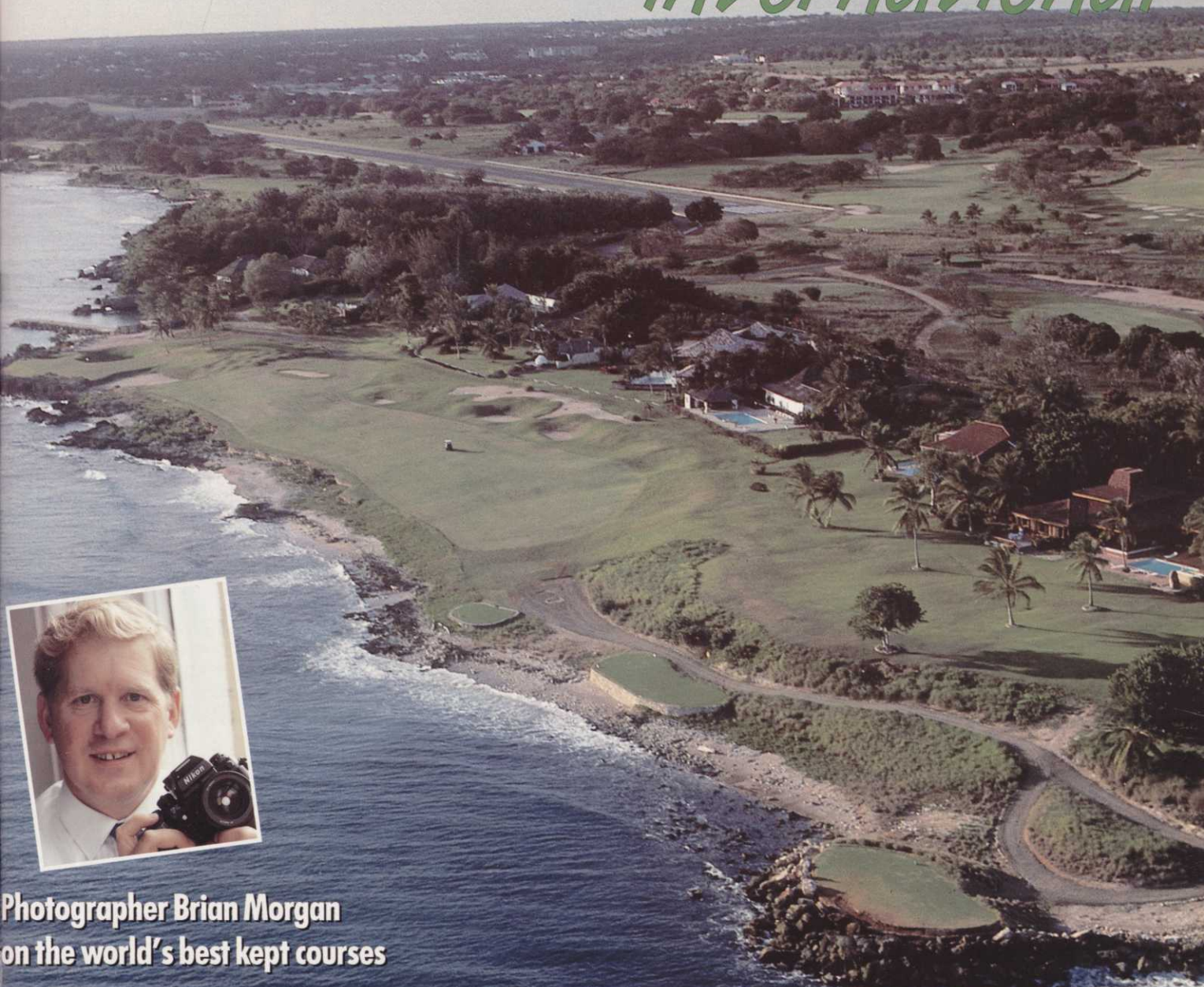


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International



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Golf Greenkeepers Association

■ The next edition of
Greenkeeper International
should be with you by April 14

GREENKEEPER

International

MARCH 1996

Contents

BIGGA in America

The Association was well represented at the GCSAA show in Orlando, Florida, acknowledged to be the biggest in the world. There was even a chance for BIGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver to make an impression on American TV **Pages 10-11**

A man groomed for the role

BIGGA's new Chairman Dean Cleaver may be the youngest yet, but he has all the credentials to make a vital contribution to the Association, as Scott MacCallum discovers **Pages 14-16**

Assessing a course through the lens

Brian Morgan is the best golf course photographer in the world – just ask some of the greatest names in the business. And with his talent comes a unique perspective **Pages 18-20**

Searching for the magnificent seventh

Six greenkeepers can lay claim to the accolade 'premier greenkeeper' and we investigate what impact such a grand title can have on your career **Pages 30-31**

Regular features

BIGGA in focus Neil Thomas unwraps exciting and worthwhile plans of a new membership benefit about to be introduced **Page 4**

News The lady and the lake, Wentworth's £41,000 computer theft and floodlit golf in China – all the news from our world **Pages 5, 7, 9**

Education Ken Richardson reports back on successful regional training courses, announces an expansion of courses for autumn and next spring and starts the search for speakers and subjects for upcoming events **Page 9**

Cover

Casa de Campo in the Dominican Republic – one of photographer Brian Morgan's favourite courses



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Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 78 for further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the companies' Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us and we'll arrange for further information to be sent to you direct.

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

a quick reference guide

	Ad Ref	Page
AgriLand	84	29
Allen Power	126	8,63
Atterton & Ellis	7	58
Charterhouse	130	38-39
C&P Soilcare	46	8
Eric Hunter	73	66
Fen Turf Dressings	168	44
Grasstex	508	28
Hardi	25	52
Hayters	90	67
Huxleys	60	34
Jacobsen	4	57
John Deere	103	60-61
Kubota	86	13
Levingtons	102	21
Links Leisure	493	45
Martin Bros	12	78
Midland Irrigation	356	27
Miracle Professional	54	17,49
New Holland UK	165	50
OCMIS	360	29
Pattissons	35	25
Ransomes	9	2
Rhône Poulenc	59	6,55
		80
Rigby Taylor	127	32
Risboro Turf	386	12
Roffey Bros	111	30
Rufford	5	16
Scotts	161	46
Service Chemicals	304	79
Sisis	176	24
Supreme Mowing	57	6,2
Top Green	507	42
Toro (Lely)	61	14-15
		54, 64-65
Tunstall Brand Composts		
	509	8
Ultra Plant	473	51
Watermation	33	26
Buyer's Guide		• 68-72
Classified		• 73
Recruitment		• 74-77

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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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Today's greenkeeper needs BIGGA membership

On April 1 BIGGA will introduce a new membership benefit of considerable importance for its greenkeeper members. Members will now be eligible for representation at all levels of employment disputes including representation at disciplinary hearings. In essence, therefore, greenkeeper members will be able to seek advice and support in relation to their employment at any stage from commencement of that employment all the way through to eventual retirement. There is a necessary proviso that the new scheme will run for a probationary period of six months and, if continued, be subject to annual review thereafter. This will allow us to gauge the use of the service and the costs involved. The value of this service to a member both in monetary and in peace of mind terms is considerable and those greenkeepers still reluctant to join BIGGA should really need no further convincing when a membership benefit of this magnitude is on offer.

Why is this service being introduced? Essentially it is to ensure that each and every member with an employment problem can be assured of appropriate legal advice and support as necessary in any particular situation. It is not a service to be used frivolously. Again it is not a service put in place to protect the incompetent greenkeeper. It is a service which it is hoped will encourage golf club committees to conduct proceedings in relation to their greenkeeping staff in a manner which has regard to the due processes of employment legislation. There are golf clubs who act strictly in accordance with employment law. Many others do not. For some years now our legal services have been provided through Hambro and it is their experience, in dealing with many different professions, that they have never come across a situation where employers, in the form of golf clubs, so consistently, and I quote, "Drive a coach and horses" through the employment legislation. As a result, Hambro's



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

success when representing our members at industrial tribunals is invariably guaranteed. However we do not want cases to reach this stage because by that time another greenkeeper is out of a job. It is very necessary therefore, that our members have recourse to adequate legal backing from the commencement of a dispute which is what the new service will provide.

I would urge members to read carefully the articles in both last month's and this month's issues of *Greenkeeper International* in order that they gain an understanding of the services which will be available and how it is envisaged they will work. Practically, there will be no change in the initial contact made by a member. Contact will be made as now with Hambro through use of the legal helpline card. Hambro will provide advice and if they feel representation is appropriate will advise the member to contact Kirbys. The operation of the service will be closely monitored and Kirbys will be providing regular

feedback to the Association.

One of the most standard questions posed by members is "Where does my subscription go?". Most certainly this new service is going to cost a not inconsiderable sum of money. It extends the services already available through the legal helpline, stress management helpline, and personal accident insurance. Without the additional costs of this new service, these three provisions for members cost a total of £12.40 per member per annum. The magazine is provided as a benefit of membership. On individual subscription this costs £34.00 per annum. With the exception of the South East Region, rebates are made by Headquarters to regions and sections to finance their administration. In total these amount to 15% of each subscription. The rebate for a first assistant/assistant greenkeeper rate of £47.00 is therefore £7.05. Again with the exception of the South East Region, honorariums are paid to each Regional Administrator and Section Secretary. In the South East the equivalent amounts are used as contributions towards the costs of employing a part time Regional Administrator. Special member prices apply for education courses and seminars. An example is the recent series of Local Management Courses, which, subsidised through the Education and Development Fund, cost £50.00 to members and £150.00 to non-members. For the golfing greenkeepers when courtesy of the course is granted a very substantial benefit accrues – a benefit which needs

to be cherished at a time when there is increasing evidence of its abuse. What value should be placed on the opportunities to meet with other members both on a local and national scale, to participate in such events as the BTME, the National Tournament and the Open Championship and to have willing contacts for advice and guidance when a greenkeeping problem defies solution?

What is abundantly clear is that subscription income would not on its own provide members with the range of services that the majority have come to expect. That is why BIGGA enters into commercial activities to generate additional income. That is why it employs experienced staff, with the appropriate expertise, to run the Association as a business in line with policies set out by a Board of Management elected by the membership. The Association is first and foremost about its members but it can only ultimately succeed with the backing and whole-hearted support of its members. Members need to be active at all levels in support of their Association. BIGGA is a buoyant organisation, growing and progressing with each passing year, but lethargy and complacency at whatever level have no place in this Association and need to be driven out. The more input by members the more successful BIGGA will become. Perhaps the order of the day should be to ask not what the Association can do for you but what can you do for the Association. It works better both ways and most certainly represents the way we should move forward.

Southturf 1996 is cancelled

Following the recent death of BIGGA South East Regional Administrator and Southturf organiser, Geof Hills, Southturf 1996 has been cancelled.

It was felt that, at this stage, the event would not be feasible for 1996 with no administrator/organiser in place.

A new administrator is to be appointed in due course, when a decision will be made on staging an event in 1997.

The South East region would like to thank all companies for their support at the previous Southturf exhibitions.

Wrong number

The BIGGA Headquarters telephone number is 01347 838851 only.

The 01347 838852 number which appears on some of the BIGGA letter headings does not belong to the Association. There are, in fact, two lines attached to the 838581 number.

Rescue mission for golf lady and a lake

A tale from the lakeside by Roy Hudson, Assistant Greenkeeper, Lambourne GC.

It was on a freezing day of January that a regular playing member had the misfortune of losing grip on her trusty 7-iron only to see it flying towards the middle of the 4th and 10th lake.

To her surprise the club had, somehow, landed vertically and was visible just below the surface of the water but out of reach.

"Who do you call?!..."

Without a single Ghostbuster in sight, one of Lambourne's greenkeepers was soon at the scene and was briefed on the situation.

After assessing the situation Justin Winslade soon realised that he had only one option. Tossing his trousers lakeside he entered the cold, murky, trout infested depths of the lake.

It has since been rumoured by colleagues that Mr Winslade has been approached to appear in a new TV drama based on the American TV series 'Baywatch'. A spokesman for the new show said that "Lakewatch" has already been attracting interest from teenagers and greenkeepers alike.

We are now proud to announce that, after recent first aid training, the 7-iron was successfully resuscitated and was recently seen back in play!

Well done Just!

No. 1 seed

Keith Galley, the new head of Force Limagrain, will take responsibility for all UK developers and business based at the company's UK Headquarters at Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire.

The company trades exclusively as a supplier of quality seeds to the agricultural, amenity and allied industries. The UK operation now forms part of Force Limagrain West, the division also includes France, Southern Ireland, Luxembourg, Belgium and Switzerland.

"As Europe's largest plant breeding company we see the UK as one of our key markets," commented Keith. "We aim to be the number one supplier of seed for all crops in which we specialise."

NEWS



Winchester Garden Machinery marked its 25th year in the domestic and professional grass machinery business in January, by signing with John Deere Limited as a Roberine dealer.

The Hampshire-based company was started by dealer principal Robin Nettle and partner Andrew John Hoskings, primarily selling domestic equipment, and moved into the specialist golf and turf market 10 years ago. Coincidentally, John Deere celebrates the 10th anniversary of its groundscape equipment business in the UK and Ireland this year. Our picture shows the Roberine dealer signing.

Deere and Company has reported record first quarter net income of \$166.2 million or \$0.63 per share for the quarter ended January 31, an increase of 20 per cent compared with 1995 first quarter net income of \$138.4 million or \$0.53 per share.

Results of both the equipment and financial services operations improved compared with a year ago, reflecting the continued strong retail demand in most of the company's major markets.

Wentworth in £41,000 theft

Thieves have pounced on one of the country's top golf courses and made off with £35,000 worth of computerised weather station equipment and a set of two way radios

Ironically the equipment, taken from The Wentworth Club in Surrey, will be of no use to the thieves.

"It was specially made for Wentworth four years ago and the information on it will be useless to anyone else,"

explained Course Manager Chris Kennedy.

A replacement computer is currently being built by IBM for Toro in America and although it is fortunate that it is not as important in the winter it is depriving Chris and his staff of weather information which assists with the maintenance of the three Wentworth courses.

"Fortunately we still have all the master disks required for the computer," added Chris.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ John Merriman, formerly Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Bridgedown GC, has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Batchworth Park GC in Herts.

■ Dartmouth Golf and Country Club which hosted the 1994 National Tournament, has been bought by Vine Developments. The Club had been in receivership for a time prior to the sale and Head Greenkeeper Terry Farkins had a positive reaction from the new owners. "They see the golf course as their biggest asset," he explained.

■ Alan Walton, for four years Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Sennelager GC in Germany, has been appointed head Greenkeeper at Golf Club Hechingen-Hohenzollern between Stuttgart and the Swiss border.

■ Dr Jim Beard will be in the country in May and he is keen to acquire any old Sutton/Carter books. Could anyone who can help please contact Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ.

■ Weed Free Bracknell have changed their contact address to Unit 12, Lindenhill Road, Bracknell, Berks, RG42 1UT Tel: 07000 481011 Fax: 07000 481022.

■ Mist Irrigation System Controls Ltd has incorporated Macpenny-Cameron into the company. The acquisition provides a manufacturing facility enabling the company to produce control systems to suit customer requirements, and ensures a full back up, after sales and service by highly trained engineers. Anyone needing help or advice with Cameron or other irrigation equipment should call Mist Irrigation Tel: 01425 474614.

■ Margaret Beckett, Shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Chy Chuanheng of the Chinese National Parks Association, will open Horticulture Industries 1996 at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, in June.

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Tribute to Richard Aitken Senior

It is with a sad heart that I write this obituary to Richard Aitken Senior. Dick, as he was known throughout Scotland, started his long career as a representative for Austin and McAuslans. I first remember him in 1947 when he did his calls by bus, train and walking. None of the reps in these days had cars. Dick though he was lucky if he made more than two calls a day then. He served throughout the war in the Army and saw action in France and Belgium. On returning he again took up with Austin and McAuslan.

It was always a pleasure to get a quarterly visit from Dick. We never considered that he was there to sell, it was more like a visit from an old friend who brought with him the news from the other golf clubs. I never remember him pressing for an

order and whether or not he got one he never seemed upset. I used to make remarks about his car. He would look aghast and say the price it cost, as if it belonged to someone else. He was never presumptuous. Dick Aitken never changed. He was the same quite man I knew 50 years ago.

In 1963 Dick went into business for himself opening up a place in Waterloo Street in Glasgow. From there he never looked back. He took his son Richard into partnership and they moved to more roomy premises in Stockwell Place. Finally they moved to new purpose-built premises in Harmony Row, Govan, where anyone could see Dick in his office anytime they called – he had time for everyone. His Seeds and Fertilisers and golf course supplies business expanded to the whole of

Scotland and the North of England.

I am sure in his latter years he was a very proud man although he never showed it. It was a sad day for Dick when he lost his wife after a long illness five years ago. He retired about three years ago, living a quiet life at home until he was hospitalised, where he died on Friday, February 2, aged 84.

I am sure greenkeepers all over Scotland and England will feel that with Dick Aitken's passing another era in greenkeeping has passed. At this time in his family's grief our sincere condolences go to all his family especially to his son Richard, his daughter Grace and their families. I know I speak for many when I say "Goodbye old friend, until we meet on that big golf course in the sky".

Cecil George

Fundraising efforts pay off for Matthew

Matthew Fell, the son of Tiller's Turf's Tim Fell, who was the victim of a horrific brain disorder, is now well on the way to recovery thanks to the success of the £150,000 appeal to send him to Pittsburgh for treatment.

Nine year-old Matthew was struck down with Trigeminal Neuralgia – previously virtually unknown in children – and went from being a normal fun loving boy to one unable to sit, stand, read and often eat or drink.

"We spent five weeks in Pittsburgh and Matthew had two more operations to go with the one he had in the UK," explained his mum Lindsay.

"He is now doing really well. He's completely upright and is even playing tennis. He is also now going to school about half the time," she explained.

Matthew still can't touch his head without pain but there are high hopes that he will make a full recovery.

"Our target was £150,000 but thanks to the wonderful response of everyone including a great deal from the greenkeeping industry we raised £180,000," explained Lindsay. "We shall keep some of the money back until Matthew is fully recovered but the extra will go to Great Ormond Street Hospital to help children with the same condition.

"We have had many calls of support from greenkeepers and thank everyone for their support."

An eastern promise of floodlit golf



The current popular trend in the Far East would probably cause most greenkeepers to have nightmares – the potential for 24 hours play with wall-to-wall floodlighting!

Pictured here are golfers on the Gary Player-designed Sand River Golf Course in Shenzhen, southern China. The course was visited recently by British golf course consultant David Hemstock while he was carrying out a consultancy visit on another new floodlit course nearby, the Shenzhen Noble Merchant Golf Club.

The area is a buffer zone between inland China and the

soon to be incorporated Hong Kong, and demand for golf is almost ferocious as the economy booms. The area is a strange mixture of high-tech new buildings and coolie workers, the Noble Merchant course having been almost hand-built apart from an ancient bulldozer.

Mission Hills Golf Course, scene of the recent inaugural Chinese international tournament, is a short drive away. Play was interrupted during the event by curious crowds wandering over fairways, and noisily snorting during shot-taking (a socially accepted Chinese trait).

HAYTER CHALLENGE

'Rest of World' team is named

The four home nation players who will represent the Rest of the World in the inaugural Hayter International Cup at West Lancashire Golf Club in September have been named.

They were selected on the strength of their performances in the Hayter Challenge Final, also at West Lincs, last year. They are Derek McJannet, of Sherwood Forest GC, a scratch man who will represent England; Alexander Reid, of Letham Grange GC, for Scotland, and Ian Buckley of Northop Country Park, for Wales, who both play off 7 and Brian Mulholland, of Lisburn GC, a 5 handicapper, who will represent Ireland.

They will join representatives from Sweden, Spain, Germany and Australia to compete as The Rest of the World against The Americas comprising the United States, Canada and Argentina. Everyone has confirmed their participation and the event looks certain to become a fixture on the international greenkeeping calendar. The event will be played every two years alternating between the United Kingdom and the United States.

The first Hayter International Cup will be played at West Lincs on September 16.

One the domestic front preparations are well advanced for the Hayter Challenge Final to be played at Fairhaven GC on September 18.

Much deliberation and debate within BIGGA Headquarters has seen a fine array of trophies chosen to present to the victors which should adorn mantelpieces for many years to come.

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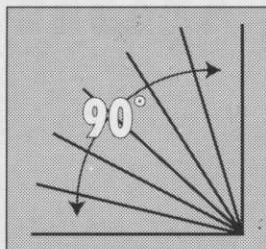
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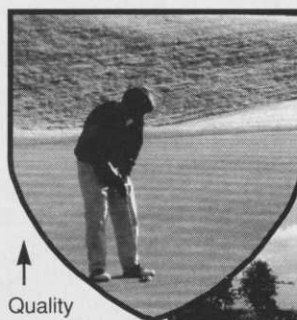
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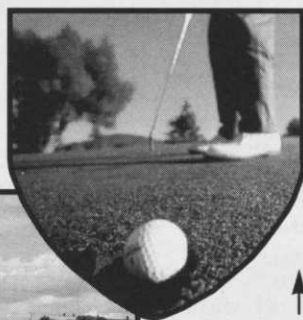
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Hi-tech parts service begins

Ransomes has invested £600,000 in its new hi-tech parts operation in Ipswich.

Carried out over the last year, each Ransomes dealer is now linked by computer to the parts operation with overseas dealers following on fast. Replacing the fax-based method of parts ordering the Powercom-2000 computer software uses the telephone network to provide a direct connection between each dealer and the parts stores.

Another major step forward for the company has been the separation of the replacement parts from those needed for the manufacturer of new machines. This will prevent occasions when the parts depart-

ment are unable to provide parts when the production department is meeting the demand for a specific machine. It will free the parts department to look after

savings being achieved through the use of computerised parts storage and retrieval systems.

"In addition to concentrating all of the parts into a single building, we've housed around 2,000 of the fastest-moving items within a line of computer-controlled storage shuttles and carousels," explained International Parts Sales Manager, Phil Naunton.

Every part which leaves the site now carries the distinctive "Ransomes Real Parts"

branding and to encourage users to specify an item Ransomes is running a series of special offers on a range of selected parts from its range during 1996.



dealers and customers.

The parts department is now housed in one 20,000 sq ft building – half the size of the multi-based department before with the

European agreement signed

At the recent launch of Greenor, the latest DowElanco fine turf selective weed-killer to be added to the Rigby Taylor "Advanced Technology Products" range, a European Co-operation Agreement was signed for the development and marketing of fine turf products throughout Europe.

George Skylakakis, Director, New Products DowElanco Europe, reminded the Rigby Taylor team of the success of the recent introductions, Rimidin, Bastion T and Lorsban T in the UK and was confident that the launch of Rimidin in France would mirror



the results in this country.

"We are pleased to be associated with such a reputable research based chemical com-

pany," said Bernard Hedley, Chairman of Rigby Taylor, "and we are sure that the continued development of products tuned to the requirements of the sports turf industry will maintain the success of this fruitful partnership."

A joint European development team has been established to ensure the continued focus on the development of products most suited to the requirements of greenkeepers and groundsmen.

Picture shows Bernard Hedley, left, and George Skylakakis at the signing of the agreement.

New Board member



Rod Mayes has been appointed a director of Atterton & Ellis Limited, the Haverhill based designers and

manufacturers of lawn mower grinding machinery.

"Rod's experience within the industry, technical and production knowledge, will strengthen the company's management team" said David Smith, Managing Director.

Rod, 46, is married with two children, lives in Haverhill, Suffolk.

Guidelines published

The Health and Safety Executive has published RIDDOR '95, the revised and simplified Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. The Regulations cover all work activities and come into force on April 1 this year.

RIDDOR '95 will require all deaths, certain injuries resulting for accidents, instances of specified diseases and specified dangerous occurrences, which arise out of or in connection with work activities to be reported.

The leaflet contains all the information employers need.

Taking training out to the greenkeepers

This year seems to be flying by. I am still waiting for the "quiet spell", post BTME, but I am still very busy putting the education and training program together for 96/97.

The 1995/96 series of Regional Supervisory Management Courses draws to a close, this month with courses in Killarney and Hemel Hempstead. From the vast amount of positive feedback relieved so far, it is obvious that we have made a successful start in taking training out to greenkeepers. We are planning to expand the number of courses for Autumn 96 and Spring 97 and, thanks once again to contributions to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, we should be able to keep costs reasonable. Watch out for further details in future magazines. Courses will



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

take place, once again, at Aldwark Manor in October/November '96 and details will be published in the April magazine.

Massey Ferguson Tractor Appreciation Workshop

The first Massey Ferguson tractor appreciation workshop for selected college students took place at Warwickshire College from February 19 to 23 and was a great success. Further workshops will be held at Oaklands College from March 11 to 15 and at Elmwood College from April 1

to 4. Nominated students will shortly receive joining instructions for each workshop.

Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

Keep those nominations coming in. Remember, a trip to Las Vegas is only part of prize for winning the competition. See Pages 30-31 for details of previous winners and what they have achieved.

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, Workshops and BTME

The search for speakers and subjects for the 1997 National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME Seminars has already begun.

If you wish to speak, know of a good speaker or have a subject that you would like to see discussed then please let me know. Video tapes of the 1996 Conference and Seminars have been produced and are available from HQ. Since the last magazine was published, I have negotiated a reduced price for videos ie 40 minute session £7.50 inc VAT, 60 minute session £8.50 inc VAT, 90-120 minutes £10 and 180 minutes or more, £15.

Written transcriptions of each session of the Conference are now available from HQ priced at £2.90 per session +£1.50 postage.

The GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida is already acknowledged as the biggest event of its kind in the world – and now it's growing bigger. Report and pictures by Michael Bird.

Anyone with a passing interest in statistics would have had a field day at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show, held in Orlando, Florida.

Apart from the biggest ever attendance by overseas visitors, including many British greenkeepers and golf course supply companies, the show broke a number of records on other fronts.

With 675 trade exhibitors, the exhibition attracted 35 additional companies over the record 640 who were at San Francisco in 1995. Despite the recent opening of an extension to the massive Orange County Convention Center, this year's record visitor attendance – around 21,500 over three days – produced jostling in the aisles at peak morning periods on both the second and third days.

If the trend continues, the organisers are likely to need more than the 210,000 sq ft (2ha) allocated for this year's exhibition when planning the 1997 event, due to be held in Las Vegas from 10 to 12 February.

One exhibit which attracted a steady stream of interested visitors was the BIGGA stand where Association representatives fielded questions about golf greenkeeping on this side of the Atlantic and generally "flew the flag" for turf maintenance professionals in Britain and mainland Europe. A number of membership applications were also received, helping extend our influence still wider.

BIGGA's newly-elected Chairman, Dean Cleaver, was put on the spot shortly after arriving on the stand, being filmed for the GCSAA's television programme, 'Par for the Course'. The main thrust of the questioning by presenter Duke Frye concerned the difference between British and American golf greenkeeping and the state of our industry.

Available to more than 65 million American homes via the cable network, the show is being produced in 25 pre-recorded half hour episodes looking at the world of golf. Each show contains informative industry news and topics and includes a special fea-

BIG IN AMERICA



BIGGA's Chairman, Dean Cleaver, is interviewed for the GCSAA's cable TV programme 'Par for the Course'

ture where top golf course superintendents from tournament courses across the USA give a weekly lawn care tip to viewers. This year's programmes will run every week to 25 August and will also be available via satellite worldwide through the ESPN International network.

Environmental themes were much to the fore at the GCSAA event, with an environmental

general discussion session taking place over three and a half hours the evening before the trade exhibition opened. Two main themes were discussed: The use of herbicides and pesticides on courses. And golf course construction together with associated residential developments.

As might be expected in a forum attracting all sides of the industry, including environmen-

talists, there was much heated debate although it was felt generally that golf course staff are as responsible as their farm, industry or domestic neighbours when it comes to environmental issues. As one superintendent pointed out: "Most of the people in this business don't stay around too long if they have dead fish and dead birds on or near their course."

The answer, it was agreed, will come from continuing education and dialogue with all interested parties, and particularly those who are affected by golf course operations or developments.

In addition to the conferences, seminars and workshops which are run along similar lines to those held at BTME under the Learning Experience banner, the GCSAA exhibition had something for everybody involved in golf course design, construction, care and maintenance.

Clever environment-friendlier ideas are not the sole preserve of American companies, yet the sheer size of the US industry (17,000-plus golf courses) means that many new products and techniques tend to appear first on the other side of the Atlantic.

Engine manufacturers, in particular, are being pushed by strict Californian emission regulations



Inside the halls there were 675 trade exhibitors spread over 210,000 sq ft

to produce cleaner, quieter power units. Kubota says that the majority of its diesels built since August 1995 exceed the CARB (California Air Resources Board) regulations. Designated the 'E' Series and rated from 6hp to 57.5hp, they cover virtually the complete machinery power range found within the turf maintenance industry.

Specific features which help the engines run cleaner are combustion chamber design, the angle of fuel injection and improvements to the fuel injection pump, nozzle and cam profile to reduce combustion period while restricting rapid pre-mixed combustion.

Briggs and Stratton point out that about half its engineering team and budget is being directed towards emission control testing, research and design. Senior Engineer, Andy Traxel, said that work was underway on improving carburation, combustion chamber design and oil control, the latter to prevent migration into the combustion chamber.

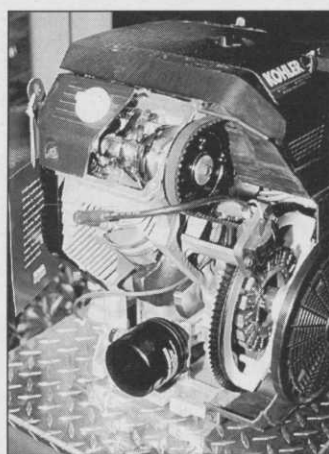
He believes that some form of exhaust after-treatment is on the way for small petrol engines although this may not necessarily be in the form of a catalytic converter. "Post-engine combustion of gases is an alternative and pos-

sibly less expensive way of reducing toxic emissions," he commented.

"As far as actual engine design is concerned, I cannot see any major environmental benefit from developments such as overhead cams. We have overhead valve and pushrod units which work extremely efficiently. In my opinion, Briggs and Stratton will move to fuel injection and electronic engine management systems before introducing OHC engines."

Kohler, on the other hand, was making a big play over its new 16hp V-Twin OHC engine, launched at the show. By moving the camshaft out of the crankcase and away from the sump and crankshaft, Kohler claims that the engine offers longer oil change intervals, lower operating temperatures, quieter operation and reduced oil consumption.

Most of the improvements have been achieved, says Kohler, by eliminating much of the housing above the crankshaft used previously to contain the camshaft and pushrods, allowing improved airflow around the cylinders. Furthermore, the use of advanced "lost-foam" casting technology to engineer oil passages and single piece castings has removed the need for internal gears and a



Cutaway of Kohler's 16hp V-Twin petrol engine with belt-driven overhead camshafts

number of gaskets. Instead, a rugged cam drive belt is used, guaranteed for the life of the engine.

Spilt oil is of major concern to all involved with the care of fine turf and there were a number of solutions on show to visitors. Aabaco Industries produce Aab-Sorboil and Bio-Aab-Sorb designed to clean up and neutralise all types of oil, except synthetic.

The first mentioned product is a non-toxic, biodegradable emulsifier which, when sprayed onto spills, makes both petroleum and

oil water soluble so they can be removed quickly and easily from turf using plenty of water. The makers recommend using Bio-Aab-Sorb as a secondary treatment. This is a powder containing live enzymes able to digest hydrocarbons present on grass or soil, converting them principally into carbon dioxide and water. Aabaco guarantees that the product is non-toxic, non-hazardous and non-corrosive although eye and respiratory protection is recommended during application.

An alternative is Simple Green Golf Cleaner, another biodegradable product which can be sprayed directly onto oil splattered turf. Having "broken up" the oil, it is flushed with water into the soil where it is "safely neutralised by natural biological action without harming the turf". The product can also be used to clean carpets, walls and turf equipment.

Having taken the GCSAA exhibition by storm two years ago with its all-electric E-Plex mower, Ransomes maintained its environmental push with the announcement that all Fairway 250 mowers are now filled with Turf Protector hydraulic fluid as standard. A biodegradable plant seed oil, Turf Protector has been developed over three years to provide

Eye-opener

Stuart Green, the very first winner of the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award, used part of his £1,650 bursary prize to visit the GCSAA Conference.

Sponsored by Ransomes and Scottish Grass Machinery, the scheme enabled six students to spend 12 months on The Gleneagles Hotel's three championship courses to study and carry out all aspects of golf course design, management and maintenance as part of their three year HND golf management course.

Students went through a rigorous selection process and faced written and practical projects at the end of the year.

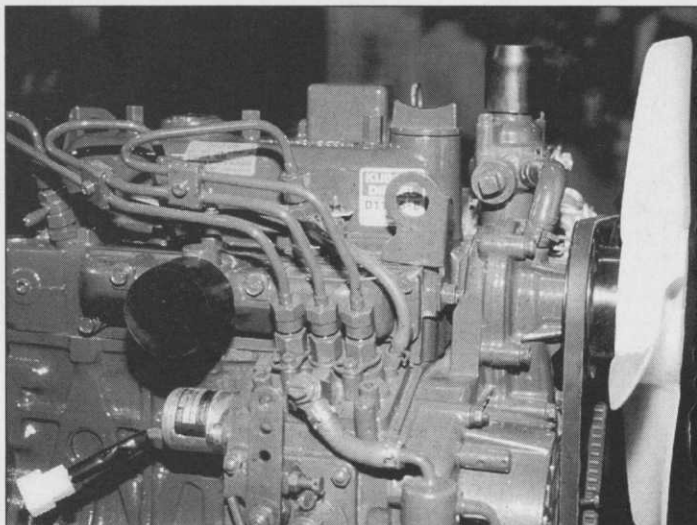
The 1995/96 Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award scheme now in progress has been extended to include HND students from nine UK colleges as well as one from Australia. Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turf Grass Management with Gleneagles Golf Developments, announced that Gleneagles will be looking for students to apply also from North America for the next award year, commencing in August.

'Many new products and techniques tend to appear first on the other side of the Atlantic'

greatly superior lubricating properties over other vegetable oils, including rapeseed.

Any spills will cause only minimal turf damage and do not harm the roots. As a bonus, it can be mixed with mineral oil without problem in specified machines. Ransomes expects to include Turf Protector as standard on more grass-cutting equipment over the coming months. The principal machine requirements are additional oil cooling and an oil reservoir shaped to prevent possible foaming.

Any method of improving the accuracy of fertiliser, fungicide and pesticide applications must help in reducing potential environmental damage. The Land Pride Material Injection System (MIS) uses water to incorporate dry or liquid materials into the soil, getting down to "the root of the problem" without any surface disruption. As a bonus, the high pressure jets can help alleviate localised dry spots and soil compaction.



Kubota 'E' Series diesel engines are designed to run cleaner and quieter

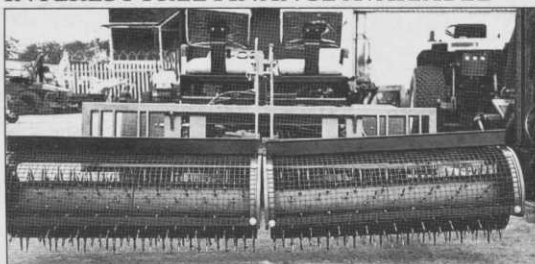
The unit has seven nozzles set 3in apart and can be programmed to inject at spacings from 1.5in up to 6in, adjustable in 1.5in increments.

Maximum injection depth is 8in. To eliminate jet wear, all injected materials are pulled into

the ground by the vacuum created by the rapid movement of the water and do not pass through the nozzle.

At the show, Landpride announced the appointment of Staffs-based Turfmech Machinery as its UK distributor.

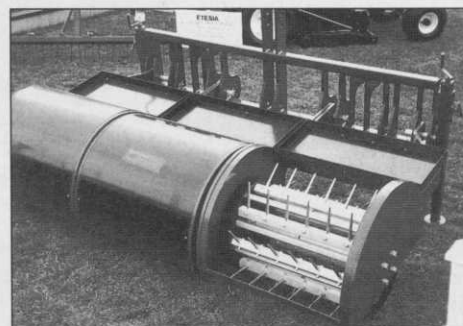
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A man



BIGGA's new National Chairman is the youngest yet but he has all the credentials. He met Scott MacCallum at Gay Hill GC where he is Course Manager.

BIGGA's new Chairman is, at 38, the youngest to rise to the position in the nine years the Association has been in existence. But what Dean Cleaver lacks in years he more than makes up for in his experience of the industry and the Association and the commitment and enthusiasm he will bring to the job makes him ideally suited to the role.

For despite his "tender years" you could say he's been groomed for job for many years – 21 to be exact.

"I was a committee member of the BGGGA at 17 and Chairman of the Section at 21," he explains. "I've also been Treasurer and Secretary of the Section and have been Chairman of Education for the Midland Region."

"Becoming National Chairman is one of the greatest honours I've had in my career," said Dean, as he sat in the clubhouse of the Gay Hill Golf Club for which he is Course Manager. "Hopefully other young people will look to me as the youngest Chairman and will see that they too can work towards the success of the Association. You don't have to be old to contribute."

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW REELMASTER 2300-D.



groomed for the role

"Even in the first few weeks people have said how nice it is to see someone young as Chairman.

"It's quite stimulating and if it helps get more young people coming through it would be a big achievement.

Ironically, the man who launched Dean into a career in greenkeeping was Paddy McCarron, BIGGA National Chairman in 1989.

"I was quite lucky because Paddy pushed me into doing a lot of things in terms of taking responsibility for a job on the golf course and bearing in mind I was only in my teens it was superb experience."

Dean has looked up to Paddy ever since and their paths have taken a remarkably similar path. "When he gave up the job of Section Treasurer it was me who took his place, when I came onto the Regional Board 12 years later it was Paddy's position I took again and when he stepped down as BIGGA representative on the GTC it was me who took his shoes again. Now I have followed him as National Chairman."

The two men still keep in touch and Paddy, who is still at the Leicestershire Golf Club when Dean began his career, is delighted for his protegee.

It might have been another career that Dean

was making his name in if things had only been slightly different.

"I had a trial for Leicester City in the early '70s as a left winger but wasn't quite good enough. That was just after Peter Shilton had left the club but when they had players of the quality of Frank Worthington and Keith Weller at Filbert Street."

He continued to play Senior League football in the Leicestershire area but much preferred the atmosphere of the pub team he played for and gave up the serious stuff after a season. He was only in his early 20s.

"I was also a decent athlete and finished second and third in the County Championships at the 100 and 200 metres while I also a decent tennis player. I've never taken my golf seriously although I've been told I could get down to single figures and I have to say that's still an ambition.

"It's just time and I already spend a lot of time at the course in any case and on top of what I do for BIGGA with a young family it's not fair if all my time goes in one direction."

Wife Linda and sons James, 10, and Daniel, 8, have been used to dad devoting so much time to the Association.

"I got married to Linda at 21 just before I became Head Greenkeeper at Rugby GC so

she's always been involved. It's just that it's got more and more.

"I had to do a lot of travelling because Rugby was borderline between Midland and East Midland Sections so in most cases it was at least an hour's travelling and sometimes nearly two hours. But I did it because it was what I wanted to do and I felt I got great benefit from it."

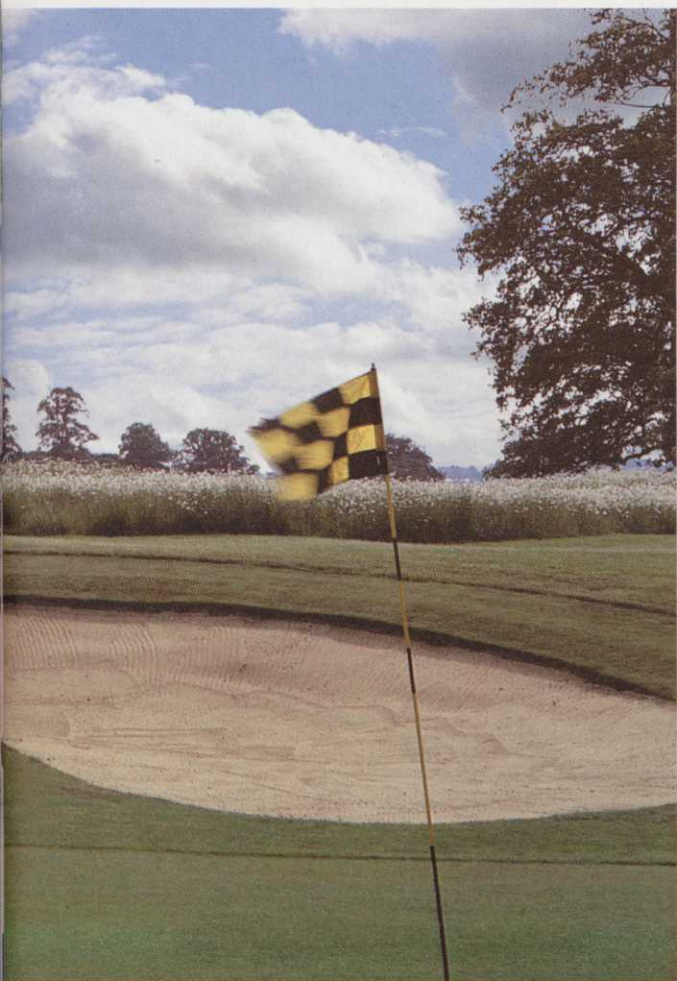
He first joined the Board of Management three years ago and was designated his pet subject of Education as a responsibility and he was Education Sub Committee Chairman for two years. He spent last year as Vice Chairman to Barry Heaney.

"Barry has been a great ambassador and really enjoyed his year. He met so many wonderful people and feels that in a small way feels he's contributed to making the Association better. That's what I want to do."

Dean also enjoys the full support of Gay Hill Golf Club in what will undoubtedly be – and has already been – a demanding year.

"I met with the Captain, the Chairman and Chairman of Green and told them I'd been offered the Chairmanship, that I wanted to do it and what it would involve for the club. I stressed that I wanted them to be a part of it. Their attitude was tremendous. They

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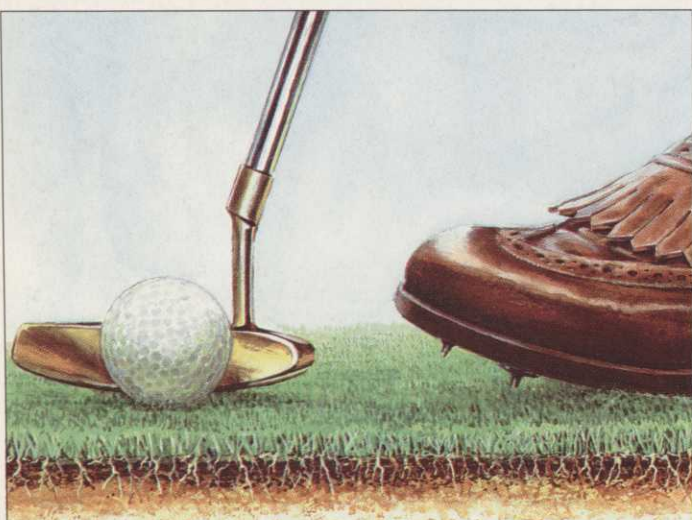
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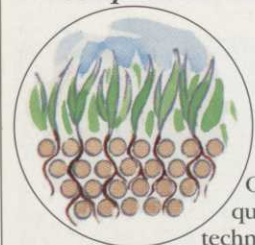
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Over to you: Dean is congratulated on becoming BIGGA Chairman by his predecessor, Barry Heaney

'The formation of the European Greenkeepers Association is another important issue'

congratulated me and we sorted out the time it would involve and they've been agreeable to it. I've also been asked a lot of questions by the members about what I will, and have, been doing."

Dean's career took him from his early years under the wing of Paddy McCarron at the Leicestershire Golf Club to Rugby where he spent 10 years, eight and a half of them as Head Greenkeeper - "I went there in the knowledge I would take over when the Head Greenkeeper retired 18 months later."

From there and despite what he describes as "among the best times I've had" he decided on a move and was appointed Head Greenkeeper at Stratford-on-Avon GC.

"I told them I wasn't prepared to start immediately and for a three month period I travelled from Rugby to Stratford one day a week. Rugby were appreciative of that and when I left they presented me with a painting."

He was at Stratford for five years before becoming Course Manager at Gay Hill, a lovely parkland course just south of Birmingham.

Since taking over the Chairmanship at BTME in January he has attended the GCSAA Conference in Orlando and had the opportunity to visit Augusta National for a few hours.

"It was always an ambition of mine to visit Augusta. I know it's caused problems for greenkeepers

with members seeing the immaculate conditions on television but I've collected information on the course and to visit it was just wonderful."

There are a few things in the BIGGA melting pot which Dean feels require addressing in his year in office.

"I think we have to look seriously at the Headquarters accommodation problem. It's not something we'd like to do, it's something we need to do. It's not fair on the people we employ and it does not help the professional image of the Association that we have to work in the conditions we do.

"The formation of the new European Greenkeepers Association is another important issue as it will give us one voice in Europe. If we get this off the ground it will be tremendous because like it or not it's not just about us, it's about Europe. We're an extended family."

An hour in the company of Dean Cleaver and you are left with the feeling that BIGGA is in safe hands and he will hand over the reins in a year's time with the Association in rude health.

"A lot of people have worked hellishly hard to get where we've got in establishing BIGGA including Walter Woods, Jack McMillan and Paddy.

"I know these people are pleased with the direction the Association is going and we mustn't let them down."

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FILM STAR



As a photographer Brian Morgan can be spoken of in the same breath as Bailey and Lichfield. When it comes to golf course photography he's the top man.

It's not often you get the opportunity to sit down for an hour with someone who is regarded, almost without fear of contradiction, as the best in his field. When that person is involved in your own industry and is prepared to talk openly and enthusiastically about it it makes the experience all the more valuable.

Brian Morgan is the best golf course photographer in the world. Don't just take my word for it. He has been the official photographer for all four Major Championships taking the pictures for the souvenir programmes; is the man Jack Nicklaus – another whose claims for world best wouldn't meet too many detractors – employs to photograph all his golf courses; had courses closed for a week because he is coming to photograph them and had signs up saying "Brian Morgan coming. No Carts on the fairways" while his services are in demand every-

where that golf is played.

He has shot over 800 different courses in 43 countries over the last 20 years and has concentrated on golf courses alone for the past 10 years.

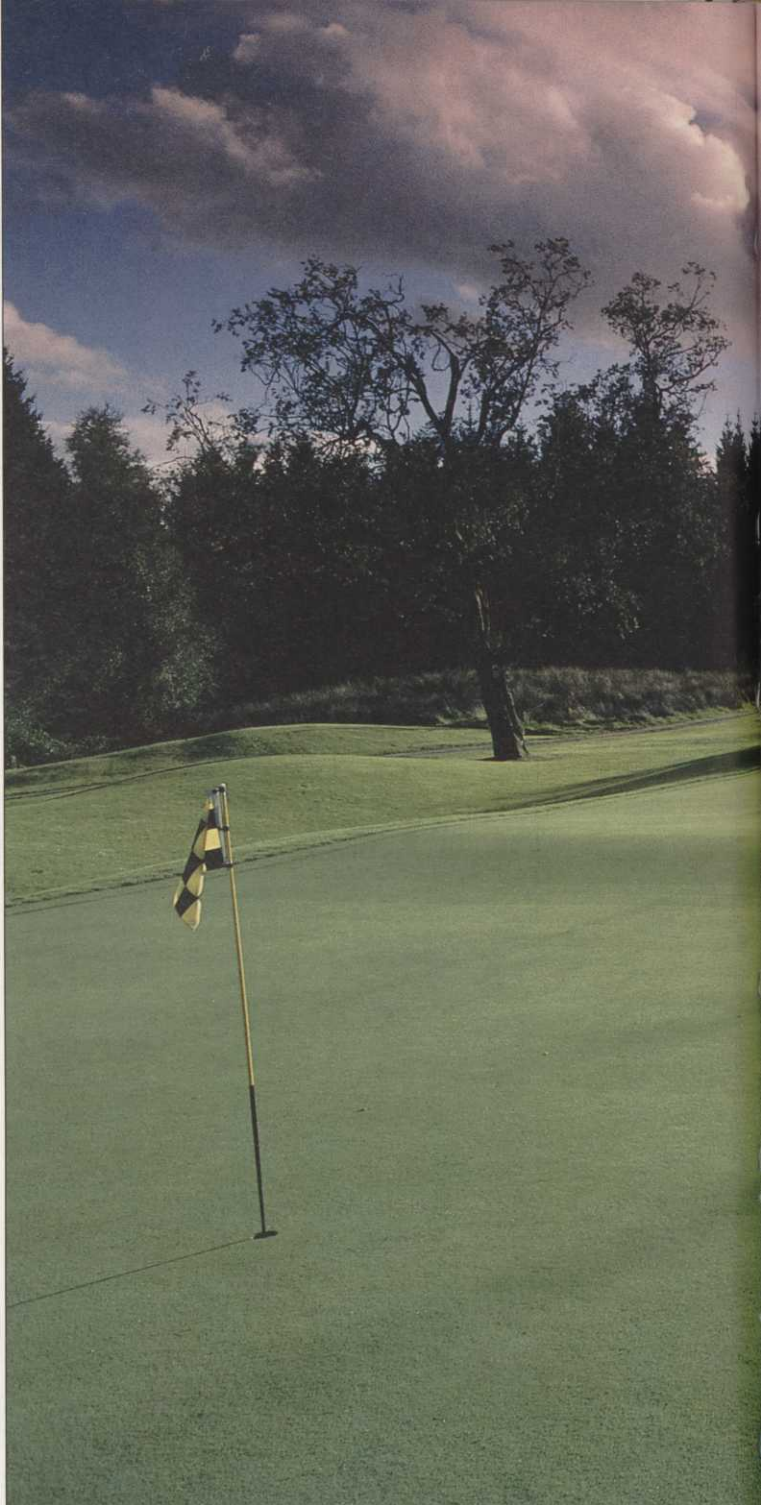
He has therefore seen his share of greenkeeping set ups and prides himself of having a good relationship with the greenkeeping staff he meets up with – they're often the only other people on the course when he's working.

"I can now go on to a golf course anywhere in the world and within five or ten minutes guess at the standard the course is generally kept at. If I go into the sheds I can tell right away at what standard the course is maintained," explained Brian from his library in the heart of his native Glasgow overlooking the Clyde.

"The sheds which are the tidiest, the best kept, and where the machinery is kept clean usually turn out to be the same on the golf course."

He is extremely forthright when highlighting the problems at many golf courses in the United Kingdom.

"To be perfectly honest I haven't seen much improvement



Loch Lomond: A site golf architects would kill for

in the condition of golf courses in Britain over the last 20 years. That's because the budgets greenkeepers been given to work with haven't gone up sufficiently in that time.

"We should really be looking at more realistic fees. The subscriptions at a typical British golf club haven't moved over than 2 or 3% a year over the last 10 years but the cost of labour and specialised equipment have gone up a lot more. There is some superb new equipment on the market but it is expensive and clubs can't afford it because their fees are so low," explained Brian.

"The problem is that they still have the yearly subscription system so someone is hit by a bill for

£400 in February instead of having a monthly standing order. People don't notice their electricity bill going up by 14% because they pay monthly but they notice if their golf fees go up by £20."

Brian also identifies another area of waste he sees at many British clubs.

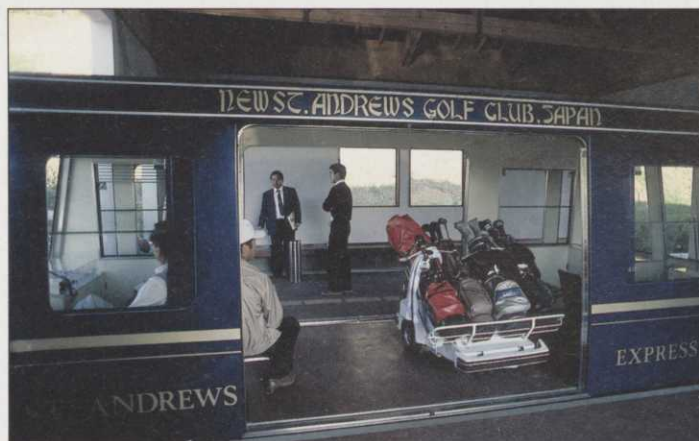
"Clubs haven't looked at the changes there have been in the last 20 years. Twenty years ago most people came to the course by bus or four in a car and had their golf clubs at the club. Now most golfers have their clubs in the back of the car because they don't just play one golf course or they take their clubs home to clean them because they are now so valuable. They don't need a



locker. What they need is a club storage area – a secure room where clubs can be locked in cages. Changing rooms could be built for half the price without lockers and the rest of the money spent on the golf course.”

Another area which Brian has identified as causing problems is in the over playing of the course.

“Clubs haven’t looked at the problems of extra traffic yet – a lot of courses don’t even operate a tee time system yet so you get the course crowded with a whole bunch of people in a short space of time pushing each other round then space behind them. Spacing helps the greenkeeper so he can work out what he is going to do and when. It is so simple.”



Brian’s philosophy is to combine the best of the new advances in the industry but at the same time retain or rediscover the original feelings of the golf course.

“Golf courses, in my opinion,

should be looking at a 10 to 20 year plan. They should be looking at the new technology grasses, replacing all their greens with USGA spec at £10,000 at time and changing all their bunker

All aboard: The new St Andrews, Japan

sand so that it is more consistent.

“Also, they should look at the original design of the course and try to get back to the same feeling it had then. Too many courses have been interfered with by amateurs over the years and as a result the shape of bunkers has changed and others filled in. Clubs need to get hold of old photographs of how the course used to look like and try to get the new things to match it,” said Brian, whose 50th birthday this month has signalled an end to his tournament work and the sad retirement from public life of the famous Morgan tartan kilt he always wore on the final day of Majors.

He is a huge fan of British greenkeepers and those in Scotland, in



Above: Augusta National. Below: Casa de Campo

particular, because they have to cope with the weather but, across the board, feels the standards in America are a lot higher.

"Greens superintendent is a big job in America and you can earn up to \$100,000 a year. I know of a public course in Arizona where it is \$150 a round and it makes \$2 million a year profit. With that sort of situation you get a lot of very well kept courses."

To many of us who are relatively competent with our point and shoot automatic cameras a job where you travel the world photographing golf courses seems idyllic and not particularly taxing but when you're the best the best results are required and expect and Brian's dedication has is what has helped him to the peak of the profession.

"I've been stuck in Japan for eight days just waiting for the conditions to be right to take pictures and between 4am and 6am is often the best time for a picture – just when the sun is coming up.

"I always know if I've got a good picture and when I do I'll often take two rolls of film just changing the angles, the lenses and the style of picture – upright or across. I'm always thinking about how the picture might be used and if a picture is the wrong shape it can't be used."

■ Look forward to seeing more Brian Morgan photography in *Greenkeeper International* in the coming months.

Brian's best...

Favourite Course

Augusta National.

I photograph the course the week before the Masters every year and I've been fortunate enough to play it with a member for the last six years. It's a golfer's dream.

Most Impressive New Development

Loch Lomond. It's a site golf architects would kill for.

Most Photogenic Course

Casa de Campo in the Dominican Republic. It's virtually in the ocean with a lot of holes right on the surface of the water.

Most Unusual Feature

Elevators to take you from green to tee on Japanese courses which have to be tiered on the sides of hills because of lack of space.

Attitudes to Golf

In Japan they practice a lot and perhaps play only every two months. It can take up to two-three hours to get to the course by train and they have a club delivery service where you leave your clubs a local shop and collect them at the golf club.



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Pattissons have been instrumental in producing some of the most fundamental pieces of golf equipment. They have now become BIGGA Golden Key Sponsors.

There is a saying that goes something along the lines of "a golf green without a hole is a lawn". It hadn't been for Arthur Harold Pattisson Cole, the founder of Pattissons, there would have been a great many lawns on the world's golf courses and not too many greens.

That is because Arthur Pattisson's second golf invention was the first ever hole cutter – the Bogey Hole Cup Cutter. Mr Pattisson, who owned his own engineering company, had watched the green staff at his own Streatham Golf Club toiling with the Heath Robinson knife and spoon method for digging out a hole. He found an old Aga stove removed the steel pipe, which happened to conform to R&A guidelines on hole size, added a wooden handle through the top – the teeth in the top of the pipe helped pull the earth up and Voila!

The Bogey Hole Cup Cutter is still around today and the general design has changed very little in that time – pedals have been added.

"Pattissons were the original innovators on the golf course," said Mike Hinch, along with his brother Jonathan, joint Managing Director of the Luton-based company – Mike is MD – Sales and Marketing with Jonathan MD – Finance and Administration. Pattissons were formed in 1896 and in their centenary year they have become a BIGGA Golden Key sponsor.

What was that? You want to know what was the first invention Arthur Pattisson came up with?

Well there is not much chance of seeing it of a golf course these days but in 1896 it was a God send. The Pattissons Horse Shoe enabled horses to drag mowers over the fairways and greens without leaving dirty great indentations in the playing surface.

For many years Pattissons were the leaders in the field producing golf equipment as varied as it was excellent.

"I have an original 1912 brochure and it really had a full complement of handy tools, equipment and furniture for the golf market," explained Mike. "It was the only company in the market at the time."

They even had a hold on the motorised market, producing tractors until the 60s.

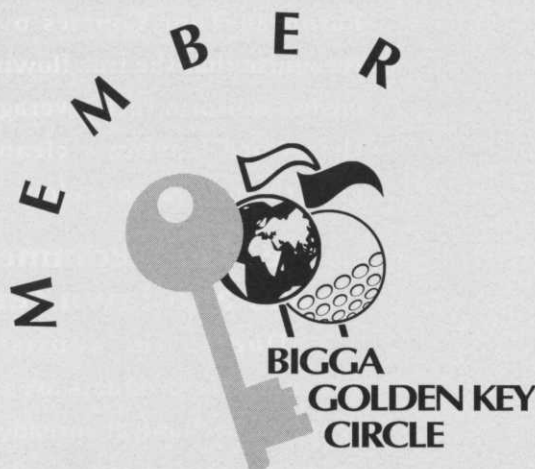
"At the time I feel the company should have capitalised when they were the market leader and done more to protect their position as the whole development of golf was happening," said Mike, a 32 year old prop forward with National League rugby team High Wycombe and the Public School Wanderers.

The Hinch involvement with Pattissons began in July '93 when they bought the company which at that stage was being run by the third generation of Pattisson family.

"The name was fantastically marketable but it had acquired a bad reputation and it takes you twice as long to get rid of a reputation like that than it does to build a name in the first place," said Mike, of the firm which became known as "Five Week Pattisson" referring to the time it took to get deliveries out.

"It was the fact that clubs couldn't get products from Pattissons which gave birth to our competitors," he added.

Where would golf be without Pattissons?



"When we took over we spent six months gearing the company up to relaunch at BTME 94 with a new brochure, new image and new logo. We sharpened up the product range which was looking very staid. Pattisson's had a blue image and I could never understand what blue had to do with golf. So we changed to green and the cosmetic changes we made to our products helped us immediately."

In the two years since the relaunch they have developed somewhere in the region of 20 new products ranging from handy tools, new flag pins, better hole cups and generally produced better quality products.

"The first thing I did was a whistle stop tour of the UK distributors we used and spoke to a lot of greenkeepers. What I learned was that they liked our products but that they just couldn't get hold of them."

"I visited David Roffey in Bournemouth and he put down a red carpet saying that in 40 years dealing with Pattissons no-one from the

company had ever crossed his door step!"

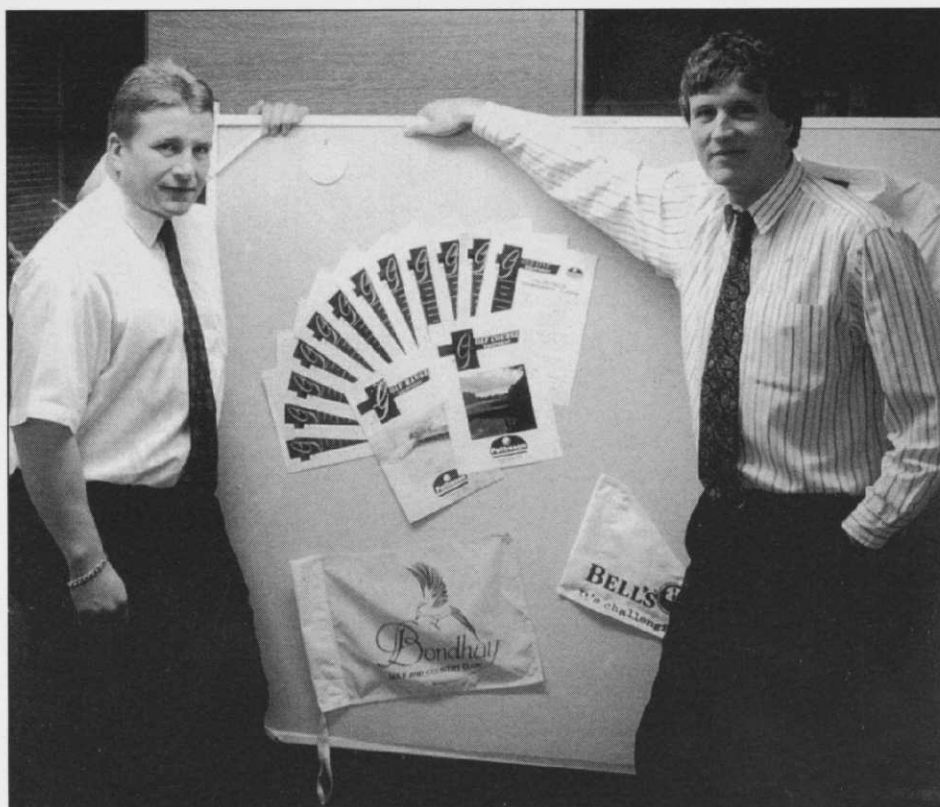
Mike spent eight years working for Phillips rising to UK Sales Manager, controlling around £22 million worth of business. He then joined a small company distributing BT mobile phones as Operations Director before taking on the challenge which was Pattissons.

Jonathan Hinch, four years the elder, joined the company in November '93 having previously been European Finance Manager for a large US multi national.

He significantly worked on tightening up internal systems, stock control and production planning.

"These are now all in place and we plan our production anything from six months to a year in advance and can adapt to change if needed."

The Hinch offensive was two pronged. Not only had they to convince the market that Pattissons were back they had to shake up their suppliers as well.



Men at the top: Mike and Jonathan Hinch of Pattisson's

"To many of our suppliers we were just another customer. Suddenly we were shouting about wanting three times more from them and wanting to be higher up their list of priorities. We had to change a lot of our suppliers because they couldn't adapt."

Mike and Jonathan are, by their own admission, business people and not manufacturing orientated, so one of the first appointments was Mike Buckholt as Operations Manager.

"He has been a fantastic asset to the company. His enthusiasm, attention to quality and health and safety knowledge are quite superb. We needed someone good in that area and he's got carte blanche control over the factory. He also gets involved in research and development and enjoys interacting with customers."

On of the many products which put the company back on the road to success was a deluxe golf ball tee marker, a solid resin model with the colour impregnated all the way through.

"We had the company who made them geared up to seven day a week three shift 24 hour a day working and it took us two months to get on top of the demand," said Mike with a degree of pride.

The product range is always been added to and currently stands at around 100 with a basic range of around 50. Coincidentally, the Hinch brother's father is the Chairman of a company known for exactly 57 varieties – Heinz.

"Lots of our ideas come from greenkeepers and our brochure carries the statement, 'our huge and vast R&D Department – you the customer'.

"An example of this came in France when one of the greenkeepers asked if we could come up with a small soil sampler so Mike Buckholt came up with one which is three inches in diameter and hand held. It is now a well known and used tool in the greenkeeper fraternity. Ah yes, France. Not only has the

company bounced back in the United Kingdom it's launched itself into Europe in a big way.

"We now have distributor networks in every single European country and our business in Europe has gone up 300%.

"We looked to Europe immediately and I spent a great deal of time visiting people in Europe and found they were as receptive as they were in the UK."

Mike judges their European progress by the impact at the Munich trade show.

"In '93 our name didn't even appear in the brochure. In '94 our name was in and where to buy our products. In '95 you could see our products pictured," said Mike, who also describes the French company whose turn over of Pattisson's product has risen from £4000 to £100,000 in two years.

As part of the BIGGA Golden Key sponsorship and to commemorate the company's centenary they have launched a 100-100-100 Club. Pattissons are helping to fund greenkeepers attending BTME '97 and details are available from Pattisson's or BIGGA Headquarters.

Listening to Mike you come away convinced that the way ahead for Pattissons has been cleared and that it will again be the force it was when Arthur Pattisson first launched it into the market with his horse shoes and hole cutter.

"We get faxes in for orders from Fiji, Japan and the Moscow Golf and Country Club and they know about this little company in Luton. It never ceases to amaze me. There is probably a Pattisson's product in every golf club in the country."

The renewed vigour of the company should ensure that more products will be appearing in each of those clubs.



Signs of the times: part of the signage range



Made to measure: in the Pattissons workshop

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Making a CLAIM

Industrial Tribunals were first created in 1973 and over the years their jurisdiction and corresponding workload has mushroomed so that today there are many different types of claims that can be brought before Tribunals. The most common being claims for unfair dismissal.

Industrial Tribunals have always tried very hard to be accessible to anyone who feels that they have a genuine grievance, the service is absolutely free and indeed claimants and witnesses can recover expense for travelling to and attending at Tribunal hearings. Although it is becoming increasingly common for one or either parties to be represented either by a lawyer or some other skilled representative there is absolutely no requirement for this to happen – there are very few procedural formalities to be followed and it is the duty of the Tribunal staff and of the Tribunal chairman to guide unrepresented parties through the procedure both before and during the hearing.

Tribunals also try to avoid becoming unnecessarily legalistic despite the horrendously complex nature of modern employment law. To ensure that common sense continues to be applied in addition to a legally qualified Chairman the Tribunal consists of two other lay members, one of whom is nominated by the TUC and the other by the CBI. The lay members usually have extensive industrial experience and they have an equal say to that of the Chairman.

Although there have been recent plans to reduce the use and significance of lay members, and indeed some types of hearing are usually conducted by a Chairman sitting alone, all who have experience of using Industrial Tribunals have little doubt that the existence of lay members maintains a modern and practical approach to the application of employment law.

Tribunals endeavour to maintain a balance between the right of a manager to run his business as he thinks he should with the right of an employee not to suffer the catastrophe of dismissal without good and proper cause.

Currently an employee must have two years continuous employment before he can claim for unfair dismissal although there

are a few exceptions to this rule. Many people believe that this qualifying period is unnecessarily long and indeed the Court of Appeal has recently concluded that such a long qualifying period discriminates against women who, statistically, can be shown not to remain in fixed employment for as long as men. It is highly probable that a change of government would lead to a reduction in this qualifying period perhaps to one of six months.

A protected employee has the basic right not to be unfairly dismissed. It is for the employer to show that the dismissal was for a potentially fair reason the most common of which are conduct, capability or redundancy. In addition the Tribunal then has to be satisfied that the employer behaved reasonably in using that reason as a reason for dismissal.

An employee cannot therefore be dismissed simply at his employer's whim. The employer must show either that the employee has behaved improperly, cannot do his job either because of illness or insufficient skill or that the employer no longer requires somebody to do that job.

Whether an employer has behaved reasonably is very much a matter within the discretion of the Tribunal. If the employee has been dismissed for misconduct Tribunals will normally want to make sure that before coming to that conclusion the employer had pursued all proper enquiries, including most importantly a detailed discussion with the employee involved at which the employee is made aware of the allegation being made against him, knows the nature of the evidence available to his employer and is given a full and proper opportunity to tender his own explanation. Only then should a reasonable employer arrive at a decision as to whether or not the employee has been guilty of misconduct and as to whether to dismiss that employee.

Provided the Tribunal is satisfied that the employer had a genuine belief in misconduct based upon reasonable grounds, all reasonable investigations having been pursued, it is not for the Tribunal to substitute its own view as to the employee's guilt. Equally a Tribunal cannot substitute its own view that dismissal was too severe.

It is enough for the employer to show that dismissal was within a band of reasonable sanctions.

If the employee is dismissed because he does not possess the necessary aptitude or skill the employee should normally be told where he is going wrong, should be warned that his job is at risk and should be given a reasonable opportunity to improve before finally being dismissed. Often more than one warning and subsequent review will be expected.

If an employee is unable to do his job because he is ill an employer will be expected to find out as much as he can about the expected length of absence, should consult with the employee about the problem and consider what alternative courses of action may be available. He should only then dismiss if he can show that the total anticipated period of absence will cause serious problems that cannot be resolved in any other way.

If an employer wants to reduce his work force and make somebody redundant he must use reasonable and objective criteria to enable him to choose who to make redundant. He must then consult with the employees concerned and receive and consider their views. Once again he must consider whether there are other means available to avoid a compulsory redundancy and only then will he be regarded as being in a position to fairly arrive at a decision that somebody should be dismissed.

The fundamental premise is that you have a right to express your view about whether you should lose your job. Do not forget that as from the April 1 all UK BIGGA members can take advantage of the new service available to allow you legal representation to enable those views to be forcefully and effectively expressed (see the article on Page 10 of last month's edition).

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- Fact No. 7.** **Watermation** has a large warehouse and stores Department and friendly helpful staff, who make sure you have your equipment quickly.
- Fact No. 8.** **Watermation** have their own installation crews under the direction of the Contracts Department and don't have to rely solely on sub contractors, as do most installers.
- Fact No. 9.** **Watermation** not only offer you professional design, experienced installation and high quality equipment, but the **MOST ECONOMICAL SCHEME POSSIBLE**.
- Fact No. 10.** **Watermation** always uphold and encourage the highest standards in the industry – we are founder members of the BTLIA (British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association) and as such we helped to write the rules!

Water quantity is not everything when it comes to golf course irrigation. Water quality is of equal importance.

What is water quality and how is it classified? Water quality is determined by its intended use. For instance, a pure source with no mineral or organic contaminants would be ideal for drinking purposes, but a poor choice for golf course irrigation. Alternatively, a water source high in calcium magnesium, potassium, nitrate and liberally laced with microbes might be a great irrigation source but completely unsuitable for drinking purposes.

Generally, water is evaluated in terms of its mineral and biological components and classified based on intended application. There are numerous sources which classify plants with respect to their tolerance of, or sensitivity to, salinity and specific mineral toxicities. Unfortunately many superintendents do not have a choice of quality of water available for their course and, to an increasing extent, are being forced to accept water that may not be fit for other domestic uses eg effluent water. The growing trend in mandating the use of recycled water on golf courses if further reducing the choices of water quality.

The simple fact is, that if a given soil is irrigated with a given water quality over an extended period of time the soil will assume the characteristics of that irrigation source. Most of the problems encountered with irrigation water are associated with the direct and indirect effects of excess total salts (TDS), excesses of specific mineral ions, sodium, boron, chloride etc and in excesses of bicarbonate and associated elevated (alkaline) pH.

What To Look Out For

How do I know when poor water quality may be affecting my turf-

grass growth? Certainly poor water quality has many disguises. It has been diagnosed as soil borne Pythium, nutrient imbalances, heat stress, black layer, bad seed, improper greens construction, too much shade, too much water, bad physical sand mix, nematode stress, too much play, etc etc etc...and these diagnoses are all correct! Poor water quality manifests itself as many

different things and sets the stage for secondary problems. We can spray the chemicals to kill the disease, correct the nutrient imbalances, rebuild the poorly constructed greens and trim the trees around the greens. The turf responds... for a limited time. Without removing or correcting the primary problem, the secondary problems will continue to return. Many times, water qual-

ity is the last area to be identified. If these visual symptoms sound familiar you may want to look further into the water quality issue.

Where Do I Start?

The first step should be an irrigation suitability test. There are well over 50 different types of "water tests" available from analytical laboratories. The irrigation

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suitability test looks for those things that will affect plant growth such as sodium, bicarbonates and chlorides. It is important to test the water throughout the year to document the changes that may occur on a seasonal basis.

The second step should be soil sampling. The soil test will ultimately determine the degree of poor water that the turf grass will be able to tolerate. Samples should be taken throughout the golf course and from all greens, tees and fairways.

What Does It Mean?

After you receive the results of your water tests, how do you make sense of a page full of chemistry formulas. The components of water quality can be broken down into five main areas.

'Several problems may occur to turfgrasses growing in situations where high levels of soil salinity and irrigation with the saline water source are common'

1. **Salt Concentration** – TDS (Total Dissolved Salts) EC (Electrical Conductivity)
2. **Sodium Hazard** – SAR (Sodium Absorption Ratio), sodium in ppm or meg/1.
3. **Bicarbonate Content** – Adj SAR (Adjusted Sodium Absorption Ratio) and pH Ratio
4. **Toxic Ion Concentration** – In turfgrass the main ones are boron and chlorides.
5. **Water pH** – pH scale is from 0-14 with 7 being neutral. For ideal turfgrass growth pH should be between 6.5 and 8.4.

Several problems may occur to turfgrasses growing in situations where high levels of soil salinity and irrigation with the saline water source are common. These problems are usually not uniform across the site but many occur sporadically. A high level of soil salinity can reduce or delay seed germination and seeding development. On establishing turf the first sign of a salinity effect is a blue-green colour of turf similar to drought. Salinity problems are most often encountered during periods of heat and/or drought stress. This occurs because the demand for water by the turfgrass plants is high at this time. Water availability to the plants is reduced because of the high salt content of the soil solution. High demand by the turfgrass coupled with reduced water availability due to salts causing drought-like conditions. This is compounded by the fact that it is very hard to leach excess salts from soil during periods of high temperatures and limited rainfall.

What Can I Do?

Following are some suggestions to help fight a poor irrigation source.

Remember, a solution to the problem may not be found in just one of the suggestions. Your problem may require a combination of several (or all) of the following suggestions.

● **Plant Salt Tolerant Grasses** – Not all grasses perform equally under the same conditions. When selected grasses play close attention to the electric conductivity of the irrigation water.

● **Improve Drainage** – Any additional tools that can be utilised to add aeration, reduce soil compaction and improve percolation may be beneficial in the removal of harmful salt concentrations.

● **Leach Excessive Salt** – Leaching salts through the plant root zone by exceeding the leaching fraction will carry dissolved salts with it through the zone.

● **Acidification of Irrigation Water** – The addition of acidification agents will cause the soil sodium to be more easily leached from the soil profile and neutralise the bicarbonates from the water and soil, freeing up available calcium forming better soil structures and increased water percolation.

● **Additional Soil Amendment** – Careful consideration should be given to the base saturation of exchangeable cations portion of the soil test. In poor quality water, the reduction of available calcium and magnesium is critical and must be replenished as required.

Summary

Use of poor water quality for irrigation of golf courses presents a unique set of advantages and disadvantages.

They potentially affect every decision the greenkeeper must make.

However, despite increased problems, concerns and cost, these impacts are not necessarily unsurmountable. Rather, they present a challenge which demands attention to every agronomic and management detail.

● **References:** Throssell, Clark S. and Kopac, David, 1994. Irrigation Water Quality-Salt Affected Irrigation Water and Soil: Impact on Turfgrass Growth and Management 1994 GCSAA Seminar; Peacock, Charles 1994 Wastewater Irrigation for Golf Courses: Advantages versus Disadvantages. The USGA, Lewis Publishers Inc Chelsea MI.

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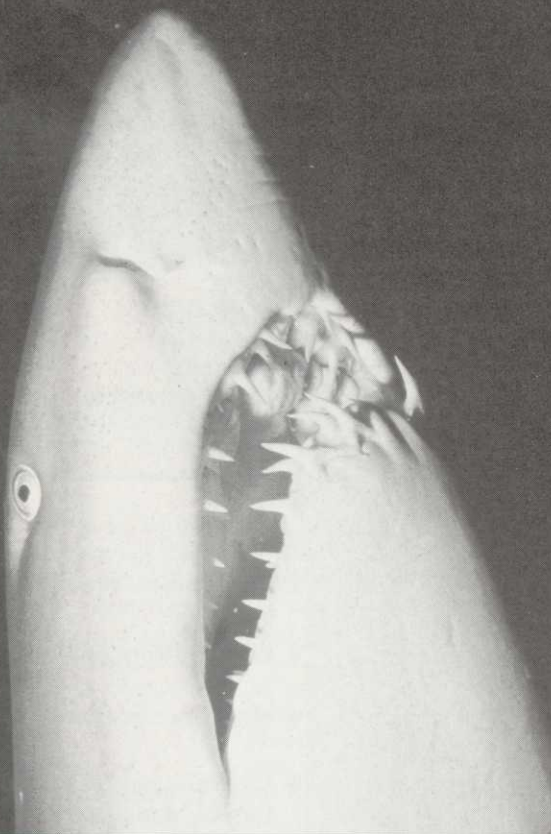
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Name: Anthony Davies
Club: Prestbury
Year of Win: 1990

There was no nomination procedure in 1990. You had to submit an article "A Year in the Life of My Course" and I entered because I wanted to learn of other courses and other ways of greenkeeping. I also wanted to meet other greenkeepers and being able to say I was voted Greenkeeper of the Year was to be a personal ambition.

The club reacted totally different to what I expected. They invited me into the club, presented me with a bottle of whisky and a cut glass rose bowl with my name inscribed on it and I have had more respect as a result. Since the win the plaque which hangs in the club is polished as much as the valuable silverware. The club is proud and so am I.

The Award makes you feel like somebody. I feel very similar to a person who has been knighted. On your CV you are able to put down Premier Greenkeeper 1990 is surely an added bonus, a bonus which cannot be bought but has to be earned. I feel, if no-one else does, that I earned it.

If any other greenkeeper feels he or she would like the award then earn it...Go for it..Try for it and you will be **Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper 1996**.

But whoever enters is an achiever, nobody loses. Someone may get a higher prize than you but you're the winner. The one's who didn't enter are the one's who lost.

Since the win I sit in on various charities. When they have Open Days to raise money I'm like "Gar-

deners' Question Time" I answer questions on lawn care and I don't think for one moment they would have asked me if I didn't have the award.

So you see it's also an honour to have the Award. It's not just yourself you are helping but others as well.



Name: David Whitaker
Club: The Wisley
Year of Win: 1991

The Club was delighted and the membership were also quite proud of the achievement of *their* greenkeeper.

I have received greater recognition and appreciation within my club and within the greenkeeping industry as a whole. The visit to the GCSAA Conference was also very educational and quite an "eye opener".

Winning the award was helped give me the confidence to take Master Greenkeeper Certification.



Name: Ian Harrison
Club: Formerly Darlington GC. Currently Mendip Spring GC.
Year of Win: 1992

I was asked by my peers to represent the Cleveland Section - to

make it a magnificent SEVEN?

my staff and I that was an honour in itself. Having always strived to produce good standards I saw it as a challenge to revel in.

Professionally it has meant an extra line, or two or three on my CV. A better career move, a fair wage, pension scheme, health care, company car and most of all I've been left to manage as a manager.

Having moved to Mendip Spring GC six months after winning the Award and, nearly three years on, I asked my present employer if winning the Premier Greenkeeper Award had influenced their decision. He said that without question winning the Award was the most influential factor as they know that I'd been assessed by the industry which was more than good enough for them. The basis of the interview as a course walk about discussing ideas and exchanging views – working computability – then sitting down agreeing terms and conditions.

On a final note, I would like to thank the greens staff at Darlington GC for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank Miracle Professional for making it all possible.

To anyone out there thinking of going for this Award my advice to you is go for it. It can make a difference!

Name: Gordon Irvine
Club: Mill Ride GC
Year of Win: 1993

I agreed to be nominated to gain recognition for the high standards of golf greenkeeping which I had gained through many years of college education and training for some of the country's finest Course Managers. These standards are demonstrated on a



daily basis by the greenkeeping staff at Mill Ride ensuring that principles of sound greenkeeping are maintained.

The Club was very proud of the win and have displayed the plaque for everyone to see. As Mill Ride is a new club involved in selling memberships there was an opportunity to involve some marketing in connection with the Award and the recognition of high standards that it highlights.

The Award was one which I had followed with interest and the year before I had achieved Master Greenkeeper status. That award within the Club strengthened my position as Course Manager and I became more involved in the daily management of the complete facility. I view the Premier Greenkeeper Award as a further advancement which could only serve to secure my management position. This has proved to be the case and I currently hold the position of General/Course Manager. This new role allows me to manage the complete facility of Mill Ride Golf Club while retaining my speciality of Golf Course Management.

I still actively pursue development of my greenkeeping knowledge both in this country and overseas and I retain a broad spectrum of clients whom I advise

on areas of turf culture and Golf Club Management. Being able to understand the full picture of golf club management has been a major asset in securing my advisory work. However none of this would have been possible without achieving recognition by winning such Awards as the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper.



Name: David Walden
Club: Thorpe Wood GC.,
Year of Win: 1994

I decided to take part as a result of a poor response from others in our Section.

The Club was very pleased for me and have used the fact a lot in this year's advertising – "Home of 1994 Greenkeeper of the Year".

There has been less questioning of my judgments made on course policy. I had the congratulations of many people both in and outside of the trade.

It was also a final achievement of a career that I have enjoyed and have worked hard at both at work and in college.

It is also proof that nothing happens unless you try and make it happen.

It gives you that feel good buzz that is final proof of the way that you have conducted your life and career.



Name: Mike Goodhind
Club: The Tytherington Club
Year of Win: 1995 (Reigning Champion)

I didn't hesitate when it was proposed that I be nominated. It was a great honour and I saw it as a "high profile" Award. Let's face it the prize offered by Miracle Professional is certainly worth winning.

The club's reaction was one of great delight and they have used the Award to the full in the very extensive PR campaign. My name has appeared in almost all of the golfing press highlighting my achievement and I feel the whole club has shared in my success. They were so delighted they even paid for my wife to accompany me on the trip to the GCSAA Conference in Florida.

To date I feel it has enhanced my professional image and standing not just within my own club but in the greenkeeping industry in general. I have received many telephone calls not only congratulating me on my success but also offering encouragement to me. The Award has given me great incentive to do well.

I am sure long term this accolade will do my future career prospects no harm at all and will be a superb attribute to add to my CV.

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the Learning experience

Put safety first: productivity will then follow

Health and safety legislation is very much a part of our everyday lives. Mutterings of "mollycoddling" and "wasn't like this in my day" should not deflect attention from the fact that the various laws introduced over the past 20 years have made work practices a great deal safer for all involved. And also for those who come into contact with them.

Most of the complaints of those who feel that there is too much legislation revolve around the belief that people should have sufficient common sense to avoid dangerous situations. The problem is that one can never plan for the unexpected or unpredictable.

Considered on its own, a golf course is not an unsafe place. However, put a few golfers on it, scatter some machines around and introduce a wide range of weather and turf conditions and one has raised the risk factors considerably.

We all appreciate that a driven golf ball can cause serious injury, taking extra care when crossing a known flight path. Yet how many of us have had a ball whizz past our ears from a completely unexpected direction followed by an embarrassed cry of "sorry" from the undergrowth.

One may think that there is little that could have been done to avoid such a situation. However, being aware of the dangers



All manufacturers and their supplying dealers should provide comprehensive instruction to users in the safe and proper operation and care of their machines

means that we are in a position to take additional care wherever there may be potential hazards.

Look out for groups of golfers and observe where they are standing. If one of the party has driven into the rough or trees, the others will be watching for the flight of the ball, providing an early and clear warning to green-staff that a shot is being played from a hidden position.

Machinery can also behave

unpredictably, yet not through any direct fault of the machine or conscious irresponsibility by its operator.

A tractor and mower may have been driven a thousand times across a banked green surround without any problem or thought of danger. Yet remove the mower or introduce a patch of moisture and a safe situation can become a slippery slope to a serious accident.

The same applies to the use of pedestrian rotary mowers, and particularly hover-type machines used on banks around bunkers, tees and plateau greens.

If there is no safer alternative to this method of cutting, then ensure that the manufacturer's instructions are followed closely regarding the machine's safe and proper use.

Ideally, the mower should be fitted with plastic or free-swinging blades rather than the rigid metal type and the operator should be equipped with suitable protective clothing such as eye protectors and steel toe-capped boots.

On steep slopes, many users prefer to tie a length of rope to the handle of a hover mower, pulling it across the grass while

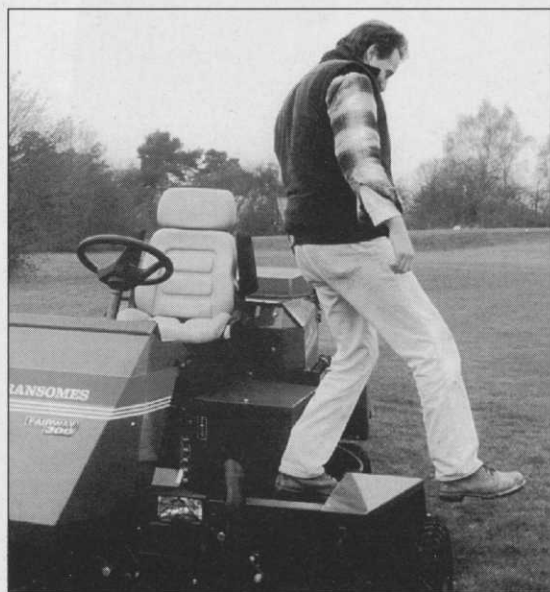
they stand on firm, level ground. While this might be preferable to operating the machine at an acute angle while physically holding the handles, it still has to be regarded as inherently unsafe because one is not in full control of the mower. If the practice has to be followed, it is vital to ensure that no one will be affected if the mower should tip over or run away.

As a last resort, always release the rope if you slip. It is far better that the mower is damaged rather than have an operator sliding out-of-control beneath the hood of the machine.

The advice in all cases is to treat all machinery with respect. There is no substitute for experience, but no one in their right mind would want to have an accident in order to learn the safest way to carry out a particular task or operation.

Health and safety legislation demands that proper training must be given to everyone who operates machinery. Indeed, accident statistics show that the majority of accidents occur when employees use machines without proper training or supervision.

All manufacturers should provide sound instruction in the safe



Many ride-on mowers are now fitted with safety switches which shut down the engine if the operator leaves the seat with the cutting units or transmission engaged



the Learning experience

and correct operation of a piece of machinery. This may be carried out on a factory training course, at a dealer's premises or out on the turf where the equipment is to be used.

But it's not just those who use the machines who need training. Regular and proper maintenance by a competent mechanic not only keeps the machine working at peak efficiency, it also helps prevent a drop in safety levels.

Very few mowers built 10 years ago had safety switches to shut down the engine should the operator leave the seat with the cutting units or transmission engaged. It is therefore important that hydraulic valves and their actuating linkages receive regular maintenance to ensure that they do what they are supposed to, particularly those controlling power to moving parts.

It is not unknown for a valve to stick, releasing itself without warning while adjustments are

being made to the cutting units. For safety's sake and whenever practicable, always switch off the engine when servicing or adjusting any moving component. This advice applies to all powered machines.

If one needs to be close to moving parts in work, always wear proper safety protective clothing and ensure that all appropriate safety requirements are observed. There are also additional, specific rules for those using grinding wheels.

Although most modern hydraulic ride-on mowers incorporate seat safety switches, it is important that these are kept in good condition and are properly adjusted. They have been incorporated within the machine for a specific purpose and should be checked for proper function as part of the regular service and maintenance routine.

A similar proviso applies to power take-off guards, a vital, but



Power take-off guards should be in place, in good condition and regularly maintained. Ensure that their restraining chains are securely fastened in work

often neglected safety component. Apart from checking on condition and fit, it is important that the guard is greased regularly to ensure that the drive shaft within can rotate smoothly and that the restraining chains at either end are in place and securely attached to non-moving parts of the power unit and the machine. This will prevent the guard from rotating with the shaft, minimising the risk of clothing or any other loose material being caught by the guard.

Turf machinery manufacturers go to great lengths to ensure that

their machines are safe for the purposes for which they are intended.

Never by-pass or 'short circuit' a safety measure in an attempt to speed up a job or "make life easier". Always look for the safest method of carrying out a task, keep the operator's manual at hand and, if in any doubt, call the supplying dealer or the manufacturer for advice.

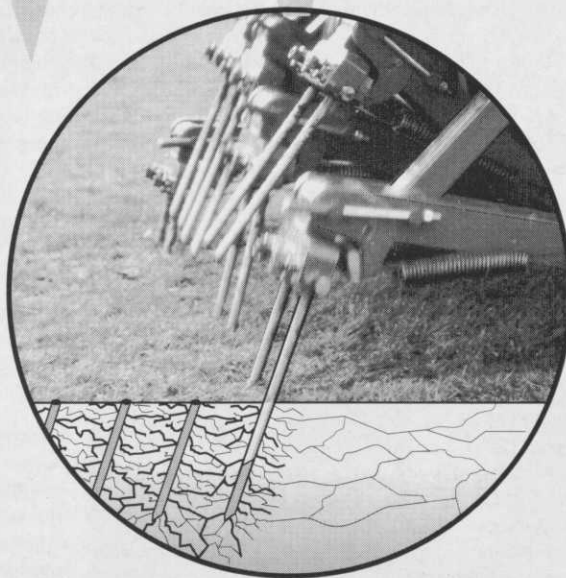
It is in their interest that end users get the maximum out of their machines – but that must never be at the expense of safety.

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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

Surrey

It is with regret that I have to report that Geof Hills, our South East Administrator has passed away, May 1, on behalf of the Surrey Section, convey our sympathies to his family. He will be sadly missed.

A big thank you to Driving Force Leisure and Andy Lofting for providing and organising the transport to Harrogate this year. For this we are most grateful. Thanks again.

A venue for this year's Turkey Trot is still required. Any club wishing to host this popular event should contact me on 01737 832015.

Forthcoming events include the Spring tournament, this year to be held at Foxhills GC on May 1. This event is over 18 holes only and will have a pm start. We hope this event will be well attended. Also Huxley Bowl forms should have reached you by now. A good response is expected.

Any type of topic that you feel may be of interest to other members of our Section please give me a call.

David Gibbs

Kent

It was with great sadness we learn of the sudden death of Geof Hills in Harrogate. Our sympathies go out to his family.

The Committee is producing a fixture list for all events. These will be circulated as soon as all dates are confirmed.

Good luck to Robert Lucas of Deangate Ridge who has been appointed Course Manager at Royal Blackheath GC.

Congratulations to Alan Page of Holtye GC, whose wife Sue gave birth to a boy, Alexander on January 31.

Congratulations also to Derek Gould, formerly of Langley Park. Derek was heavily involved in the old Associations and last year retired to Norfolk. At the AGM in Harrogate he was made a life member of BIGGA. We wish Derek and his wife well in their retirement.

For those who attended the First Aid courses held at the Weald of Kent GC your certificates have now run out. The committee is arranging some dates for more courses. If you are interested in doing the course again, or need to do it, contact Steve Johnstone Tel: 01795 427034.

Gem Professional are hoping to organise a trip to visit their quarry and factory for Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers. If interested contact Steve Johnstone. David Wood

South West and South Wales Region

For the sixth year this Region's trip to the BTME at Harrogate was a great success, but my how things change. Just as in 1991 we encountered below zero conditions, this time, however, the coach did not break down and the heater was working well. The numbers have changed also from 29 in '91 to 62 in '96. We hope to top that in '97.

The exhibition and seminars were tremendous, and just as you think it cannot be improved upon it steps up into another gear – great credit to the organisers at HQ. I did receive a complaint about the BIGGA stand from one member of our party who went to buy a £14 training video. The girls hard selling, talking and fluttering of eye lashes cost him £56. His comment was "they should have bags over their heads". All in good fun of course. Janet and Vickie, both relatively new to the Association, worked like beavers and still came up smiling, as did all the staff. Walking around the halls, the smile seemed to be the theme of the week. Which says it all.

The Region's hotel base, where we receive such a warm welcome each year, becomes a second home for us all, and is the scene of much camaraderie and laughter, along with discussions of the day's events.

The journey home, although quiet, went without a hitch and we are all looking forward to next year. My thanks to everyone.

Gordon Child

South Coast

Our Spring tournament will be held at Crane Valley GC on Monday April 15. This competition will consist of a 27 hole Medal.

The cost for the day will be £21.50, all cheques to be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section and forwarded along with entry forms stating current handicap to Mark Webb, 12 Line Road, Alresford, Hampshire SD2 49LD Tel: 01962 733066. The closing date for entries is April 5.

Will all members holding trophies please ensure they are on the prize table at the end of the competition. This competition will be the Hayter qualifier for the regional final to be held at the Salisbury and South Wilts GC on June 12.

Please gentlemen, if you qualify, make every effort to attend the Regional Final. If you are not available let Mark know straight away so

that he can find replacements in good time. This is to ensure that we do not have to make last minute telephone calls to say sorry we can't make it.

As the regional final is being played in our own area this year it is important that we field a strong team, even more important that we field a complete team.

Westurf is on May 1 and not April 24 which was the date given on the Section Programme. Now that we all know the correct date let us have a big turn out this year. Any problems with transport please give me a ring on 01329 282362.

There are a number of improvements to the Show this year among them: a public address system; a free prize draw for all members who attend for a very worthwhile prize; instead of rows of stands this year they are being repositioned and the demonstration area will be in the middle making everything much more accessible.

Westurf this year has the makings of being better and larger than ever. I hope to see you all there on the day.

There is still time to book your seat for the South Coast Seminar to be held at Sparsholt College on March 20. We have some very good speakers lined up:- Billy McMillan and David Winterton, both Course Managers; Ken Richardson, our own Education Officer; Bob Taylor from STRI and Peter Jones a former Head Greenkeeper who now runs his own Consultancy Business.

By now you should have received your programme. For those who have not yet booked their seat send your booking form and cheque to: Jeff Drake, 10 Coldharbour Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7PW. For members the fee is £12 and non members £15.

I have just returned from the BTME at Harrogate. "What a Show", everything gets better each year. The Education Programme was good, there were more Trade Stands, more people and more space. I am told the consumption of Tetleys and John Smiths Ales were greatly increased on previous years. I must thank Mark Webb, Ian Boble, Jeff Drake, John York and Kerran Daly for giving up their late nights and early mornings to contribute to this "great achievement".

It was pleasing to see so many of the South Coast members at the Exhibition. I look forward to having the pleasure of seeing even more of you next year.

For this event next year it is hoped to alter the transport arrangements. To do this, it is important that those of you wishing to take advantage of the marvellous deals available ring me as soon as possible.

Arrangements can then be made to make hotel bookings and stipulate size of coach. So far I have 11 people who are interested. The more we get the cheaper it will be. Last minute bookings could mean disappointment on a good deal.

Lastly I must thank all those who had anything to do with the organisation of BTME this year. It was a marvellous show and we all look forward to BTME 97.

Thanks must also go to Gordon and Marion for the endless work they put into organising the hotel and transport and also the work they put into Westurf which makes the BTME such a good deal.

Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall

Fingle Glen was the venue for the section's seminar on Wednesday January 17. To try and increase the numbers from last year we decided to change the agenda from previous years and make it an all day seminar.

Numbers for the day did increase but still fell short of expectation as we had invited the STRI to provide the speakers for the day at great expense to the Section.

As usual the trade supported the Section by taking up trade stands in the reception area and without their support the event could not have taken place. Our thanks to all our trade friends who once again supported the Section, namely Avoncrop, Devon Garden Machinery, Levingtons, P. J. Fleff, MST, Rigby Taylor, Roffey's, Willcocks and to our conference room sponsor Barenbrug.

The day started at 9.30am with the introduction by Richard Whyman, Section Secretary, and John Bradley of Barenbrug. The morning programme of speakers all from the STRI included John Tucker, Golf Course Architect; Steve Baker, Senior Research Officer and Manager of Laboratory and Dr Kate York, Plant Pathologist. The morning session finished after question time at noon which allowed delegates time to look around the trade stands before lunch.

Unfortunately lunch ran over time which left delegates little time to have a second look at the trade stands before returning for the afternoon session which included Neil Hayward, of the EGU; Bob Taylor,

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Ecologist and Peter Winter, Regional Agronomist. Question time concluded an excellent educational day.

With almost 180 members it was disappointing that only 72 members and guests attended this excellent day. Is it a case that all those who didn't attend already knew it all or that their clubs wouldn't let them attend. It couldn't have been the cost of the day which was only £10 per member including a three course lunch. I only hope that the fact there wasn't any golf didn't have a bearing on the attendance.

Our thanks to the STRI for providing the excellent programme of speakers, also to Fingle Glen for once again allowing the section use of their facilities.

On behalf of all the Section members who took advantage of this year's regional package to BTME at Harrogate, I would like to thank Gordon and Marion Child for once again organising a superb educational trip. Also thanks and congratulations to our staff who ran the show so professionally once again.

Members please note. Our last meeting of the season will be held at Churston GC on Wednesday March 27, this will also be our Hayter qualifier. Please make sure your entries are returned to me with correct monies by the closing date.

Your help is needed to promote the new look Westurf Trade Show to be held on Wednesday May 1 at Long Ashton GC, Bristol. Many of you will know groundsmen and committee members of your own sports club, so why not invite them to the show. Anyone in the turf care industry will be most welcome.

When you attend this year's show make sure you pop into the BIGGA stand and you could walk away with a weekend break for two in the region's free draw.

Richard Whyman

South West

Once again the BTME Exhibition held in January at Harrogate proved to be a resounding success with over 160 companies and organisations exhibiting over three days. The increase in size from last year meant that an extra hall was required to accommodate everyone's needs. Fortunately, although a little snowy, the weather was nowhere near as severe as last year when several inches of snow fell during the week.

This exhibition and seminar programme is now firmly established as one of the major attractions in the greenkeeping calendar and once again it was well supported by the South West with a full coach travelling north from the region. As always everybody who took the opportunity of benefiting from the greatly subsidised package deal thoroughly enjoyed themselves and this, to a large degree, was due to the excellent organisation of the trip by Gordon and Marion Child. Looking ahead to BTME 97 judging by the

Around the Green



popularity of this event it would be advisable to book early.

The Spring tournament and Hayter Section Qualifier will this year be at Oake Manor GC. It has been the intention of Nick Wilson as Fixture Secretary to organise fixtures around the Section as much as possible therefore giving a greater opportunity for all members to benefit. Please, therefore, give your support if possible but if you're not a golfer and would like to attend there is every possibility that a course walk could be arranged.

Everybody will be receiving application forms for the team matches this year but due to the difficulties experienced last year in obtaining teams from lists of people originally indicating that they would play, could you please ensure that you will definitely play on the dates of your choice if you are selected.

The final request is that if you are not receiving correspondence from the Section then please contact me as this may be due to several things including your affiliation with the wrong section or recent change of address.

The Westurf Exhibition on May 1 at Long Ashton GC is fast approaching. This year will see many changes to this regional event including reorganisation of the show ground; representation on the day of the Association by Headquarters in the form of an open forum; a demonstration ground in the middle of the arena and a prize draw for those people who hand in their entry slips on the day. The success of this show and its subsequent continuation depends on your support so please make every effort to attend.

Finally, the Section's silverware has now been valued and insured so enabling the winner of each golfing fixture throughout the season to receive the appropriate trophy and retain it for the forthcoming year.

Kevin Green

South Wales

Our winter competition, Christmas dinner and AGM was held recently at Pyle and Kenfig GC near Porthcawl.

Although numbers were down slightly on previous years, 38 hardy golfers took to the course to remind themselves of the testing challenge that Pyle and Kenfig has in store for the unprepared.

The weather, albeit cold and windy, remained dry and bright – the making of good golf, especially as no faults could be found with the course. The greens were running firm and true and were a credit to Paul Robinson and his staff.

Our thanks to Allan Stow and Vitax Ltd for their continued sponsorship of the Christmas golf day, the cut glass crystal prizes that were on offer were exceptional.

Thanks also to Kim Davies and Celtic Mowers for their continued sponsorship of the longest drive and nearest the pin competitions.

Results: Winner of the day and the Vitax Shield, Ian Crichton, Kington GC, 40 pts; 2. Andrew Cosh, Creigiau, 37 pts (Back six); 3. Peter Lacey, Pennard, 37 pts. Winner of the nearest the pin was Doug Sonne, of Inco's, while Robert Frater, Creigiau, won the longest drive (by the narrowest of margins, beating the young at heart 76 year-old Ted Thompson).

The AGM followed on from the golf with some 50 or so members in attendance. With only four apologies having been received and a membership total of nearly 170, this really should be much greater. A minute's silence was given in remembrance of two former Southerndown greenkeepers namely John Walsh and Chris Thomas.

The remainder of the meeting went relatively smoothly and was rounded off with a note being made that we are indebted to the trade for its continued support and also to the Principal of Pencoed College, Mr J.D.B. Thomas for allowing us the use of the college as our educational base. For the smooth running of the AGM we have our Chairman Idwal Morris to thank.

Our sincere thanks to Mr Roger Thomas and the committee of the Pyle and Kenfig GC for the kind courtesy of their facilities for this annual event. Their warmth and hospitality is second to none and always makes for an enjoyable day. To the Steward and catering staff for an excellent Christmas dinner thanks once again.

At our last education evening Gordon Jaaback made a presentation "Dispelling myths in golf course drainage and overcoming problems".

Gordon, a South African consultant in agronomy and soil science who has worked all around the world, now lives in Tonbridge in Kent.

Gordon attracted an audience of well over 30 and his hour and a half presentation was based on his opinion that there are six major myths relating to drainage and its principals and how, in his opinion, he would rectify these problems. An interesting and topical evening. Thank you Gordon.

Congratulations are in order to the staff at our HQ at Aldwark Manor for their organisation of the recent BTME exhibition. By far the biggest show to date and I expect to hear that numbers are well up on last year. I won't dwell on the show but it would not be right if I did not take this opportunity to thank Gordon and Marion Child for their superb organisation of the Region's coach trip. We thank you both.

Former "Birds" representative Huw

Thomas has taken a similar position with John Deere agent power Cut of Carmarthen. We wish him well.

Our good wishes to Colin Murphy. Colin recently underwent surgery to remove varicose veins. He should be back on his feet my now and we look forward to seeing him up and about soon.

Our latest winter evening lecture was presented by John Mosedale, a water resource manager for the National Rivers Authority. John, a local to Pencoed College delivered an interesting talk, albeit to a rather small audience and covered such topics as measuring water flow, boreholing, water storage and the process of applying for an abstraction licence. An interesting evening with many tips along the lines of water to do, what not to do and when to do it!

Our thanks to John for making the effort, unlike most of our members, to the NRA and also to Pencoed College.

Dates for the diary. April 17, South Wales Seminar at Pencoed College entitled "The management of weeds, pests and diseases. Details/Application forms will be with you soon. May 1 Westurf Trade Exhibition at Long Ashton, Bristol.

Peter Lacey

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

Once again the golfing season is upon us with spring just around the corner (I hope so because I'm freezing).

For those of you who read last month's article you will be pleased to know that Russell is still speaking to me (Phew)

I have a good feeling about this coming year – Let's be honest it can't be any worse than last year with the summer golf day having to be cancelled because of lack of support.

There is a real positive buzz within the committee so let's hope it rubs off on the 300 members within the section (yes that's right 300). For those of you who don't know already Ray Clark from Harleyford is our new Chairman. If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Ray then don't worry you soon will because he is planning to visit each golf club in our area – "Ray's Road show" (A bit like the Radio 1 Road show without the music.) The reason for this is to get feedback from all members, especially the invisible ones. What do you want from your section? We are at present putting together a questionnaire which should help with the gathering of information. Hopefully this will be posted with the first golf entries.

Speaking of golf days. The first is to be held on April 30 at Southfield, nr, Oxford. this will be an afternoon event over 18 holes. This is also the Hayter Qualifier so lots to play for with a chance to represent your section at national level.

Note: Please remember that all golf days are to be subsidised this year to keep costs down. Remember

to return all entry forms as soon as possible to avoid being balloted out.

I would like to leave you with this thought: Why does it always rain after you have raked the bunkers?

Lindsay Anderson 01491 578147

West of Scotland

In the last issue mention was made of the AGM and how much of a success this proved to be. An omission was made on my part with regard to election of office bearers – that of the new Chairman and Vice Chairman. Steven Hogg takes over the reins as Chairman and John Scott as Vice. The Section wishes them a successful year.

Thanks to Ronnie Bunting for his efforts as past Chairman and for all his good work. Thanks also to Ray Auld and Gordon Kerr both of whom put a lot of work in over the years.

The first meeting of new committee has been held and the office bearers are as follows; Chairman Steven Hogg, Drumpellier; Vice Chairman, John Scott Jnr, Kirkhill; Secretary, Sandy Bulloch, Ferenze; Match and Handicap, Scott Ballantyne, Cowglen, Fraser Ross, Renfrew, and Derek Duthie, Aitkens. Finance, Steven Hogg and Sandy Bulloch; Education, Steven Hogg and Ronnie Bunting, Kilmacolm; Social, Kenny Hunter, Huxley's, and John Young, Dougalston; Magazine, J.S Taylor, Killermont; Assistants Representative, Gary Burns, Lenzie.

If any problems arise throughout the year please contact the above persons relevant to the problem.

At the first meeting various points were discussed and a note for concern was a lack of information being given to two clubs, Greenock and Ralston. Both have raised the matter with past Chairman Ronnie Bunting and a letter should have been received apologising for the problems. I hope they are now rectified.

The education conference is to be held in March at Edinburgh Stakis Hotel near the airport. Be sure to apply early.

Information will be forwarded by the Scottish secretary, price approximately £25 including lunch.

By the time you read this a trip to Royal Lytham and St Annes should have been concluded. I hope all has

Around the Green



gone well and will look forward to informing people of events in the next issue.

Events for the year.

March: Football against Central Section; Games Night, Claremont Bowling Club; Greenkeepers/Conveners match at Douglas Park GC. To be confirmed. This will be a popular event so enter quickly – that is if you like your convener!

April: The spring outing at Cawder, to be confirmed.

September: Balmore, the autumn outing, to be confirmed.

One problem exists with all these events – the same core of people attending. Out of 144 members the same 30 or 40 are present each time and that's excellent but where are all the rest? Please let us know what you want and we will try to provide.

New members to the Section. Colin Black, Assistant, Blairbeth GC; Craig Black, Assistant, Strathaven GC; Donald McLennan, Course Manager, Eastwood GC; Neil Lindsay, Assistant, Eastwood GC; James Walker, Head Greenkeeper, Hollandbush GC; Gavin Campbell, Head Greenkeeper, Machrie GC; Brian Duguid, unattached.

Welcome to the Section on behalf of all members and I hope to see you at the events.

Congratulations to Sandy Bulloch on his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Ferenze GC, Barrhead. We wish him well.

It is sad to report the recent death of Chick Hamilton, who worked at Frews in Clarkston for many years then at Hags Castle with Chris Kennedy and finally with Hamilton Bros. Chick was well known in the west and attended many of the events. Our thoughts are with family and friends left behind.

I look forward to hearing your comments and seeing you at the various events. Remember if you have

any interesting information please phone 0141 942 5554.

J.S. Taylor

North of Scotland

A lack of new members to report this month, but I'm assured that next month there will be a big influx. All you members with staff that are not in BIGGA, then get recruiting, the more the merrier. My latest recruit should have joined by now, Shaun Berry from New Jersey in the USA was hoping to join at the BIGGA stand at the GCSAA show in Florida last month.

This time next month I should be in America with Shaun and Steve Cadenelli to play some golf and visit Augusta for the US Masters. My fund did not go too well but what the heck. When you gotta go you gotta go! Watch this space.

BTME! What can I say. I'm sure most of the other Section reports will be carrying great reports about the best week so far. From the outdoor football match on a snow covered pitch on the Sunday night right through to Friday lunchtime it was all go. What I did attend was first class and what I could not attend, I am reliably informed, was equally as good. The banquets were not to be missed with the entertainment laid on exceptional – and no doubt hard to better next year. It is good to see so many of the Scottish trade at the show these days, which just shows how big it has become. Even my train got me home on time this year. Roll on BTME 97. Just who did organise that football match?

While at BTME it was great to meet up with ex North Section members who have moved on to better things. Congratulations to one of them Neil Metcalf who is now Head Greenkeeper at Royal St Georges in Sandwich.

Well Spring is just round the corner, I hope everyone is ready for it and I trust it will be a good growing one to help us bring on the courses for the coming season. This must be the time of the year that top dressing suppliers enjoy as we in the North have to pile the top dressing on until sufficient growth arrives to ensure smooth surfaces for the golfers. Who would be a green-

keeper!

Iain Macleod

East of Scotland

So here we go for this month's report and first of all I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the well wishers who have written and called about my son Christopher who had a serious accident after Christmas while out sledging. He is now out of intensive care and into a ward in the "Sick Kid's" in Edinburgh on the road to recovery. He has just gone through his fourth operation and hopefully he will need no more. The doctors have told us he will make a full recovery but he will be in hospital for some time yet and won't be back at school till after the summer holidays – Autumn '96. So I would like to thank everybody from my wife Carol, daughter Amy and myself.

Well, I hope the weather's going to improve as I'm sure you all will still have some work to do on your courses as I know I have. Let's hope it improves soon!

What's been happening in the Section. First of all we played a soccer match against a team from Galashiels and we ran out worthy winners by nine goals to one with a peach of a goal by yours truly Chris "Van Vossen" Yeaman. But it was a great team performance by everyone especially on a night when the temperature was minus five. Roll on our next match especially against the West Section as we are now coming into form – a statement Walter Smith would be proud of.

I took four days break from being with my son in hospital to attend BTME at Harrogate. This show just gets better and better every year so congratulations to HQ. Keep up the good work. The seminars were very interesting again this year so I'm glad I could make it. And, of course, the nightlife was as good as ever and it was good to meet some old friends from past years. Our secretary Robert Hogarth is seeking sponsorship from Anadin for next year.

Our Chairman Steve Dixon attended this year for the first time and really enjoyed it commenting that more people should take the time and attend one of the best shows for our industry. Stevie visited



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Trotters on the Thursday night but says he will not go next year unless he gets two lollipops and a bag of sticky marshmallows. Stevie, they're in the post as we speak. Harrogate must be the cheapest place for drink as it cost us £9.20 for four bottles of Chinese beer when having a meal. I would like to thank Richard Webb from Tacit who was at the next table with his wife who also bought us four of these costly items. Also thanks for the prawn crackers.

Our February afternoon lecture at Swanston GC was one of the best we have had for a long time. I found it very interesting but sad to say we had only 20 people in attendance including the four speakers and one company representative. Apologies to Mike Dennis and Rigby Taylor, our hosts for the day, for the small turnout. Also thanks for the buffet they provided for us. Also to Swanston GC for use of the club and Dave/Irene for keeping us fed/watered.

So come on lads support your local companies when they go to the trouble of setting up these days for you and support your committee who are working hard for all our members.

Up and coming events in '96.

Russells Toro Visit, March 27, 11am; Quiz Night, Swanston GC, March 27; Spring Outing, Longniddry, April; Annual Dance, Kilspondie House Hotel, Dec 7. Details will be with your shortly of all these Section events.

Anything I have missed will be in the April report so if you have anything to let me know give me a call: Home 01875 870485 or Mobile 0802 623005. Anything about anything or any ideas about Section activities.

Congratulations to David (First Assistant at Kingsknowe GC) and Jackie on the birth of baby Amy (8lb 12oz) who was the first baby to be born in Scotland in 1996. Mother and baby are doing well.
Chris Yeaman

Scottish Region

All members of the Scottish Region were saddened to hear of the death of Dick Aitken, probably the last of the original trade members of his era who were wholehearted supporters of greenkeepers and the respective

associations throughout the years.

The Region extends its sincerest condolences to Richard and Grace and all their family.

Elliott Small

North Wales

Once again I find myself penning the Section notes - what goes around comes around! Anyway, I would like to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The Section recently held a one day Turfgrass & Seed Identification Seminar which was well attended and prove very popular. Our thanks go to Phil Davies of Mommersteeg and the Welsh College of Horticulture for all their help.

Future Events: March 14-17 Trip to Holland (Places still available); April 11, North Wales v North West Match; May 14, Spring Competition Bull Bay GC Anglesey. Members will be circulated with details shortly.

Finally, as most of you are now aware the purchase of Carden Park by St David's Hotels Ltd has now been completed. All of the existing greenstaff including myself as Course Manager will be remaining and look forward to the exciting times ahead. Hopefully this should "put to bed" the numerous - some damaging, some ridiculous and some downright amusing rumours that have surrounded both myself and others during what has been a difficult period.

Should any members have news or need help I can be contacted on the following numbers: Home 01352 780602; Office 01829 731176; Mobile 0802 310576 or at 7 Cae Helyg, Pentre Halkyn, Holywell, Clwyd CH8 8AJ.
Andy Campbell

Sheffield

Firstly, on behalf of the Sheffield Section I would like to thank Barry Heaney for representing the Section in a successful year as BIGGA Chairman. Barry even finished his year in office on one leg for a month as he broke his leg on New Year's Day. That was a good start to the year. Wasn't it Barry?

I asked Barry to sum up his year as Chairman and he said, "The friendliness I received everywhere and from everyone was amazing. The past year

has been the quickest year of my life. When I came my final speech at Harrogate I just couldn't believe it was the end of my year in office. I couldn't have done the job as well without the support of Wortley Golf Club and my staff which have both been behind me 100%"

On February 1 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC which was attended by 68 of our members which was a record for our Section.

Our thanks go to Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager at Letchworth GC for a very interesting talk on communications within the golf club.

Congratulations go to Kevin Kellsall on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Doncaster GC. Kevin returns to the Section after working at Burnham on Crouch in Essex. Good luck Kevin.

Our next lecture will be on April 4 and will be a machinery demonstration given by Amazone at Rotherham GC at 2.30pm.

A few dates to note. Our annual competition will be held at Abbeydale GC on July 9 at 10.30am. Apparently the last time we held a section competition at Abbeydale was July 1978.

Our Autumn competition will be held at Hickleton GC on September 2 at 1.30pm.

New members this month include Mark Dresser and Tony Spencer, Forest Pines GC; Timothy Gittans and Andrew May, Notts GC; Stephen Wheeler, Brough GC; Ian Rathbone, Fore and Totley; Billy Cooke, Wheatley GC; Gary Marsh, Hickleton GC; Roger Naylor, Phoenix GC; Martin Liversedge, Sickleshole GC; Pat Duff, Sherwood GC and Trade member George Brown, Tarmac.
John Lax

North West

Nine inches of snow outside and Bert Cross is in sunny Zambia for a month. Bert and his wife Marie are heavily involved in charity work for the Kasisi Orphanage in Zambia and he has asked me to ask you all for donations of, would you believe, tea bags or coffee which is very expensive in Zambia. You can bring all your tea and coffee to the Spring tournament to be held at Morecambe

GC on Thursday May 30. This is also the Hayter Qualifier or to the Mere Seminar on March 26. You should all have had an application form for this event.

The closing date for the Spring tournament is May 24 so send off £10 deposit to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmoor, Liverpool, Tel: 0151 284 4416.

Bert has also asked me to remind you that improper dress will not be tolerated at any BIGGA event. So be warned.

On a personal note I thought that the BTME was the best yet. Well done to everyone concerned and good luck for '97.

Chris Sheehan

Cleveland

The annual quiz verses the Institute of Groundsmen Teeside branch resulted in a narrow victory to the IOG. Thanks to sponsors, Turf Care for Conset, County Durham. There was a disappointing turn out of three Head Greenkeepers and eight assistants.

Bishop Auckland GC has relaid two greens to full USGA specification and Head Greenkeeper David Crocker is very pleased with their progress. This example will be helpful to other golf clubs locally also based on clay soils.

New members are as follows:- Neil Austwick, Bedale GC; Kevin Dyson, Seaham GC; David Briggs, Saltburn GC; Colin Thompson, Saltburn GC; Harry Stevenson, Brass Castle, Middlesbrough GC and Martin Woods, Nearside GC.

The January meeting was a talk by Chris Peel of Adas on Poa Annua. There are 17 annual and nine perennial varieties. Natural soils suit poa annua. To reduce it continue with sound management practices, 1. Avoid phosphate 2. Potassium usually enough in clay soil, 3. Do not overfeed, 4. Aim for lower PH 5-5.5, 5. Care with watering, 6. Care with height of cut and verticutting as keen verticutting can let in poa annua as seed bed, 7. Care with chemicals, 8. Distribute wear to avoid bare patches and keep height of cutters up to avoid scalping. 9. Try not to overlap with fertilisers.

Future subjects for discussion are Thatch Depth, Type of Thatch,

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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

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Wear.Compacted, Depth of Compaction, Black Layer, Thatch Fungus.

Thanks were expressed to Chris.

He then outlined Adas services for golf courses 1. Feasibility studies for new courses, 2. Detailed design work on new courses, 3. Existing Courses. Improvements, extensions and upgrading.

Our March meeting is Bob Twaddle of British Seed Houses and there is a change of venue. The meeting will be at Eaglescliffe GC on March 21 at 7.30pm.

Bruce Burnell

Northern

First of all I would like to welcome the following new members to our Section: Christopher Hill, Leeds Council; Craig Norford, Temple Newsam GC; Richard Hartas, Aldwark Manor GC; Adam Basnett, Woodsome Hall GC; Edward Nutt, the Oaks GC; Kevin Lee, Crownest Park GC; Neil Burnley, Beverley GC; David Chadwick, Moortown GC; Neil Tootle, Bridlington Links; Alastair Cobbett, Mid Yorkshire GC; Brian Carr (recognise this chap from somewhere!), Chapel Allerton Lawn Tennis Club; Steven Kitchen, Elland GC; Daniel Lindley, Hanging Heaton GC; Derek Jackson, Garforth GC; David Kirk, Moorview Golf Centre; Richard Hollingworth, Rudding Park GC and Sam Wardill, Outlane GC. I hope you will participate in the golf and social events in the area.

On the education front, the first of the Regional Management Courses were held in the last month. I attended one in Chester and found it to be interesting, informative and also great fun. It was also an opportunity to meet many members of the Association attending this type of event for the first time. The delegates ranged from the more mature to the up and coming whizz kids. I understand the course in York had been just as successful and it is hoped to develop these further next year.

For those of you interested in the NVQs, Pat Murphy is drawing up a waiting list of people who wish to be trained as assessors. This is funded by the GTC.

While on the subject of education I would remind you of the North West Seminar at the Mere Golf and Country Club on March 26. There are some very interesting speakers and the price is only £20 including lunch. Contact me if you wish to book.

Golf events now and the tee off times for this season's comps: April 24, Scarborough South Cliff, tee off 1pm; June 12, President's Day at Howley Hall, tee off 1.30pm; September 4, Invitation Day at Bingley St Ives GC, tee off 12.30pm; October 9, Autumn Tournament at Malton & Norton GC, tee off 1pm. A £10 deposit is required for each event and as these are restricted I would advise booking early to avoid disappointment. The Roses Match is on August 15 at Whitefield GC and will again be fully sponsored by Pattis-

Around the Green



sons. All you have to do is get there. A team of 16 is required so please forward your name to me if you would like to play on the winning team. Members wishing to play in any of the golf events must book and pay their deposits at least one week before each competition.

Congratulations to Nick Bissett at Askham Bryan College who has recently been promoted to Head of Horticulture.

I would like to convey the Section's best wishes for a speedy recovery to Alan Gamble, our Chairman, who has been ill recently. Look forward to seeing you at the Dinner Dance on March 16, Alan.

Please contact me if you have any news or gossip. Tel: 01782 750539 or 0850 235554.

Bob Lupton

Midland

Here we go again, another season just about to start. After the cold weather and snow, it will be nice to have a bit of good old sunshine.

I spent a very enjoyable and educational week at Harrogate. There were some very good speakers at the National Conference, and I would like to congratulate Dean Cleaver on his becoming the Chairman of the Association. It was good to see a fellow Section member achieving this position.

On March 29 at 2pm we have the second winter lecture at Telford Golf and Country Club. Arrival time is between 12.30 and 1pm and the bar will be open to welcome you.

The speakers are Richard Minton, Miracle Professional, talking on nutritional requirements of a golf course and Simon Hannah, Inturf, talking about Turf Production and he would also debate Dwarf Ryegrass v Non Ryegrass mixtures.

There will be a buffet after the lectures, please could members dress appropriately.

The fixture list will be sent to all members ASAP. Ritefeed are sponsoring a new Singles competition open to all members and the entrance sheets will be sent accordingly.

The Committee had a meeting on January 17 where it was decided not to put on a Skittles Evening at the moment as only six members had telephoned me to express their wish to attend.

Finally we welcome the new members for this month. They are as follows:- Michael Bryan, Ian Underhill, Roy Whatmore, Michael Wade, Robert Tomlin, Anthony Tysall, Stuart Hall, Colin Wood and Robert Jervis.

Kim Blake

East Midlands

While you are all reading this month's article I shall be sunning myself in the Sates and playing plenty of golf - hopefully Bindleying the Americans.

Congratulations to Carl Chamberlain on his appointment as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Scraftoft GC. I'm sure all members would like to wish Carl all the best in his new position. Also congratulations are extended to Gavin Robson for the addition of a baby son to his family.

I'm sure all members must have enjoyed this year's BTME. It was nice to see a few more Section members there. It just goes to show that things get BIGGA and better every year.

By the end of this month all members should have received their entry forms for the forthcoming Spring Tournament and the annual singles and pairs K/O competitions. Please try to support your section by entering as many as you possibly can. Also enclosed is this year's fixture card, which has again been kindly sponsored by Amenity Land Services and Scotts UK. Any member who has not received their form can give me a ring and I will gladly forward a copy.

Finally this year's AGM has been arranged at Hinckley GC on November 6 followed by the Christmas Tournament on December 12 at Charnwood Forest GC.

Antony Bindley

East of England

I have just returned from BTME at Harrogate and the exhibition seems to get better every year.

It is the ideal showcase for the products of the manufacturers and to talk at first hand with product representatives. For myself it was the bumping into so many friends that makes the show. Then there are the seminars, at one of which our East of England Chairman, David Walden, took to the stage with his experiences in winning the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year competition and what differences winning had made to his career. I asked him what the differences were and he said, "I was on cloud nine for two to three months, there was lots of fuss which died off. The US trip was a good experience and it's been good for my career."

The total membership for our section now stands at an all time high of 119 due to a recent influx of students from Riseholme. May I welcome all the new members to our Section who are:- R. Cresswell, S. White, D. Anderson, A. Wire, R. Hepworth, J. Morrall, D. Reeves, M. Gamble, L. Bradsell, D. Garfitt, D. Clee, M. Anderson, C. French and A. Eaton.

Any more information on job moves, promotions etc or if I can help with anything call me on 01733 260297.

Graeme Macdonald

Mid Anglia

A Health and Safety update was

given by John Allbutt to the Section in January which was very useful to members. He gave information with regards to the use of carbaryl which has been restricted in certain aspects. If anyone needs more information on this please phone John's company, I'm sure they'll fill you in fully on the changes.

Harrogate was once again successful and if was good once again to see so many members in attendance and to hear John Wells speaking at the conference. John was also presented with his Master Greenkeeper Certificate and I'm sure you all saw the picture in last month's magazine.

You should have all received by now an entry form for the fourball tournament which must be completed by March 15, and a separate form for the usual tournaments. Please photo copy this second form so you have enough for the Spring, Summer and Autumn Tournaments should you wish to enter. If you have not received the necessary forms please check with BIGGA HQ to make sure you are included in the Mid Anglia Section. Gerald Bruce, our Secretary, can only send the appropriate details to those members who are actually registered on the computer printout from headquarters.

Our first golf event is on March 29 at John O'Gaunt GC. Entry forms should be sent to Richard Saunders in the usual way enclosing a cheque for £20.

The Texas Scramble this year has been arranged for December 3 at Dunstable Downs GC.

A match against the Midland Section has been scheduled for September 2 and will take place at Whittingham Heath GC, Lichfield, Staffs - the format being 10 a side.

Lectures/Course Visits are currently being arranged for 1997 as are golf fixtures.

I would like, on behalf of the Section, to wish Jim Burton, every success in his new position with Kings Horticulture and Kevin Todd, good luck in his new position at Beds & County Golf Club as Deputy Course Manager.

Finally I would like to welcome the following new members from Mentmore GC to the Section. They are Daniel Gilbert, Daniel James, David Edwards and Eamon Slattery Paul Lockett

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**"If it only rained at night"
- Alan Rowney, Gay Hill GC**

"Very enjoyable and beneficial"

"Brilliant – enjoyed every minute"

"Extremely worthwhile"

"An excellent introduction"

"200 greenkeepers can't be wrong"

"What a confidence booster"

"Excellent value"

"Fast, punchy, entertaining, fun, informative"

"Let's have more"

Best course yet

The purpose of this letter is to pass on my feelings regarding the Supervisory Management Course which I attended last October at Elmwood College in Fife. My immediate response to reading the application notice in *Greenkeeper International* was that it seemed such good value for money – £50 for a two-day course – which included meals and accommodation (£150 for non-members who find it difficult to justify their membership fee!).

The subjects covered during the course related to the abilities necessary to create enthusiasm, leadership and motivation (read any advertisement in *Greenkeeper International* and you will find these immortal words). On arriving and meeting the rest of the the class, which mainly consisted of assistants (the gaffers presumably know it all already!) I found everybody to be very pleasant and friendly.

Enter our lecturer, Rod Clark, warm and cheerful, and in no time at all he had set a comfortable pace that was appreciated by the entire class. The learning process had begun and, indeed, it

continued over the course of the next two days. From the presentation of the hand-outs, to the plentiful supply of note pads and even the sharpened pencils everything was considered to be very professional and was appreciated by all.

I found the whole experience to be extremely worthwhile and I would like to thank the BIGGA Education Department and the Golden and Silver patrons for what I feel was one of the best courses I have ever attended.

Ronald Bunting, Head Greenkeeper, Kilmacolm GC
PS Why is there no Scottish venues arranged for 1996?

■ *Editor's Note: The Scottish Region asked for their courses to be held in October '95. Further courses planned in October '96/ Spring '97.*

I've been Franked

Two days in February I was given the opportunity to become Franked.

You may well say what is he on about being Franked. Well for you people out there who do not have a clue what I am on about I will let you into a secret.

Frank Newberry runs a training

and consultancy business and one of his contracts is with BIGGA.

Just recently I was on one of his management courses held in Brighton. It was spread over two very full but highly informative days.

At 9am, after we checked into our rooms at the superb Old Ship Hotel we gathered into our group of 14 pupils and found our seats in the conference room (class room). Frank then introduced himself and we were away.

Over the next 48 hours I found out more about myself as a manager than I have in the last three years. Not only do you learn about management but you also get a small insight into body language and public speaking. The majority of the time is taken up learning new techniques to make you a more confident manager.

Team work features very highly throughout the course as does the art of conversation. As part of the course you finish up by making a presentation which includes putting together a 30 second video which everybody found immense fun to do.

At the end of the two days everyone had got something out of the course so this can only be a good thing. What also makes it a

better deal is that it only cost my club around £50. This can only come about with generous support that BIGGA receives from its Golden and Silver Key members.

Frank runs a variety of courses for BIGGA so don't miss out on an opportunity to get yourself Franked.

Jonathan Budd
Deputy Head Greenkeeper,
Ham Golf Club

Stimulating

Having recently attended the Regional Supervisory Management Course at Brighton I feel I must write and congratulate you on the interesting and stimulating two days.

As well as introducing new management techniques Frank Newberry's infectious enthusiasm ensures that all participants left the sessions with increased confidence in their own management ability.

Running these courses locally and at such low cost (thanks to Golden Key contributors) speaks volumes for the Association's Education Initiative.

Roger Tydeman
Selsdon,
Surrey

Sowing the seeds for

What does it take for new grass seed to reach the stage where it is ready to be launched on to market place? Gerard Van 'tKlooster, pictured right, reports.

The development of a new grass variety takes 15 years and can take the breeder around the world in the search for the perfect species for certain conditions.

In breeding groups of plants of the same species are used in order to achieve as great an amount of variation as possible – variation is the most important element in breeding.

Plants living in natural conditions are affected by a large number of stress factors such as climate and environment. The origin for the genus *Lolium* has not been precisely pinpointed. It is thought to have come from the Mediterranean but another possibility is that it came to the UK from Western Asia.



Lolium perenne (Perennial ryegrass) is an especially important species in developing lawn grasses and knowledge about the best possible growing area for individual species and biotypes, as well as the borders within which these grasses occur, provides the breeder with information for targeted breeding.

It is up to the breeder to

achieve the best combination in the new varieties and you can find grass species growing naturally all over the world.

The most important species in breeding cool season grasses like perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), smooth stalked meadowgrass (*Poa pratensis*), fine fescue (*Festuca rubra* spp.) and Bent grass (*Agrostis*) it is ideal to learn more about, and collect, the good plants with a winter hardiness found in Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

Likewise those with a good drought tolerance which are found in Italy and France or good wear tolerance which are found on paths etc.

The collection of plants occurs at one spot where between 30 and 50 ecotypes of a species are collected to ensure that all possible combinations and specialities from that site. This is the initial selection. The big difference between this and collecting for a gene bank is that gene bank offi-

cials like to collect all the genes from a site while the breeder looks for specific genes.

The entire plant is considered and not just its seed production – the speed of growth, the amount of tillers on a plant and the speed of spread are all important.

Once at the nursery of the breeding station the various types are selected and divided into three plants and a clone is planted out in the greenhouse. This constitutes the second selection. In the early spring we select the fast growers from the greenhouse and plant outside. The plants are harvested in groups of half-sibling families – mother is known, father is not – or as total populations. This decision depends on such factors as the amount of seed and the breeding schedule.

The next year the seed comes up for variety testing and is assessed as half-sibling family. After undergoing one or two years of variety testing in turf tri-

Buying time is a whole new ball game

Force Limagrain introduce Fortiva – a new and unique concept in applied seed technology. Three fungicides and a biostimulant have been locked into a unique polymer coating to give fast, disease free establishment.

More turf, quicker turf Fortiva significantly increases the rate of grass establishment. Fusarium and Pythium control increase plant survival, producing longer-lasting turf.

Extended renovation period Fortiva has a unique blend of ingredients that increases the grass seeds ability to produce plants. This allows earlier and later renovation, and improves success from 'in-season' over-seeding.

Technically proven Extensive independent disease and establishment trials over 4 years have shown significant benefits, even where disease has not occurred.

Versatile Fortiva has been trialled on perennial ryegrass, red fescue, smooth-stalked meadow grass and bent grass.

fortiva
APPLIED SEED TECHNOLOGY



TOP GREEN

Force Limagrain

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Force Limagrain Ltd, The Old School, High St, Fen Drayton, Cambs CB4 5SJ. Tel: (01954) 232020.

the grass of tomorrow



als, a selection is made and the best plants of one group are placed with the best group of another in turf plots around a foot square in size. In every trial there are some control varieties and there are three plots of every sample. The

same tests are carried out in the Netherlands, Germany and France whenever possible.

In these turf tests the breeder gets data for shoot density, wear tolerance, winter hardiness, spring performance and the gen-

eral turf impression. By making comparisons from the trials it is possible to decide upon the best sample for different climates or on which samples are best on all trial sites.

After these have been selected we bring the best together in a new isolation. This is to prevent pollen from other samples corrupting these elite samples. We use rye for isolations as during the flowering period of May and June it is two metres tall, much higher than the grass culms and it therefore acts as a barrier for the pollen and prevents it from blowing about.

The best populations are harvested that year and the seed will be used on more trial sites in bigger plots. By now the elite populations have proved that they are better than the control varieties which are existing varieties. For a seed company the new variety must be better than the best variety the company already has.

Seed yield is also very important and this is also tested on the new varieties while disease resistance is another important consideration.

For some diseases – brown patch, Pythium, Dollar Spot – there are laboratory tests or for others – Crownrust – there are greenhouse tests but the best way to find out the disease resistance

is from the data of the trials. The only problem then is that the breeder never knows when a disease will strike. Therefore you need more trial sites. There is the same problem testing for winter hardiness but you can solve it by a trial in a mountain area.

For specialised uses we use a machine that “plays football” for sports fields and when golf use is the main goal we use a green mower and cut back to four or five millimetres. This is even possible for some strains of perennial ryegrass and looking into the future we see a place for perennial ryegrass on the golf course.

In the USA and Germany it is already quite normal to use perennial in the mixtures but in the United Kingdom we are afraid to use the words perennial ryegrass. People there think of the S-23 types of perennial ryegrass and forget that there have been real amenity types of this species in existence for 25 years now – see the STRI Turf Grass Seed List. Some of the better varieties can exist under close mowing, therefore are suitable for fairways, tees and even the greens. Perennial ryegrass is excellent for overseeding so it can rival annual meadowgrass.

What about a good equal green with perennial against a patchy green with bent and *Poa annua*? It would be nice to use the best grass but not just because our father and our father's father used it but because under the circumstances the species is the best.

After three years of testing the breeder can make a decision. If a new variety is better than the existing variety the first multiplication can start up – a planted multiplication for a small harvest of about 30-70kg or seed. Part of this will be used for the next generation of the variety, a part for applications in the different countries of interest and a part for storage. In a controlled storage room the seed can be stored for 15-25 years. From planting to harvesting of the variety it takes 16 months.

The official application takes two to six years and in that time the multiplication to certified seed takes place.

■ Gerard Van 't Klooster is Head of Breeding for Barenbrug in Holland.



New on the market

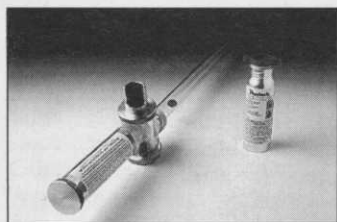
A new method of anchoring divots to aid rapid root recovery was shown at BTME for the first time.

Turf Tie Divot Anchors were designed primarily for fairways but can also be used on tees to promote recovery of mature turf.

One of the discussion points raised at Harrogate was that golfers could anchor the turf themselves after taking a substantial divot after loading up from a container of Divot Anchors in the locker room.

Their use during the winter/spring period will help to reduce reseeding.

The results of STRI tests using this technique will be released later.



Damaged caused by moles and rabbits can be reduced thanks to **Rentokil's** applicator which can apply Phostoxin tablets quicker and more safely.

The applicator is lightweight and made of clear plastic so the tablets can be seen being dispensed with a push button action.

After placing the tablet in the hole the tablet will react with atmospheric moisture to produce the lethal gas that will spread through the runs and burrows.

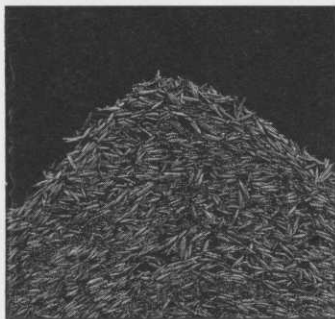
For further information contact John Dickson, Rentokil Industrial Products, Rentokil Ltd, Fencourt,

East Grinstead, West Sussex Tel: 01342 833022.

Tildenet Ltd has produced a portable green which can be assembled in an hour, relocated in half an hour and doesn't need mowing.

The Epic is a six metre by 10 metre structure covered in a green netting simulating a green. With bunkers, contours and a flag it has all the features of a green and is ideal for practice.

It doesn't cause damage to the grass as its net covering allows air and light to penetrate.



Force Limagrain has introduced Fortiva, a new seed coating which it claims will cut the time needed to renovate greens and tees by at least two to three weeks.

In independent tests by the STRI Fortiva improved new grass cover by an average of 30% after six weeks.

In a second, on-going, test it kept turf seedling disease down to a minimum. Fortiva contains three fungicides each having a different way of attacking seedling disease. It also contains a biostimulant to help improve natural early season grass growth.



John Deere celebrated the 10th anniversary of its grounds care equipment business in the UK and Ireland with the launch of a new Roberine mower.

Aimed at the golf course and local authority user the self-propelled 1510 wide-area mower has a 2.85m cutting width and a mowing capacity of around 3ha/hr.

The five rear-discharge rotary cutting discs are split across a front-mounted three disc deck and a twin-disc unit offset to the right of the machine.

This allows the mower to reach difficult sites more easily, for example under bushes, alongside ditches and streams.

The 1510 features a 41hp Peugeot diesel engine, power steering and hydraulic mower drive. Options include a comfort cab and four-wheel drive.

Basic price of a new 1510 mower is £28,151.

Fen Turf Dressings Ltd has introduced a new soil-less top dressing – Fendress Greentop on to the market. It is a new top dressing for fine turf which offers greenkeepers the benefits of "state of the art" green technology. The humus content is neither peat nor soil but a specially selected composted greenwaste thoroughly cleaned and screened by a screening system

for which a patent is pending. This is then blended with a selected Leighton Buzzard sand and lignite.

Anyone seeking further information should contact Fen Turf Dressings Ltd, Market Harborough Tel: 01858 464346.



Rigby Taylor has launched a new generation herbicide developed specifically for the Amenity and Sports Turf market.

Greenor joins Bastion T, the first of the new generation of turf-grass herbicides developed by DowElanco. Both are based on micro-emulsion technology which increases chemical activity, simplifies application and improves spray performance.

Sold exclusively by Rigby Taylor as part of its Advanced Technology Products range the sister products both give first rate control of a wide range of broad leaved weeds by inhibiting plant growth. The herbicides are translocated deep into the wet root system giving excellent kill without creating burnt, discoloured patches in the turf.

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- Lime-free Silica Sands
- Bunker Sands – White – Cream – Pink or Yellow, including Moneystone

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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL March 1996

Both offer high levels of control of a wide range of problem weeds including clover but Bastion T shows particular strength on Slender Speedwell and Plantains while Greenor is outstanding on Daisy and Buttercup.

"Product trials show that both herbicides are highly selective and have excellent grass safety," said Clive Williams of Rigby Taylor. "With recommendations for use on new grass as early as two months after sowing, either product can be used over the entire area of turf even on worn patches that have recently been renovated."

Rigby Taylor has also launched Mascot Breaker, an advanced wetting agent for use on sports and amenity turfgrass situations.

It has been formulated using the latest generation of surfactant technology and has been designed to provide a rapid and long lasting effect on Dry Patch, drought stressed turf and water repellent soils. Independent trials have proved significant increases in both the speed and depth of infiltration of water through thatch and compacted soils giving excellent re-wetting of the treated turf.

It is available in liquid, granular and tablet forms.



Catalytic converts have been introduced on **Jonsered's** GR36, GR32D and GR32L professional brushcutters.

The emission of environmentally hazardous fumes is significantly reduced: hydrocarbons by up to 60%, carbon monoxide by up to 40% and nitric oxide by 60-70%. Exhaust smells are also eliminated and unnecessary health risks are avoided.

Literature on these products are available from Partner Jonsered Power Products UK, Old-ends Lane, Industrial Estate, Stonedale Road, Stonehouse,

Gloucester, GL10 3SY. Tel: 01453 820305.



Echo has introduced The Arc for the '96 season. A 51 inch shaft gives extra reach and together with the 90 degree articulated gearbox reduces the need for standing on ladders.

The 20 inch double reciprocating blades can be set through 15 different angles from 0-90 degrees to allow the tops of hedges to be cut from ground level.

It is powered by a 23.6cc dual piston ring Echo engine with a commercial air filtration system, electronic ignition and diaphragm carburettor.

Cost is £595 plus VAT.



Amenity Technology Products Ltd has launched a special offer in relation to its Drencher Gun which will run for all of 1996.

Every Drencher Gun purchased will be accompanied by a case of six Drencher pellets – either NEW 123 Turf Nutrient Formulation and Wetting Agent or the Standard WA, Wetting Agent – for only £1, a saving of up to £60.50.

For further information see this month's reader reply card or contact Amenity Technology Tel: 01734 510033.

A grass seed catalogue for the amenity and sports sectors has been launched by Mommersteeg containing full details of all **Mommersteeg** varieties and mixtures and with colour coded sections to aid selection.

Mommersteeg has extended its product range for '96 and the catalogue includes details of four

new varieties – Amadeus, Gerona, Dancer and Mocassin as well as a new general landscaping and low maintenance mixture MM21 and five re-formulated mixtures.

Copies of the catalogue are available free from Mommersteeg International, The Anderson Centre, Spitfire Close, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 6XY Tel: 01480 459500.



Gannon has introduced the AE-40 Aera-Vator as an addition to the Aera-Vator range for the smaller compact tractor of 13-20hp.

The principal of operation is as

the rotors roll the pto powers the tines to vibrate rapidly in a burrowing motion to penetrate and fracture harder soils with less weight.

It costs £2,550 plus optional rear roller £256 plus VAT.

The **Huxley** Grainskeeper brush is now available for use with suitable compact tractors and turf vehicles as well as a wide range of ride-on greensmowers.

Designed for quick and efficient integration of top-dressings on greens and for effective brushing and grooming of most sports turf areas the Grainskeeper is also an excellent tool for maintaining artificial playing surfaces in top condition.

The Grainskeeper is hydraulically driven and can be mounted on the front on Huxley, Toro, Jacobsen and John Deere greensmowers as well as on the rear or suitable compact tractors, Cushman Trucksters, Toro Workman trucks and Huxtrux Turf Vehicles.

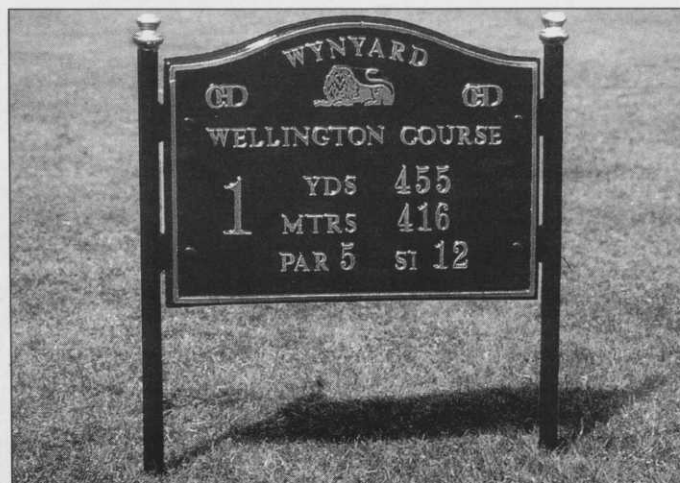
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From TEE to GREEN



Photograph courtesy of The Oxfordshire Golf Club

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21.0.20
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Above, the 13th at The Duke's Course and below, the 18th Pictures by Brian Morgan

Aussie rules The Duke's Course

Australian Owen Browne is the Course Manager at St Andrews latest course the inland Dukes Course.

There are two things unusual about the latest St Andrews golf course to join the most illustrious stable in golf. The first is that, whisper it, The Duke's Course is not a links. It's not even particularly close to the sea being at least four or five miles from the famous piece of land shared by the Old, the New, the Jubilee, the Eden and the Strathclyde courses and the second is that the Course Manager, Owen Browne, is not Scottish. He's not even British, but an Australian who until a couple of years ago was an assistant greenkeeper in his native Melbourne.

It may appear to be the greenkeeping equivalent of Coals to Newcastle but Owen has earned his chance having worked his way up from picking up stones when construction was in its early stages through the growing in period and was Head Greenkeeper by the time the Duke of York performed the opening ceremony just before The Open Championship at its more famous near neighbour – why do we always end up mentioning Neighbours in anything to do with Australia?

"It is something I could just dream about. It has exceeded my expectations I mean two years ago I was still an assistant greenkeeper



and now I've leapt up to one of the top jobs and it's very exciting," says 29 year-old Owen.

"I came over originally for a cousin's wedding in Ireland not intending to get a job on a golf course but I'd heard about the work of Thomson Woolveridge at St Andrews, came over and asked about a job."

The course is the first in the United King-

dom to be designed by five times Open Champion Peter Thomson, whose Australian link was carried on by Owen. Built on parkland a few miles inland of St Andrews at Craigtown The Duke's proffers many views of the famous old town from its high vantage points and is a course which gives the most accomplished of player an exacting test as well as an

'I'm a big fan of the greenkeeper education system in Australia. It is all done in great depth'

alternative to traditionalist Andrews links golf.

"I came to work as a labourer and picked up stones for the first three or four weeks," said Owen.

"I was later put in charge of growing in and worked closely with the construction supervisor who directed me in how to work in the Thomson Woolveridge style of construction," he explained.

In the next phase Owen worked with the landscaping team using knowledge acquired as a gardener in Melbourne to carry out work.

"I became Head Greenkeeper in November '94 but they didn't just hand me the job. It was advertised in Greenkeeper International and I believe a good set of candidates applied. When the course was handed over to the Old Course Hotel my title was changed to Course Manager."

A look at Owen's career takes us to the other side of the world and Melbourne where he first got an apprenticeship as a gardener with a local authority.

"I was awarded a scholarship to go over to New Zealand and spent a year working for another authority doing everything from tree surgery to nursery and forestry work and turf management.

"When I got back I was more interested in getting involved in turf management and got a job as Employee in Charge (Head Greenkeeper) at City of Northcote nine hole municipal course. After four and a half years I realised I didn't really know enough to go anywhere or have the experience to manage a course so I decided to take a step back and go to Kingston Heath which is ranked highly in Australia as an assistant.

"I spent two years there and studied under Graeme Rand, recognised as one of the leading Course Superintendents in Australia and did a two year course in Course Management..

"I'm a big fan of the greenkeeper education system in Australia. It is all done in great depth. You'll concentrate on nutrition and only nutrition and are not distracted by anything else at the same time," he explains.

The new Duke's Course is typical of the Thomson Woolveridge style of design.

"Their courses are noted for their fairway mounding and the mounding off to the sides of the fairways. It is links style in a parkland setting and we have the pot style bunkering set into the mounds. The bunkers don't stand out but just sit in the mounds like you would find on a links."

Owen has a staff of seven including a mechanic and they will be heavily involved in putting in the drainage system as the course settles down.

"The principle is based on the run-off system of drainage. The water sheds off from the

fairway and is then collected or spread out into the rough. We do have a lot more drainage to put into the course over the next few years. You can't do it on a clay course effectively and properly without mixing in clay with the drainage material. It just clogs the system after a while.

"You need to have the course there and then put your drains into the worst spots when you know where they are otherwise you might be putting in drains you don't need," said Owen.

Surprisingly the drought which might have conspired to help make the course miss its official opening, on the Sunday prior to the Open, didn't slow the final stages of the course's construction.

"The drought didn't cause particular problems but a headache was caused by the fact we couldn't transfer enough water from our bottom dam to our top dam quickly enough. We were worried we might run out because for every days water we used we needed two and a half days to pump it to that dam. We do have our own bores and a wall to wall Water-mation irrigation system."

Owen's work at The Duke's has brought him into contact with one of Australia's sporting icons.

"Peter Thomson was a legend a hero to me and the first time I met him he knew me - he'd obviously asked someone who I was. He came into the room and said is anyone here I haven't met yet and there was a dozen guys

from the construction crew and I stuck my hand up a bit sheepishly. He said 'ah yes you're Owen aren't you?' That's the sort of style he's got. He makes you feel very comfortable.

"On a work front, he tells you what he wants and if it doesn't fit into the maintenance practices or is not possible to implement he will agree to change it. He's a great listener."

He even helps prevent Owen from becoming too homesick.

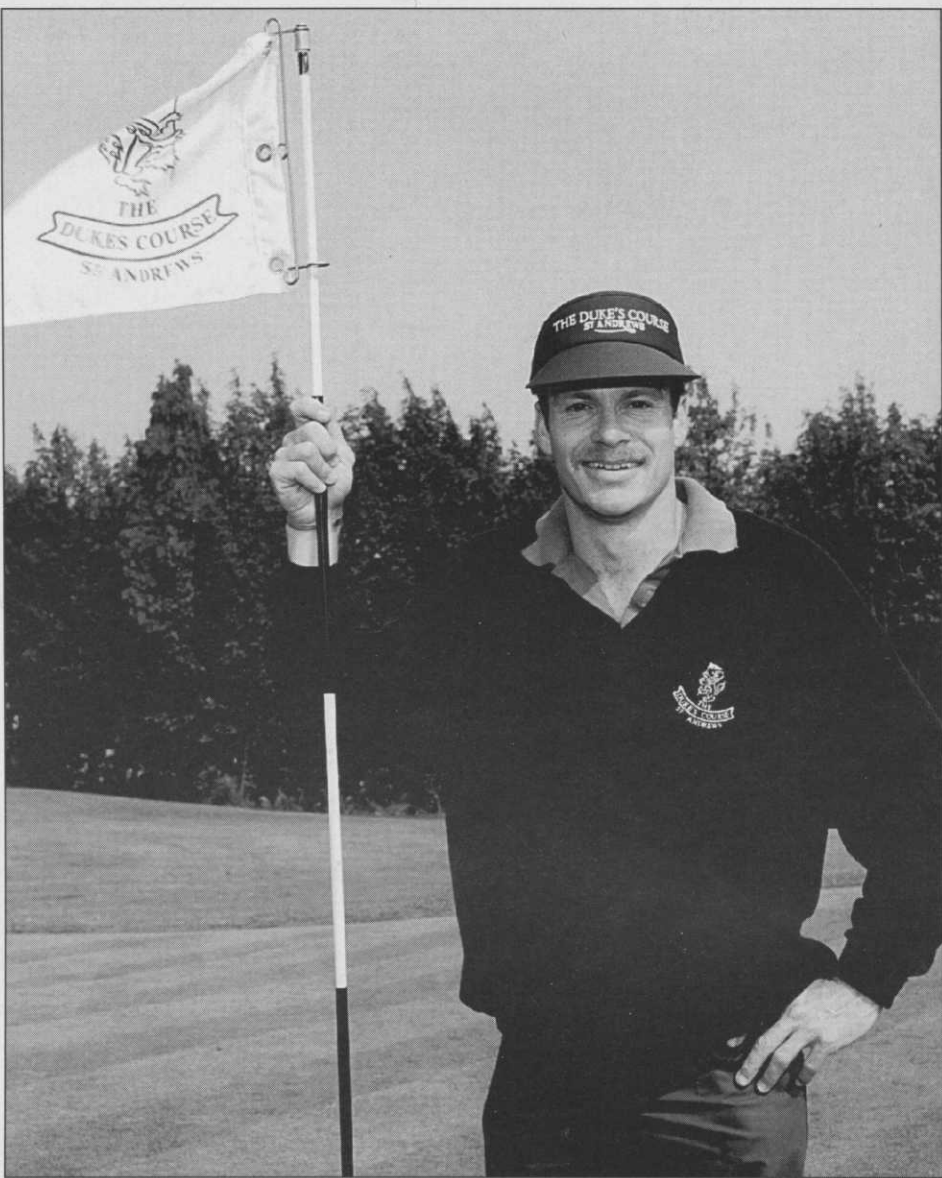
"When he comes over from Australia he always brings an Aussie Rules football magazine for me and sometimes a video as well."

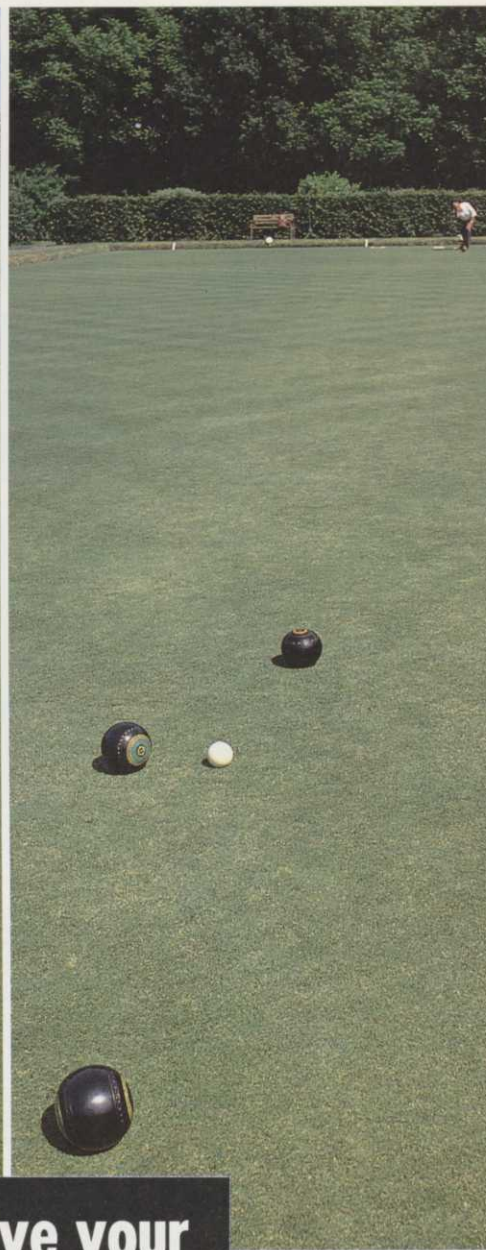
One of the highlights of Owen's career so far was the opening of the course by HRH Duke of York just prior to The Open last year.

"I was very nervous that morning and I don't normally get nervous. There was nothing which could have gone wrong but I was really tense. It went so well though and I was standing on a grassy mound clutching my girlfriend's hand and I was almost squeezing the life out of it." Owen has integrated into the local community so well his girlfriend, Sandra, is the sister of Mark Brunton, Course Manager of the New Course at St Andrews.

He also does his bit for the education of young British greenkeepers.

"Ian Bishop from Elmwood brings a bus load of students to look over the course and it's great for me because it means I can improve my public speaking a bit."





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Temple Golf Club has many progressive ideas of management both on and off the golf course.

Temple Golf Club sits high above the River Thames between Henley, Marlow and Maidenhead and when it comes to progressive management and consideration of conservation is also head and shoulders above most other

golf clubs. Head Greenkeeper Martin Gunn and his Chairman of Green, Malcolm Peake, have produced a blueprint which should provide the continuity to ensure the club's continuing and sustained improvement.

Among their work has been the introduction of a "natural" course management technique, a sustained commitment to conservation and the environment, the production of a regu-

lar newsletter, the division of responsibility among the green-keeping team and reconstruction work on the course itself while they also provide input to the R&A Turf Advisory and Research Working party chaired by Nick Park.

Martin took over in '91 having been First Assistant before that while Malcolm, who owns a retail business in nearby Maidenhead and was asked to join the club's Board of Management with a view to being Chairman of Green.



Malcolm Peake and Martin Gunn outside the clubhouse

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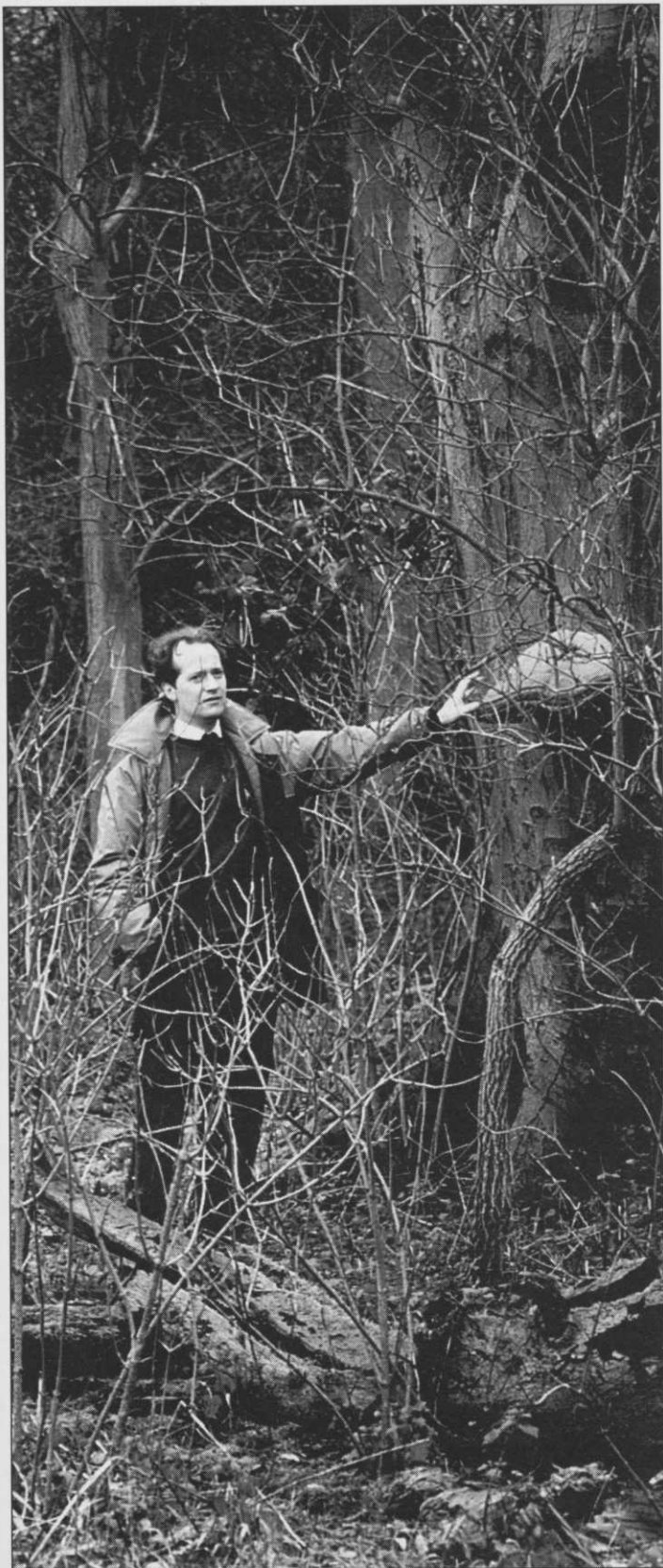
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A Temple to excellence

Martin examines the fungi growing on the dead tree



A report had been done by the STRI in 1987 but little action was taken on the strength of it and when another report was commissioned Jeff Perris of the STRI said things had got worst since the first report.

"I knew things weren't right," said Malcolm by way of explanation as to why he sought out a job most self respecting golf club member wouldn't touch with a bunker rake.

"I've learned a lot since then and the Board invited me to serve a second term," he explained.

"The issues that Malcolm was shouting about gave me the carrot which I needed to grab. He was right in his concerns about the golf course but didn't know why, and I knew we could work together to improve things," said Martin.

Temple Golf Club had always been well presented but there had been very little hollow tining or aeration done on the course.

"We were well aware that the course would have to become a lot worst before it got better while at the same time it would require more investment," said Martin.

The new team would therefore be in the uncomfortable position of having a course not looking good but costing more money to get it to that state. Questions were asked.

"I use a very natural management technique with no overseeding and the greens have become stronger and stronger with bents coming back up to about 60%," explained Martin.

"Right at the start the conservation issue was very important to us as we wanted the natural grasses to return to the course.

A huge area of the course went from being well maintained at three to four inch high rough to meadow grass that you could go up to your waist in.

Temple Golf Club is owned by the Oppenheimer family and Raymond Oppenheimer was, along with Gerald Micklem of Sunningdale renown, a Doyen of English golf.

"The Oppenheimer family farmed locally and were involved in organic farming well before it was generally recognised. We were never asked to maintain the course that way but it seemed a natural course to follow," explained Martin.

'I use a very natural management technique with no overseeding and the greens have become stronger and stronger'

"The initial response was so negative it was unbelievable – 'this is not a nature park, it's a golf course' – but once they started to see species like orchids increase in number the same people who had been complaining at the beginning were ringing me up in the evening and saying that they had seen people walking about where the orchids were."

They are involved with conservation groups including the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Naturalist Trust and the Windsor and Maidenhead Urban Wildlife Group which produced

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A Temple to excellence

a comprehensive report of the course in 1992 while they are also involved with David Stubbs and his European Ecology Unit.

"We have a tree, well out of the way of play, which is dead but has some wonderful fungi growing on it and woodpecker holes. There is absolutely no reason to cut it down and to me is a good example of golf and conservation working together. I've taken a group of 30 students from Hungary round the course. The conservation work has helped us to receive numerous grants over the years."

Martin also encourages students to visit the course to experience a working golf club and learn from the management techniques he employs.

He and Malcolm also produce a regular report for the members which keeps everyone informed as to work on the golf course as well as giving more general information about greenkeeping matters.

"The idea is to improve communication because if members know when something is being done and why it is being done they are more likely to accept it," said Malcolm.

The pair work extremely well together and make a point of visiting other golf clubs every three or four months just to talk to the Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager and find out how they see things and how they manage elements of their job.

"We've had a day at Woodhall Spa, a day at Sunningdale and, of course, Lindrick while at Royal County Down I organised a short visit to their Head Greenkeeper who was a marvellous man," said Malcolm.

"Nick Park also fixed me up with a day at Valderamma while I was in Spain. I had the opportunity to play but frankly it was too interesting and I used up two rolls of film just taking in how they operate there. You can learn from every course you visit."

Another scheme which Martin employs at Temple involves each of his five man team are trained and have designated area of responsibility on the course over and above their normal duties.

Deputy Head Greenkeeper

**'Improving communication:
If members know when something is being done and why, they are more likely to accept it'**

Gareth Austin is responsible for Woodlands, Boundaries and Amenity Horticulture; First Assistant Ian Hewitt for Equipment Repairs, Servicing and Maintenance, Data Recording and Spares; Assistant Russell Clark Irrigation, Installation, Repairs, Servicing and Maintenance; Assistant Saunders yet to be confirmed but possibly First Aid, Health and Safety while Trainee Tony Taylor is already interested in Engine Maintenance.

Having developed the staff and course management structures Martin and Malcolm turned their attention to the layout of the course itself.

"Raymond Oppenheimer

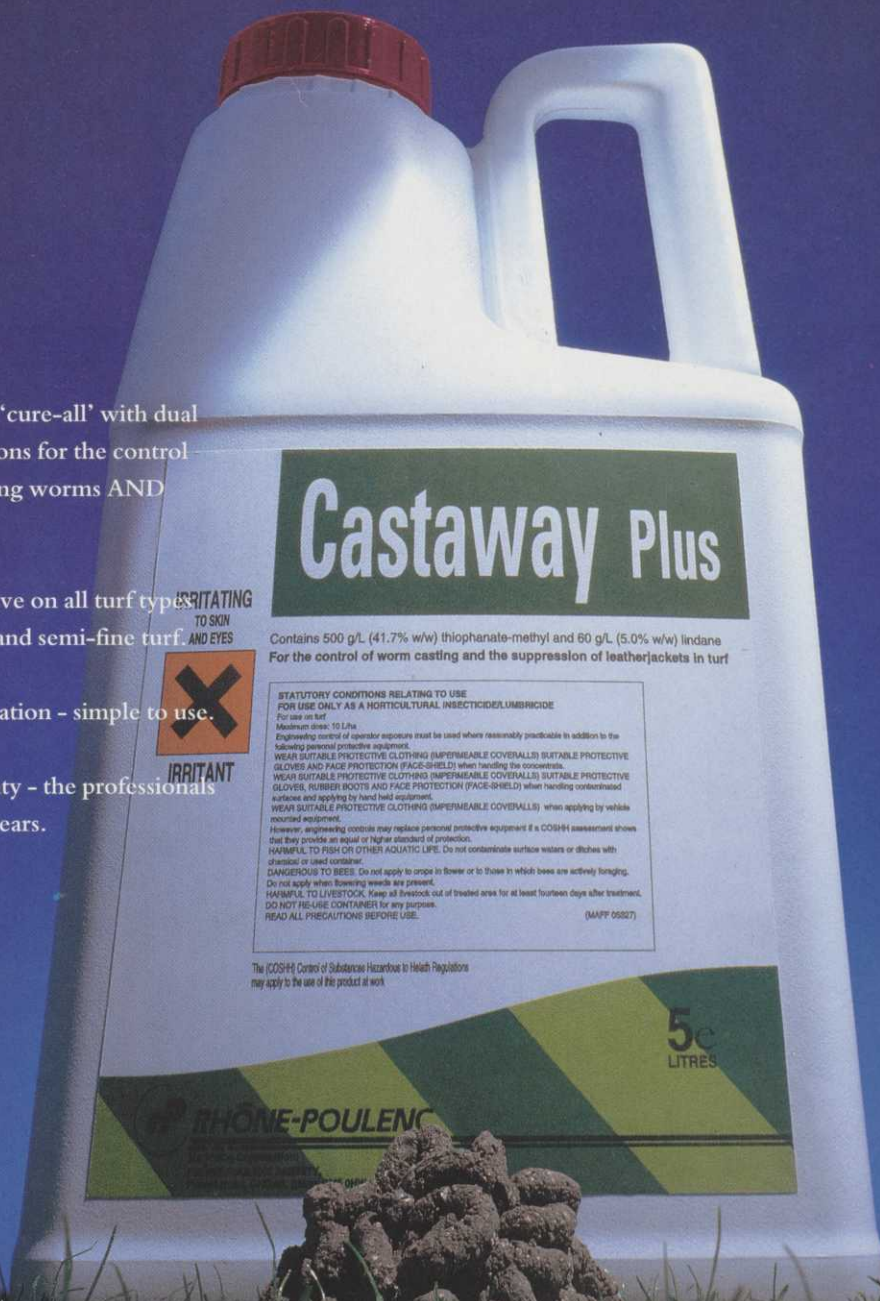
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WEAR SUITABLE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING (IMPERMEABLE COVERALLS) SUITABLE PROTECTIVE GLOVES, RUBBER BOOTS AND FACE PROTECTION (FACE-SHIELD) when handling concentrated surfaces and applying by hand held equipment.
WEAR SUITABLE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING (IMPERMEABLE COVERALLS) when applying by vehicle mounted equipment.

However, engineering controls may replace personal protective equipment if a COSHH assessment shows that they provide an equal or higher standard of protection.

HARMFUL TO FISH OR OTHER AQUATIC LIFE. Do not contaminate surface waters or ditches with chemical or used container.

DANGEROUS TO BEES: Do not apply to crops in flower or to those in which bees are actively foraging. Do not apply when flowering weeds are present.

HARMFUL TO LIVESTOCK: Keep all livestock out of treated areas for at least fourteen days after treatment. DO NOT RE-USE CONTAINER for any purpose.

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A Temple to excellence

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Iseki 537 Tractor
Iseki 4270 Tractor
Charterhouse 2m Level Spiker
Iseki FC Scarifier Collector
Jacobsen 5 Ram lifts with Fairway Units
Jacobsen Hydraulic Rangers
Hardi Sprayer AMK 800
Tractor Mounted Pallet Forks
Chiltern MX 4055 Front End Loader
Chiltern RA 90 Front Linkage Kit
Lewis Lugger 22 Front End Loader
Lewis Landlord 400 Backhoe
Lewis Landlord 400 Backhoe Weeks 2.5 Tonne Hydraulic Tip Trailer
Fraser FC 68 5 Tonne Hydraulic Tip Trailer
Fairway Brush
Cushman Utility Truckster
Jacobsen 2310 Utility Truckster
Cushman Slitter
Sarral Roller
Cushman Brush
Smithco Low Profile Sprayer
Jacobsen Hydraulic Top Dresser
Cushman Low Transfer Trailer
Toro 3100
Toro 3000
Toro GM3
John Deere 2653
Beaver T12
Jacobsen Turf Cat
Toro Greensair
Two Etesia PSE 2 Stoke Mowers
Honda IIRB 275 QXE Rotary Mower
Gravelly Pro Rotary Mower
Two Knapsack Blowers
Assorted Chainsaws
Assorted Strimmers and Recipricators
Cylinder Grinder
Welder
Post Drill
Workshop Tools and Tool Kit

never allowed any change at Temple without prior consultation with a golf course architect among them Henry Cotton, a former professional of Temple GC, Frank Pennick and Donald Steel. It was only natural for us to contact Donald when we had reached this stage of our development.

I rang him not just to talk about architecture but also because he has been Chairman of Green at Denham for many years," explained Malcolm.

"He came and asked what we wanted to do and we said that we wanted him to review the course generally. We decided to walk round the course and he would ask us on the tee what we thought and he would either agree or not as the case may be.

"Then he did us a report hole-by-hole which is now our long term plan of what we want to achieve.

"The more I talked to Donald the more I came to realise that we had some superb short par fours. We wanted to extend the course where possible, but not if it might be to the detriment of a hole.

Much of the work involved changing the shapes of the greens or, more accurately, returning them to how Willie Park Jnr had designed them in the first place.

"We are trying to return to Willie Park Jnr's design, and particularly the bunkering, and that is where Donald helped us," said Martin.

"It's quite exciting as we are getting quite close to it now. Reshaping the greens have given us an immense variety of new pin placements which some of he members haven't even seen yet," added Malcolm.

"I'm getting comments from members that they are now able to play chip and run shots and going back to playing shots they haven't done for many years. It is much more exciting."

All the construction work has been carried out in-house and at every phase, in fact, for all the significant work carried out on the course it is photographed and put in an album.

"This is very useful. We found

'Very few courses reach their true potential because they are prevented by the very people who misguidedly seek to improve them'

after the first two years that we need comparisons. People would conveniently forget how bad something once was and by showing them the photographs they could actually see the improvement which had been made. I was getting bored with people saying 'I'm sure that was better before'," said Malcolm.

The album and the monthly report to the Board will give the people who follow Martin and Malcolm a total history of what has gone on at the Club and they way it has developed and provide the continuity which is missing at many golf clubs.

"Very few courses reach their true potential because they are prevented from doing so by the very people who misguidedly seek to improve them. It is a damning indictment of the golfing population when you

consider that many of these people, in the form of committees, are responsible for the day to day running of the nation's golf courses.

It is hardly surprising that a lot of courses, many of them high profile, are in a state of decline," said Malcolm.

Martin adds a cautionary note to his colleagues not fortunate enough to have the continuity he enjoys.

"I believe that a lot of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers are not going to survive this period unless the problems of continuity are solved. People are setting objectives almost on a year to year basis and you can't survive like that. You need direction which stretches for a period of time."

Martin has nothing but praise for his own Board of Management which has backed him to the hilt.

"I have seen a marked increase in my budgets in machinery and labour and we now have a different set of objectives. When I first took over the objective was "To Maintain the Golf Course" now it is "To Maintain, Improve and Take Forward the Golf Course" which is a very different concept."

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"If rabbits had to cross a road to get here"

- Martin Gunn, Temple GC

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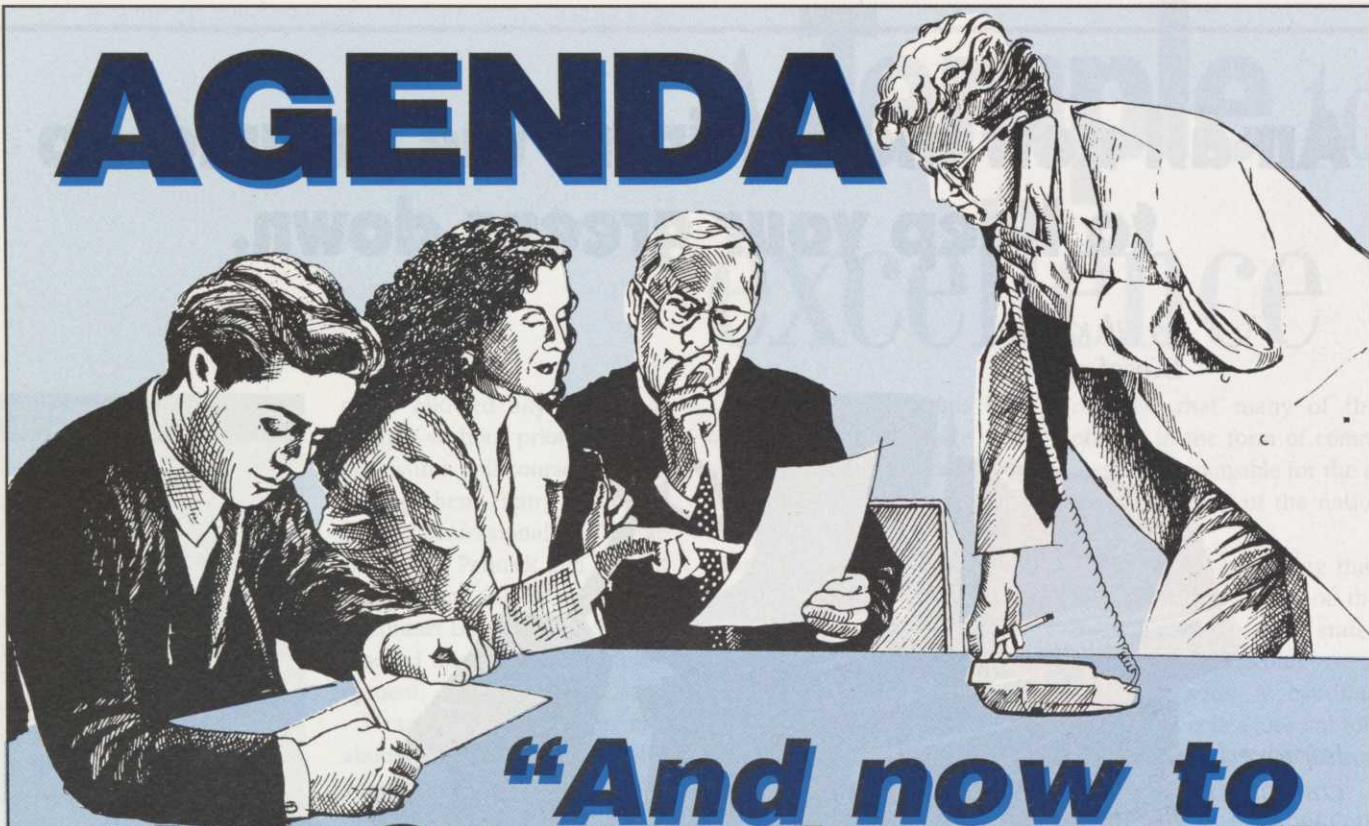
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The all new
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AGENDA



“And now to the Green Issue...”

“Ladies and Gentlemen, I have a formal request from our Greenkeeper that we discuss the benefits of purchasing our own grinding equipment. He has researched the market and concludes, without any doubt that Atterton grinders are the finest available...”

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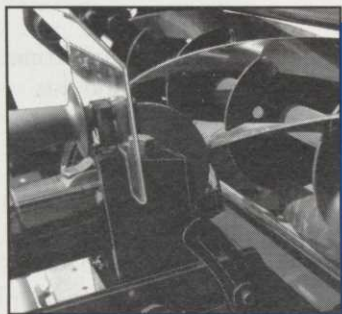
“Separate cylinder grinding – **the ideal time to sharpen**”

“The cutting unit sits on a flat bed – **avoids angled set-ups**”

“A single action foot pedal to set-up – **simple one-man operation**”

“No more high service cost outside sharpening – **reduced costs**”

“Choice of machines, Express Dual ‘1000’ or the new multi-featured ‘2000’, with new features as shown – **a relief may be ground on the cylinder cutting edge and our heavy gang units can now be positioned on the grinding table by one man**”

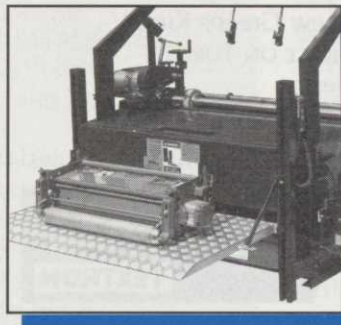


Relief grinding attachment

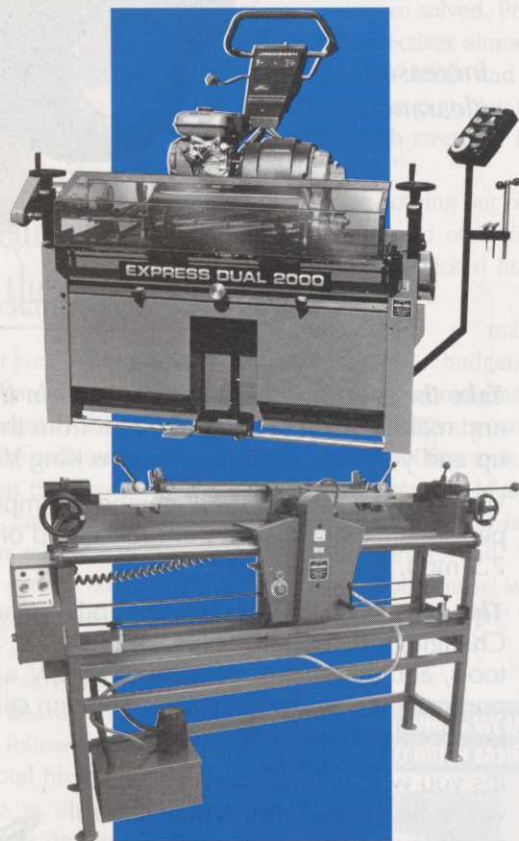
“Anglemaster the ideal partner for grinding bottom blades – **simple set-up makes this the only choice for the job**”

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



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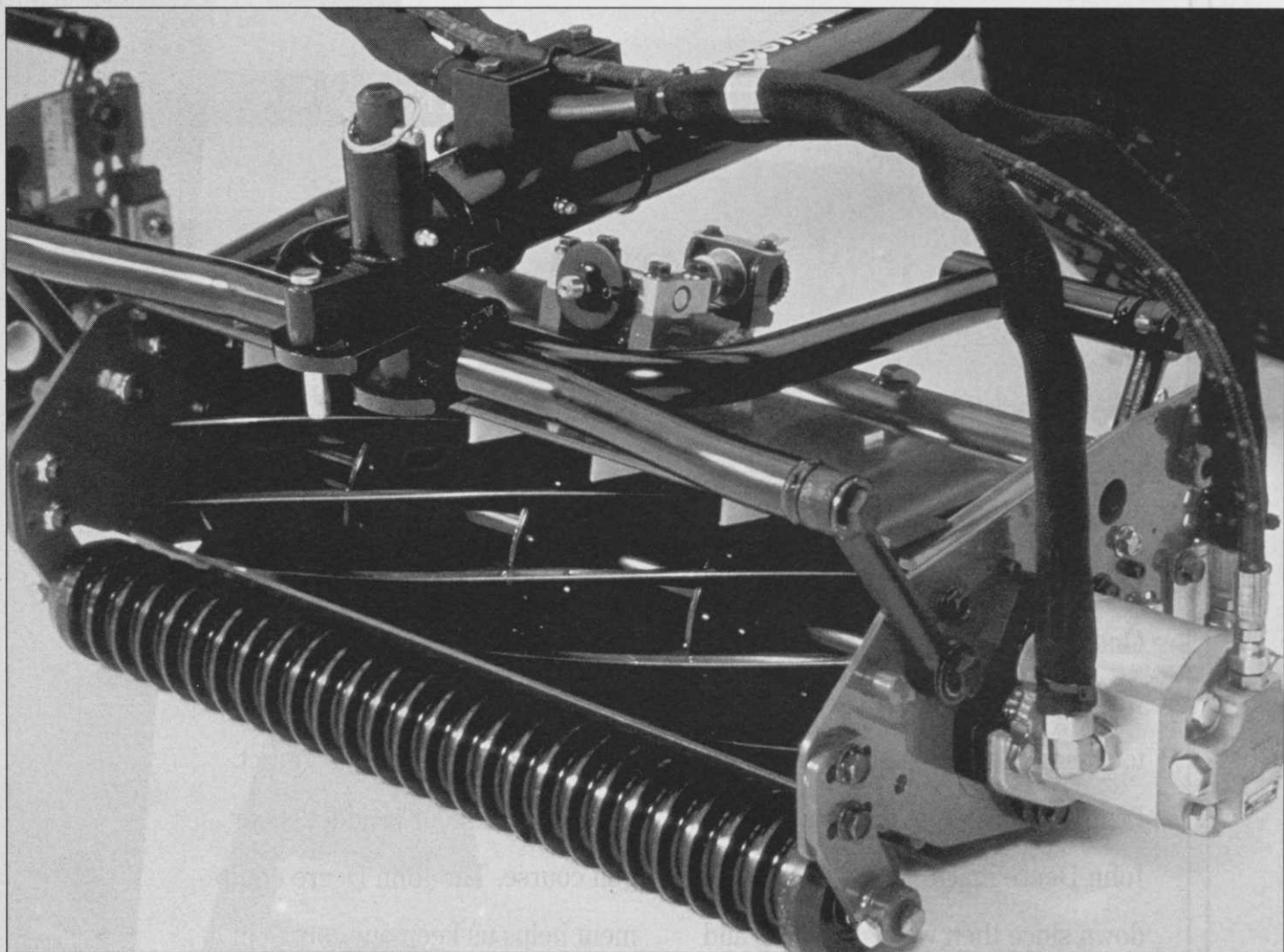
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Higher standards – yet more **SPEED**

Roland Taylor takes a look at developments in grass cutting equipment.

The increasing popularity of golf over the last decade has brought with it many changes, especially in the way courses are now

maintained. The higher the profile any sport receives, the greater the demand for improved facilities.

The UK golfer who watches televised matches from the USA now expects his home course to look as good the one his counterpart plays on across

the pond. For the local club, the nett result is a demand for manicured fairways and neatly trimmed rough.

This metamorphosis has brought about a fast-moving development in grass cutting equipment. While Budding's original principle has changed

very little, a technological revolution has taken place in the design of engines, drives and components. The grass machinery market is highly competitive and today's manufacturers have had to invest in computer-aided-design and control systems throughout



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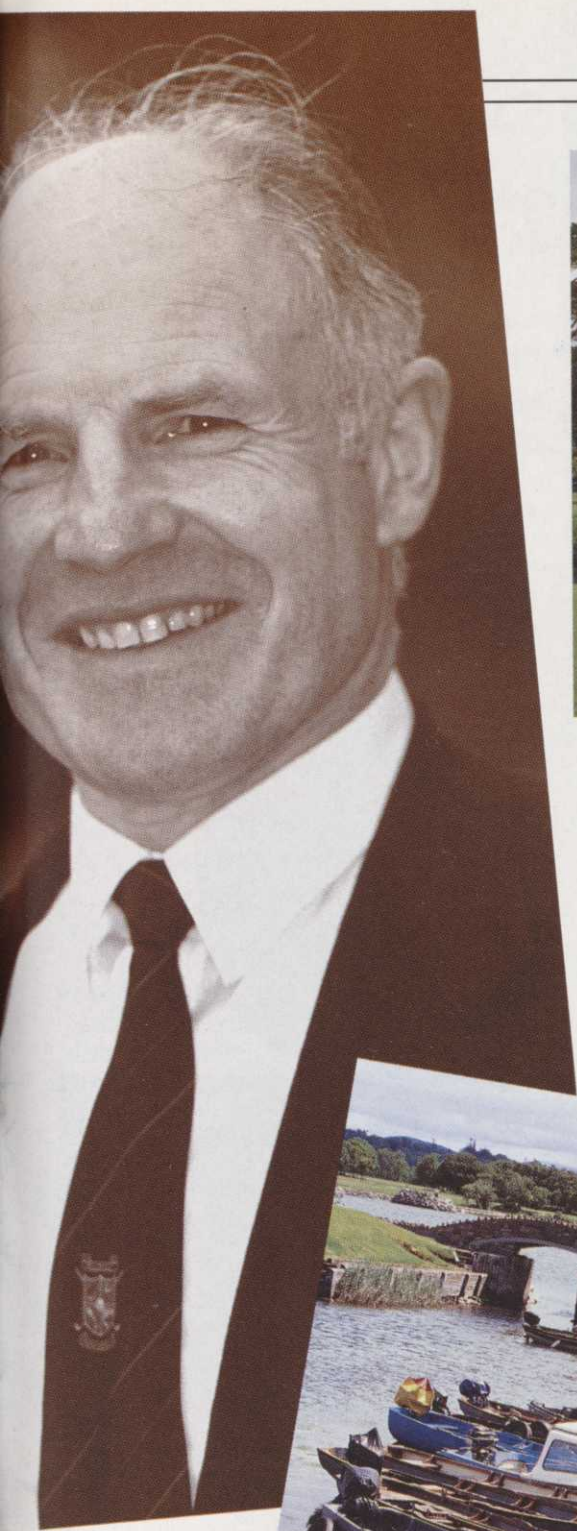
A 2653 Utility Mower is the latest addition to the growing John Deere equipment fleet at Killarney.



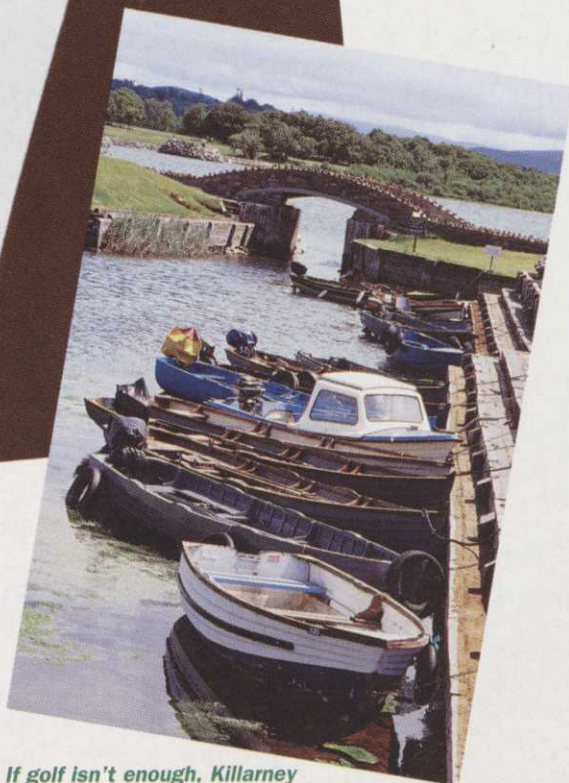
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Nick Faldo won both the 1991 and 1992 Irish Opens held at Killarney.



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- 7 12.7mm universal joint.
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Higher standards – yet more **SPEED**

their factories in order to keep up with the race. The result of all this activity is a range of hi-tech mowers with new concepts and innovations aimed at giving the greenkeeper equipment that will produce the style of course his greens committee expects.

The self-contained grass cutting unit is gradually superseding the tractor on many courses. These state-of-the-art machines incorporate a host of benefits designed to be user friendly and give high output. Electronics and computers now monitor cutting performance; built-in systems diagnose faults; and engine management is on the brink of becoming the norm.

With all the emphasis placed

on higher reel-mowing speeds it is easy to overlook the basics. To produce the optimum performance the reels must be correctly adjusted. If travel speed and cutting reel revolutions are not in the correct ratio the quality of finish is affected. Gauging this accurately with a hydrostatic drive can be difficult, so one inventive company has come up with an answer. Their fairway mower uses a computer system to monitor performance and automatically makes the necessary adjustments. Setting this up is simple – the number of blades in the cylinder plus the height of cut are fed into the control unit. The computer then sets the cylinder revolutions to match the ground

speed and the result is a consistent quality finish. If the operator drives too fast then the standard of cut begins to deteriorate and he or she is warned to reduce speed.

Aiming for high productivity plus a quality finish can put the greenkeeper in a "Catch 22" situation. Fast work rates often results in bouncing mowers. A number of factors contribute to this including length of grass, its moisture content and changes in the terrain. Manufacturers have introduced hydraulics and spring systems to prevent bounce happening, but so far none of these have been found to be the complete answer.

One company, which carried out a comprehensive study of

this problem, has found what is claimed to be the solution. The mowing unit is mounted on a frame which has pivot points at the front and rear. The linkage arms adjust independently to any forces that are placed on either the mower's front or rear rollers. While this system controls the cutting unit's rocking motion it does not counteract any up or down movement of the lift arm. To control this, a dampener that adjusts to any vertical movement has been incorporated into the tractor unit and the mower's lift arms. It compensates for upward movement and keeps the cutting unit on the turf. There is no restriction to downward motion so the mowers can fol-

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Higher standards – yet more **SPEED**

low the ground contours.

This system puts positive downward pressure on the reel units, yet allows them to float free.

Another area that has undergone extensive research is the bedknife angle. This is especially important when mowing in a low setting. If a bedknife's lip is too high or its angle too flat in relation to the ground, then there is a possibility that the unit will ride on it and not the rollers. This can affect the reel adjustment and also cause possible damage to the turf.

The thickness or profile of a bedknife may vary on each mower unit fitted to the same machine, so the finished cut can vary across the full cutting width. For this reason it is

important that bedknives are changed in sets and always bought from the original equipment manufacturer.

In tests carried out by one manufacturer it was shown that a mower was most efficient when the cutting edge of the bedknife rotates up and back, especially when the height of cut is increased. This is achieved by adjusting the cutting height only at the rear of the mower.

Faster operating speeds have made it necessary to take a look at all the possible structural stress levels throughout the machine. Steering systems; tyres; general layouts, driving seats and consoles have also come under the spotlight, and now play a very important

part in modern ergonomic design.

The addition of a cab can make a much more pleasant working environment but greenkeepers appear to be a hardy lot and so these are not seen very much on UK courses.

Rotary mowers

The basic rotary principle has remained similar to the original concept. Pictures of those early rather crude models reveal a machine that sends shivers down the spine. They consisted of a flat deck with a wheel at each corner and something to drive the cutter. There were no guards to restrict the cut grass flow, so these early monsters could mow down virtually anything.

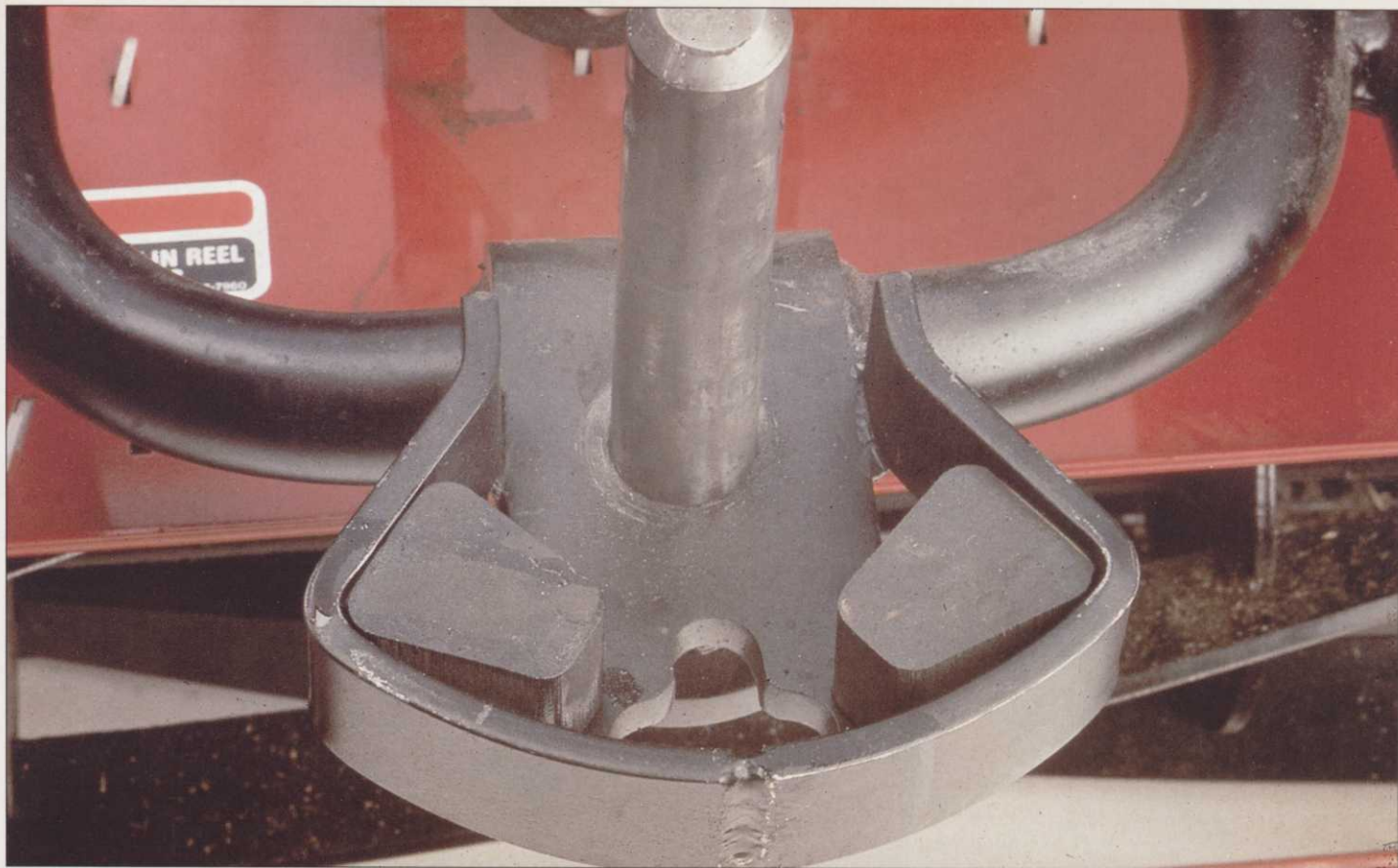
From a safety aspect this could not continue and the introduction of guards bought with it new cutting deck designs. Aerodynamics and airflow were taken into account to ensure the cut material could clear the machine quickly, otherwise blocking and balling-up occurred. That is now all in the past and the modern rotary mower is a far cry from its predecessor.

On the golf course this type of machine is usually used for mowing the semi- and deep rough, or for trimming banks around bunkers and tees.

A rotary blade spins in a horizontal plane so the width of cut on undulating surfaces is restricted due to the possibility of damaging both the

INTRODUCING THE NEW GREENSMaster 3200-D.





The self steering system automatically re-centres the unit

turf and the machine. In the past this has often tended to restrict their use. One manufacturer has introduced a trac-

tor-trailed unit with a series of individual small rotary heads which float independently and closely follow the ground con-

tours. They claim this overcomes scalping.

Following the American trend, recycling is becoming

very much in vogue. Not surprisingly, therefore, recycling and mulching mowers are gaining in popularity. This sys-

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Higher standards – yet more **SPEED**

tem of grass cutting is being heralded as the way forward, but the idea is far from new. On fairways and sports areas in this country we have been recycling our grass clippings since the first gang mowers were introduced well over a hundred years ago!

There has always been criticism that the rotary mower when used without a collector, leaves the cut grass too long. The over all appearance is unsightly and clippings take a long time to disperse. For over three decades small mulching systems have been available to eliminate this problem, but it is only in the last two years that there has been any significant development. With the mulching

principal, grass clippings are retained inside the cutting deck and chopped into fine particles before being blown back into the turf.

Research has shown that there are a number of environmental advantages in using this system. Nitrogen and water contained in the grass are returned to the turf to provide nutrients and moisture. For it to be effective the mown grass has to be left fairly long which is ideal for the rough.

Greenkeepers are beginning to recognise the benefits of out-front rotaries with recycling decks and they can now be found in an increasing number of courses.

When walking round BTME

this year the visitor could not fail to see the wide range of grass mowing equipment that is available. In fact, today's Course Managers and greenkeepers are spoilt for choice. Interestingly, a closer inspection often reveals that most machines have the same engine, hydraulic system and general layout. The only difference between these is all those extra features, so its worth finding out exactly what these are before making a final decision. With ride-on mower technology advancing a cracking pace you are likely to discover additions that will make your job easier and produce the high standards of finish you are now being asked to attain. Time spent

thoroughly investigating just what is now being offered will put you at the forefront of today's technology and pay dividends in the long run.

THE ONE THING WHICH WOULD MAKE THE JOB SO MUCH EASIER IS



"If the committee had an endless bank account."

– Derek McJannet,
Sherwood Forest GC

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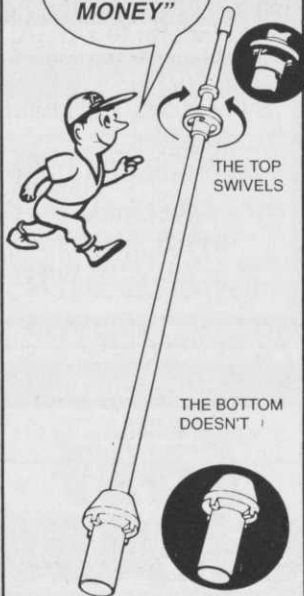


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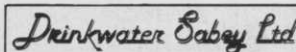
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Mr M Ramsay, Stockwood Vale Golf Club, Stockwood Lane, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 2ER

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**The Secretary, Goodwood Golf Club Ltd., Goodwood,
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**Chairman of Green, Lee Park Golf Club Ltd,
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**The Secretary, Tredegar Park Golf Club,
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**The Secretary, Dean Wood Golf Club, Lafford Lane,
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M99

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No way to treat valuable staff

I became interested in greenkeeping late in life – I was serving Queen and country at the time but I became so interested that I used to work part-time to learn as much as I could. Being an Associate Member of BIGGA at that time I read in *Greenkeeper International* that education was the way forward for greenkeepers so prior to leaving the Armed Forces I took and passed City and Guilds Phase 2 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management plus PA1 and PA2A to go with the experience and knowledge I had gained.

On returning to "Civvy Street" I worked as an Assistant Greenkeeper at a golf club for almost two years and, despite several requests was never given proper written terms and conditions of employment. The golf club ran into financial difficulties and had to be sold, and, as I understand it, all greenstaff had to be made redundant before buyers would complete the purchase. Course Maintenance was then contracted out to the owner of another club

who would interview the existing greenstaff for the vacancies that now existed, plus I found out later, outside applicants. On the day of the interviews I was unfortunately sick and sent my apologies and to say that I would contact them when I recovered. I rang to arrange a new date for the following week to be told that they had selected the personnel required and that an interview would be a waste of time for both parties! Is this what is known as Equal Opportunities?

I am actively seeking employment in greenkeeping but can't help wondering if it is worth it? From my experience the wages offered are below BIGGA's recommendations, terms and conditions aren't offered as per the article on July's *Greenkeeper International* and if people are treated as I have been how do clubs expect to get the best from staff?

Surely golf clubs have a duty to give their members the best course conditions possible and they should realise that they will

only achieve this by employing dedicated qualified, well treated, happy staff. Mine may be a "one off" case but I'm curious to know if any other members have experienced similar problems or treatment.

Michael Kimber, Oundle, Peterborough

Many thanks

Through the pages of your magazine I would like to thank all those concerned who have helped and supported me over the past two years as Chairman of the Scottish Region and the four years I have served on the Board of Management.

Although perhaps it may be inappropriate to mention some people in particular and not others, special thanks must go to my wife, Pauline, and my family who have been more than understanding with all the time it has taken up. Also my employers, St Andrews Links Trust and Management for their encouragement, Elliott Small in the Scottish Region and Neil Thomas and all the staff at Aldwark.

The list is endless, there are so many others throughout BIGGA, too numerous to mention individually but I offer my sincere thanks for all they have done and their friendship.

Some of the time has been hard work and difficult but this was more than compensated for by the good times I've had and friends I have made, things I hope to continue at many different events in the future as our Association goes from strength to strength.

Gordon Moir, St Andrews

A great honour

May I through you express my sincere thanks to all concerned who made my trip to the GCSAA conference in Orlando, such a memorable one.

I was absolutely delighted when my husband Mike won the 1995 Miracle Professional Greenkeeper of the Year Award. Having seen his total dedication to his profession, I felt at last he had been suitably rewarded for all his efforts.

I did begin to wonder as to whether I personally would have preferred for him to have been second or third in the competition when I realised that these

prizes were for two people whereas the first prize was, in fact, just for Mike! I needn't have worried though as The Tytherington Club which is owned by Club Partners International where Mike is Course Manager decided to reward Mike's efforts by sending me on the trip to Orlando. To them I am eternally grateful.

I feel extremely privileged to have been a part of the conference in Orlando as it has given me a far greater insight into the greenkeeping profession.

I must commend the BIGGA team Neil Thomas, John Pemberton and Sami Collins who were all great ambassadors for British greenkeeping and who worked extremely hard throughout. Also to the BIGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver and not forgetting last year's Chairman Barry Heaney and his charming wife Joan. Barry is a great inspiration to us all.

There were so many other people who made the trip a huge success including Nick Bissett, Senior Lecturer at Askham Bryan College; Craig and Mhari Stewart from Germany; Mr and Mrs Bott, from Portugal; Lawrence Pithie and Mark from the American Golf Corp; Peter Todd, the London Club; James Braithwaite, who deservedly is the current Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year and not forgetting BIGGA's great supporting gentleman Jim Fry.

My thanks to each and every one of you and to Miracle Professional for supporting this excellent award and to the Tytherington Club without whom it would not have been possible to share in Mike's success. This was a trip of a lifetime which I shall never forget.

Karen Goodhind, Macclesfield, Cheshire

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