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*International*



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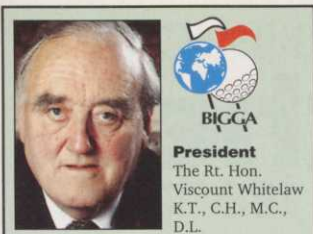


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■ The next edition of  
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# GREENKEEPER

*International*

**MAY 1996**

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# GREENKEEPER

*International*

is the official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

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Tel: 01909 568533, fax: 01909 568206

**Greenkeeper International: winner of Certificate of Merit in Magazine of the Year category, Editing for Industry Awards 1994 and 1995**

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Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £34 per year, Europe and Eire £44. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN 0961 - 6977

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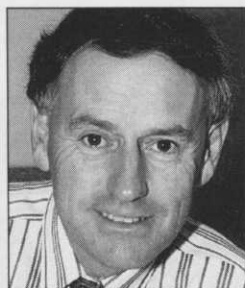


# A coming together

**H**istory will surely record that 30 March 1996 was an important day for European Greenkeeping. For this was the cold and snowy day in Amsterdam when 16 representatives of greenkeeping associations throughout Europe sat down at the Vlijmen Headquarters of Mommersteeg to discuss the formation of a European Greenkeeping Association. From the meeting emerged the "Federation of European Golf Greenkeeping Associations" or FEGGA as it will inevitably come to be known. While the concept of such a body had long been discussed by greenkeeper leaders throughout Europe, it was during 1995 that the pace quickened and a number of discussions took place. During the BTME in January, the International Forum determined that the time had come to call a formal meeting of interested parties and this resulted in ten countries being represented in Amsterdam with a further six declaring their support by proxy. So it came about that FEGGA was established from a strong base of sixteen countries' support.

Why then has this Federation been deemed necessary? The underlying reason is quite clear and very simple – within the European Community greenkeepers were perceived as being unable to speak with one voice and the reluctance to invite greenkeeper participation in environmental discussions within the European Golf Association's Ecology Unit based in Brussels highlighted the need for European greenkeeping associations to come together. During the Amsterdam meeting the enthusiasm for the new Federation was marked as delegates could envisage the long term benefits for greenkeepers. The environment is a key area for consideration and so too is education and here the establishment of common standards throughout Europe must be the ultimate aim. There can be little doubt, also, that FEGGA will be able to assist those greenkeeping associations still in their infancy to flourish and grow. There is much that can be achieved and I sense that the commitment for FEGGA to succeed is very much in evidence.

Initially there is much work to be done in order for FEGGA to be



## BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

established and accepted within the game of golf. It has been agreed that FEGGA will not become a bureaucratic body while administration will be jointly shared by BIGGA and the Swedish Greenkeepers Association. The postal address will be that of the SGA. An Interim Board of Directors has been appointed which will take the Federation forward to its first AGM which will be held during BTME '97 in Harrogate. After that it is planned to take the AGM to other European countries. Meetings of the Board of Directors will similarly rotate within Europe and it is planned to initially hold two meetings of the Board before the AGM. These will essentially be planning meetings enabling a structure including organisational arrangements, statutes and financing proposals to be presented to the AGM during the BTME. Five representatives of Associations have been elected to the Interim Board and these are:

Dean Cleaver – BIGGA – Chairman, Per -Olof Ljung – SGA- Vice Chairman, Claus Detlef Ratjen – Greenkeepers Association of Germany, Roland Favrat – Spanish Greenkeepers Association, Elise Jarvinen – Finnish Greenkeepers Association.

Elections to the Board of Directors will then take place at the AGM and it is envisaged that Board Members will serve for a minimum period of two years. It is appropriate to record the other delegates present at the meeting who were: Etienne Bruier and Rudy Duyck – Greenkeepers Association of Belgium, Rob Spruit and Gerard Koster – Dutch Greenkeepers Association, Patrick Guinan – Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland, Stal Bo and Fridtjof Myhre – Norwegian Greenkeepers Association, Gilbert Ayer – Swiss Greenkeepers Association, Frederick ten Hage – Holland – BIGGA member, Tommy Lindelof – Chief Executive – SGA, Neil Thomas – Executive Director – BIGGA.

The other countries to indicate their support for FEGGA were France, Denmark, Estonia, Austria, Northern Ireland and Italy. It should be pointed out that the new body is not one which an individual greenkeeper can join. It will represent associations rather than individuals. As such it will be for individual greenkeepers to make their views and suggestions relating to FEGGA known to their own Associations who will then ensure that appropriate consideration is given by

the Board of Directors to the worthwhile proposals of individuals. One matter receiving immediate consideration is that of a logo for the new body and any suggestions in this regard will be welcomed and can be forwarded to BIGGA Headquarters.

So FEGGA has finally come about. Many will argue that it is long overdue. This may well be so but until recent years communication between greenkeepers and greenkeeping associations within Europe has not been a strong point. Now those difficulties are being overcome and the profession is set to speak with a strong voice within the EEC's corridors of power as well as within the European golf community. Few will doubt the necessity for this strong voice if greenkeepers are to be key players in setting standards within the game and the profession. Within the EEC only a strong voice will gain access to the funding so necessary to advance the profession. No one should pretend that an easy road lies ahead but a significant start has been made and the future can be viewed optimistically.

Finally a big thank you to John Akers, Commercial Manager for Mommersteeg for his assistance in arranging the inaugural meeting and the use of the excellent facilities at the company's Vlijmen Headquarters. Here is yet another example of BIGGA's partnership with a Golden Key supporter working for the benefit of greenkeepers and the profession.

● Pictured: FEGGA delegates.





## Toro quality recognised at highest level

Toro has been awarded the prestigious ISO 9000 certification for international quality consistency at its US manufacturing plant in Wisconsin. It is the first commercial turfcare equipment manufacturer to receive the designation.

"It's long been Toro's practice to provide our customers with innovative quality turf products that provide superior long-term value," said Graham Dale, Managing Director of Toro distributors, Lely UK.

"This accomplishment is further evidence of Toro's commitment to market leadership, continuous product improvement and meeting our customers' needs."

A company whose processes meet the rigorous ISO standards is considered more capable of manufacturing products to a level of consistency and quality respected around the world.

# NEWS

## New man joins IOG at 'crucial time'

The Institute of Groundsmanship has appointed Patrick Gosset as its new Chief Executive.

Mr Gosset, 50, joins the IOG from portable accommodation hire company Premier Transline where he was Managing Director.

"I am joining the Institute of Groundsmanship at a crucial time in its development across a broad spectrum of sport and leisure activities," said Mr Gosset.

"I recognise that as a member organisation we must provide - and continue to develop



- a package of really worthwhile benefits and to market ourselves professionally so that those involved in our ever widening range of interests will recognise the value of membership."

Patrick Gosset lives in Oxfordshire and lists cricket and rowing among his sporting interests.

## Does BIGGA need an Essex Section?

Over recent months there has been a great deal of debate about the need for an Essex Section of BIGGA.

It has been proposed that an Essex Section be formed as part of the South East Region and that the revised East Anglia Section be transferred from the South East to the Midlands Region. The proposal has been made purely on the number of current and potential members within geographical boundaries and the benefits of ease of access to Section events that the changes would produce.

A general meeting of interested members has been arranged for Thursday, June 27 at 7pm at Ravenwood Hall, Hotel, Rougham, approximately four miles east of Bury St Edmunds, off the A14.

The proposal is only viable with sufficient support and members interested in learning more or in having their opinions heard are urged to attend. If the proposal is adopted then there may be vacancies for Section Committee members for both East Anglia and Essex.

Think about the proposed change and talk to your colleagues.

How will it affect you?

Come to the meeting and have a say in how your Association is organised.

# Lord Whitelaw opens complex

The new Eden Greenkeeping Centre at St Andrews was opened officially by BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw.

A former Captain of the R&A, Viscount Whitelaw said how pleased he was to see this investment in first class greenkeeping facilities and that the high standards set by the Eden complex reflected the growing professionalism of greenkeeping. He then unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion.

The Centre provides accommodation for greenkeepers, machinery and materials required for the Eden, Straththyrum and Balgove Courses and the Golf Practice Centre. It also houses the Course Rangers and orderlies and their equipment. It has an overall floor area of 12,220 square feet and cost around £500,000 to complete.

Links Trust Chairman, John



Lindesay-Bethune, said that the new complex was the first physical sign of the Trust's heavy investment in its greenkeeping operations.

"The good condition of the courses is vital to providing golfers with enjoyable experiences and this facility will help

our greenkeepers to achieve that aim," he said.

Mr Lindesay-Bethune singled out the R&A for special praise for its contribution of a £1 million loan towards the construction costs of both the Eden Centre and the Jubilee Sheds, on which construction is about to start.

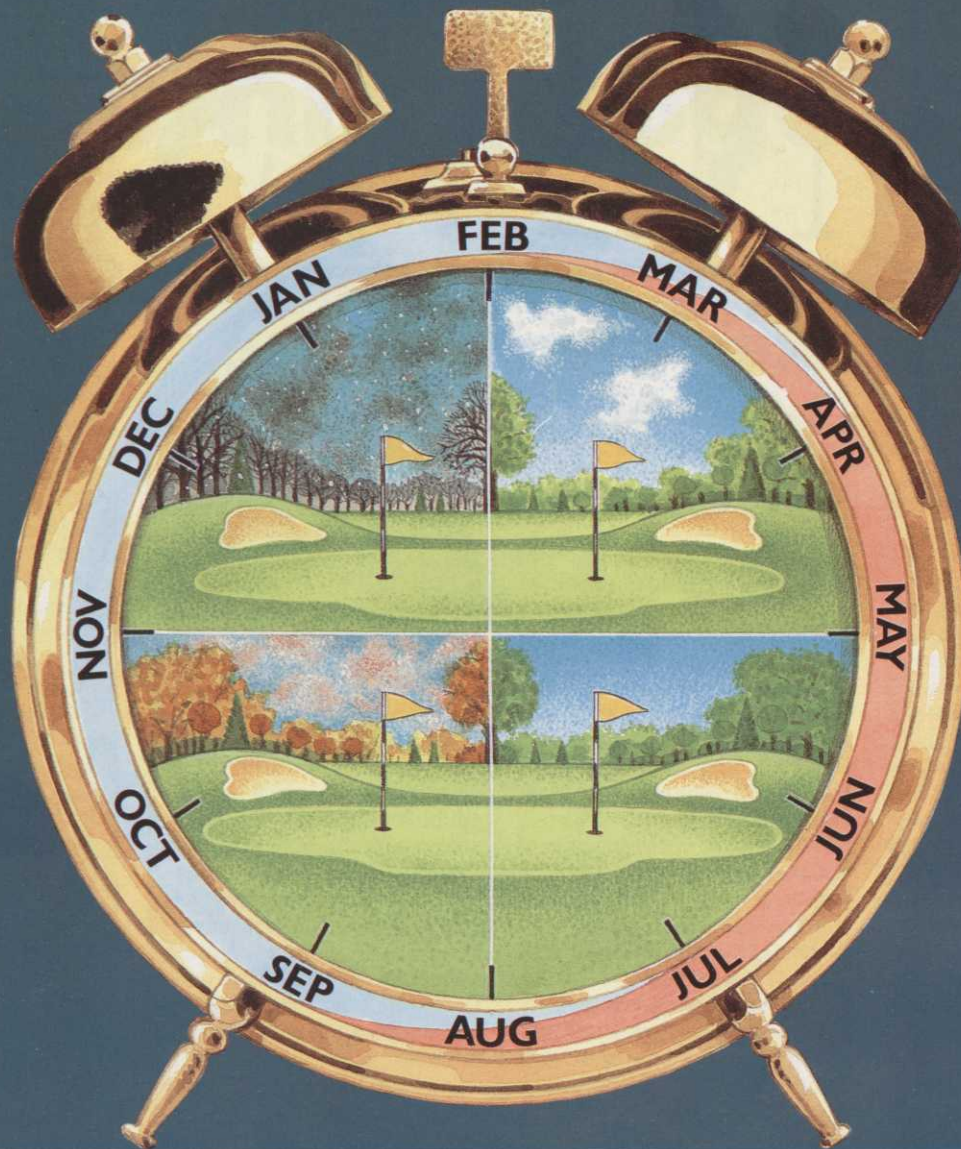
## THE ONE JOB I DO WHICH GIVES ME MOST SATISFACTION IS:



"Walking down the 18th fairway at the end of the Volvo PGA Championship after the last putt has gone down thinking, 'Thank God it's over.'"

Graham Matheson,  
The Wentworth Club





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## Golf course wildlife advisor appointed

Joint funding between the Scottish Golf Union, the R & A and Scottish Natural Heritage has resulted in Scotland becoming the first country in Europe to appoint a Golf Course Wildlife Advisor.

Jonathan Smith, 25, pictured above, was recently employed by the Duke of Buccleuch on his Bowhill Estate and took up the advisory position on 29 April. Initially he will be based in

Glasgow in premises provided by the Strathclyde Greenbelt Company.

"We see this appointment as a positive step to integrating golf courses into the environment," said Ian Hume, Secretary of the SGU. "We have been considering this move for some time and are now pleased to be able to offer advice to new and existing golf courses on the positive aspects of working in harmony with the landscape and

its wildlife in line with current conservation policies."

Karen Morrison, Urban Conservation Officer with the Scottish Natural Heritage said, "Golf Courses are an important element of Scotland's natural heritage. We hope that this initiative will make people more aware of the positive contribution their course can make to the environment, if it is managed in sympathy with its surroundings."

## Consultant joins firm



Jason Sinden has joined Eamonn Wall & Co as an associate consultant. Jason has an Honours degree from

Aberdeen University in Forest Management as well as a range of practical experience. His duties will include site surveys, design, planning and management with specialist duties in mensuration, contract tendering and supervision.

"Although the production of timber is a secondary consideration on golf courses, the opportunity should not be missed to attain a return from assets which already exist. The good silvicultural practices which are required to achieve a suitable commercial crop (a long, knot free stem) are conducive to the needs of the golf course. The branch free stem allows play from underneath and facilitates turf management," explained Jason.

In the last three years Eamonn Wall and Co has been responsible for planting close to half a million trees on golf courses.



## Thoughts while on the seventh

by Roy T.G. Hudson, First Assistant at The Lambourne Club

If it's not Fusarium, it's bloody Poa, It's about time we backlapped that mower!

Cut the greens and tee surrounds, Collect the balls from the practice ground.

Slit, scarify, perhaps hollow tine? When was the deadline?...Next Tuesday...fine!

Tournaments, medals...What? Not another one!

C.O.S.H.H. assessment forms, "Christ, that'll be fun!"

Heath and Safety, locks, security,

Training for staff...finish at three! Members suggesting greener greens with softer grass?

"As if pressure to play in frosty mornings wasn't enough!"

Holes to be changed, Repts to call, "Hell!...Where'd that come from? "Hey, next time mate, try calling Fore!"

Fine tomorrow, maybe frost, Damn!...Budget meeting with the boss.

But thinking, as I looked out from the 7th, towards the clubhouse, "Job wise...I just wouldn't give a four XXX for anything else!"

## HAYTER CHALLENGE

### Emotions run high



Flying the flag: Competitors at Oak Manor

The Devon and Cornwall Section Qualifier was an emotional occasion with the honouring of the host club's Course Manager, Gordon Child who retired last month. Gordon, the South West and South Wales Regional Administrator was presented with a television set from the Section to mark the occasion.

Qualifiers for the Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge to be held at Salisbury GC on Wednesday June 12 are:

0-9. G. Tamblyn, J. Mitchell, A. Parker, T. Gooch, C. Rawlings.

10-18. T. Farkins, M. Child, E. Barber, M. Parrish, W. Potter.

19-28. T. Blackburn, A. James, S. Getson, Miss L. Breyley, C. Pine.

The winners in each category were presented with a silver salver by Mike Lincoln-Smith of Hayter.

The South West Hayter Qualifier was played at the excellent Oak Manor GC, near Taunton.

A tough test (speaking from personal experience - Ed) Oak Manor was in magnificent condition thanks to the work of Nigel Pring and his team. Nigel also led the way in the competition as well posting a best gross score of 72.

Overall winner was Craig Fudge of Tracey Park who scored a fine nett 66.

Regional Final Qualifiers are:

0-9. C. Fudge, N. Pring, M. Fawcett, P. Godwin, C. Tozer. 10-18. A. Turner, J. Williams, D. Smith, A. Knight, O. Stevenson.

19-28. C. Sealey, T. Dabenett, J. Barr, S. Mitchell, P. Cox.



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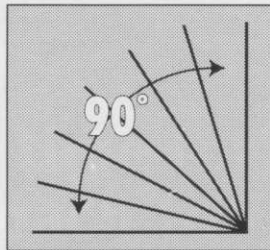
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GI.5.96



## Education Update

BY KEN  
RICHARDSON

# Get your name down now for some top titles

**T**his month sees the deadlines for entry to two of BIGGA's major competitions, ie the Miracle Premier Greenkeeper of the Year and the Toro/Lely/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year, so make sure that your entry has been submitted by the closing date.

### Miracle Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

The race to find the 1996 Miracle Premier Greenkeeper of the Year is hotting up. You still have time to nominate your choice, however, as entries need to be at HQ by 31 May, you need to make sure that your nomination is in the post. Does your Head Greenkeeper deserve to be recognised for his efforts? Does your greenkeeping team want to win £500? Do you want to visit the GCSAA show in Las Vegas in February 1997 for free? If the answer to any of the above is yes then get your nomination in TODAY by filling in the pre-paid card in the magazine, filling in an official entry form or by telephoning me on 01347 838581. Course visits, by a BIGGA regional representative and by a previous Master Greenkeeper finalist will take place throughout the Summer and the National Final will take place at Aldwark Manor on 1/2 December.

agers but are for all greenkeepers looking to improve their supervisory skills and become the course managers of tomorrow. Plans are well advanced for the next series of courses to take place in the Autumn of 1996 and Spring of 1997, in all five BIGGA regions and in Eire. By popular request, further Essential Management Skills courses will be held in each region and new for this year will be two day courses in Budgeting and Finance for Greenkeepers and Golf Course Health and Safety Management. All courses will, again, be heavily subsidised by the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, allowing the cost of courses to be kept to a minimum. Further details and an application form will appear in June's edition of Greenkeeper International. Make sure that you join the two hundred greenkeepers already trained this year by applying early.

### Health and Safety Training

BIGGA can arrange Pesticide Training Courses and First Aid Training Courses in your region or even at your golf club. If you or any of your staff need to be trained or need refresher training then contact me at HQ. Minimum course numbers need to be six.

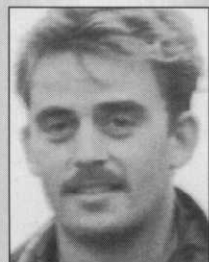
### TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year

Entries for this competition need to be at Aldwark Manor by 31 May 1996. Regional judging will take place during the week commencing 2 September with the National Final taking place on 13/14 October at Aldwark Manor.

### Regional Supervisory Management Training

These courses are not just for head greenkeepers/course man-

**THE ONE JOB I DO WHICH GIVES ME MOST SATISFACTION IS:**



"Hand cutting greens"  
Adrian Porter, Greatham Valley GC



# New man takes over the helm at Kubota

Kubota's new Director of Tractor and Grass Machinery, Rene Orban, highlighted the back-up customer care service as the area in which he hopes to make his mark.

Speaking at a briefing called to formally announce his appointment, Rene, previously Jacobsen's Managing Director European Operations, said: "Anyone who ever worked with me will tell you parts and service and the back-up customer care service are things which are very dear to my heart. This is where I will start."

"This is no criticism of the current situation but the management team and I will be looking at new ways of making Kubota even more efficient in this area," said Rene.

He also outlined the strengths his new employer had in the industry.

"As well as our dominant position in the UK market we have in Kubota Corporation at our fingertips the resources of a truly global player with 18 factories in Japan

and five factories overseas employing over 20,000 people worldwide.

"Kubota is one of the world's biggest and most innovative manufacturers of diesel engines and it is this which gives us our cutting edge."

He also paid tribute to the man he is replacing.

"Behind Kubota's success is a team which was led by Brian Hurlley. Under his leadership Kubota has achieved its brand leadership. Brian will, I am sure, be remembered with great admiration and considerable fondness. He has worked hard and with great dedication to make Kubota a formidable force to reckon with. He has always been a person respected and liked by all his competitors."

Brian Hurlley, who was also at the briefing and who retires in June, explained that it was Rene's proven ability to work closely with Japanese colleagues which was one reason Rene was singled out as the man for the job.



Rene Orban, right, Kubota's new Director of Tractor & Grass Machinery takes over his new role from Brian Hurlley who is retiring

## Anniversary conference

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects will mark its 25th anniversary by holding its 1996 International Conference at The Wentworth Club on October 2-4.

Entitled "A Celebration of Golf Course Design" the Conference will feature contributions from America, the Continent as well as from British Architects during the day long proceedings on October 3.

A workshop on golf green design and construction will be held on the morning of October 4 and the conference will be preceded by the Barenbrug Golf Architects' Trophy and the Silver Jubilee Dinner.

## Dealer support

Sports Ground Irrigation Co has appointed Michael Riley as dealer support representative to cover the North of England. He will promote the company's range of sprinklers, valves pH system and controllers through the dealer network.

■ Iain Richardson has rejoined Patissons and will be covering the South West part of the country. He met up with many of his old friends at Westurf at the beginning of May.



■ Etesia has appointed Spencer Southall as After Sales Manager based at the company's

headquarters in Warwick.

Spencer has worked as Etesia's Demonstrator for two years and has a full working knowledge of the product range.

"We appreciate the importance of providing dealers and their customers with full after sales support in the field."

"It is vital that technical queries are dealt with speedily and efficiently, especially in the height of the grass cutting season," said Robin Taylor, Sales Manager.

## Expansion sees Tony in Singapore



Tony Doe has been appointed Technical Sales Manager - Pacific Rim, by Ransomes. Previously Area Manager for the south of England, Tony will be supporting Ian Mitchell, Ransomes' Area Manager - Pacific Rim, and the company's distributors located throughout the Pacific Rim and Australasia region.

Working from the Ransomes office in Singapore, Tony's brief is to provide technical, service and operational support to distributors and end-users of Ransome, Cushman and Ryan equipment being used to maintain golf courses, recreation and leisure facilities, landscaped grounds and other fine turf areas.

"This appointment is part of a planned expansion programme, building on the successes we have

had already in this important part of the world," commented John Wilson, Ransomes International Sales Manager.

"Tony's presence in the region will provide additional support for Ian Mitchell and strengthen Ransomes technical back-up service to our distributors and customers."

THE ONE JOB I DO WHICH GIVES ME MOST SATISFACTION IS:



"Cutting difficult pin positions for the weekend medal"  
Kevin Green, Filton GC





Gavin Robson: "I was devastated when I first saw the damage that was being done"

# BOAY OF THE MADLINE



**June the 21st last year is a date engraved on the memory of Gavin Robson. He relives the nightmare with Scott MacCallum**

It is the sort of thing which would have normally calm, rational men waking in the middle of the night, drowned in chilly perspiration and voluntarily climbing into the straitjacket every greenkeeper keeps under his bed for such eventualities.

For Gavin Robson, however, this was not a recurring nightmare of an irrational greenkeeping fear – like reversing a triplex into the Captain's new car – but a living, painful reality and it was happening before his eyes on a bright summer's day at Lingdale Golf Club, near Leicester.

Like most horror stories the terror arrived unexpectedly but, unlike most horror stories, this one had a happy ending... thanks to one of the main characters – not a Freddie Kruger but a Barry Cooper.

Since it was built Lingdale, a beautifully located members' club, had hidden an awful secret. It held water, lots of it. So much that





# MOLEPLOUGH

during each of the winters of '94 and '95 the course had been closed for 57 days because it was so wet. The members were restless. They wanted to play golf but the course just wouldn't drain and nothing could be done...until the arrival of the VAT money that is.

"We got £84,000 and the club held a special AGM to discuss where the money should go. It was decided the club should keep it and use it for a drainage system and an irrigation system," recalls Gavin, of the time leading up to his private hell.

"We decided on Barry Cooper and he came in and took a bore hole to test how wet the ground was. Within half an hour of digging a hole it was full of water. We left it open for weeks and the water level did not drop at all. The drainage work was to cost £44,000.

A total of 15,000 yards of drainage had to be put into the course but because of the specific nature of the problems at Lingdale a technique never before employed on a playing golf course was required.

"We have clay silt and it causes compaction and is also built on a quarry so the amount of

stone we have means a normal trenching machine couldn't go through the ground and the Moleplough was the quickest and easiest way of doing it. When the original plans were discussed we didn't know we were going to face this problem," said Gavin, who has been at Lingdale for eight years.

## 'I thought we would never get the ground back down to level again'

The disc on the Moleplough was eight feet long and went eight feet down and they had to pull the pipes into the ground and normally when the job is done on a new course it is done in sequence so the drainage goes in then the top soil is put down.

Which brings us to that fateful day – Wednesday June 21 – last year when Gavin watched the work begin.

"They arrived about 10 o'clock and after they set up all the machines I watched them pull the first drain in around 1.

What happened then will live with Gavin for the rest of his life as he saw his entire green-keeping career flash before his eyes.

"I was devastated when I first saw the damage that was being done," explained Gavin as he thinks back.

"The heave was six feet across and two and a half feet high. I walked down the fairway and I thought we had two ditches at one stage it was so bad. My worst estimate was a heave of around seven to eight inches, perhaps a foot at most.

"It was heartbreaking to see the course being taken apart and knowing that there was 15,000 yards of drainage piping to go in," said Gavin (29).

"I thought we would never get the ground back down to level again," he explained. As situations for a Head Greenkeeper at a members' club to be in it was pretty bleak and Gavin would have been forgiven for barricading himself into his office until it was safe to come out and face the members again.



# DAY OF THE MOLEPLOUGH



Now you can hardly see the join: After the work the heave has gone and the fairway is returning to normal

It says much for the way in which the job was tackled and the acceptance of the Lingdale membership that you can't make an omelette without cracking eggs that the story does have a happy ending.

One of the major advantages Gavin had was that the club decided to appoint one of the members, Eric Taylor, as Project Manager and that he rather than Gavin and the then Chairman of Green, would liaise with the contractors and be the link between the members and the work.

"First thing in the morning we would have a site meeting and it would be agreed which holes were going to be worked on. Then we would put that information on a blackboard for the members and put down the necessary temporary tee mats and greens.

"The course was never closed during the work and it was all completed within four weeks and not the six weeks which was originally estimated. When the men were working we just let the members continue playing and no-one interfered with the golfers although there was a lot of disturbance," recalls Gavin.

"Barry Cooper had four men here constantly and they were very quick and Barry came up every Monday for a site meeting and to see the progress and again on the Friday to go over the work which had been done."

As soon as the drains went in the ground was rotavated and two weeks later it was rolled.

"The problem then was that all the stones began coming up to the surface from the heave and we had to get a stone picker in

from Sisis. It picked all the fairways in a week and we seeded straight after," said Gavin.

To compound the problems the drought was causing major problems to the course.

"Barry lent me a bouser and we were pumping water on to the course but we were stopped by the National Rivers Authority in August – the hottest time of the year and we had no water for two weeks. There was nothing left of the tees and greens were burnt up and there were only a few green places to put the hole. We lost nine greens altogether but they have come back."

The week Barry Cooper finished, ILS Irrigation came in to install the Watermation irrigation system on the tees and greens on the clubhouse side of the course – a road splits the course into two and the other side is due to have the same work done when the money becomes available.

"I would do nothing differently the next time – the same system will be used but it won't be so much of a shock next time. Barry Cooper is a superb contractor, neat, tidy and his work was excellent.

"The members have put up with a hell of a lot but they should have 57 more days in the winter to play golf but it has been said to me that I can never shut the course again now that they've spent all this money!"

The good news is that the heave shrank and the fairways returned to their correct state, drainage is now working at 100% and the fairways are the driest they have ever been and the members can see they've got their money's worth.

"It's definitely not a summer I would wish to repeat and I wouldn't wish what happened to me on any greenkeeper but the club was very supportive and I've now got a new Chairman of Green – Eric Taylor who was the Project Manager and we have the full backing of the management."

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# Supaturf success backed by a great name

**Scott MacCallum meets the Palmers who have guided Supaturf to the Top**

In the world of golf there are few names which stir the blood in quite the way Palmer does. It is a name revered throughout the game, conjuring up images of spectacular, swashbuckling success to set beside last gasp and unexpected defeats. It is perhaps the most loved name in 20th century golf.

It is also the name shared by the family who, since the early 60s, has masterminded the success of Supaturf Sports & Amenity Products a company which like Arnie has enjoyed a great deal of success and, also like Arnie, has had to recover from the the odd disappointment.

Supaturf was bought by David Palmer, now Chairman, in 1963, when it was no more than a one man company owned by Mervin Roost and his wife Dorothy and based near Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire.

"I was selling for our parent company, George A. Palmer Ltd," recalls David, "and asked if we could make the fertiliser for Supaturf and so we began making Supaturf fertiliser in 1957."

A couple of years later David asked Mervin Roost if he would sell the company and was given first refusal.

"He phoned me up one Sunday and asked if I still wanted to buy, adding that the deal would have to be done by the following Wednesday," said David.

"An accountant friend, Mr John Jee, and I went over the books and we bought Supaturf on the Tuesday.

"It was a very small business indeed. You could put the entire stock on the back of an eight



tonne lorry and when we took the stock out of the garage where it was stored the back wall fell over because it had been supported by the stock," remembers David.

So Supaturf became a wholly owned subsidiary of George A. Palmer Ltd.

Marcus Palmer, the Managing Director of Supaturf, and the fourth generation of Palmers in the business fills in the details of George A. Palmer.



David, Marcus and Richard Palmer pose in front of a portrait of George A. Palmer

"George A. Palmer lived about two miles from where Supaturf is now situated. He was a farmer with great interest in livestock and was a pioneer in agriculture. He then founded the company George A. Palmer Ltd."

His sons ran the company after the First World War and expanded the business. In 1940 the company bought four acres of land in Peterborough and manufacturing of all company products was carried out there, and the company continued to expand after the Second World War. David Palmer joined the company in 1947 after service in the army and was mainly involved in a sales capacity. He was always keen on sport, rugby union being the favourite and played for Coventry and Hinckley as a centre. All the Palmers were keen on sport.

"I was keen on buying Supaturf because I felt calling on sports clubs was much more interesting

than calling on farmers," joked David. The next move was to expand Supaturf and we increased our sales force to 14 by 1988 and became a major force in the industry. In 1988 things took a turn for the worse and much of the main business was sold, leaving Supaturf and its parent company, George A. Palmer Ltd. The decision was taken in the family kitchen as to which direction the company should now take and it was decided to reduce the product range and concentrate on the best products. Development of new products has been a major part of the policy of the company since 1988.

The new vibrant Supaturf in the 1990s is increasing its presence in the golf market – the most demanding element of the amenity turf business – and becoming a Golden Key member of BIGGA was a natural progression.

"We have always had a good





relationship with the Association – David has been on the Steering committee since it was formed – and over the years we have made several presentations to groups of the greenkeepers' association," said Marcus, who feels that Supaturf will benefit from the wealth of educational options there are open to greenkeepers.

"The more educated greenkeepers become they are more likely to use the new technology which we will be bringing in. The market as a whole is becoming more sophisticated and we are hopefully going to be at the forefront of bringing in this new technology."

"Our salesmen have to be very knowledgeable on the product range and they are trained significantly more than ever before. All our people calling at golf courses have been to the States for training with the companies with whom we work in close association. This has reaped dividends with regards to providing information for greenkeepers."

Marcus recounts the story of a Frenchman who has been involved in the Turf Industry for many years and who had visited BTME on several occasions in the early days and again this year.

"His comment was that the difference he noticed between the British greenkeeper now and then was that previously the greenkeeper came, looked at the stand, didn't say much or ask many

questions and moved to the next stand. This year he felt they came up, asked questions and were very inquisitive about what was on show," said Marcus.

"People want more information nowadays. They want to know what they are paying for and what they are getting."

It is a situation which Marcus feels can only benefit the golf clubs.

"The products we are introducing will bring commercial benefits to the clubs and if the greenkeepers have an appreciation of what

benefit they can bring, they are more likely to welcome them."

Supaturf is working closely with partners in America on new products and will be introducing these to the British and European markets.

Among them and just about to be launched is Clean Carbon, an activated carbon which cleans greens by deactivating the chemicals in them and, what's more, doesn't dust.

Supaturf is also developing a line marker which is adapted to a sprayer.

"The company has come a long way and we see new technology as our assistant to a bright future. A measure of this is the fact that in the mid 80s we had one PC between 140 staff now everyone working in the company has one."

The company is therefore better placed to move into the year 2000 than it was to go into the 1990s and with the Palmer name behind it... who knows!

● Pictured above, staff at work and below, the well-stocked warehouse.





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# the Learning experience

## Aeration: Making a case for further education



Ground under repair. Returfed areas must be protected from golfers, trolleys and course machinery. Note alternative routes from the green to the next tee



Reduce turf compaction and wear by guiding golfers along different pathways with the help of white lines, hoops and ropes

**T**urf aeration is one of the most misunderstood maintenance practices undertaken on golf courses the length and breadth of the British Isles.

It is, however, rarely misunderstood by those who do the work but rather by those for whose benefit it is being carried out.

How often have greenkeepers heard golfers complain: "Why have they messed up a perfectly good putting surface? The greens were in excellent condition and now they've gone and made holes all over them."

The answer to this question lies not in argument or in heated discussion but in education. It is important that the golf club and the people who run it, maintain it, and use its facilities understand why aeration is needed, why it is carried out at a specific time of the year and why a particular aeration method has been used.

The most important message to get across is that if there were no golfers there would be little need for aeration. The human foot creates considerable downforce, compressing turf and its underlying soil structure to restrict the downward passage of water, air and nutrients needed for healthy root and plant growth.

This damage is most prevalent in the wetter months when the soil particles are better able to slide over one another before sticking together to form a dense, impermeable layer. The result is a build-up of moisture at the surface with its associated puddling, waterlogged turf and muddy patches. Beneath the surface, growing conditions are far from ideal.

Course machinery, although greatly improved through the fitting of flotation tyres, is another major cause of compaction. Yet, ever-increasing mechanisation is essential if the job is to be done quickly, efficiently and with minimal disruption to turf preparation and to those playing a round of golf.

So, it appears that we are trapped in a "tails you win, heads I lose" situation. No golfers means no compaction, but no golfers also means no course maintenance.

The basic answer has to be preventive maintenance. In other words, maintenance which is carried out on a planned and regular basis to keep the problem of compaction at bay. Above all, maintenance which prevents turf and soil conditions from ever reaching

the situation where major remedial work is needed – bringing with it costly disruption to everyday turf-care operations and the playing of golf.

"Aeration is essential to maintain the soil in a healthy condition," points out Neil Squires, agronomist with the STRI. "Apart from improving its physical structure to promote strong root growth, aeration encourages drainage, the movement of air and the function of micro-organisms. It is important to understand that compaction can affect all soil types at a range of depths, so treatment must be targeted accordingly."

That age-old saying, "prevention is always better than the cure", could have been coined specifically with aeration in mind. If all golfers were made aware of the alternatives to timely course management practices, many of the complaints and bad feeling which arise due to seasonal aeration work could be avoided.

Why not display in the clubhouse or locker room photographs of soft, sickly greens, churned-up pathways and worn tees, greens surrounds and standing areas? Point out that such conditions will be commonplace

on any course unprepared to suffer the minor inconvenience of regular aeration, the use of winter tees and greens and the adoption of alternative routes between them.

There should be very few who will be unwilling or unable to grasp the importance of the measures being taken and the reason for them – that they are being carried out for the benefit of those who want to play golf all year round in virtually all weathers. All it takes is education and understanding.

"There is a host of equipment available to treat compaction successfully, but it is better and less costly to minimise the problem in the first place by spreading the traffic load over as wide an area as possible," comments Neil.

"Human nature makes us take the shortest route between two points. That is why alternative pathways must be clearly signed and marked, why different tee and flag positions are needed and why parts of the course need to be roped off from time to time. All measures designed to minimise the load on the turf and the soil structure beneath."

Neil commented that the STRI has a major role to play in the





# the Learning experience

education of those who manage, maintain and use golfing facilities. "We have been called in by clubs who are looking for professional backing for their criticism of a greenkeeper and the way the course is being maintained," he explained. "In most cases, we end up supporting the greenkeeper who we find is doing the job to the best of his or her abilities and giving the club the optimum playing surfaces for the maximum number of months of the year."

Many courses built during the past 20 years have been designed from the outset to cope with large numbers of rounds, often having sufficient land to provide alternative summer and winter tees on every hole, hard-surfaced walkways and even additional fairways and greens to allow parts of the course to be

rested in critical periods.

Long established courses were never designed to withstand upwards of 40,000 rounds of golf a year. Agricultural-type drainage was the norm and timed, measured irrigation was unheard of. Many greens, fairways and even tees employed the natural lie of the land to trap and hold water rather than looking for its fast dispersal and rapid turf recovery.

"There is a simple message that golf clubs need to understand if they are to get the best out of their course and the people who look after it," points out Neil. "Most golf greenkeepers and their staff are qualified, well trained people who understand sports turf and the demands imposed on it by the modern lifestyle.

"My advice to clubs and their members is to let greenkeepers get on with their work and to



Minimise wear and damage to greens with forward hole positioning in wet or difficult playing conditions

support them fully in the decisions and actions they take. The days when the greenkeeper was seen as someone who just cuts the grass and rakes the bunkers should be long gone. These are professional people trying to do a professional job and I can think of very few golfers who would tolerate being told how to do their job

by an unqualified person."

● Many thanks go to Goring and Streatley Golf Club for assistance with all of the photographs used to illustrate this article.

● Next month, the Learning Experience takes a closer look at aeration techniques, with special emphasis on minimising disruption to play.

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**GRUNDFOS**



**Roland Taylor examines the role of the pump and how to get the most out of one.**

**M**ention pumps and very likely your first thoughts are of a unit for moving water, but there are a few other applications around the average golf course where some form of pump is used.

For example most courses have equipment that has a hydrostatic drive, a pump (motor) is an integral part of this system. Then there is the engine with its fuel and oil pumps and the sprayer includes one as does the irrigation system. Somewhere tucked away in the machinery shed is probably a portable unit that is hauled out for those emergencies. Each of these has its own specific requirements and maintenance.

#### **Water pumps**

The choice is enormous so unless you know exactly what you are looking for, technical advice needs to be sought. This is usually available at most outdoor specialist dealers or hire outlets, but before making contact it is worth putting together some details as to exactly what is required.

#### **Type of fluids**

One of the first questions that needs addressing is the type of fluids that are going to be moved. If it's only water then it's straight forward, but there may be some solids involved and this fact has to be taken into consideration. It is necessary to be specific at this stage otherwise you could finish up with a problem, considerable frustration and loss of time.

#### **Flow rate**

Having arrived at the answer it is time to determine how much water is needed to be moved – the flow rate. Where a pump is feeding an irrigation system or ornamental pools the figure for the required rate of flow should be fairly easy to determine. In situations where it is for use as a standby to take excess water out, it could be more difficult to determine the capacity required. For this type of situation it is better to go for a higher flow rate than is necessary.

#### **Total head**

You will need to know what the head conditions are. This is the vertical distance that liquid is to be drawn from to the point where it flows out. Say, you were lifting water from a well with a 10ft suction head and delivering it to a 20ft outlet head the total head would be 30ft. This figure would also have to include an allowance for pipe friction.

#### **Siting**

Siting of the pump is important. In the case of a portable unit there are a number of factors that require taking into account. How easy is the unit to transport, what is the overall weight and dimensions and can one person handle it? Where it will be sited will determine the lengths of hose required and also suction lift and head delivery distances.

If the pump is to be a permanent fixture then it will require some form of housing. A purpose-built, well ventilated and dry chamber is recommended. In the case of a petrol or diesel powered unit considerations need to be given as to the removal of the exhaust gases.

Power source is another important factor. An electric model may be ideal on paper, but if

# Plump for PUMPS

the mains supply has to be put in to run it then the installation could become too expensive. In the case of petrol or diesel engine an ample supply of fuel and oil needs to be readily on hand and easily accessible.

#### **Fittings**

The correct diameter hoses should be used and kept as short as possible with no sharp bends.

Where a pump is sited above the inlet water level a foot valve and strainer will be required on the suction hose – this is to retain the prime. In the case where it is below the intake water level only a strainer will be required gravity will do the rest.

#### **Maintenance**

Once operational the pump should be checked each day. In the case of an engine powered unit the fuel will require replenishing. An inspection of the engine's oil level and its air filter will also be necessary. Engines are now available with a system that automatically switches the unit off when the oil level drops to a critical point. These are an ideal safety feature where a pump is being run for long periods out on the course. The priming of water levels in the pump might also need attention.

If there is any doubt especially regarding an installation then expert advice should be sought.

#### **Hydrostatic transmissions**

A pump is an integral part of this system and to keep the unit running satisfactorily requires some care and attention.

Hydraulic oil works at a high temperature so it requires cooling as do the components that come in direct contact with it. The surface area of the motor (pump) in the system has been increased by the introduction of fins. Cooling air is drawn through these by a fan. It is therefore important that the channels between these fins are kept clean and clear of any debris such as dried grass clipping. Any restriction to the air flow will cause the unit to start to heat up and become less effective. If this situation is allowed to continue

unchecked then the system will finally breakdown and expensive damage will occur. It is also important to recognise that these hydrostatic units are built to very fine tolerances so they should only be repaired under very clean conditions, by a specialist. Care should also be taken to ensure that no impurities such as dirt or water are allowed to enter the system and contaminate it this will result in serious damage.

#### **Oil and fuel pumps**

These will require very little attention. In the case of oil the correct level must be maintained so the pump works efficiently and lubricates all the components. A daily check should be carried out and fresh oil added if necessary.

#### **Sprayers**

Roller vane pumps have been fitted for a long time and are usually found on less expensive sprayers. With the advent of the use of iron compounds and changes in chemicals roller vane and rotary pumps should be avoided if possible. The main reason is that these types of pumps work on very fine tolerances and the abrasive nature of iron can damage the rollers. It also gets into the walls of the chamber and rust sets in very quickly. An application of vegetable oil after every use will help to prolong the life of the pump.

While a diaphragm pump is more expensive it is a better proposition. If you decide to go for one of these or a piston model, then make sure it will deliver at least 1000 litres of spray per hectare.

There is plenty of advice available from sprayer manufacturers and suppliers so it is worth consulting them to ensure a unit you buy does all you require.

A pump is one of those items often taken for granted until it goes wrong. This often happens at a most inconvenient time so to reduce the possibility of this occurring it makes sense to carry out regular checks to ensure everything is maintained correctly and operating satisfactorily. You should then have many years of trouble free liquid movement around your course.



# Horticulture Industries

**H**orticulture Industries Show at the National Agricultural Centre, at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, on June 5 and 6, includes many exhibitors from the amenity turf industry and gives greenkeepers an opportunity to catch up with the latest developments.

The Show will be opened by Margaret Beckett MP, the Shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Joining Mrs Beckett will be the President of the Chinese National Parks Association who will be leading a delegation of eight managers on a 15 day fact finding mission to Britain.

Among the seminars being held in conjunction with the show is a Golf Course Managers Seminar in association with Charterhouse Turf Machinery on Wednesday June 5 and another on Sports Ground Maintenance by Martyn Jones, Senior Lecturer in Turf Grass Science at Myerscough College, also in association with Charterhouse.



#### Risboro' Turf

Increasing numbers of greenkeepers are recognising the benefits of the Sorrell roller during dry summers when root zones need an ample supply of water. A Sorrell roller opens the soil crusts to allow water percolation and aids the ingress of any fertilisers, top

dressings and seed.

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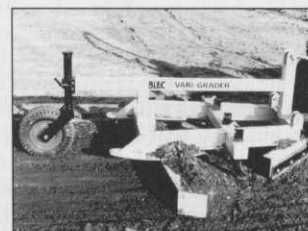
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machines include – BLEC Multi-scraper, Laser Grader, Level Conditioner, Drag Scraper, Level Grader, Rotary Stoneraker, Stonepicker and Stoneburiers.

Seeding Machines – Cultipack, Dimpler, Brillion, Turfmaker and Aqua Seeders.

Overseeders – Seedmaster, Rotary Turfmaker, Uniseeder and Star Seeder and one new overseeder model.

Misc – Landscape rakes, Gandy spreaders, Top Dressers, Post Hole Digger and Turf Cutter will be shown.

As always BLEC anticipates another busy show this year and looks forward to seeing both established and new customers on its stand and demonstration area.

## Inturf

A long winter combined with full match programmes has created wear problems at many football grounds this year. The only proven solution to keeping areas such as goal mouths in playable and grass covered condition is using Inturf's Lay 'n' Play Turf Tile System. Turf Tiles are available on a supply basis or supply and lay, using Inturf's own qualified ground staff who have undertaken turf renovation work at over 20 Premier and First Division football grounds in the last year.

For the first time Inturf will have a small demonstration goal mouth area set up at the outdoor exhibition area along with their usual indoor display of Big Roll and conventional turf.

## Rolawn

Rolawn will be demonstrating its lightweight Turfmaster Laying Machine for the first time at Horticultural Industries.

The machine has a UK patent and is available exclusively from Rolawn at £395 plus VAT.

This simple machine is used to lay Rolawn's 13 square metre budget rolls of turf which are unique to the company.

The Turfmaster doesn't have an engine and weighs 60 kilos. It breaks down into five components (including the low ground pressure tyres) in two minutes. When built up the Turfmaster can easily be transported on any standard pick-up truck. When disassembled it can be transported in a hatch back car.

The 13 square metre budget roll can be laid in less than a minute, enabling landscapers to achieve cost savings in laying and production previously unavailable.

## Eric Hunter

Eric Hunter and Co (Tools) will be showing a very large range of professional landscaping and horticultural hand tools by leading manufacturers. Hunters Tools has gained considerable recognition for value, service and attractive prices.

Appointed principal supplier to Glendale Industries in 1995, Hunters has also had the confidence of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for over 15 years.

Many large DSOs and significant contractors have found Hunters a good firm to deal with.

Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd (an associated company) will be showing its world beating JUNO mower reel and bedknife grinder. Already installed into a large number of premier golf course workshops, this machine combines accurate "Relief Angle" grinding of reels and also bedknives on one machine. It is water cooled for health and dust suppression and all machines are fully installed with full training provided.

Landscape tool users and greenkeepers are recommended to visit this most interesting stand at Stoneleigh 1996.

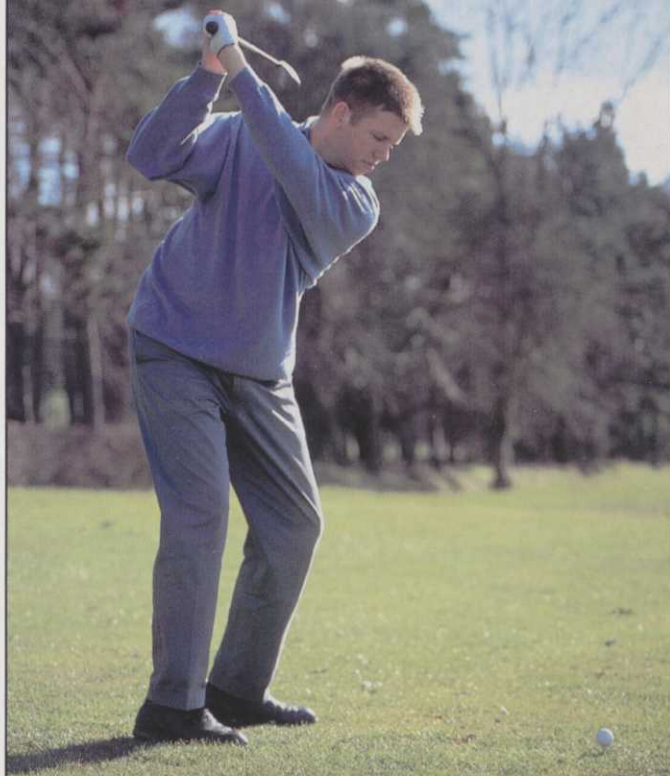
## Rhône Poulenc

Rhône Poulenc will be featuring its extensive range of turf products and also its total herbicides range.

New to the range is Spasor Biactive. The addition of this non-irritant, 360 g/L glyphosate based product enables Rhône Poulenc to provide customers with a complete range of options for total weed control.

The benefits of Spasor Biactive are: A new formulation system consisting of a new type of surfactant and an activator ensuring better product performance in a variety of situations; better rainfastness; less viscous and better tank-mixer; does not need wetters; more soluble in water; low foam formulation; can be tank-mixed with Freeway for combined knock-down and residual activity.

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weeds of turf, but also the problem weeds such as Slender Speedwell and the Clovers.

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# Horticulture Industries Show 1996

## SISIS

The new SISIS Cultiseeder is a pto driven disc seeder with a working width of 1.2m (4ft). The coulter discs vibrate using a new patented system to ensure a clean, deep cutting action without the weight required by other, conventional, disc seeders. Compaction problems are therefore greatly reduced. The discs can be preset to the required depth, at 50mm spacings. They are mounted on to two independently floating units to follow ground contours. Several different seeding rates can be obtained, including an ultra-low rate for bents. The seed hopper has a large (0.3 cubic metre) capacity and the seed is delivered, via tubes, directly into the slits cut by the discs. Rollers follow, to even out the surface, leaving minimal surface disturbance.

## Ransomes

Professional grass and turf machinery suitable for maintaining a full range of sports, leisure

and amenity areas will be exhibited by Ransomes at the forthcoming Horticulture Industries show.

A total of five different cylinder mowers will be displayed encompassing the tournament quality walk-behind Greens Super, the productive Highway 213, the versatile T-Plex 285D, the high performance Fairway 305 and the formidable Commander 3500DX.

Complementing this impressive display of fine finish mowers will be the T-51D "bat-wing" rider rotary with 2.97m (117in) cut width and 1.55m (61in) transport width, a Cushman 4-Wheel Turf Truckster, now with power steering, a Ryan GA30 solid and hollow tine aerator and the Ryan Mataway combined overseeder and dethatcher.

## Dixon & Holliday

In recent years Dixon & Holliday knapsack machines have become established with greenkeepers and local authorities as the easy and safe means of cutting steep



banks and tall hedges.

Their hover hood mower, pictured above, incorporates the air cushion principle, but with the motor on the operator's back he has better balance and complete control of the mower. The machines are also no mean performers with string trimmer heads or steel resharpenable blades. Ease of changing heads

gives D&H knapsack machines exceptional versatility in all its roles.

The long reach hedge trimmer enables the operator to cut hedges over 3m high without trestles or ladders. As well as its range of knapsack brushcutters Dixon & Holliday will be exhibiting a complete range of accessories for its machines.

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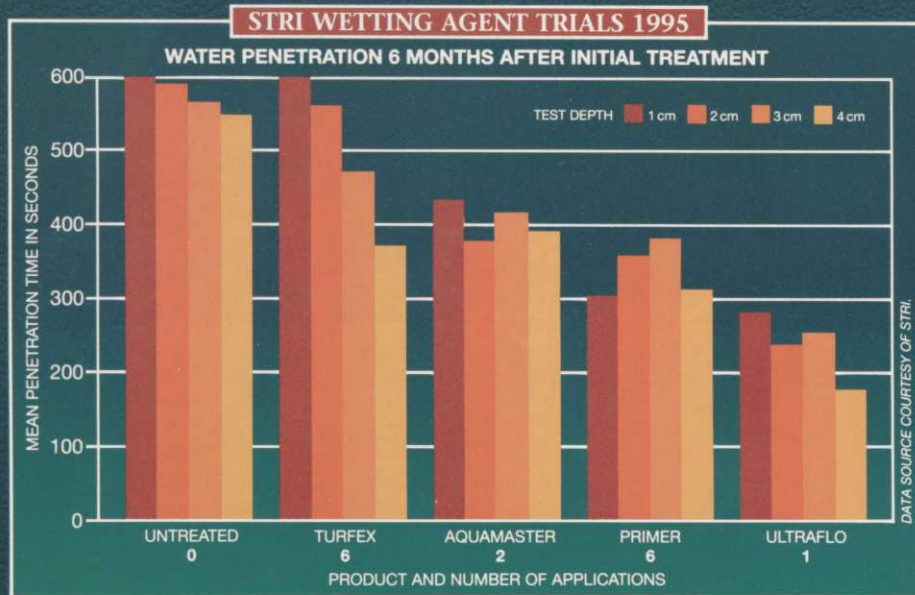


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# NEW PRODUCTS



**The Groundsman** is targeted at Golf Course Maintenance, Golf Ball Recovery, Garden Centres, Small Estates, Large Gardens, Municipal Works, Holiday Parks, Caravan Parks, Riding Centres, Horticulture etc.

The Groundsman, pictured above, is a vehicle to fit in under the market for the excellent, but more expensive machines, already available, and to offer a basic and economic light utility for general purposes at under £2,500. It will shortly be available with fittings for specialist applications such as line marking, ball recovery, small spray bar or lance operations, and a fitted mower is currently under factory development.

A video of the machine is in production as weather permits, and will be available for dealership promotion.



**Spaldings** has three new and differing launches which could help a greenkeeper measure up, rake it in and patch it up.

To cope with the ever increasing demand for accurate measurements around farms, golf courses, parts etc, Spaldings sell an exceptionally accurate, substantially built American land measuring wheel (pictured below left) which incorporates a fully extendible handle and, claim Spaldings, is ideal for tough terrain conditions.

The read-out on the calibrated gauge is to four digits and is in metres and decimetres.

Spaldings also sell a range of rakes to suit many uses. The spring lawn rake is a versatile rake used for leaves, cut grass and those more delicate raking jobs around borders and shrubs. The 12 tooth garden rake being the general purpose 'workhorse' used for numerous jobs in all conditions.

The 16 tooth wooden rake is the largest in the range and is used widely on golf courses.

Prices range between £13.50 to £24.00.

The first aid range consists of workshop size first aid kit to protect workers and profits, complies with statutory regulations for up to ten people. A smaller version of this is also available, which comes in its own pouch.

The range also has an assorted plaster pack for topping up your first aid kits, and sterile eye wash can also be mounted on tractor cabs or workshop walls.

**The National 68 Triple Mower** has been standard equipment for mower fleets with many contractors, public authorities and golf clubs, for over 20 years.

Many improvements over the years have taken place keeping up to date with market changes and customer demands.

The engine is now a Kawasaki, there are now six bladed cylinders, guarding and operator comfort has been improved but basically the unit has been the same in terms of performance since Allen Power Equipment first launched the 68 on the UK market as long ago as 1978.

However, for 1996, comes the National 68 De Luxe. Aimed primarily at the golf club market, the new introduction has a 7 mph transport speed and electric starting Kawasaki 7.5hp engine as standard, full width rollers are also fitted.

This new addition to the Allen National Triple range will be popular with golf clubs enabling much faster transportation of the mower around the course than the standard one speed model.

The 68 DL still retains all the performance features of the standard model, which is known for its bank mowing-go anywhere capabilities, 68" width of cut and

belt drive insuring contour hugging maintenance mowing

Also fitted with an ammeter and hour meter, the new National 68 D-L retails at £4995 + VAT.

As local authorities and members of the public become more aware of the damage and pollution chemicals can cause to the environment, there is an increasing demand to eliminate the use of these substances.

The new **Hoaf Weedmaster Infraplus** from Industrial Power Units provides effective and safe weed control without the use of chemicals. The Infraplus system has been developed and engineered to control vegetation on paths, paved and gravel areas. Through the use of infra-red heat the plant proteins congeal and cause cells to burst. The flow of sap to the root system is broken down; photosynthesis ceases; the roots rot and the weeds die. The Hoaf Weedmaster eliminates the need for chemicals. Its design incorporates a stainless steel housing beneath which is a high performance burner. A thick layer of ceramics prevents heat loss and acts as an insulation barrier for the outside of the housing. The specially formed infra-red gauze is corrugated to increase the effective surface





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# NEW PRODUCTS

area by 40% and its shape directs heat on to the weeds from varying angles. A regulator is used to adjust the gas supply and, depending on the size of the unit, the machine can be operated from between two and seven hours on one bottle of propane gas.

There are four models available. The Hoaf Weedmaster 25 is ideal for small confined areas and is particularly suitable for paths, driveways and play areas. The unit is lightweight to push and is easily manoeuvred around obstructions such as street furniture. For larger spaces there is the 50cm wide Hoaf Weedmaster 50. This machine is supplied with height-adjustable handlebars and front shield which is shaped to direct heat to the side for treating weeds against walls. A brake is fitted as standard to prevent the machine from moving when parked on a slope. At a walking speed of 2km/hr, the Hoaf Weedmaster 75 has a work-rate of 1500 square metres an hour. Double wheels are fitted for easy manoeuvrability.

Little Aston Golf Club had until recently a serious problem with Canada Geese landing on the lake near to the green on the 17th hole. They were then walking over the surrounding area, fowling the greens and fairways. This was both unsightly and unpleasant to play through, not to mention the damage being caused to the greens.

The club approached **Drivall**, the fencing specialist, to see if it could come up with any solution. Drivall suggested using an electric fence.

Drivall put together a portable fence kit, comprising PVC fence posts and white polywire to fence off 200 metres of the lake adjoining the 17th hole. To electrify the fence they used the Pel PE5 portable battery fence controller, which hangs directly on the electric polywire. It is powered by 2 x 1.5v torch batteries, and if the long life type are used, they will provide eight weeks continuous use before are charge. The kit takes less than 20 minutes to erect and can be removed easily for re-use. Also included are an earth stake and a warning sign.

The electric fence proved to be extremely effective and the Canada Geese are no longer a problem in this area of the course. The club has, as a precaution, subsequently extended the electric fence to cover that part of the lake within its boundary.

Drivall can now offer these kits, boxed with easy to read instructions to other golf courses with a similar problem.

The price of a kit is £126.90, including carriage and VAT.



A new lightweight pressurised water tank has been developed by the power tool manufacturer **Stihl**, to provide a mobile water source for the Stihl TS 400 cut-off saw.

The TS 400 is fitted with a water attachment as standard equipment. This takes the form of a clip-on hose connector which enables the operator to connect to a tap and supply water to the cutting disc to suppress dust created during the cutting of concrete, asphalt, stone, brick, ceramic or any other material which creates dust when cut.

With the availability of the new portable water pressure tank this dust control facility enables the user of Stihl cut-off saws to benefit from dust-free cutting even on the most remote sites such as motorways or high-rise developments where running water is unavailable.

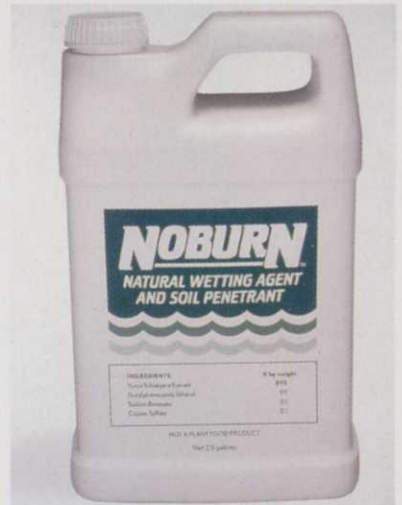
Weighing in at 2.2 kg, Stihl's new pressurised water tank is two ft high and can hold over two gallons (10 litres) of water. This can be pressurised to approximately 30 psi (2 bar) to supply the water, which can be flow-controlled by a valve, to the cutting head jet.

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AMENITY

## NEW PRODUCTS

Stihl to be the first manufacturer of cut-off saws to meet COSHH regulations and the Health and Safety guidance notes on the inhalation of silica dust.

The new pressurised water tank costs £49.95 ex.VAT and is available from 1000 Stihl service centres nationwide.

A new way to treat problem dry spots on tees and greens comes in the shape of New Spot Doctors from **Standard Golf**. Attach to a hose and quick coupler to deliver penetrating, sub-surface moisture right to the heart of the problem. The tools are available in two configurations.

The Spot Doctor Tine Unit works like a combination pitch-fork and syringe. Just place the tines on the spot and squeeze the pistol grip. There's no need to push or force the tines into the ground. Water pressure helps them slide through the soil like a hot knife through butter—delivering water to a depth of up to 6". When one area is saturated, simply release the grip, slide the unit out of the ground and position it at the next spot.

The Spot Doctor Roller Unit can be wheeled back and forth over dry spots like a vacuum cleaner. Straight stream nozzles force the water from half an inch to two inches below the surface, with the depth of penetration and water volume controlled by the rolling speed.

**Hardi** has launched a series of new Greensirons onto the amenity sports turf industry.

The GreensIron 3000 is the one which will be of greatest interest to greenkeepers. Powered by a Honda 5.5hp engine the GreensIron 3000 includes tension and height adjustment and is ideally suited for variable top dressing application.

Operating side-to-side the turf broom and rollers quickly and evening knit in top dressing, creating a consistently smooth putting surface.

Reaching a speed of five mph it has a non-slip roller for wet and steep surfaces and weighs 690lbs.

Further information can be obtained from Hardi Tel: 01455 233811 Fax: 01455 233815.

**Tacit** has launched a new Lawn Leveller (below) for the maintenance and repair of golf greens. The Lawn Leveller, being a well balanced tool of superior design, is ideal for spreading sand, seed, top dressing etc. and will produce a super flat surface. The major refinement of the Tacit Lawn Leveller is that it is manufactured from round bar which will not scar the greens. The traditional lutes are produced from an-angled bar that has a tendency to gouge the turf. The Lawn leveller is, also, ideal for use on bowling greens and cricket squares. For further details contact Tacit on 01788 568818.





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Hugh Tilley examines the unwelcome phenomenon afflicting many golf clubs and looks at crime prevention.

# Security and vandalism



Sign of the times: Golf clubs need to be vigilant against intruders

Levels of theft and vandalism vary greatly around the country, some greenkeepers on urban courses wake up each morning wondering what they will find when they go out. Others have to send someone round the course before play just to replace flags and rakes, but still the majority seldom if ever have any problem. Thus many clubs take minimal precautions against theft, however a growing number have elaborate electronic surveillance installed.

Vandalism is often more of a problem than theft, for while the loss of a strimmer or Flymo is annoying, the destruction of a green upon which you have lavished care is heartbreaking as well as disrupting play. For obvious reasons none of the greenkeepers to whom Greenkeeper Interna-

tional spoke nor their club are named. Both municipal and private courses were contacted, most were parkland courses but in both rural and urban locations, and they were selected more or less at random along a line from Liverpool to North London. Also several commercial security firms were contacted, few have specific experience of protecting greenkeepers facilities, although none saw this as a problem should be they be asked. Classified directories offer a list of local suppliers installers, but this does not vouch for their ability. NACOSS approval should offer some guarantee of standard but it does not cover all systems. Greenkeeper International also contacted some suppliers of secure buildings and containers.

More than one greenkeeper

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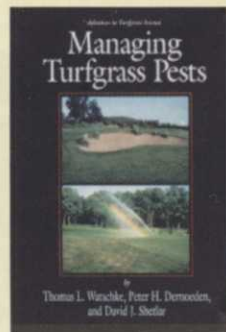
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# Security and vandalism

commented that the need for security, was a sad reflection on the society we live in today, however several also said that they felt that golf courses fared better than many other businesses. There is remarkable acceptance of theft and vandalism – finding flags used as javelins, buildings broken into and the odd strimmer or hover mower lost would seem to be par for many courses. If you are visited once by the light fingered brigade you can expect more visits, they know when they are onto a good thing, so if the horse bolts once lock the stable door before you lose more. Only one incident was reported where the police had apprehended the thieves and recovered the goods.

Increasing numbers of clubs are thinking seriously about security, perhaps spurred on by their insurers and escalating premiums, perhaps by the general heightened awareness of security in the com-

munity, or perhaps actually by their mounting losses.

## Vandalism

No one offered a complete answer to this, most clubs experienced some incidents ranging from the occasional to the regular – where Monday was always commenced by a hunt the flag exercise. Bikers on the course would seem a problem for some, and there are incidents reported of cars running riot across fairways and greens. One private course has security patrols over the weekend, another, a municipal course, used to have a mounted policeman on regular patrol until town hall politics stopped this. Some success was claimed for both of these. Otherwise precautions may be possible such as fastening down seats, waste bins and other course furniture, some items are available in vandal resistant and heavyweight

designs with better resistance to destruction.

Public rights of way are often seen as a potential danger area giving ready access (and a fast exit) for the miscreant, however an alternative view was offered that they can be an advantage because it can put more eyes on the course. In fact one greenkeeper even suggested that encouraging the public to walk their dogs was one way of getting unpaid patrols, he did not go as far as suggesting putting in extra rights of way. Most clubs try to restrict access. One greenkeeper said he was lucky in that his course is ring fenced with just two access points – many others have this advantage. Once access is restricted it is easy to keep these locations under surveillance or even guard them.

Michael Webb, of Devizes based TH White Installations Ltd, said that options in these situations

include installing closed circuit TV, (CCTV) or even a dummy camera. TH White has a system called 'Vocalite' which, activated by a detector, switches on lights and announces that the alarm or CCTV has been activated. Crime-watch and other TV programmes has shown how effective the camera can be. However, Michael Webb said that it is vital to use the right camera with the right lens and position it correctly for the best picture.

Some clubs have the advantage of natural barriers, like the sea or a river, or man made barriers such as industrial estates or factories which have their own security fencing. Unfortunately the obvious intrusiveness of fencing detracts from the essence of a golf course, however physical barriers such as wood and shrub land can be equally effective, especially if species such as quickthorn, pyracantha and barberry are planted.



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Typical greenkeepers' machinery stores, with roller shuttered doors. From Panelite.

Electric sheep fencing is quite effective too – and it can be alarmed.

#### Buildings and Compounds

One particular Midlands club which found itself becoming too charitable, having its sheds broken into regularly, has built new 'sheds' of brick with barred windows and steel doors, – and an alarm system. Another in a very high risk area several years ago went even further and had both walls and roof made of reinforced concrete with no windows just two steel doors reinforced by a steel girder barrier outside – to prevent ramming. Few clubs need to go this far, however many still have wooden or asbestos cement walls which are easily broken into, although several have reinforced such by installing concrete block or steel linings – not difficult as a DIY job. Nevertheless windows and doors frequently remain vulnerable, or are protected by padlocks which can be cut or hammered off easily. Modification may be possible to protect locks. Intruder alarms should probably only be seen as a second line of defence because once entry has been effected the damage is already done.

The normal and most cost effective design for a greenkeeper's

shed is a steel portal frame building with brick or blockwork half height walls sheeted above with fibre reinforced cement, steel or aluminium profile sheets bolted on and with steel doors. Rooflights may avoid any need for windows. Several firms manufacture such buildings and most offer a complete service which will take it from planning approval through to completion. Another popular solution is to buy ex-shipping containers, but these are not pretty although they can be tarted up with a little paint, or even a veneer of shiplap boarding. They also have the disadvantage of being narrow and not easy to store larger items such as greens triples or tractors in. There are also purpose made security buildings some designed to blend into the landscape such as those provided by Cleveland Sitesafe who have considerable experience in this field.

However determined thieves will get into virtually any building and this is when a detection system comes into its own. For many clubs the sheds are in fact an assortment of buildings with some kit stored outside, for these the best option may be a surrounding compound with just one official entrance. How secure this fence or wall needs to be will

depend on risk and cost assessment. Once the area is defined it is simple to install detection equipment.

#### Detection and Alarms

There are several forms of detection each appropriate for a particular location and circumstance. Consideration is also needed as to how to handle a detection. If there is no one around to respond it may be best to deter unwelcome guests such as by switching on lights or giving an announcement of the detection. These methods may be best for external areas as it is not acceptable to link external detectors to a monitoring service and the police. Passive Infra-red (p.i.r.) is well known and inexpensive for switching on lighting, however p.i.r. is not reliable as it is too prone to false signals. Better is 'dual technology' which combines motion detection with heat detection so that neither motion by inanimate objects nor heat from non moving objects produce a response while persons and vehicle with heat and movement do. Good selection and detection can also be obtained by using photo-electric beam sensors across a specific entrance. In fact such sensors can be made into an invisible fence over con-

siderable lengths if necessary.

As stated previously CCTV is particularly effective in detection but when the camera is obvious it is respected as a deterrent. Dummy cameras are available which can be used with almost the same effect but considerable less cost.

Forced entry is normally relatively easy and cheap to detect with simple switches, breaking glass detectors and other devices, and there are many reliable control boxes to take input from such devices and give an output signal. Most of these controls now use a keypad and codes for activation and inactivation, and more sophisticated versions can also be used to store information such as by whom and when they are operated. They also allow codes to be changed easily and regularly.

While the prime object must always be to deter a thief or vandal, once they have gained access to a building the need is to catch them. How this is done again depends on circumstances and whether anyone can respond within an acceptable length of time. Not everyone will be prepared to respond, and there may even be personal danger in doing so. If a greenkeeper is going to be expected to respond he should be



# Security and vandalism

equipped with a mobile phone so that he can report and get support. Otherwise the prudent answer is to employ a monitoring service which notifies police and/or other parties as required. Most alarm systems can include fire and smoke detection. In the case of a golf club it may be sensible to consider the greenkeepers facility as just another zone within overall club protection, with clubhouse bar and pro shop usually being a greater risk.

There are several monitoring systems, some use the telephone line and auto dialling, which can be cut or jammed, others require a dedicated line but give warning if the line is cut while other systems use radio either to a local base station or to an individual receiver. Usually with such systems the aim is not to let intruders know that they have been detected so giving maximum time for effective response – so that



**Radio security:** A standard four channel portable received and an external detector, with a range of 35 metres

they can be caught red-handed. In fact this seldom happens because response times are too long.

One club contacted by Greenkeeper International said that the pro's shop had been broken into so regularly despite alarms that the professional bought a van and

takes all the most valuable items home with him each night.

#### **Specific equipment protection**

It may be worth considering specific protection for some items, such as concreting posts and rings for padlocking plant to, or immobilisers for vehicles. All ter-

rain vehicles are very desirable thus special devices have been produced specifically for these. Data tags and location systems are also available although cost rules these out for most golf clubs. Simple deterrent is possible by making equipment conspicuous – with names, post codes or bright paint to make a thief think twice about saleability. Post codes are a simple way of assisting return to a rightful owner should the item be discovered.

One club with a driving range said that their lights had proved desirable and so have had to be wired into the alarm system – the first snip alerting the monitoring station to tip off the police – this has been successful to a point – the goods were recovered last time but no prosecution resulted as the “thief” said he had found them lying beside the road.

## INVEST IN THE HYDROJECT AERATOR.





# Stars of the small screen

Adrian Porter and his staff at Greatham Valley GC, Leicestershire, have broken into show business but you won't see them donning the grease paint and spouting Shakespeare or even appearing on *Blind Date* or *Noel's House Party*. No, their work was done behind the scenes but you will see the results of their handiwork during the new Jimmy Tarbuck game show "The Full Swing."

The show is based on golf and needed a properly turfed green to allow the contestants to display their skills and Adrian and his team were called in by the BBC to lay, prepare and maintain the green for the duration of the filming.

"Our owner's son Andrew Hinch worked with the BBC providing scenery for Middlemarch when it was filmed in Stamford and they approached him to provide the green for the show," explained Adrian.

They bought turf over the winter put it in greenhouses, fed it and kept it warm until it was required for the show.

"We went to Shepherd's Bush over Easter and built the 200 square metre green and surrounding rough on a fibre

glass sand covered base in the studio. We had the turf in 16 square yard rolls.

"We had to be around for the six days of filming to look after it, water it and four of us worked on shifts so that someone was always there in case it needed repairs.

"It lasted well although under the lights it was beginning to go a bit yellowish by the end.

"The show will look great on the TV. It's a little like *Big Break* and we meet Jimmy Tarbuck and some of the guests who were appearing on the show," said Adrian.

The show will be broadcast sometime this year and it is likely that Adrian and his crew will be back again to build another green for a second series.

● Pictured: Jimmy Tarbuck – and Adrian Porter's turf



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# Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## Scotland North

The list of new members this year is growing. Here are the latest additions. From Murcar, rejoining we have Chris Pearson and Bill Paterson and newly-joined Chris Murdoch and Alex Cowie; from Monifieth, we have Scott Rennie and Alan Paterson; from Inch, we welcome back Andrew Tait and, last but not least, from Cullen, we welcome Martin Dodds. We have lost a few members from last year but are currently trying to persuade them to rejoin as the Section goes from strength to strength.

It was great to see a good turnout of Section members at the Scottish Conference near Edinburgh, no doubt drawn to it by the talks of Gordon Moir and myself! Seriously it was a great day and there was no spare seats to be found. Well done to the organisers. Thanks must also go to BIGGA Chairman Dean Cleaver and Executive Director Neil Thomas for finding the time to attend and witness how well our Conferences are run and attended.

We wish Caroline Ross of Royal Dornoch a speedy recovery from her accident at work which left her with a badly broken arm. From what I hear her work rate will be missed. It was also sad to note that Andrew Murray, of Brora, has left greenkeeping, we await the appointment of his successor. Andrew, who always produced good firm, fast greens at Brora, has not kept too well in recent years. We wish him well with whatever he has planned.

Jeffrey Herd has retired from Banchory GC so we wish him a long and happy retirement. Derek Lithgow has been working alongside him for a while and I'm sure

will miss him. We must also congratulate John Littlejohn on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Fraserburgh, where he moves to from Newmarcher.

I can report that the horrible cold east wind has finally gone, to be replaced by an equally horrible cold north west wind! Roll on the warm weather with night time rain that we dream about.

Well, as I write this report I am surrounded by my new clothes, shorts etc and sun bloc, as I am starting to pack for my trip to Augusta and the Masters with my good friends Steve Cadenelli and Shaun Berry. I fly out in four days and am counting down the hours. Watch the tournament on television and the first person to ring me with a description of what I was wearing when they saw me will win a prize!  
Iain Macleod

## West of Scotland

The recent Greenkeepers and Conveners match held at Douglas Park GC proved a great success. The course was presented superbly and thanks are due to Drew McCechnie and his staff for all the hard work. Congratulations to the eventual winners on the day John Young and Stuart Clark for Dougalston. Scottish Grass Machinery and Aitkens are to be thanked for sponsoring the day and for presenting the prizes. On behalf of the sponsors David McInroy said a few words of thanks to all concerned.

The Greenkeeper Training Committee carried out an assessor training day at East Kilbride GC putting 12 Head Greenkeepers through their paces. The comments given were that the day was very informative and thanks are due to Steven Hogg, Sue Gudgeon and

David Golding for the day. East Kilbride GC should be praised for the excellent quality of the venue and facilities provided.

At the last West Section meeting various subjects were discussed – the Scottish outing was confirmed for June 18 at Elie so enter quickly as this venue is bound to prove popular. The possibility of running training days was also discussed but no firm subjects decided. The annual dinner venue and format was talked about with various suggestions given. The five a side tournament will run again with medals as prizes. There will be slight changes with professional referees controlling games and a change of venue. Entries for the tournament will close in July so if you have five or six people (greenkeepers), remember two clubs can join forces, then phone me at 0141 942 5554. A possible trip to Rolawn later in the year was also raised although nothing was confirmed. At the recent Education Conference in Edinburgh a poor turnout was noted from the West Section.

Once again a bereavement was noted in the West Section, Bill Wilson of Clydebank and District GC. Bill started work at 14 in a number of different areas, landscaping, contracting before eventually taking up greenkeeping. Bill started in London, where he purchased the first Toro in Britain, before moving on to Hayston, then Clydebank. Our condolences are extended to his wife Christine and her two sons at this difficult time.

New members to the section are Mike Wattam, Loch Lomond GC; Thomas Headley, Crowwood GC; Derek McCallum, Helensburgh; Tom Halkett, Airdrie; Robert McLerie, William Tally and John McIntyre, all Haggis Castle. The

Section extends a welcome to these members and hopes they enjoy the benefits of being a member.

Finally if any person has information of interest then please contact me on the previously mentioned number.  
Stuart Taylor

## Northern Cleveland

An excellent talk with slides was presented by Bill Twaddle, from British Seed Houses, at Eaglescliffe GC, in March. There was special interest in new Bents for golf greens, also Lex 86 the new dwarf Rye grass with its fine leaves, good colour, for hard wearing and good recovery value.

Our Internal Verifier Tony Mears recently organised a one day course on assessment D32/33 at Haughall College and the tutor was David Golding. It was attended by G. Munro, P. Millard, G. Border, R. Ord, I. Pemberton, C. Powley, R. Shaw, R. Bell, A. Naisbitt, G. Muncey, B. Kelly, J. Turner, W. Rank, I. White, T. McLure.

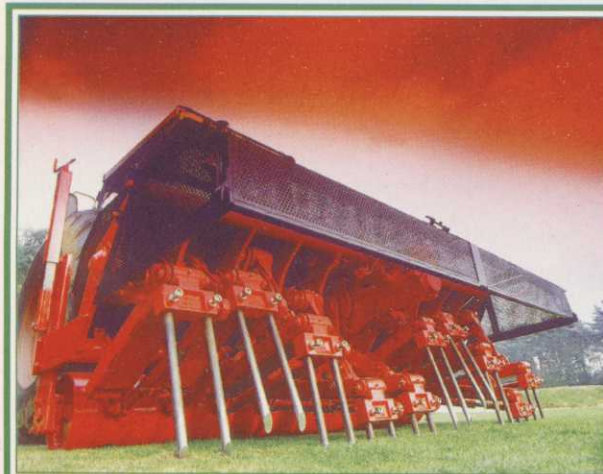
The new Chairman for Cleveland BIGGA is Roger Shaw, Course Manager at Ramside Hall Hotel, Durham.

James Braithwaite spoke well of his recent visit to America as Toro Student Greenkeeper of the year prize at Eaglescliffe GC.

Shaun Carroll and Nick Dawson completed their First Aid course.  
Bruce Burnell

## Sheffield

On March 7 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to Bill Oliver, Amenity Sales Manager of Hardi Sprayers Ltd, for his lecture on sprayers which was attended by a good number of our members.



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Also at the lecture was Mr Lyall Adams, of Woodbay Enterprises, from Canada. Lyall brought with him information on his greens iron he is introducing into this country.

Congratulations go to Sean Baxter, of Brough GC, on his new job in Austria. Good luck, Sean!

D&E Turf are thinking about running a trip to Saltex. Anybody who is interested in going should contact Eddie Stead.

John Lax

### North Wales

You should by now have received and returned application forms for the Hayter Qualifier to be held at Bull Bay GC on May 14.

One amendment which you should be aware of for the event is that the tee times have changed from 10am to 1pm.

I will not be there to share the day with you due to my commitment at the Nine of Clubs Club, Caerwys, but I wish you all the best for an enjoyable day and hope to see you soon.

T.P. Evans

### Midland Region Midland

The last winter lecture was held at Telford Golf and Country Club with Richard Minton, Miracle Professional, talking on nutritional requirements for turf, and Simon Hannah, Inturf, talking about turf production.

The Committee and members present would like to thank both speakers for their talks and Telford Golf and Country Club for the use of their excellent facilities. I would also like to thank R. Thomas for introducing the speakers and making sure that the event went smoothly.

As with previous lectures, only a small percentage of members attended. With this in mind the Committee may decide that it is not worthwhile to hold any seminars this autumn/winter, unless the members tell us differently and support us with their numbers.

On April 17 Dave Franks telephoned me after reading his magazine to say thank you to all the members who have sent him get well messages etc while he was recovering from his illness. Dave is

feeling a lot better and is hoping to return to work shortly.

The results of the first golf tournament will be in June's magazine.

New members to welcome this month are as follows: John Campbell, Michael Clark, Ronald Elson, Edward Elson, Philip Green, Jules Chesern, Robert O'Mullan, Keith Donnelly, Nick Martin, Robert Jones, Nick Worrall and Robert Shaw.

Finally I would like to wish John Wilkes every success in his new job at Harborne GC. John has worked for me for four and a half years but the appeal of learning the new hole changing technique, pioneered by S. McDade (April 95 issue of the magazine) was too much to resist. Good Luck.

Kim Blake

### East Midlands

Not a lot to report this month but I will start by congratulating the following greenkeepers who have made a move this month. Dave Sankey on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Cosby GC, Chris Butlin, Head Greenkeeper at Kibworth GC and Tony Burgoine in the position of Head Greenkeeper at Kilworth Springs GC. I would like to wish all three greenkeepers all the best in their new positions.

I would also like to wish James Robson, of Henton & Chattell, a speedy recovery from his recent illness. I'm sure all members will be pleased to see James back on the road again.

The Section's next outing is on August 14 at Greetham Valley for the annual East Midlands v East of England golf match. This year we shall be looking for revenge after last year's very narrow defeat.

Finally spare a thought for Trevor Bennett, one of the section's best sponsors. Recently at his home club of Forest Hills, Trevor had taken the money from his playing partners for the first time only to be pulled up on the 18th green for a penalty shot losing everything. Watch out for the double greens, Trev.

Antony Bindley

### B, B & O

Firstly I would like to wish Martin Jones and Staff the very best of luck for the forthcoming Tour event

to be held at the Oxfordshire on May 16-19. Hopefully I will be there as part of a support team to assist with bunker raking. It's nice to have a big event on our own doorstep.

Because there are no golf events to report on I shall take this opportunity to inform you of various topics discussed at several committee meetings of late. First of all the purchase of a new computer and printer has been thrashed out recently. This will help me to keep on top of the administration, mailing list - the forever changing list. Because of the rolling renewal system the mailing list has to be updated every month. This is crucial when the time arrives to send entries out for the golf events.

Before we could purchase anything Mark, from Risboro Turf, donated a computer to B,B & O for our own use. So a big thank you to Mark for helping us out. Hopefully I should have purchased a new printer by the time of the next mailshot which means you will be able to read the damn thing!

One of the other topics to be discussed is the putting together of a local education seminar for this coming winter. Mark Cheslaw is putting this together so I will keep you posted on any developments. Lindsay T. Anderson

### South West and South Wales Region South Wales

Our final winter evening lecture recently took place at Pencoed College where Alan Sinclair, British Seed Houses's Midland and South Wales Region Technical Advisor, gave a presentation on "Grasses for Golf Course Renovation". An excellent presentation with many facts and figures relating to the percentage of seed germination from overseeding, different depths for drilling, ideal soil temperatures for germination etc.

Our thanks to Alan, who stood in for Bob Scott who was taken ill - we hope he's fine now - at such short notice.

As that was the last in this series of lectures I'd like to thank all of those people who make presentations and gave so freely of their own time. To both Peter Gillard

and Malcolm Davies for their sterling work and also to the Principle Mr J.D.B. Thomas for allowing us the use of the college facilities.

On Wednesday March 27, the Devon and Cornwall Section held its spring meeting and Hayter Qualifier at the Churston GC, Cornwall, home of Course Manager and Regional Administrator Gordon Child. Philip Swain and our President Colin Murphy and I had the pleasure of representing our Section on a day when the efforts that Gordon has made to their Section were recognised. For after having first earned his crust by showing off his course on the traditional course walk and then presenting a lecture on "Greenkeeping Past, Present and Future", Gordon was presented with a colour portable teletext television in recognition of those efforts. A wonderful day was had and a sincere thanks to the Devon and Cornwall Section for making us so welcome.

To Gordon we wish you well in retirement.  
Peter Lacey

### South West

Welcome to several new members who have joined the Section over recent months, among them Matthew Deer of Vivry Park GC and James Elliott of Wells GC. Those and other new and existing members now make a total of 239 in the Section. However, there are still 45 people who have not renewed as of this year and those people will by now have been contacted by Janet Adamson, the Membership Officer, with a reminder.

Following approval for the revised membership categories at the AGM, the Board of Management has approved new subscription rates for students in full time education who will now be classed as Student Members and for Retired Members.

For £15 per year Student Members will receive a monthly copy of Greenkeeper International, be eligible to take part in any BIGGA event and benefit from member's reductions on course merchandise, publications etc and have the use of BIGGA's library. The membership card for students will be pale yellow and will indicate clearly that it

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*Comment From Walter Woods  
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor*

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does not entitle the member to seek courtesy of the course. Student membership will also not have access to the legal or stress helplines or be covered by the accident insurance policy. They shall also have no voting rights and shall not be eligible for appointment in any official capacity within the Association.

Regarding Retired Membership there are now two levels. Full membership will be offered to those members who have given long and active service to the Association. Subscription will be £25 and will enable them to have full membership status. They will receive a monthly copy of the magazine, be eligible to vote at the AGM, be covered by the accident insurance policy and have access to the legal and stress helplines.

Restricted membership will be offered to those members who may not have been a member for long or have not been particularly active within the Section. They will take the same benefits as Student Members, ie ability to take part in BIGGA events at Section, Regional and National level and have access to the library etc. They will not, however, receive a copy of the magazine; be covered by accident insurance; have access to the legal and stress helplines; be able to seek courtesy golf; have voting rights or be eligible for appointment in any official capacity within the Association. Restricted membership will also be given to those who are eligible for full retired membership but who do not wish to pay, or cannot afford to pay, the £25 subscription.

If you are interested in playing in any of the team matches this year then please return the slip on the recent circular letter and your name will be passed on for consideration for selection by Team Captain Terry Humphrey.

A reminder that nominations for the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year competition need to be at Headquarters by May 31.

Finally, the Summer Tournament this year takes place at Mendip GC on July 25.

Kevin Green

### South Coast

Thirty members attended our last winter meeting on March 6. A lecture was given by Tony Gadd, the Course Manager of Barton-on-Sea on "The Transformation of the 18 hole Course into a 27 hole course".

Tony told us about the many problems encountered during the construction, the main one being the erosion of the cliffs on which the course is built. Judging by his talk he had more than his fair share of problems.

As only 30 members attended this meeting and considering the number of members we have this is not a very good effort and the committee would like some feedback on how we can improve this situation. Some questions we ask. Is the

## Around the Green



venue wrong? Is the time wrong? Do we get the right speakers? Your answers to these would be appreciated. As an aside I can remember when we had 75 members plus at our meetings and I would like to see this situation return.

The South Coast Seminar which was held at Sparsholt College proved to be very successful. The speakers were of a high calibre and kept the audience riveted to their seats. Alan Mitchell, our Section Chairman, welcomed everybody and thanked all the sponsors for their support. These included Huxleys Grass Machinery, Winchester Garden Machinery and Driving Force Leisure.

Our first speaker was David Winterton, Course Manager of Donnington Grove GC. He gave a talk on the club's development including some excellent slides on the estate and gardens. The Japanese Gardens were like something from another world. David then talked about the construction of the golf course and how he had to lay 11 acres of turf six weeks before opening day.

Billy McMillan, Course Manager from Wildwood GC, was next and his talk was "Changes in Greenkeeping - Are you keeping up?" He touched upon a variety of subjects such as how golf courses have to be cost effective, seeking help when required, working with committees and training. He then showed some slides of his golf course.

Our Chairman summed up his presentation by stating that it was one of the best talks he had ever heard.

After coffee our Education Officer, Ken Richardson, spoke to us about the structure of BIGGA. He then went on to tell us about the function of each member of the staff at Aldwark Manor. Ken then gave us a presentation on the courses that were available at Aldwark, this was followed by NVQ's. This caused a lively debate at Question Time. The BIGGA Reference Library was explained and how you can borrow books free for six weeks - only the cost of postage is required. Ken was thanked for his update on HQ.

After the lunch break it was the turn of Bob Taylor, from STRI. Bob gave a presentation on "Golf Course Construction and Management. An Ecological Perspective". Other topics that Bob spoke about and illustrated with slides were, "Thinning out of Trees and Interplanting", "Planting to make the Trees look Natural", "Encouraging Wild Flowers in the Rough". Again, this was a very well presented lecture.

To end the day Peter Jones, of Peter Jones Associates, gave a lecture on "How to take control of a Reconstruction Project". This included "Spur of the moment projects which lead to Disasters", and how to avoid them by calling in an Independent Advisor. Other topics included were "Making the project look natural within the golf course", "Getting rid of the Problem that caused the need for reconstruction in the first place" and "Using the Correct Trees". This presentation was again well illustrated with slides of Woburn and Collingtree Park courses.

Ken Lodge, Chairman of the afternoon Session thanked all the speakers for their presentations and giving up their time to attend. Thanks were also extended to Sparsholt College for allowing the use of the College and the Education Committee for organising such a wonderful and successful day.

By now Mark Webb should have the South Coast team for the Hayter Regional Tournament at Salisbury and South Wilts GC sorted out. This is to be held on Wednesday June 12 and anyone wishing to play please contact Mark ASAP as there is a good chance he will require last minute replacements.

Now back to our own Section Tournaments. We are always looking for new venues to hold our golf meetings. If you would like us to play at your course and your committee is agreeable please let Mark know as he can then make the necessary arrangements.

Ken Lodge

### Devon and Cornwall

A memorable day was had at Churston GC on Wednesday March 27 as 80 members and trade friends gathered to wish Gordon Child an enjoyable retirement.

As usual the day started with our golfing members competing in the morning for the Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers and trade, Rhone Poulenc Trophy for Assistants and the chance to represent the section at the Region Hayter qualifier which will be held at Salisbury & South Wilts on June 12.

For non golfing members the usual course walk proved to be as always very interesting with the old maestro informing members on a method to prevent bird damage caused by leather jackets during the winter months.

After lunch Peter Bridgewater of Supaturf and Paul Clifton, of Rhone Poulenc, presented the prizes to the following members.

Supaturf Trophy: 1. T. Blackburn, Crediton, 38pts; 2. R. Minton, Miracle, 35pts; 3. T. Farkins, Dartmouth, 34pts.

Rhone Poulenc Trophy: 1. A. James, Tehidy, 35pts; 2. J. Mitchell, Perranporth, 32pts (on countback); 3. S. Getson, St Mellion, 32 pts.

Qualifiers for the Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge to be held at Salisbury GC on Wednesday

June 12 are:

0-9. G. Tamblin, J. Mitchell, A. Parker, T. Gooch, C. Rawlings.

10-18. T. Farkins, M. Child, E. Barber, M. Parrish, W. Potter.

19-28. T. Blackburn, A. James, S. Getson, Miss L. Breyley, C. Pine.

The winners in each category were presented with a silver salver by Mike Lincoln-Smith of Hayter. Our Congratulations and good luck to all who qualified.

Also our thanks to Peter Bridgewater, Paul Clifton and Mike Lincoln-Smith for presenting the prizes.

We couldn't let Gordon off too lightly at his last meeting before he retires so we invited him to present our afternoon educational talk on "Greenkeeping past, present and future" which he did, as always, very professionally. During question time Gordon was asked what was one of his most frightening experiences. After a few moments Gordon recalled the day a jet fighter flew so low that when it had to climb to miss some trees it blew him off his feet and burnt his eyebrows with the heat of the engines.

After his talk the Chairman Bill Mitchell presented him with a 14" portable teletext TV on behalf of the Section members and our trade friends, namely: Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden Machinery, B.J. Flegg, Levingtons, Miracle, M.S.T, P & M A Services, Rhone Poulenc, Rigby Taylor, Roffeys and Sisis.

Gordon's surprise and delight was seen by all, he was even lost for words for a few minutes! Gordon's lovely wife Marion was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

My thanks to our President John Palfrey for organising the support of the trade companies above.

For this summer it was decided to extend our evening summer meetings to courses in Devon as well as Cornwall with the first being held at Yelverton GC on May 22. Members will meet in the car park at 6.15pm before walking the course with Head Greenkeeper Steve Peters, returning to the clubhouse at around 8pm for a drink and a bite to eat. By now you should all have received the fixture card for these events which have been sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery. For more details and dates of venues please phone Steve Evans on 01208 863647.

Richard Whyman

**THE ONE JOB I DO WHICH GIVES ME MOST SATISFACTION IS:**



"Cutting fairways"  
Dave Neale, Henbury GC



# Furniture and fittings

**A look at what's available to add those vital finishing touches to the course.**

**H**ow often have you slaved for weeks to get the greens just how you want then and not heard a peep from the membership but as soon as you put out some new tee boxes or benches or ball washers or new flags everyone comes up to you and says how good the course is looking?

It's galling but it does highlight the importance of furniture and fittings. They are visible, can add a bit of colour and lets face it they can, like a rug or a painting in the sitting room, cover a multitude of sins.

We asked a number of companies in the field to show us their latest offerings.

**H.L.D.** offers a timber engineering design, manufacture and installation package covering all

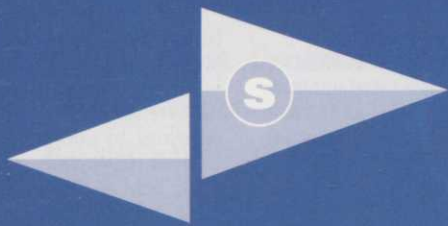


forms of timber footbridges, walkways and access structures (pictured).

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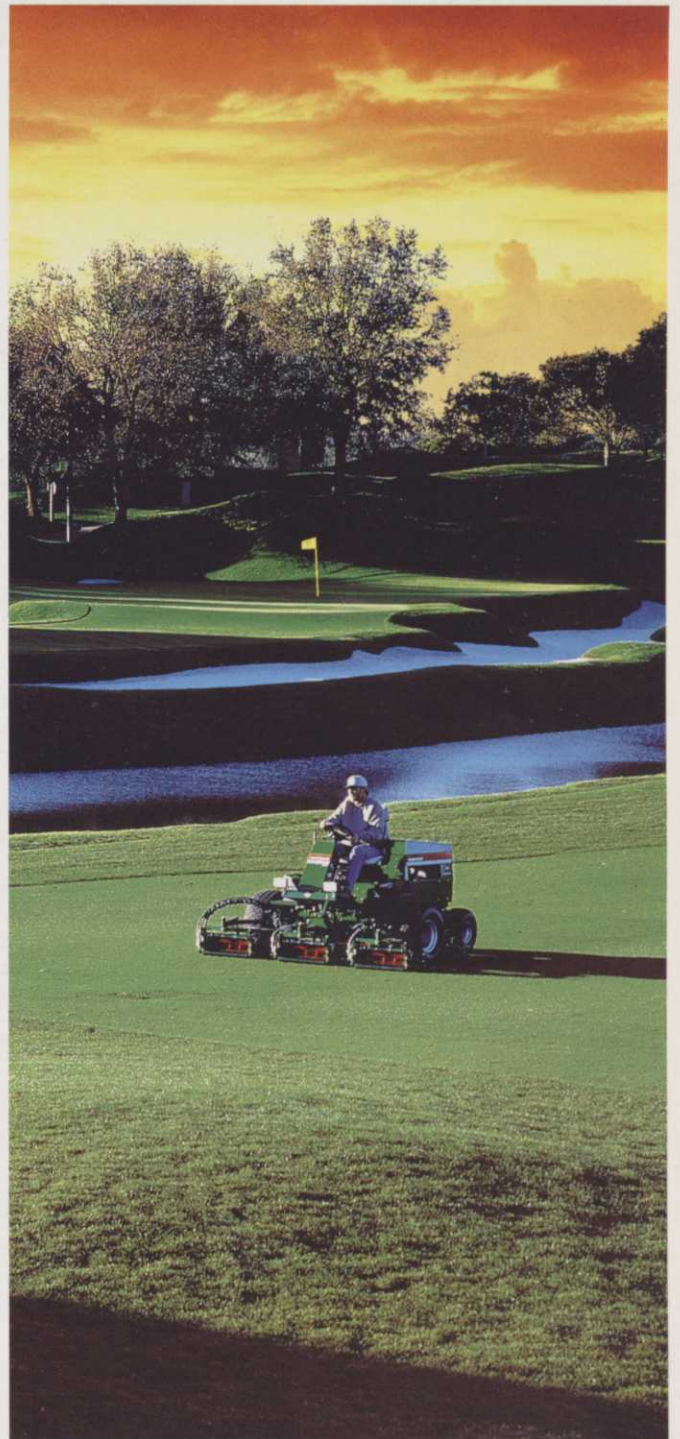
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# Furniture and fittings

cost-effective kits to maintenance vehicle access bridges. Most are manufactured from guaranteed preservative treated timber but steel and timber combinations are also used.

The H.L.D product range also includes "Weerbaar Hout" lake and stream bank protection timbers and a fully integrated range of landscape structures.

**Tacit** is now manufacturing a U-Boot shoe cleaner – pictured right – that will clean the bottom and sides of your shoes simultaneously. The design allows for a swifter and more efficient cleaning from one standing position. The three sets of U-pattern brushes are stiff at the base and soft at the sides with spacing between to allow the debris to fall through. All brushes are easily replaced.

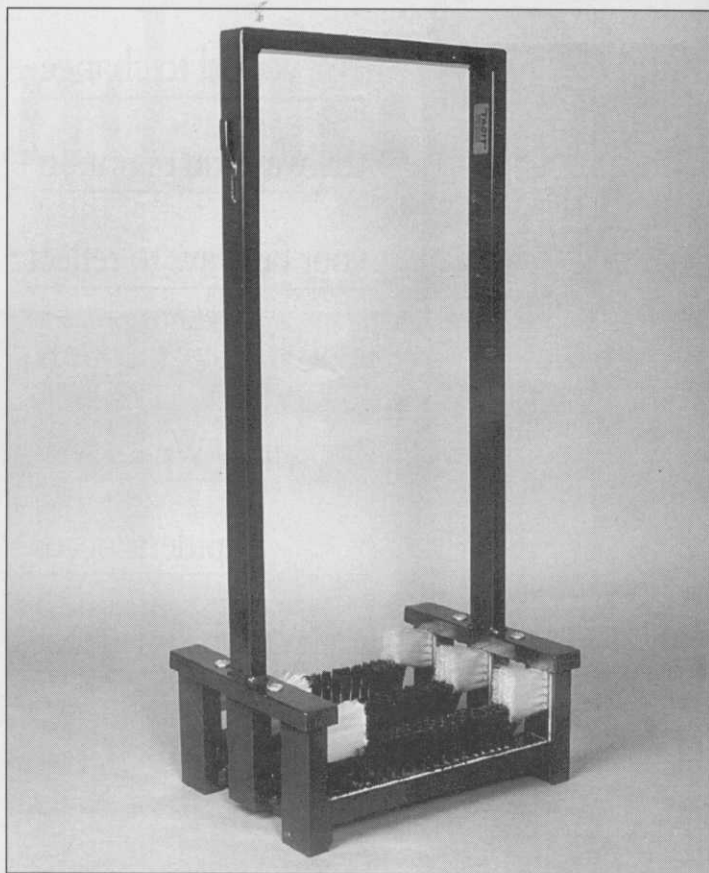
The compact and simple style allows it to be neatly placed not

only outside, but at the entrance of a club house, pro shop, foyers and receptions. For further details, please contact Tacit on 01788 568818.

**Gloster Leisure Furniture** offers a wide range of quality teak furniture for all types of outdoor situations, from parks and gardens to golf courses and sports grounds. Gloster furniture is ideally suited to commercial or public use as it is designed to be left outside year round, needs no maintenance and will withstand the rigours of both hard wear and extreme weather conditions for decades.

Gloster furniture is manufactured in its own factory by craftsmen using genuine teak.

The Albany 5\* is new for '96. A long, high backed seat with dished back panels, gently sloping seat and smoothly contoured arms. A design which follows



closely the best in traditional English garden furniture design but with a new level of comfort.

The Gloster – the heaviest seat in the Gloster range is ideal for parks, municipal gardens, the street or any location of heavy wear. It is available in 5ft, 6ft and 8ft lengths.

Thornbury Chair & Carver – a traditionally styled dining chair which complements all Gloster's tables. Available with or without flat side arms and has a shaped seat and back for extra comfort.

The Kingston Chair & Carver is new for '96 and is based on traditional styles, Kingston chairs have been ergonomically designed to ensure a comfortable seating position.

Weston Chair & Carver – Compact lightweight folding chairs with contoured seat and back panels for extra comfort. The seat incorporates a carrying handle and features a unique one-handed folding action which is simple and easy to use.

The Windrush Armchair – combines the high backed elegance of the Evenlode with the practical benefit of wide flat arms which can be a convenient resting place for a plate, cup or glass. Also available in three lengths of seat.

The Bristolian Steamer Chair is a traditionally styled chair with contoured back which can be adjusted to four different positions and has a detachable footrest. The Bristolian can be folded for easy storage. A popular model both on land or at sea.

For a brochure of the full 1996 range, contact UK and Eire Sales Manager, David Toby at Gloster UK on Tel: (+44)-117-931 5335 or Fax: (+44)-117-931 5334.

In recent years, expensive stone markers have begun to appear on a growing number of golf courses around the world. Thanks to new Turfstone Tee Markers by **Standard Golf**, greenkeepers can now achieve the look and feel of granite, with out paying the high price.

The markers are precision-moulded from a thermoset polyester compound that is ten times stronger than "Corian". It's a dense, non-porous material that resists chipping, cracking, fading, even staining. Under other names, the material has been successfully used in hundreds of consumer and industrial applications and it can definitely stand up to the elements and the heat, and it's impervious to golf course chemicals.

Turfstone markers are available in a wide range of colours to handle multiple tee locations – red garnet, white quartz, blue slate, yellow sandstone, black onyx and grey granite. Colours are moulded throughout the material with built-in ultraviolet inhibitors to resist fading. The markers can also be engraved with a club logo in one colour, individual hole numbers, or any other one-colour design. Engraved areas are filled with a polyester ink that has been specially formulated for outdoor

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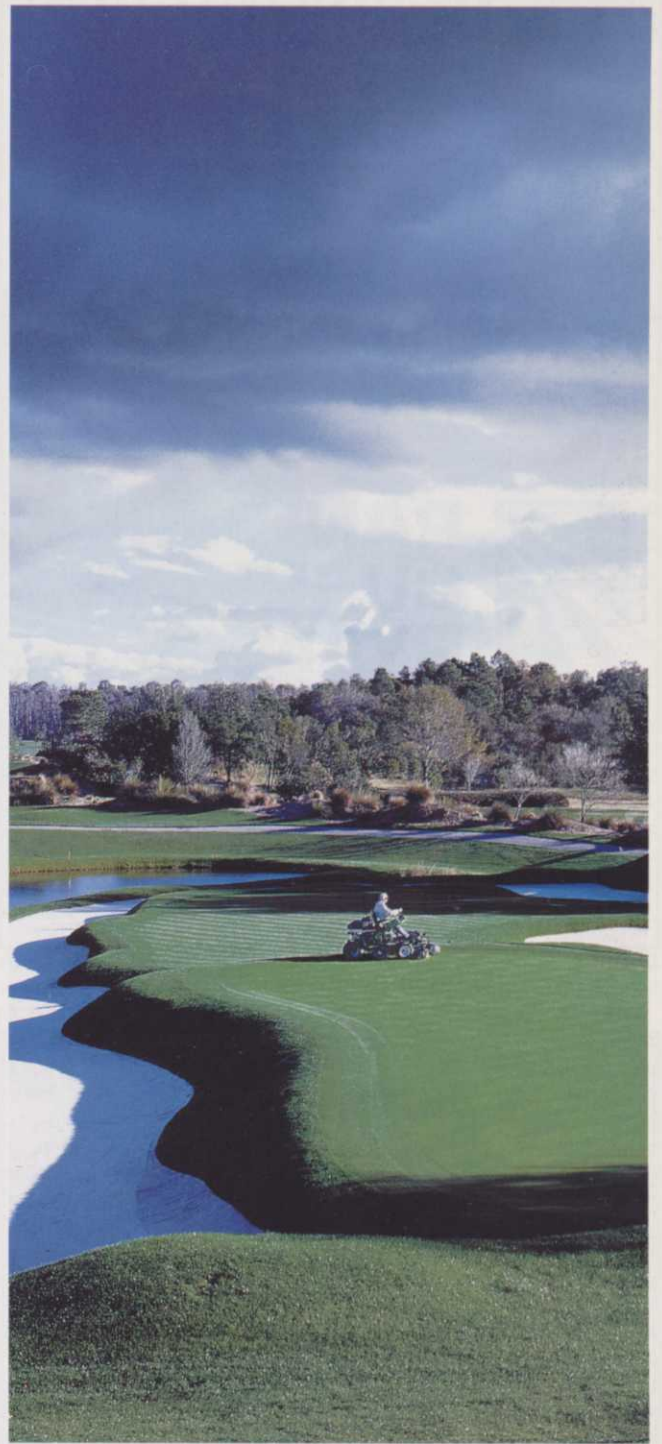
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# Furniture and fittings



The Links Leisure course markers can be produced in either a standard or tailor-made range of styles and designs

use. Several stock ink colours are available, or you can specify any Pantone (PMS) colour.

Standard Golf also produces solid bronze signage in a variety of designs which can be customised to your needs. They can be used as distance markers, as tee signs, or for commemorative purposes or as memorials.

Encompassing the need to be both informative and, at the same time, add to the aesthetics

of the golf course, a new range of **PRO-TEE** course markers can be produced in either a standard or tailor-made range of styles and designs.

Produced by the Shropshire-based golf equipment specialist, Links Leisure, the new markers are manufactured from weather-proof glass reinforced cement, they are said to be durable and maintenance-free, and they can be finished in a choice of colours.

Apart from offering a standard range of attractive marker styles and shapes into which club names, motifs, and other details, and sponsor plates can be incorporated Links Leisure can also recreate tailor-made designs to suit individual club requirements.

Both the standard or individual markers can be either permanently installed on metal posts shaped GRC bases.

Full details on the new course marker range can be obtained direct from Links Leisure Limited, Unit 22, Civic Industrial Park, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1TT Tel; 01948 663002 Fax: 01948 666381.

**Pattissons** is acknowledged as the one-stop-shop for all course furnishings. From the tee area Pattissons range starts with the simple Trio Tee Marker to its ever popular resin tee markers, available in Deluxe Golf ball, Standard Golf ball, Pearshaped (pictured left) and Cone Shaped styles. As an alternative, Chichester or Newbury Tee Consoles come complete with a sign that can show all the hole information and layout, D-shaped litter bins, shoe brushes and scrapers, ball washers, ball towels, sponsorship plates, in fact nearly any specialist requirements can be met. As with the consoles, many Pattissons products can be made

to the courses unique specification to maintain a consistency of style.

Another attractive tee accessory is the Deluxe Info Panel, this is a multi panel sign made from extruded aluminium and polyester powder coated in the colour of your choice, once again it can be made to the courses specification and can include, course logo, sponsor plates, yardage information and hole layout. This unit can also be removed for grass cutting and ground maintenance.

Pattisson can supply virtually any accessory a course will need from the tee to the green. The 1996 centenary catalogue containing all of the new and improved course products is available by phoning 01582-597262.

**Indian Ocean Trading Company** has launched several new designs for the '96 seasons.

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**Jon Allbutt examines the management of health & safety at work**

This is the first of three articles that concentrates on specific areas of risk assessment that directly affects the management of golf courses. This month I will deal with the all important Management Regulations, but first what do we mean by the term risk assessment?

It is a pity that all the hype about the "New Six Pack" of regulations overlooked an important fact, and that is, there is nothing new about risk assessments at all. The decisions we make in our day to day management and also when planning future projects has always involved an element of risk assessment. Discussions like "It might be better (safer) not to use the Allen on the green surrounds to-day, I had a look this morning on the way in and they are a bit soft"; "Can you hand mow the tees to-day, the approach is very wet and I don't think you will get on, and off, (safely) without making a mess".

Greenkeepers are of course a brave lot and we do find situations where, instinctively, you knew it might be 'pushing it a bit' to take a machine on a slope in poor ground conditions, but you try anyway; greenkeepers meet-

# Getting to grips with **RISK** ASSESSMENT

ings are full of stories about the consequences!

At one of the Management Courses at Aldwark Manor I asked for a show of hands from delegates who had gone on to a

green in the wrong gear, set down the cutters, forgot about the wrong gear, finished the job, raised the cutters and shot off the green at high speed! The show of hands was in the majority!

So risk assessment is nothing new, it is the procedure of carrying out a formal inspection of the site, identifying any hazards (a situation that has the potential to cause harm or injury) and assess-

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# RISK ASSESSMENT

ing the risk (the likelihood that injury will occur).

The important difference between the traditional approach and now is that we have to be formal about it and record the "significant findings" of the assessment, and then make sure that all involved are informed, and trained so that the risk is reduced, or eliminated by design.

An important part of the process is avoiding the problem by removing the hazard, or making sure that equipment is "fit for the purpose", that is the job it is going to do is considered carefully before purchase. Ideally have the equipment for a demonstration to see if it can do the job.

These principles apply to any risk assessment situation, so what is different about the Management Regulations?

Regulation 3 states:

"(1) Every employer shall make a



A busy course always provides the risk of being hit by a ball

suitable and sufficient assessment of—

(a) the risks to the health and safety of his employees to which are exposed whilst they are at work; and

(b) the risks to the health and safety of persons not in his employment arising out of or in connec-

tion with the conduct by him undertaking, for the purpose of identifying the measures he needs to take to comply with the requirements and prohibitions imposed upon him by or under the relevant statutory provisions". Quite a mouthful, what does it mean?

The employer must undertake a broad look at the workplace and identify hazards to his employees, or any other persons (golfers or the public) who might be affected by the business. There is no need to repeat any other work already carried out, for example, the risk assessment will identify hazardous chemicals, but these should have already been risk assessed under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH), so no action is necessary if these regulations have adequately reduced the risks.

On a golf course there are no 'Being Hit by Golf Balls Regulations', so under the Management Regulations you identify any areas of the golf course where staff are having problems with being hit by golf balls. Check that the Club has a policy on priority, and that staff and players are adhering to it. This could involve not opening for play until, say, eight o'clock; or on a Pay and Play, Municipal or other course where there is no control over start times it may be necessary to issue guidance to ensure all on the course understand the Club policy. For example the scorecard might have the following note:

"Greenstaff have priority on the course, they will give way whenever practicable. The ball will not be played where greenstaff are within range; please wait until

the way is clear or you are called through".

Such a clear statement makes it quite clear to both parties the Club Policy and serves as a guide to everybody involved. In the event of an accident it will greatly assist the Inspector to decide who was at fault (if anyone). Where 'hot spots' on the course are identified it may be necessary to place notices on tees, provide towers or some other way to ensure players and staff are not at risk.

There are no 'Take Care on Steep Slopes Regulations', so it is necessary to identify slopes, measure the angle, and decide if they are safe all the time, or just when very wet, or very dry. When designing new features on the course make sure you have thoroughly considered how they are to be maintained before construction.

I looked recently at a new tee (designed by the Captain!) on an established course and asked what special type of machine was to be used to cling to its precipitous slopes, the Course Manager answered with a sigh 'we don't know, probably have to use a flymo or strimmer'. Now here is an important point, most risk assessments result in an increase in operational efficiency. Compare the cost of hand mowing, strimming with using modern ride on mowers.

If you take this argument to its extreme we could end up with some very bland, boring golf courses!. So be sensible and make sure you keep in mind that the object of the exercise is to create a safer working environment within the limits of the site, and the needs of the game.



There are no 'Take Care on Steep Slope' regulations



# Buyers' Guide

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Write down the names of the three ads where the £50 notes are located and send your entries on a postcard to: **Note the Notes Competition, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF**, to be received by first post Friday May 17, 1996. The first correct entry drawn after that date will win £50. *It could be YOU! Enter today – and Note the Notes!*

Judges' decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff.

★ **Lucky winner of last month's competition was W H Griffin, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Dore and Totley Golf Club. A handy £50 is on its way. Get searching now and YOU could be this month's winner!**

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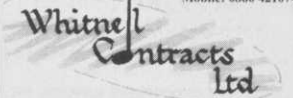
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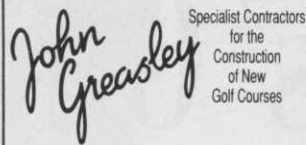


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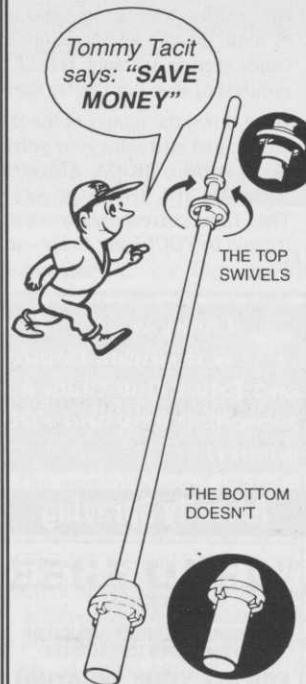
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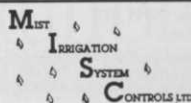


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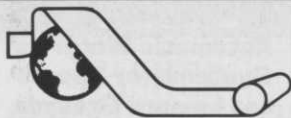


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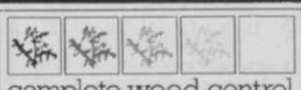
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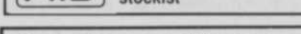
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Please apply in writing, enclosing CV to:

**Alan Holmes, Course Manager, Blairgowrie Golf Club,  
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Applications are invited from persons with proven ability along with  
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## The Edzell Golf Club

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be qualified, experienced and self motivated with proven ability in organising and carrying out work programmes.

A sound and practical knowledge of automatic irrigation systems and the use of greenkeeping machinery is also required.

The ability to lead, motivate and organise an established team is essential.

Salary by negotiation – accommodation available if required.

Applications in writing with full CV including current salary to:

**The Secretary, The Edzell Golf Club,  
High Street, Edzell, Angus DD9 7TF**



## The Grimsby Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of:

# WORKING HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Club was established in 1922, and the course is regarded as a classic Colt layout, being an undulating parkland course on a clay base.

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

Closing date 31 May 1996.

Written applications including full CV to:

**The Secretary, The Grimsby Golf Club,  
Littlecoates Road, Grimsby, North East Lincs DN34 4LU**

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# HEAD GREENKEEPER/ COURSE MANAGER

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Please contact Tanya Clay,  
Human Resources Manager on 01329 833455  
at Meon Valley Hotel, Sandy Lane, Shedfield,  
Southampton SO32 2HQ

*(Please note that if you do not receive a reply by 20th June your application will have been unsuccessful).*





What it feels like to win: Greg Norman with the BIGGA Support Team after he won the 1993 Open. Now, Scott MacCallum offers some fond words of wisdom following a certain defeat in Augusta...



# Cheering up Greg

**T**here can't be many multi millionaire golfers feeling worse than Greg Norman at the moment.

We all watched Greg's public humiliation at the Masters and, if you were like me, found it a painful experience. How can a man who can hone in on a target four and a quarter inches small with relentless regularity for three days miss the huge Augusta National greens so consistently on the final day? How can a man who barely missed a putt of under 10 feet for 54 holes be the same man who couldn't locate a donkey's backside with a banjo on the home stretch?

In the past, some bizarre and unlikely incidents have deprived him of US Major glory. Remember the holed bunker shot in the '86 USPGA at the Inverness Club, Ohio, which sent Bob Tway's Twoops – yes that's how his fans are known – not to mention the man himself into delirium and Larry Mize's outrageous play-off chip in at Augusta a year later? Those, it could be argued were incidents out with Norman's control although he did squander a big lead to give Tway the opportunity. There have been other occasions when he has caused his own downfall in Majors. The '86 US Open when he led going into the final round but shot a large score, again in the same tournament last year when he stumbled and let in Corey Pavin. He's only the second man to have lost play-offs for all four Major Championships.

But his performance at this year's Masters was a new low for him. The definitive example of a man falling on his own sword and being the architect of his own misfortune. He's bounced back from disappointment before but in future who would bet on him winning with

a one shot lead going into the final round of a Major in future never mind a six shot lead?

Having said all of that. I like him and I think he's great for the game of golf and I've decided that if I happen to bump into him in the next few weeks I need a few well chosen words to cheer him up a bit. Likewise if you should come across him and are like minded why not select a couple from the list below and make him feel a little better.

- ◆ You can only blow it if you've been in contention in the first place.
- ◆ You'd have accepted second before the week began.
- ◆ You got a nice big cheque as a consolation prize.
- ◆ You're the most charismatic loser in world sport.
- ◆ Now every woman in the country wants to mother you.
- ◆ What golfer in the world would not gladly swap lives with you?
- ◆ How many people would give their right arms even to play Augusta?
- ◆ Doug Sanders says he can go at least five minutes without thinking about his famous golfing disaster.
- ◆ You're undoubtedly the best player in the world never to have won a Major Championship in the States instead of just another one of those Jeff Sluman, Scott Simpson, Bob Tway characters who have won one.
- ◆ Of the players who have won two Majors in the world Sandy Lyle, Bernhard Langer, John Daly, Andy North you're probably the best.
- ◆ Who remembers who beat Devon Loch?
- ◆ Jack Nicklaus didn't win every Major in which he was in contention... Just most of them.

◆ Look at all the players who have only won one Major – Tom Kite, Ian Woosnam, Corey Pavin, Paul Azinger, Jose Maria Olazabal, Bill Rogers, Fred Couples, Craig Stadler, Tom Weiskopf. Tom was runner up in the Masters four times, so you've still got one to go!

◆ You've still won more Majors than fellow Australians Ian Baker-Finch, Steve Elkington, Wayne Grady, Graham Marsh, Kel Nagle.

◆ Everybody makes mistakes.

◆ Some top players have never won a Major: Andy Bean, Neil Coles, Chip Beck, Calvin Peete, Davis Love III, Jumbo Ozaki, Colin Montgomerie, Peter Alliss.

◆ You're joint holder of the record low round in The Open and The Masters with 63 – can Faldo say that?

◆ At least you've still got your health, not to mention your wealth.

◆ Tommy Aaron, Charles Coody, George Archer, Bob Goalby and Gay Brewer all won the Masters and what happened to them?

◆ You didn't shoot the worst score in the final round. Ian Woosnam and Alexander Cejka had 80s, Vijay Singh had an 82 while Bernhard Langer, John Daly and Jack Nicklaus joined you with 78s.

◆ Think yourself fortunate that your name doesn't rhyme with choke like Scott Hoch.

◆ How many people can say they've been runner-up in one Major never mind eight.

◆ I think your hats are great.

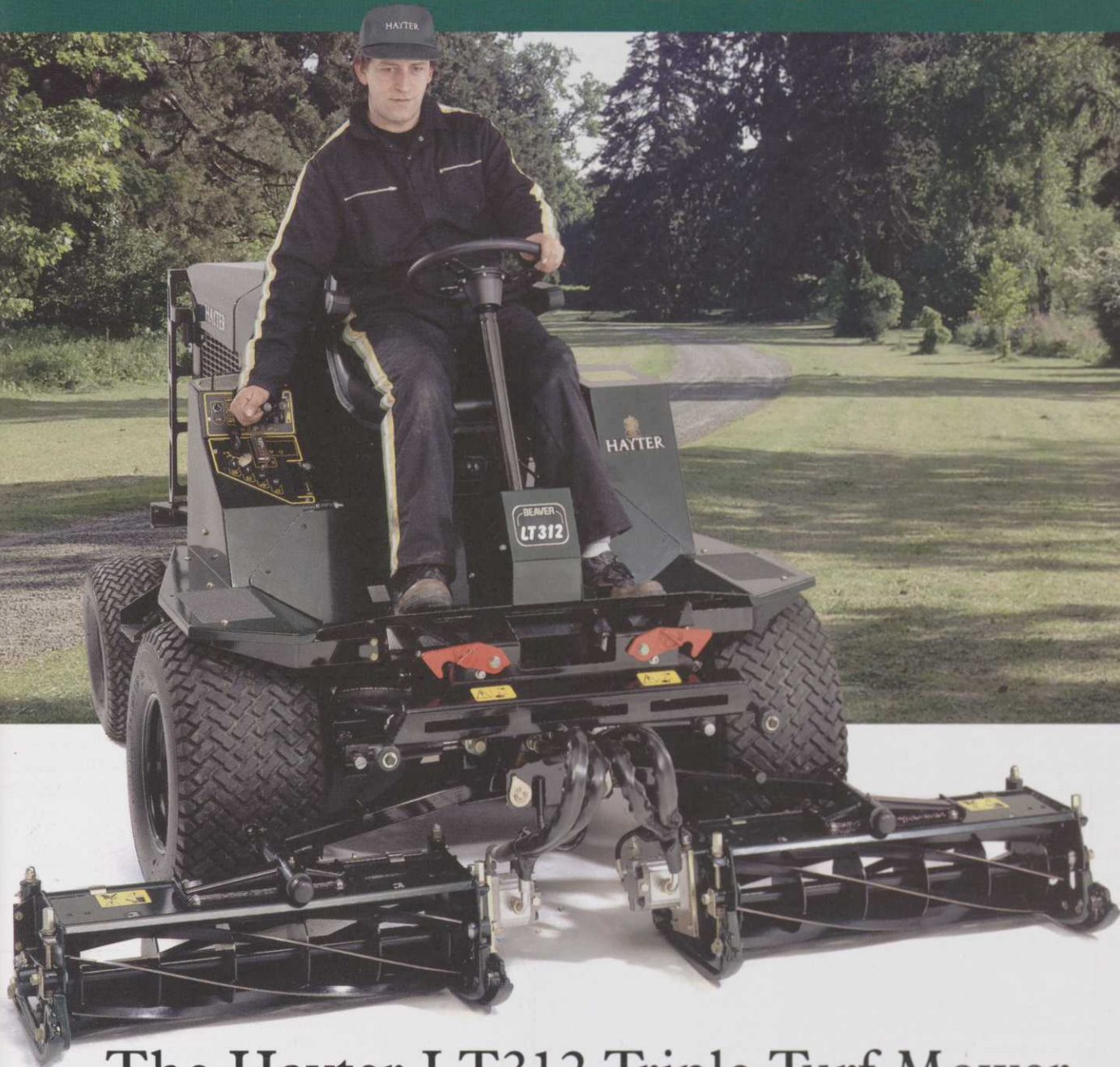
◆ Arnold Palmer blew a seven shot lead with nine holes to play in the 1966 US Open so you're in good company.

◆ You could swap one of your Opens for one of Bernhard Langer's Masters then you'd both be happy.

◆ You're still more popular than Faldo.



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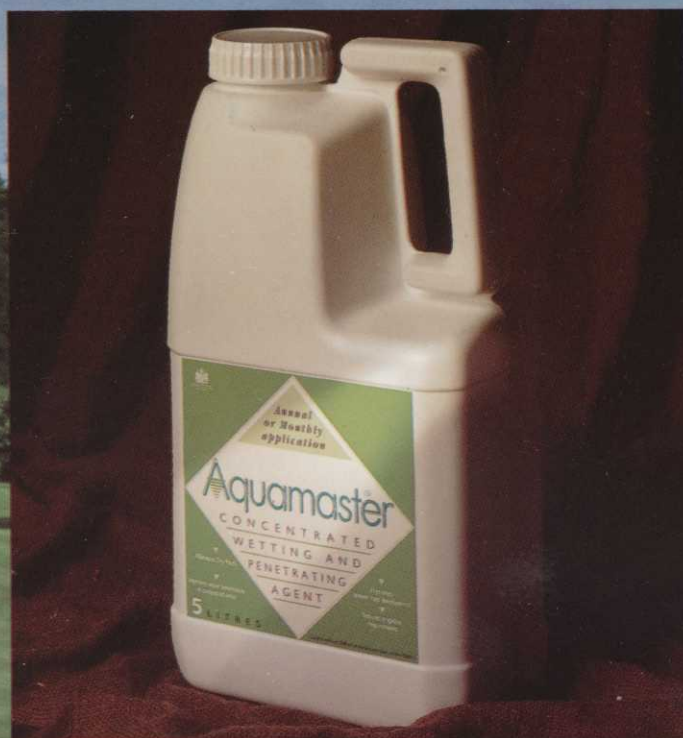
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