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International

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION



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**GLOBAL GREENKEEPING UNITES
UNDER THE HAYTER BANNER**

Full report and pictures from the Hayter International Cup and the Hayter Challenge Final



BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION



BTME 97

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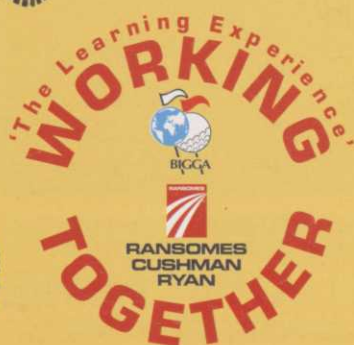
HOW TO GET TO HARROGATE

BY RAIL: The comprehensive rail network means you can get to Harrogate very easily. For example, 25 trains run daily from London King's Cross to Harrogate and there are some 15 trains from Edinburgh, 16 from Glasgow and 30 from Manchester

BY AIR: Manchester Airport is 56 miles from Harrogate and there's a convenient direct train via Leeds railway station. Leeds/Bradford airport is just 12 miles away from Harrogate

BY ROAD: From North and South - A1 exit Wetherby, nine miles from Harrogate. M1 and M62 to Leeds, which is 15 miles away

BY SEA: North Sea Ferries, from Rotterdam/Zeebrugge to Hull, 59 miles away.



GREENKEEPER

International

■ The next edition of **Greenkeeper International** should be with you by **November 9**



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GREENKEEPER

International

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

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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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OCTOBER 1996

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The final part of our competition to win VIP treatment at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition contains an entry form for you to submit. Remember, it could be you..... **Page 6**

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Serene picture of a busy club: Wentworth, photographed by Brian Morgan. Inset: the Hayter International Cup teams

WIN £50 CASH IN OUR BUYER'S GUIDE COMPETITION: TURN TO PAGE 40

FREE READER REPLY SERVICE

Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 2 for further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the companies' Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us and we'll arrange for further information to be sent to you direct.



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“ Toro have a long term commitment to Greenkeeper International because it is read by our target audience – the greenkeepers

– PETER MANSFIELD, General Manager, Turf Products, Lely (UK) Ltd, UK distributor for Toro Commercial Products

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL: James McEvoy, Louise Lunn or Amanda Freeman at BIGGA HQ on 01347 838581.

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

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

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There's only a few exhibition spaces left for BTME 97 – for more details contact Louise Lunn on 01347 838581

Heading for Harrogate

As I write Aldwark Manor is assuming an autumnal look and the season of "mists and mellow fruitfulness" is truly upon us once more. For us at Headquarters it signals the build up to major events and by the time you read this month's magazine the eagerly anticipated Hayter International Cup match and Challenge Tournament will have taken place. The final stages of both the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and the Miracle Premier Greenkeeper of the Year awards rapidly approach. October will see both the Management Courses at Aldwark Manor and the Regional Supervisory Management Courses in full flow. In the midst of all this activity staff, with increasing intensity, are preparing for our biggest event. The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition will soon be upon us. For our industry, the BTME lights up the long dark days of winter and in ever-increasing numbers our members head for Harrogate in January to what is now a highlight in the greenkeeping calendar as well as a key week for companies in the industry at the start of another year.

This will be the ninth BTME and it has consistently grown in the years since 1989. For the 1996 exhibition we took on another hall to cater for demand and we continue to work closely with the Harrogate International Centre in looking ahead to our further expansion. Within the next two years a new purpose built hall will come on line on the site of the Royal Hall Car park which will be familiar to those of you who have attended the BTME. As the exhibition continues to grow we will look to utilise this new facility to ensure that the needs of the industry are fulfilled in terms of enhancing the status and appeal of the BTME. In the past there has been much debate on the preferred location of the BTME. In the last year or two it would be true to say that a substantial majority amongst both our members and the exhibiting companies have settled on Harrogate as the preferred location and as such BIGGA is intent on providing an exhibition and educational programme



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

which will continue to confirm the BTME as the pre-eminent event within the industry for both members and visitors alike.

For those who have yet to make the pilgrimage to Harrogate there is much in the 1997 programme to attract. For a start there is the town itself, in the past one of Europe's leading spas and with an ambience much appreciated still today. Arrive on Sunday, park your car and you will not need it until you leave on Friday. The International Centre, hotels and restaurants are all closely integrated while, by now, many returning greenkeepers have their own favourite bed and breakfasts and watering-holes! Indeed, a

nice place to visit.

To begin at the beginning there is the National Education Conference. Since its inception at Queens College, Cambridge in 1989, this has become a prestigious educational event being incorporated into the BTME in 1995. A look at the programme will indicate that this year's conference programme will most certainly match the standards of previous years. Complementing the conference is an expanded workshop programme covering key areas for greenkeepers wherein they can enhance their learning and skills.

For the second year, BIGGA will be working with the STRI in running a course for Chairmen of Green and Golf Club Secretaries. It made good sense to set up this course in Harrogate for it is essential that the aforementioned participate in the BTME where they will view the latest products and equipment for their golf courses as well as benefit from the "Learning Experience". Ideally all golf clubs will send not only their Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper but also their Chairman of Green or Secretary. We shall keep working on it!

The BTME seminar programme will run through Wednesday and

Thursday to Friday lunchtime and this year in a new location, the Kings Suite, located below Hall D. It is our belief that this will create a more intimate atmosphere for the programme and enhance the inter-action between speakers and delegates. Certainly, it should be warmer than the wide, open spaces of the Royal Hall. If you throw in the BIGGA Annual General Meeting and the first Annual General Meeting of the newly formed Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations, attendees indeed have a comprehensive programme to look forward to and that is before both the official (and unofficial) social programme.

The Majestic Hotel is BIGGA's Headquarters Hotel and during the course of the year it hosts many events and attracts the country's top entertainers to entertain conference delegates. It is not an exaggeration to say that the BTME banquet has now become one of Harrogate's top social events of the year. The spectacular cabaret planned to climax this year's show should prove no exception with top of the bill Bobby Davro supported by Laine Kennedy and the City Lights Show Band. Make no mistake tickets will as usual be in great demand and places are limited - a case of "don't delay, order today".

So there we have it, a great week in prospect. It has become an international event and delegates are expected in January from far and wide across Europe and further afield. Old friendships will be renewed and new ones forged. Greenkeepers will return to their clubs with fresh enthusiasm, new ideas and conversant with the latest trends and developments in both the profession and industry. For exhibitors the post Christmas inertia will have been swept away and their order books should be filling. Chairmen of Green and Secretaries will surely leave Harrogate with a fresh perspective. If you've been before then most certainly you will be coming back. If this is your first visit it will be both informative and enjoyable. BIGGA looks forward to welcoming you to a memorable week at the BTME.

Amanda joins the team



The newest member of staff at BIGGA Headquarters is 28 year-old Amanda

Freeman who has joined the Association as Sales and Marketing Assistant.

Amanda, a native of York, arrives at Aldwark Manor from the *Yorkshire Evening Press* where she worked in the advertising department. Prior to that she was a secretary working for, among others, Rentokil.

"I don't play golf but the nearest I've come to being involved in the game until now is when I worked in a guest house near my family home in

Fulford and I used to serve Rodger Davis and Jose Maria Canizares breakfast when they played in the Benson and Hedges International," explains Amanda.

She and her boyfriend Dan, a journalist whom she met while collecting for the Children in Need Appeal two years ago, have just bought a house in York and Amanda is busy designing and doing up old furniture.

"We enjoy camping, walking and mountain biking which I took up when I cycled 12 miles a day to one of my jobs when I couldn't afford the bus fare!"

Amanda joined the Association at the end of August.

As I see it...

BY DEAN CLEAVER
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

My travels this month make Alan Whicker seem like a bit of a home bird! It all started with the Saltex Show at Windsor which was a great success for BIGGA. Not only did we have a large number of membership enquiries but our stand won a prize as well!

Almost as soon as that was over I was hot footing it to Sweden to talk at the Swedish Greenkeepers Association's Conference. I was originally asked to deliver one 50 minute paper but by the time I arrived it had risen to three. They certainly make you work! There was time to relax a little though and I played in the SGA's National Championship as a guest, visited six golf courses and also fitted in some site seeing in Stockholm where I stayed with Tommy Lindelof and his wife Helen.

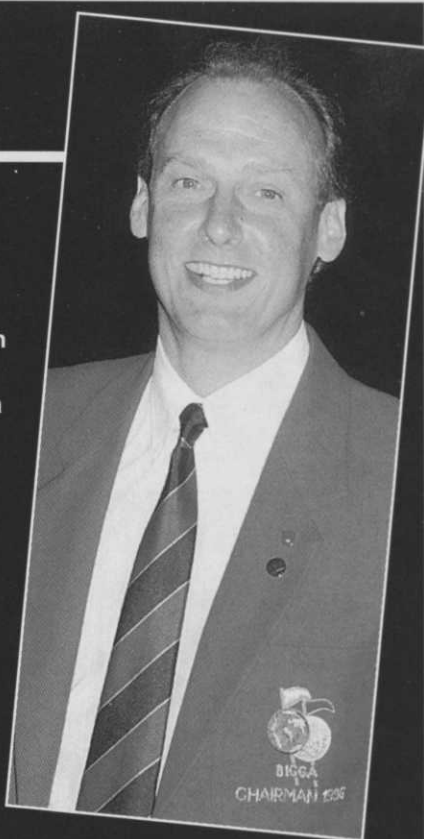
No sooner was I back than it was off to West Lancashire Golf Club and the inaugural Hayter International Cup. Despite the fact that as Captain I didn't lift the Cup it was a superb event and a lot of lasting friendships were forged between the individual players and the 13 greenkeeper associations which were present. It certainly was a unique occasion.

It also gave us an opportunity to hold the second Federation of European Golf Greenkeeper Associations (FEGGA) meeting and, as Chairman, I can say I'm delighted at the progress that is being made with solid foundations being laid for the future.

From there it was off to Lytham for the Hayter Challenge Final at Fairhaven. I would like to congratulate both John Muir at West Lincs and Peter Simpson at Fairhaven for the magnificent condition of their golf courses. They certainly were worthy venues for two such marvellous events. The Challenge Final, as ever, produced some excellent golf in some extremely trying conditions and the Northern Region deserved its victory.

I would like to pay particular thanks to Tony Bourke and Kim Macfie of Hayters and their excellent team for their sponsorship and hands on assistance in the running of the event.

It really has been one of the busiest months I've had as Chairman but I can say I've enjoyed every minute of it.



NEWS



At the big event, from left, Ian Duncan, Douglas Hayter and Fred Stratton

Hayter celebrates 50 years in style

A galaxy of the grass machinery industry's well known names and faces gathered recently in the Ironmongers Hall in the Barbican, London, to celebrate Hayter's 50th year. Amongst the guests were the company's founder, Douglas Hayter and his wife Susan, Chairman and C.E.O. of Briggs and Stratton Corporation, Fred Stratton and his wife Anne and Vice Chairman of Hayter's parent company, Tomkins plc, Ian Duncan and his wife Carole. Also joining in the celebrations was local MP, Bowen Wells, and a host of long standing and loyal customers who have supported Hayter since its inception.

Hayter Managing Director, Tony Bourke, commenced the formal proceedings by proposing the loyal toast and was followed by Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director, who toasted the guests and the company's continued success. As the "Star turn", Douglas Hayter, now in his 80s, regaled the assembled dignitaries with an amusing trip down memory lane, recalling his early experiences when starting the company. The opinion of his first bank manager was particularly pointed and his comments went down especially well with the audience. He was right and the bank manager wrong. In the first year, starting with capital of only £250, a profit of £1000 was achieved.

Jeff Randall of *The Sunday Times* rounded off the evening

with insights into the newspaper industry.

The proceedings were much enjoyed by all and marked a fitting tribute to the milestone achieved by a company in the forefront of the industry it serves.



Hayter's Sales and Marketing Director Kim Macfie works for a very understanding company. When he hit the big 50 during Saltex his bosses ensured that, despite his advancing years he should still be encouraged to get out and about.

With that in mind they produced especially for him the very latest in powered zimmer frames which was put on display along with the rest of the Hayter range on the company's stand.

Final part
of BTME
quiz: get
your entry
in today!



Jimmy Neilsen: Excellent work

Murrayfield welcomes BIGGA

As part of the club's centenary celebrations the first ever East Section event to be played at Murrayfield Golf Club was held last month.

The day was blessed with wonderful sunshine and the 40 players were able to enjoy the magnificent views over Edinburgh and beyond that the club enjoys while seeing the excellent work of Head Greenkeeper Jimmy Neilsen and his team at its best.

Customer service

Richard Aitken (Seedsmen) Ltd has appointed Richard F. Aitken to develop the company's long standing relationship with customers in the sports turf industry. Richard has completed an HND in Amenity Horticulture specialising in the sports turf industry and then went on to gain a B.Sc (Hons) in Land Management and Technology in conjunction with the University of Leeds.

WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK I LIKE TO:

"Play football"
Ian Bell, Glencorse GC

STARS ARE SET TO SHINE IN HARROGATE FOR BTME 97

★ Over 150 exhibitors are booked into BTME 97. As of 17 September 1996, only THREE spaces remain for sale – so if your company is thinking of exhibiting at the industry's premier event, contact Louise Lunn NOW on 01347 838581, or you could be too late.

As well as the many well established companies on show in Harrogate in January, we are delighted to welcome new businesses, including Flowtronex PSI, Anchor Industries and Tarmac quarry products, to the unique atmosphere of BTME.

Superb entertainment has been confirmed for the BTME 97 Gala Dinner. Delegates will be entertained by top comedian Bobby Davro and singer Laine Kennedy. See the booking form within the Learning Experience programme in this magazine to book your place.

This could be YOUR big chance

It's the greenkeeper's dream holiday – an expenses paid trip to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. If you're a winner, we'll pay your rail fare, put you up in one of the best hotels in Harrogate and give you a free pass to Europe's most comprehensive educational seminar programme.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of the three superb prizes is answer these six questions – two appeared in August's magazine, two last month and the final two are detailed below. Complete the form and return it to us by October 31, 1996.

■ August questions

In which famous conference town is the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition held?

.....

In which month is the BTME held?

.....

■ September questions

Name BIGGA's Education Officer

.....

What date does the National Education Conference start?

.....

■ October questions

Which comedian is appearing at the Gala Dinner?

.....

To date, how many exhibitors are booked in at Harrogate?

.....

FIRST PRIZE: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights' accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry to all the education seminar sessions. **SECOND PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus two nights' accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all the education seminar sessions. **THIRD PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus one night's accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education seminar sessions.

Name:

Address:

Send your completed entry form to BTME Competition, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, to be received by October 31, 1996. The first three correct entries opened after the closing date will win the prizes. Judges' decision is final.



First Scottish greenkeepers register for qualifications

The first Scottish SVQ candidates to be registered with the GTC centre are pictured outside the R&A clubhouse.

The candidates Kevin Muir, Kenneth Mitchell and John Campbell are all greenkeepers employed by the St Andrews Links Trust and it is the employers who are investing in training with the full co-operation of all the staff including the Head Greenkeepers who will be assess-

ing the candidates.

The reception held at St Andrews brought together representatives from all sectors of the golf industry including: Scottish Golf Union Secretary, Ian Hume; GTC Chairman, Bob McLaren; St Andrew Links Trust General Manager, Nicky James; GTC staff Sue Gudgeon and David Golding, SVQ Adviser, verifier and assessors and College representative Carol Borthwick from Elmwood.



GCSAA Conference and Show, Las Vegas, February 6-12, 1997



GCSAA '97: Strike it rich with BIGGA in Las Vegas

It is now becoming tradition for BIGGA to host a trip to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Conference and Show and this year is no exception with the 68th Show being held at the Las Vegas Convention Centre February 6-12.

The BIGGA party will meet at London Heathrow Airport on Wednesday, February 5 for departure to Las Vegas, via Los Angeles at 12 noon. BIGGA will be able to arrange accommodation for any members wishing to stay overnight before the flight at competitive rates.

The Las Vegas Hilton has been selected as the hotel to accommodate our party. It is one of Las Vegas' leading hotels offering outstanding facilities for visitors. It is adjacent to the Convention Centre and only one block from the famous Las Vegas Strip.

The GCSAA Conference and Show runs from February 6-12 with the trade show taking place between February 10-12. You will be able to attend the conference seminars and education programmes as well as take in the latest golf course equipment, products and services at the trade show.

ITINERARY

Wednesday, February 5

All members will assemble at London Heathrow Airport and will take the 1200 noon Virgin Airlines flight to Los Angeles. The group will then catch the 1745 flight into Las Vegas arriving at 1840 local time. The group will then transfer to the Las Vegas Hilton for a eight night stay on a room only basis.

Thursday, February 13

Transfer to Las Vegas airport for the 1210 flight into Los Angeles followed by 1730 flight to London Heathrow arriving at 1145 on February 14.

PRICES

£720.00 per person based on a twin share
£960.00 per person based on single occupancy
Plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration of £30.00. Included are: Return Economy class flights London Heathrow/Las Vegas, UK and US taxes, transfers to and from the airport to the Las Vegas Hilton, eight nights accommodation on a room only basis and US accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Pre-Conference Seminars which run from February 6-9 and the Educational Programmes which run from February 9-12 are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £750 or £990 (unless travel insurance is not required) to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Airedale, York, YO6 2NF to arrive no later than Friday, November 29 at the latest, together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of February 4 please let us know in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking-out of the hotel.

American cousins move forward

BIGGA's sister association in the United States has announced a series of promotions and new appointments.

"Our responsibility as a staff is to provide the highest quality service to GCSAA members and the promotions recognise those individuals who have performed at an exemplary level, while our new team members bring skills that will enhance the services and programmes we provide," said Chief Executive Officer Stephen Mona,

Among those promoted were: Teri Harris, former GCSAA Marketing and Creative Services Manager, elevated to Director of Communications, and Rebecca Spriggs, who has been named Senior Manager of Corporate Marketing and Sales. She is in her second year at GCSAA, having previously served as a Senior Account Manager.

Among those newly appointed were: Jack Schwartz, appointed Director of Development in the Corporate Marketing & Sales/Conference & Show Department. Chris Charlton, hired as Senior Manager of Publications, Marketing and Creative Services. Ed Hiscock, appointed Managing Editor of the association's monthly magazine *Golf Course Management*. Jeff Bollig, hired as Manager of Media/Public Relations. Hannes Combest, appointed Education Manager and John Verniffe appointed Curriculum Manager.

WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK I LIKE TO:



"Get a telephone call asking me in for a bit of overtime"

Brian Mulholland, Lisburn GC

Hung, drawn and quartered

Alistair Connall, Course Manager at Collingtree Park Golf Club explains the background to the well documented problems experienced in the lead up to and during the recent British Masters.

I think I now know how people felt before being hung, drawn and quartered or being found guilty without a trial.

In over 30 years of greenkeeping I have experienced many highs and lows but never anything as bad as during this year's British Masters.

It has been said in some papers that the greens were vandalised, burned by over application of fertiliser, that the plant was killed by the use of chemical trying to control annual meadow and other means that defy description.

I would like, in this article, to give my view and then let others form their own opinion.

Collingtree is still a fairly new golf course, constructed on a pure sand base and sown out with Penn cross. Unfortunately the predominant grass species in the sward is now annual meadow which seeds almost continually.

During the past 14 months we have been implementing a soil exchange programme in conjunction with overseeding to try and create both a healthier root zone along with a more manageable grass sward.

Until the beginning of August there were no problems with the putting surfaces except for the annual meadow grass continuing to flower.

A highly successful professional Seniors event was held during the last week of June and all the comments were very favourable from the players regarding the conditions of greens, tees, fairways and roughs. From the completion of that event through the month of July cutting heights were slightly raised and a regular maintenance programme of top dressing and feeding, using both granular and liquid materials followed.

The grass plant only started to show some signs of stress in early August and symptoms seemed to indicate leaf spot. An application of fungicide was applied to all the greens.

At this time not all the greens were showing signs of decline, however, within a week, all greens were going the same way.

Temperatures for that ten day period in mid August were extremely high, although the surfaces and the root zone were never allowed to dry out and the sand almost seemed to bake. To try to help the plant grass clippings were never boxed in the build up to the tournament.

A further application of fungicide was applied ten days after the first sign of the problems showing themselves.

By this stage all greens had

areas of discoloured patches, brown in colour as if the plant was going further into decline and it seemed a Catch 22 situation. We either kept the height of cut up or continued with the programme that had been successful for the Seniors event with more light top dressing to keep a true surface. We chose the latter.

The previous year for the British Masters the height of cut

'...not all the greens were showing signs of decline, however, within a week all were going the same way'

was slightly higher and the greens were turf ironed for speed. Then the seed heads were a problem and green tended to spike and when it rained that was another worry. This year the decision was taken to go the other way.

The course was closed for one week prior to the tournament and during that time an autumn and winter fertiliser was applied. The Sunday of tournament week all greens were sprayed with a colouring dye.

Used on a trial area this proved quite satisfactory however hindsight proved that the greens may have looked better with the discoloured areas left showing. With the grass plant thin and heavy rain on the first day of the tournament the top dressings which had been used to keep surfaces smooth looked even worse.

Unfortunately it doesn't seem to matter how good the rest of the course is - tees, fairways, roughs etc are never mentioned.

It would appear that the climatic conditions during August ie. very warm weather plus the pure sand root zone and the tight mowing caused the Poa to complete its life cycle. The results were well documented.

Laboratory diagnosis proved that there was no disease present to cause such a rapid deterioration and it would appear to have been a straight physiological problem.

I'm sure that there are people who, either saw the course on television, read about it in the press or in reading this article, have experienced similar conditions with sand constructions perhaps not to the extent of Collingtree. I would certainly look forward to hearing their views.

Finally it is pleasing to know that the grass plant is now recovering perhaps quicker than this writer, but it does prove rightly or wrongly annual meadow grass can survive.

Yorkshire course scoops top UK honours

Rudding Park Golf, on the outskirts of Harrogate, has beaten 300 clubs from around the country to the coveted £5,000 Best Environmentally Designed and Managed Course Award in a competition organised by ground care specialist Amazone.

The £1.5 million 18 hole course, set in the Rudding Park resort's spectacular 18th century grounds, is no stranger to awards. It reached the finals of the same competition last year, but won only the North of England category.

This year entries came in from the four corners of the UK and were of an 'unprecedented standard', say the event's judges, who visited all the short listed courses.

Rudding Park Golf was designed by leading course architect Dr Martin Hawtree, and its four miles of fairways, including flower meadows and woodland, are already recognised as a haven for flora and wildlife.

Environmental information boards detail points of interest, and its meticulously designed

woods and lakes now prove as irresistible to many of Britain's native species as they do to hapless golfers.

Managing Director Mark Mackaness said, "Being the best at anything is always a tremendous achievement, and when it involves an area of the business which competes against the challenges of nature, it's all the more rewarding.

"There is so much more work to be done to build on the solid environmental foundations stones we have laid

during the first year, and we are eagerly looking forward to putting the prize money to valuable use."

The course is part of a golf complex which also has an 18 bay floodlit driving range and a PGA teaching academy equipped with state of the art video swing analysis.

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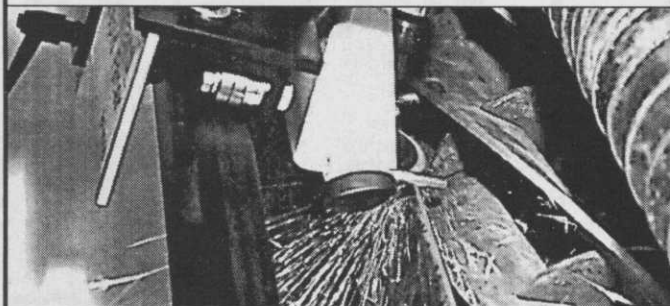
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AD REF 533

Reports and photographs by SCOTT MacCALLUM



The Americas: Winning team in the first Hayter International Cup

Greenkeeping unites under Hayter banner

The Hayter International Cup brought greenkeepers together from all four corners of the globe and friendships were forged both on and off the golf course.

The first time you play sport at representative level is a daunting experience. Whether it be for your class, your school, a club or, for the chosen few, your county or country or even, in the case of the Ryder Cup, your Tour or continent, the weight of responsibility is enormous and the desire not to let anyone down huge.

Well spare a thought for those 24 players in the Hayter International Cup at West Lancashire Golf Club. They weren't just playing for themselves. They didn't even have the hopes of their club, county or country riding on them.



Before the off!

They were the representatives of, on one side, the entire continent of the Americas and, for the other team, the Rest of the World!

If carrying the banner on behalf of billions played on the minds it certainly didn't weigh them down. Quite the reverse in fact. It inspired them to reach some giddy heights in both the morning

fourball matches and the afternoon singles.

The match could have swung either way and in fact was decided by two matches in the final three out on the course which both went down the final hole. Had the Rest of the World extracted two wins instead of a defeat and a half the match would have been forced into a play-off with a player selected by each Captain sent out to play four extra holes and then sudden death if required.

The 10-8 result to the Americas ensured that a new and exciting competition had been born and fuelled the resolve of both teams. One, to retain the Cup when it is played on their home soil in two years time and the other to go over to the States and bring it back... although with players from Australia, Sweden, Ger-

many, Spain and the home countries "back" is perhaps a misnomer. The Cup will, in fact, reside at Aldwark Manor if and when the result is reversed.

First of all though it has steeled both those players who competed this year and BIGGA members to make the Hayter Challenge a priority next year. Finishing top player of your resident country with a handicap of 12 and under will guarantee a place on the Rest of the World team.

But golf was not the only reason for the event. As a forum for interchanging ideas and greenkeeping practices and generally learning about other countries it was unmatched and the 24 players, two Captains, Association officials wives, partners and caddies all now have firm friendships in place which will last lifetimes.

As Americas Captain Bruce

Williams, and President of the GCSAA said at the closing banquet.

"The 24 players who qualified, or were chosen, to compete for their team could not have been bettered as ambassadors for their profession, or their respective countries and Associations."

Dean Cleaver Rest of the World Captain and Chairman of BIGGA was fulsome in his praise of Hayter for the commitment shown by the company and, in particular, Kim Macfie, the Sales and Marketing Director whose concept the match was.

HAYTER INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

FOURBALLS

Americas Names First.

- Jim Dusch (US) and Randy Nichols (US) halved with Derek McJannet (Eng) and Andreas Kauler (Ger).
- Sam Williamson (US) and Thom Charters (Can) halved with Michael Dohlon (Swe) and Peter Schumacher (Aus).
- Ricardo De Udaeta (Arg) and Paul McGinnis (US) lost to Fredrik Goa (Swe) and Cosme Bergareche (Sp) 2&1.
- Doug Meyer (Can) and Gary Grigg (US) halved with Sandy Reid (Sco) and Ignacio Soto Alacron (Sp)
- Dean Morrison (Can) and George Renault (US) beat Brian Mulholland (NI) and Matthias Ehser (Ger) 6&5
- Bob Heron (Can) and Eduardo Torres (Arg) beat Ian Buckley (Wal) and Peter Frewin (Aus) 1up.
- Fourball Result: Americas 3.5 Rest of the World 2.5.

SINGLES

Americas Names First

- Jim Dusch beat Michael Dohlon 5&4.
- Randy Nichols beat Peter Schumacher 5&4.
- Sam Williamson lost to Derek McJannet 2&1.
- Thom Charters beat Andreas Kauler 3&1.
- Ricardo De Udaeta beat Sandy Reid 2up.
- Paul McGinnis lost to Ignacio Soto Alacron 5&3.
- Doug Meyer beat Fredrik Goa 1up.
- Gary Grigg lost to Cosme Bergareche 4&3.
- Dean Morrison halved with Ian Buckley.
- George Renault lost to Peter Frewin 7&6.
- Bob Heron beat Brian Mulholland 1 up.
- Eduardo Torres lost to Matthias Ehser 3&2.
- Singles Result: Americas 6.5 Rest of the World 5.5.
- Overall Result: Americas 10 Rest of the World 8.



Clockwise, from top, a new job for Tony Bourke, as assistant scoreboard operator; Dean Cleaver presents Bob Heron with the International Medal Winner's prize; Dean Morrison, with his wife as caddie; Thom Charters defeats Andreas Kauler; Tony Bourke, Neil Thomas and Kim Macfie walk the course; a tense moment for Michael Dohlon



THE ALTERNATIVE PRIZE TABLE

- The Three Consecutive Shots of the Week Cup: Bob Heron nett albatross at the 11th in match with Brian Mulholland – two drivers and a single putt.
- The Putt of the Week Shield: Ian Buckley's 30 footer for birdie on the 17th to go one up in his match with Dean Morrison.
- The Comeback of the Week Spoon: A sub plot was a match between Steve Mona and Bruce Williams and Kim Macfie and Paul Bevan of Australia which resulted in the first going to America 8&7 and the return at Fairhaven going to the Scottish Aussie combination 6&5.
- The Achievement of the Week False Teeth: Bert Cross' pronunciation of the players' names on the 1st tee was undoubtedly one of the

- great moments in sport and well worth the hours of practice the night before.
- The Outside Interference of the Week Ashtray: Trevor Leger reporting for Golf Course News also got into the action when he came across a ball during a search. He told the stricken player of the discovery only to be told it was the wrong one. Trevor picked it up just as the player said, "Ah. I changed ball at the last hole. It is mine." Oops.
- The Injured Warrior of the Week Band aid: Gary Grigg who battle through the afternoon round while his feet were attacked by a plague of blisters.
- The Mr and Mrs Gold Rings: Ignacio Soto Alacron who left Fairhaven to get married in Spain

- on Saturday and return to Scotland on honeymoon.
- The "Why did I come here again?" Loving Cup: David Goldie who travelled all the way from Australia to caddie for Peter Frewin, got a better offer from a young lady he met of the flight over and missed the match!
- The Wally of the Week Quach: The unnamed person who left all his shirts and underwear in a drawer in the Royal Hotel, Waterloo, and only realised after he had checked into the hotel in Lytham. Forced into some emergency shopping.
- The Wally of the Week Rose Bowl: The unnamed person who left her coat in the Blundellsands Hotel and only realised after



The vanquished: Beaten but not unbowed



Doug Meyer escapes from a bunker

Northern lights shine brightly at Fairhaven

Fairhaven Golf Club is a tough golf course. It is long, peppered with bunkers and difficult enough to ensure that even in perfect conditions the lowest score in the Open Qualifying in July was a 64.

Not bad when it is being attacked by some of the best players in the world. The Course Record 64 came in fact from American Justin Leonard who has won on the US Tour this year.

So when the winds got up on the morning of the Hayter National Final and the tees were back as far as they could go we knew scoring was going to be at a premium.

A total of 63 players plus 23 in the Hayter International Medal played the course with handicaps ranging from +1 upwards and the best gross score didn't break 80.

In fact Graeme MacDonald's 81 was the best score of the day and although, no doubt one of the highest scores he has made in this excellent summer he has been having he should be extremely proud.

Another group who should hold their heads high are those nine who represented the Northern Region who won the team prize by a mammoth 12 shots.

A combination of strong leadership from Captain Bob Lupton, consistent play and a will power which dragged them out of Blackpool's night spots before the over indulging had a chance to affect their game ensured that they would be too good for the other six regions on the day.

One man who certainly didn't rave the night away before the match and who reaped the benefits was Toddy Huddleston of the South East Section. Toddy, who plays of 24, shot an extremely respectable nett 81, which although beaten by quite a few others during the day, had a special claim to fame. Toddy is 82 and by some considerable margin he was the only man to beat his age on the day. In fact, if 22 handicapper Brendon Harman of Eire lived to 108 he would only just have equalled his age on his nett score.

arriving in Lytham.

■ The Wally of the Week Coat Hanger: Peter Schumacher who left his best suit in the Fernlea Hotel and had to have it sent back to Australia.

■ The New Job of the Week Statuette of a Swinging Golfer: Tony Bourke, Managing Director of Hayters, promoted to Assistant Scoreboard Operator.

■ The Dual Nationality Passport: Derek McJannet and Ian Buckley who qualified as an Englishman and a Welshman respectively but who are very definitely Scottish and English.

■ The Mark Thatcher Book of the Road: Brian Mulholland and Terry Crawford who were aiming for Lytham but hit Manchester instead.

■ The Heroes of the Week Gold Medals: John Muir and Peter Simpson who produced wonderful courses for the matches to take place.

■ The Unsung Heroes of the Week Shield: The North West Section members who gave up their weekends to ensure everyone arrived at their appointed hotels on time.

■ The Bloody Typical Brickbat: British Rail for transporting some of the team members an hour up the track from London and then going all the way back again because of a fire.

■ The Bloody Typical Bowl of Raspberries: British Airways for leaving someone's luggage at Heathrow and not putting it on the shuttle to Manchester.



Stephen Heap is presented with the overall prize by Bruce Williams

Gala dinner had flavour of Wales

The severity of course and weather can also be witnessed by the fact that the best nett score of the day was a 74 – a score with which very few of the finalists would even have qualified for the final.

Stephen Heap, of the Midland Region's Rothey Park GC, was the overall winner off his handicap of 24 which gave him a one stroke win over Brough GC's Paul Neve of the winning Northern Region team.

The gala dinner in the evening had a Welsh flavour to it with the six course meal including leek soup, Welsh rack of lamb and Welsh Cheese followed by the Cor Meibion Ardurwy Male Voice Choir from near Harlech in Wales – a choir which included the Head Greenkeeper at Royal St David's Golf Club.

HAYTER CHALLENGE RESULTS

(All scores Nett unless stated)

- Regional Team Prize: 1. Northern Region 642 2. Midland Region 654.
- Overall Individual Winner: Stephen Heap, Midland, 74.
- Category 1. Handicap 0-9. 1. Paul Fitzgerald, Eire, 77; 2. Graeme MacDonald, Midland, 78 (BIH); Alex Russell, Northern, 78.
- Category 2. Handicap 10-18. 1. Philip Wentworth, South West and South Wales, 76; 2. Robert Washbrook, South East, 77; 3. Martin O'Shea, Eire, 80.
- Category 3. Handicap 19-28. 1. Stephen Heap, Midland, 74; 2. Paul Neve, Northern, 75; 3. John Cuffey, Northern Ireland, 76.
- Best Gross: Graeme MacDonald, Midland, 81 (Gross).
- Over 55s: Tom Mulqueen, Eire, 80.
- Under 21: David Gibbons, Midland, 80 (BIH)
- Putting Competition. Brian Hillen, Scotland, 29.
- Longest Drive: Bob Walker, South West and South Wales
- Nearest the Pin: James Logan, Northern Ireland.
- Special Prize: Toddy Huddleston, South East, whose nett score of 81 beat his age by a shot.
- International Medal. 1. Bob Heron, Canada, 76; 2. Sandy Reid, Scotland, 78; 3. Doug Meyer, Canada, 79. (BIH).



The winning Northern team. Bob Lupton receives the prize from Hayters MD, Tony Bourke



Participating teams, from top: Eire, Northern Ireland, South East, Midland, Scotland and South West & South Wales



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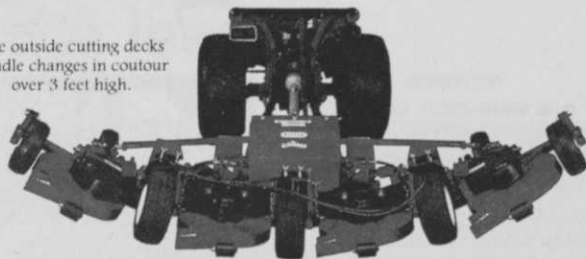
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Slowing down for the 'fall'

OCTOBER

BY BOB MAIBUSCH, CGCS, MGC

Hinsdale Golf Club is one of the older Golf Clubs (c1898) in the Midwestern United States., although that seems relatively new compared to many of the clubs in the UK. The current Golf Course (the club's third location) was designed by Donald Ross in the early 1900s. It is heavily wooded with over 100 species of trees and is on rolling terrain.

Being located near Chicago in the northern United States, October is typically a time that the course is beginning to slow down. Although it is in my estimation, the best time of year to play because of cooler temperatures and the beauty of the changing colours in foliage, we generally see a slow down of play. This affords the grounds staff the opportunity to perform improvement projects without inconveniencing a majority of the club's membership. Our fall (autumn) improvement projects are scheduled to be completed before winter sets in, but adverse weather conditions often

mean we complete these projects through the snow, frost and ice of winter so that they will be ready for the onset of spring.

The bulk of improvement projects at Hinsdale Golf Club are completed by our in house grounds staff. I am extremely fortunate to have a dedicated group of veteran staff members. Their experience allows us to perform these improvement projects in-house at a considerably lower cost then contracting out the work. Typically, we work along with a golf course architect and our membership committees to finalise improvement plans. At that point, if a considerable amount of earth moving is required we will bring in a shaper to rough out the work. Our staff will commence grading, drainage, sodding, irrigation or whatever else is necessary to com-

plete the project. In the last three seasons we have completed renovation of all the clubs 53 greenside bunkers and sodding of all green surrounds, a number of new tees and tee renovation construction, dredging of an existing three acre lake including removing approximately 25,000 cubic yards of material and setting in place by hand approximately 1.5 million pounds of boulders along the pond edge, new green construction, renovation of formal and informal landscape gardens, cart path construction assistance in a U.S \$2.5 million clubhouse renovation, oversee construction of a 4,000 square foot golf cart storage facility, construction of a new irrigation pump house, and oversight assistance in the planning of the facilities parking lots, and numerous other smaller projects.

This fall (1996) we are overseeing the installation of a new golf course irrigation system. This work, being performed by an outside contractor, will result in a radio controlled Rainbird system. We investigated the possibility of using triple row irrigation on the fairways but it was determined that the proximity of the trees on this wooded golf course would not allow it. We had resigned ourselves to a typical double row irrigation system with some trepidation on my part because of the membership's desire to have greens rough during the hot, dry Chicago summers and my intent to keep the bent grass fairways dry and firm. Our solution is to install perimeter watering on all of the fairways. In addition to the double row of part circle (180 degrees) irrigation heads which will only irrigate the blue grass roughs. It is believed that we are the first golf club in the US to install this type of system.


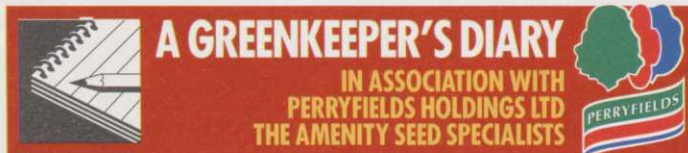
In addition to the irrigation system, the grounds staff will be constructing six new tees and beginning renovation of the golf courses 32 fairway bunkers. This will likely keep us busy until the snow covers the ground.

While these aggressive improvement schedules put significant stress on the staff and myself, particularly when we are expected to

complete with them with no diminished quality to the rest of the golf course, there is no great degree of satisfaction in seeing them completed. We all take great pride in the work that we do and the obvious enjoyment of the majority of the membership.

One of the key elements in gaining approval for projects and allaying members fears concerning their effect on playability is to maintain a high degree of communication. I accomplish this by attending all of the clubs Board of Directors and related committee meetings as an active participant. Additionally, I write a monthly article for our club's membership newsletter, post daily or weekly updates in the club house locker rooms, make myself available at least a portion of each day at the first tee, and eat my noon meal in the member's dining area so that I am available to answer questions, respond to criticisms or accept congratulations. This goes along way in satisfying members' curiosities and concerns about what we are doing to their golf facility, and gives me a significant advantage in attempting to anticipate their future wants and needs.

Another method that I have found invaluable in performing improvement projects in the most efficient and successful manner as possible to utilise the expertise of my fellow management professionals. By remaining active in local, national and international golf course management associations I have been fortunate enough to develop a network of outstanding individuals. Virtually every golf course improvement project that we might consider has been performed at some time by another club. Before we embark on a project that we have limited experience in I will contact that individual who has some experience in the procedure to ascertain the pitfalls and shortcuts that they encountered during their improvement process. This goes a long way to minimising the frustrations inherent when venturing into new territory, and ultimately saves my employer money by increasing our efficiency in seeing it through to a successful completion.



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Amphibious mowers

Despite all the horrific examples from the past, some golf architects never seem to learn from past mistakes and perpetuate design faults which make subsequent greenkeeping a nightmare.

Common mistakes are the over-contouring of greens, resulting in minimising available pin places and creating virtually insoluble maintenance problems and bringing surrounding banks and slopes too close to the green, thus making it impossible to turn a triplex mower off the putting surface and on the surrounds which inevitably creates worn and scalped bare areas on the perimeter.

Another is to build the greenside bunkers so close to the putting surface that the narrow surround cannot be mown or worse still, the machine slides off into the bunker. Sand blasted out of such close bunkers creates serious maintenance difficulties.

Equally, when built-up slopes or batters of greens and tees are too steep and especially where there is a water feature at the foot of the slope, the machine ends up in the water.

It is hoped that architects or designers will listen to Course Manager and greenkeepers on the practical implication of their design – it is after all they who will have to maintain the course when completed. Gimmicky designs do not impress those with knowledge and experience and observance of a few sensible rules can avoid having to fit triplex mowers with snorkels – quite apart from the much more serious factor of injury to the operators.

Arne van Amerongen
Germany

Axe to grind

Re: Septembers's article on mower grinding.

Having read the article on grinding reels and bedknives, there are several points to clarify and correct. The article mentions 'relief angle' and 'single-blade' grinding as if they are two different techniques, they are not!

'Single-blade' grinding is the term used throughout the 1960s, 70s and 80s to describe the simple process of grinding each blade of a cutting cylinder individually. It was never intended to be accurate, just a simple way to 'true up' damaged or re-bladed cutting cylinders. The reason being that 'single-blade' grinding removes metal much faster than conventional 'spin grinding'.

'Relief grinding' as now performed, is similar to 'single-blade' grinding but on some machines much more accurate. It removes unnecessary metal from the 'heel' or back edge of each cylinder blade thereby reducing friction instantly. The benefits are enormous. Bottom blades last considerably longer, there is less need for regular adjustment as due to there being less metal to metal contact there is less wear. Lower fuel bills can be anticipated in addition to fewer problems with engines and transmissions. The grass being cut much 'cleaner' leaves less likelihood of 'yellow edges' or disease ensuing.

Drier summers experienced since around 1989 have exposed the short comings of spin grinding, which only 'true up' a worn cylinder by removing the 'heel' or high unworn section on the back edge of the reel blades. During dry spells, the bottom blades and reels heat up as there is no moisture to cool or lubricate them. The wear pattern of the bedknives often leave 'tram-lines' or stripes on the new cut grass.

Interestingly, Americans have ground reels with 'relief angles' for decades but as their grinding machinery and methods leave blades of discrepant heights, 'back-lapping' or 'spin grinding' is part of their grinding process to ensure that all the blades end up all the same height.

Time has moved on, we at Hunter Grinders have developed machinery and techniques which have raised standards of grinding throughout the grass machinery trade generally. 'Relief angle' grinding as we now teach is totally accurate, each blade cuts true and there is no need to spin or to back lap afterwards.

There are, in fact, three ways to grind a reel, and this is another area where the article has possibly confused readers.

Method One. 'Spin grinding' - The old fashioned established way, which grinds the high 'heel' from the back of each worn blade but which leaves a lot of metal to metal contact to create friction and 'rub' or wear out the bottom blades.

Method Two. 'Partial relief angle grinding' - Whereby metal is ground at an angle from the rear of each blade either prior to or after spin grinding. An improvement over total spin grinding but not as effective as Method Three.

Method Three. 'Total relief angle grinding' - A proven technique, possible on our machines whereby there is no need to spin or to back-lap after grinding. Each blade cuts true. In addition we have water coolant applied during the grinding process to quench the removed grinding dust and to prevent any heat distortion. Finally our machines are manufactured to grind reels perfectly parallel to a tolerance better than 0.004 over a 30" long reel. This eliminates any stress on the reel bearings due to grinding tapered reels. This accuracy is 'built in' and requires no thought or adjustment by the operator to obtain.

Finally, the article failed to mention that we do in fact produce two types of grinding machine. In addition to our JUNO machine, no mention was made of our heavier JUPITER machine installed in many golf course workshops. The JUPITER has the most versatile specification of any grinding machine. It offers a choice of either 'total relief angle' grinding, 'partial relief angle' grinding or fully automatic 'spin grinding' with the choice of 'In-Situ' or out of the mower grinding. The usefulness of water coolant is appreciated by our many clients in addition to the fact that our machines also precision grind the bed knives.

Eric and Michael Hunter
Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year Regional Finals

After more than 1000 miles and five days of intensive, stimulating but tiring interviews, the regional judges, Pat Murphy, BIGGA Vice Chairman, Peter Mansfield, Bob Bevan and David Cole, all from Lely (UK) and yours truly finally came up with eight national finalists.

This is the third year that I have had the privilege to be part of the regional panel of judges and I was, again, very pleasantly surprised by the extremely high standard of new entrants to the profession of greenkeeping and the high levels of enthusiasm, knowledge and character shown by all of the Regional Finalists. A full report on the National Finalists appears elsewhere in this magazine but I would like to congratulate all of the Regional Finalists and, especially, Alasdair McLean, Stephen Privett, John Donnelly, Fintan Brennan, John Bachelor, Noel Greene, Michael Hartney and Karl Weston for being selected for the National Final, which will take place on Sunday/Monday 27/28 October 1996 at Aldwark Manor.

Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Competition

This year saw the largest number of entries, ever, for the Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Competition. After a long and difficult selection process by each Region, the judges finally selected their five National Finalists. They are Stewart McBain from Nigg Bay Golf Course, near Aberdeen, representing the Scottish Region, David Leach, from North Manchester Golf Course, representing the Northern Region, Cedric Gough from Broadway Golf Club, representing Midlands Region, Huw Morgan from Wilderness Golf Club, representing the South East Region and Paul Jenkins from Lilybrook Golf Club, representing the South West Region. All five golf courses will be re-inspected, this time by Pat Murphy, BIGGA Vice Chairman and Richard Minton, from Miracle, prior to the National final, which will be held at Aldwark Manor on 1/2 December 1996.

Regional Supervisory Management Courses

From some of the answers given during the recent Student Greenkeeper of the Year Competition, it was apparent that some Golf Clubs are still not complying with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act. There are still a few places available on Regional based Health and Safety at Work Courses where you could find out if your club meets the requirements. Contact BIGGA immediately to reserve your place.

Aldwark Manor Supervisory Management Courses

Unfortunately, due to the very poor response to advertising of the Aldwark Manor Supervisory Management Courses Modules 3 and 4 have had to be cancelled. However, the response to Modules 1, 2 and 5 has been better than expected ensuring that these three modules should be a success.

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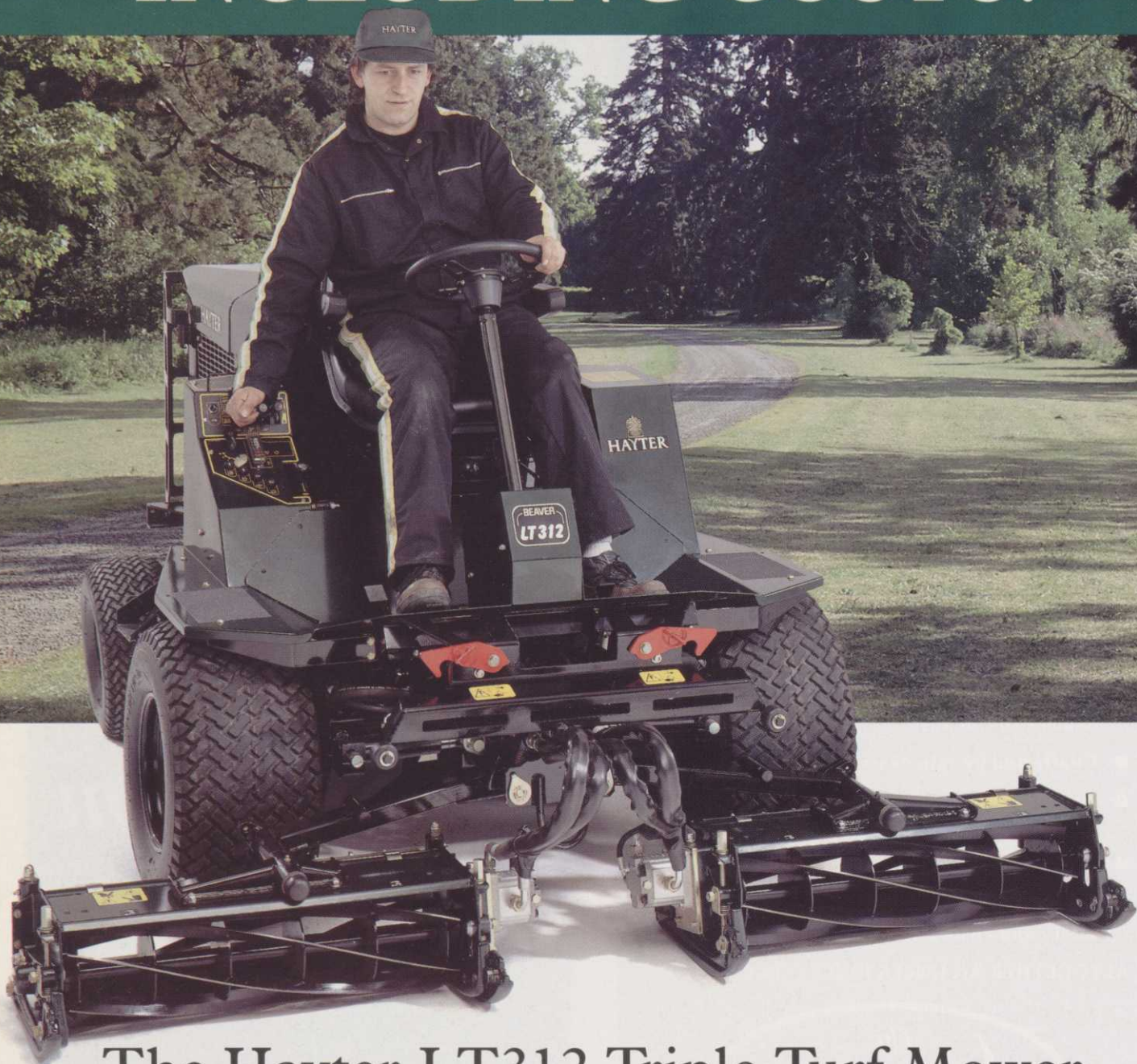
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FRESH FROM SALTEX

With the weather for once favourable Windsor Race Course was the magnet for large crowds to attend Saltex '96 with over 400 exhibitors displaying many products for the first time.

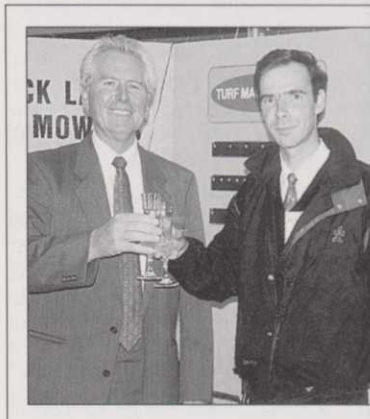
The week was also notable for the number of well known companies celebrating anniversaries – Patisson's with 100 years of trading, Jacobsen with 75 years, Hayter's with 50, Kubota with 21 years since it introduced the first compact tractor and John Deere 30 years in America and 10 in the United Kingdom.

John Deere

With working widths of 95 and 146cm, the new Aercore 1000 and 1500 tractor mounted aerators further extend John Deere's grounds care range, already the broadest available from a single manufacturer in Europe.

They are designed for aerating golf greens and fairways, as well as other professional sports and amenity turf areas.

Built around heavy-duty frames and tine rams to provide years of durable service, the aerators can pull up to 30



Richard Barker, Head Greenkeeper at Kirby Muxloe GC, found an ever more ingenious way of ensuring his picture appeared in the magazine – he won a two week fly-drive holiday for two to Florida in a Turf Machinery Prize Draw.

Richard's entry was one of almost 400 received by Turf Machinery Ltd from Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers.

cores per square foot, at over 75,000 square feet per hour.

The special Flexi-Link tine design helps to produce a consistent, round hole with little or no scuffing at the hole top. It also allows the tine spacing to be infinitely adjustable without changing gears on the aerator – it automatically adjusts to any tractor speed setting.

Prices of the new John Deere aerators are £8160 (model 1000) and £10,450 (model 1500), plus VAT.

Latest addition to the John Deere range of golf course equipment is the 3235A Turf System 11 lightweight fairways mower, which replaces the previous 3235 model.

The mower features 56cm wide seven-blade cutting heads as standard, or optional eight-blade heavy-duty ESP (extra strength and precision) units, with one-touch lifting and lowering.

Basic price remains the same as the previous model, at £24,231 with

standard cutting heads, grooved front rollers and optional four wheel drive.

The new John Deere RZ1 700 root zone injector is designed for safer sub-surface injection of turfgrass pesticides, and features a 340-litre (75gal) tank and a 130cm (51 in) working width.

The RZ1 700 fits the John Deere 955 33hp compact tractor, or any other tractor over 30hp equipped with a Cat I or II three-point hitch.

Specially designed to be quicker, quieter and stronger on the golf course, the new 4x2 Turf Gator from John Deere is ideal for all types of load and people-carrying operations.

'Gator' stands for General All-purpose Turf and Off-Road vehicle.

The new continuously variable transmission means there is no gear shifting or clutching, at increased speeds of up to 18mph.

Mommersteeg

Sports and amenity grass seed varieties and mixtures which meet the demands of today's increased usage and changing weather patterns were the theme of Mommersteeg Interna-

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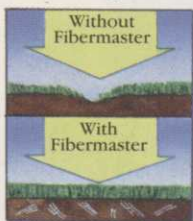


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tional's Saltex display which included demonstration plots of the company's three new varieties – Amadeus, Gerona and Moccasin – together with MM60 – a special mixture for over-sowing winter games pitches with ryegrass.

The three new grass varieties, exhibited by Mommersteeg were all bred to provide users with hard wearing turf. Amadeus is a dwarf variety perennial ryegrass which is tolerant to close mowing and has a high shoot density and good cleanness of cut. It establishes quickly and has slow regrowth making it ideal for landscaping where low maintenance is a priority.

Gerona was bred specifically for use on winter sports pitches and features in MM60. It has excellent wear tolerance in high or low nitrogen situations. Suitable for both pitch construction and renovation Gerona has high ratings for disease resistance – especially red thread – and cleanness of cut.

Moccasin is the company's new slender creeping red fescue. Another variety with good disease resistance and high shoot density, Moccasin

adds resilience to the turf and produces a dense close knit even texture. The variety is particularly suited to high quality golf greens, tees, bowling greens, croquet lawns and ornamental turf.

MM60 is a mixture of four Mommersteeg perennial ryegrass varieties – Master, Gerona, Danilo and Mondial. The varieties have been chosen to provide a turf that is able to withstand high levels of wear and tear and good powers of regeneration after damage. The blend offers improved disease resistance and quicker establishment.

SISIS

The new pto driven LITAMINA HT from SISIS has a greater capacity, hydraulically tipping hopper which operates from two single or double acting hydraulic rams (customer must state preference at time of order). The main chassis has been strengthened to take the extra loads. The patented brush system is spiral and fitted within the main frame with a single height adjustment. Support legs are provided for use when the LITAMINA is not mounted on the tractor.

The advent of the new smaller Com-

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compact Drainage Machines, on show with SIS at Windsor for the first time, makes intensive drainage available for all. Fitted on Compact Tractors of 28 HP +, groundsmen themselves can now readily install very cost effective drainage in convenient stages, using either bought or hired equipment.

Ransomes

A number of new products were unveiled by Ransomes at Saltex '96.

Ransomes Fairway 405 – a seven-gang, ride-on fairway mower with a cutting width of 4m (158in), believed to be the widest of any machine in its class. The Fairway 405 has a 46.5hp turbocharged diesel engine/ selectable two or four-wheel drive and the option of 7 or 11 bladed cutting units, all with Ransomes' variable weight transfer system, ensuring a close, even finish over undulating turf.

Ransomes Motor 180 – Reintroduced in response to user demand, this updated ride-on triplex mower is ideal for cutting golf course tees, greens approaches and surrounds, plus other fine turf areas. Economical, lightweight and ground hugging, the Motor 180 has a 16hp petrol engine and hydrostatic transmission with on-demand third wheel hydraulic drive available as an option. Mowing width is 1.8m (71in) from either 7-knife floating head or 5-knife fixed head cutting units.

Ransomes Parkway 22-0 – A ride-on, three unit cylinder mower with a 38hp diesel engine, hydrostatic transmission and selectable two and four-wheel drive. Combines a precision cut with rugged built quality making it ideal for local authority DSO, landscape and contract applications. Maximum mowing width is 2.15m (84Y2in) and customers can choose from three different cutting units.

Ransomes Air Groomer – Offered as an option on the Ransomes Greens Super 55 walk-behind greensmower, the Air Groomer blows moisture from the grass just before it is cut, ensuring a cleaner, more precise finish without the time-consuming brushing or switching normally needed prior to mowing wet turf. Ideal for use on greens covered with dew or irrigation droplets, the patented Air Groomer avoids any risk of turf damage caused by physical pre-treatments on wet grass.

Ransomes Envirojet – Designed for mounting on the Cushman Turf-Truckster turf maintenance vehicle, the Envirojet system uses high pressure, pulsating water jets to alleviate turf compaction and introduce materials such as fertiliser, pesticides and



Toro

The new Toro Reelmaster 2600-D is an all-purpose triplex mower ideal for around bunkers, greens, tees, collars and approach areas. It features the all-new design, engine, drive, cutting units and mainframe of the Reelmaster 2300-D introduced last year, but is fitted with wider cutting units to give an 85" cut for greater productivity.

The mower has Toro's unique L-I-N-K-S cutting unit suspension system and an adjustable spring counterbalance for enhanced ground-contour following without extra down-pressure.

To work in all kinds of terrain, including early morning wet grass, the unit has an hydraulically-driven

reel system with variable reel speed.

The 2600-D is powered by an 18hp Perkins diesel engine and two- or three-wheel drive can be selected on the move.

Toro's Greens Aerator is now equipped with a state of the art Briggs & Stratton, Vanguard V-Twin engine known for its smooth, quiet and efficient running. At 16hp there's ample power available for any turf condition and tine selection.

The Hydroject 4000 is a trailed version of Toro's well-proven walk-behind Hydroject 3000 water-injection aerator. Towed behind a utility vehicle with on-board water tank, it gives users the flexibility and convenience to aerate areas not served by a mains water supply.

wetting agents into the soil. The 10 boom-mounted jetting nozzles can be supplied from a tank on the Turf-Truckster or from an independent water supply.

Ransomes TG4650 – A trailed, seven unit hydraulic gang mower designed for high output cutting of parks, playing fields, sportsgrounds and recreation areas. Suitable for tractors of 60hp-plus, the TG4650 has cutting and transport widths of 4.65m (15ft 3in) and 2.3m (7ft 6in) respectively. It is available with a choice of precision built cutting units to suit a full range of grass conditions and mowing schedules.

Ransomes Front Line 728 – Believed to be the first out-front rotary mower of its size with hydraulic rather than mechanical drive to its cutter deck, producing a simpler, quieter system with reduced maintenance. The 728 is ideal for local authorities, utilities, contractors and other commercial users needing a rugged, high output mower with comfort and servicing convenience to match.

Pro-Sport

A new formulation of top dressing for sports turf of all types has been added to their Pro-Sport range of products by Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals Ltd., (HMC). Shown for the first time

at Saltex, Pro-Sport Ecodress uses composted green waste as the organic content of the sand based dressing.

"The use of composted green waste to provide the organic requirement gives this product special appeal," says Pro-Sport Sales Manager Tony Jacques.

Pro-Sport Ecodress is at present being made at two of HMC's production units with plans to expand production as demand requires.

Charterhouse

Charterhouse announced two new products which reflect all the quality, strength and reliability attributes built into their existing range of well known products.

However, the new Rapidcore and Greenseeder have been specifically designed for high volume manufacture achieving economy of scale.

Their prices of £2,938 for the Greenseeder and £4,438 for the Rapidcore will be particularly welcome to greenkeepers and groundsmen working on a tight budget.

Kubota

Kubota (UK) Ltd revealed three new 4WD compact tractors called the Super B range. Completely re-styled with a true flat deck configuration, an

impressive mowing deck clearance, a spacious modern Buisard cab and, Bi-Speed (B2100 HST and B2400 HST) Turn these new units are set to make a big impact. The new units supersede the existing B1550 and B1750 units.

Available in HST and manual versions, each of the three new models the 18hp B1700, 21hp B2100 and the 24hp B2400 – have been designed and developed to work in a wide variety of applications. From general grass maintenance tasks including scrub clearance and fine turf upkeep through to loading and backhoe work and from soil preparation for growing to general amenity management.

A number of features set the Kubota models apart from the competition in the same class. These include the weight to power ratio, Bi-Speed Turn option, high clearance, a rubber mounted flat operator deck, low noise and vibration levels.

At the heart of the new tractors is a reliable high performance diesel powered E-TVCS indirect injection 4 cycle engine which provides high torque rise for smooth efficient operation during heavy duty work.

Another performance feature of the tractors is the high ground clearance of 170mm which makes climbing over curbs and working in tall or thick grass easier.

Each tractor has a three point lift capacity of 750 kg at the link end.

Jacobsen

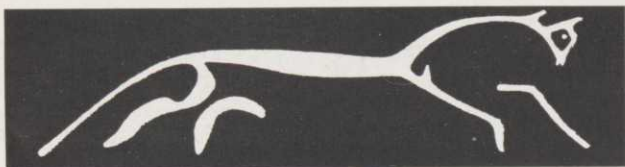
A choice of three more powerful engines gives Jacobsen's new generation of Turfcat out-front rotary mowers a wide range of power and traction drive options. Turfcat models now feature a Kubota 23 or 28 hp diesel engine, a Ford petrol engine and two or four wheel drive.

Key new product improvements are greater productivity, operator comfort and reliability. Operators can now mow up to six miles per hour in low range. And transport speeds in high range up to 10 miles per hour get the Turfcat between jobs faster.

The Turfcat's new ergonomic design features a contoured seat and easy-to-reach controls. All controls are located up front and are easy to read. Foot pedal operation for mowing and transport keeps the operator's hands free for steering.

All models feature Jacobsen's hydraulic deck drive and hydrostatic transmission with dual-range transaxle to handle tough mowing conditions.

■ Lack of space means further details of new products launched at Saltex have been held over until next month.



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Now's the t

Some thoughts on golf course drainage, by Barry Cooper

It's that time of the year again when the thoughts of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers turn to draining parts of their golf course.

The only snag is that for many of them it will be much too late to have any work undertaken this autumn, either because the weather will break or their chosen contractor will already be fully booked for this year. I feel very strongly about this, and in my opinion the autumn and winter periods should be used for assessing drainage requirements and not installing systems that have probably been designed during dry weather in the spring and summer months.

Some will be lucky and have their systems installed before the weather breaks, but some will not be so lucky and the temptation to just try and get that little bit of extra drainage installed will cause

a horrendous mess to the surface, which in itself will negate the effect of any new drainage for up to a further two years. With this in mind I will now write about the importance of scheme design relating to depth and spacing of drains in relation to various types of sub-soil.

Let me say right at the outset that I am well known for designing deep drainage schemes and apart from when dealing with re-instated land or land fill sites I would never advocate laying any drains at all shallower than 750mm or 2'6" in old terms.

When you are assessing the drainage requirements of your course, try and picture the golf course as it was in the past, with many hedgerows or stone walls. Hedgerows were usually planned to define distinct sub-soil changes, on one side of the hedge the farmer's of yesteryear could cultivate and sow what was lighter land than on the other side of the hedge which was much heavier

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As soil is excavated, add Perma-Soil stabiliser to the backfill. While your crew makes repairs, your backhoe operator can turn the backfill to mix properly. Place the mixture back into the hole in 6-to 8-inch layers, tamping each layer as you go.

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Time to tackle drainage

land. These observations are very important, because the lighter land, ie sand and gravel will require draining at a greater depth than the clay land will.

Many of you will have heard me say before that heavy clay sub-soil is the easiest type of land to drain. I have had no reason to change my mind about this, and the reason that it is easier to drain, is because the water in this type of soil is pretty uniform, being held in the many fissures in the clay. Many people believe that there isn't a water table in heavy clay land, but I can assure you that there is.

I would be the first to admit that water obviously doesn't move as quickly through clay as it does through sand and gravel or indeed some of the silty sub-soils, but move it does and the water table has to be kept at least 750mm from the surface to create a well drained golf course. If a golf course with a clay sub-soil has been waterlogged for many years, the fissures in the sub-soil will have become sealed and the clay will have become what I call dense. Under these circumstances after the pipes have been laid in the ground at the requisite depth, secondary treatment, ie: mole draining on existing courses or sub-soiling on courses under construction becomes of paramount importance in order to help recreate the sub-soil structure that is 50 important in a clay soil. If the areas on a golf course built on clay are fairly flat with up to two percent fall on the land

I would suggest that a system of lateral drains should be laid at 15 metre centres at 800mm deep, followed by mole draining at two



Drainage work in progress at Mill Ride Golf Club

metre centres at 450mm deep at right angles to the pipe drains. The pipe drains should always be laid across the steepest fall on the land in order to get maximum interception. This in turn automatically means that the mole drains will be laid up the steepest fall, which means they will empty quicker and last a lot longer. If the falls are particularly steep, the depth and width of drains will have to vary accordingly.

The depth of drains becomes more crucial on lighter sandy soils and more preparatory work must be carried out before designing the drainage scheme. First of all the reason why an area of mainly light soil is so wet. Is it overlying clay? Is it an area surrounded by clay, or is it an area close to where sub-soil stratas change. To answer these questions will mean excavating many trial holes, or as we occasionally do taking many auger borings down to at least 1.2 metres deep. This last method was used when I

designed the scheme for the new National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa. It was fortuitous that my staff and I were as thorough as we were, because in some areas heavy clay was overlying sand, and the farmer had already made four attempts to drain these areas without success. These areas have now been drained at 1.2 metres deep with mole drains laid in the clay cap as previously described, and the area is now draining well. One thing must not be forgotten regarding golf course drainage, and that is it does not matter how many drains are laid under the surface, they will not work efficiently without the surface itself being looked after properly with the grass roots being encouraged to penetrate ever deeper.

I have recently been involved with installing a very deep drainage scheme at Royal Liverpool Golf Club where a Pumping Scheme had to be installed to drain one area. The whole of the

golf course is pure sand. You may think that if it is pure sand, why on earth should it require draining? The reason in this case is because the water coming from inland is being blocked by the Irish Sea. The sand is full of water from approximately 900mm deep and the drains we installed at 1.5 metres deep are pouring water out. This water at the time of writing this article is pure, but I would bet that in time the salinity will increase as the inland water is reduced. I have written about the importance of scheme design: ie: depth and width of drains, now for a few words on the importance of Outfalls. On very flat links courses satisfactory outfalls have to be looked after way beyond the boundaries of the golf course and failure to do this will result in serious problems having to be overcome in future years. Last year I designed a drainage scheme for Royal Birkdale and when I inspected the 15th, 16th and 17th holes, which occasionally lie very wet, I found that the original natural outfall was a ditch which now runs through a nature reserve and because drainage is a forbidden word to some so called conservationists a machine would not be allowed into that nature reserve to maintain that outfall ditch and this will result in costly diversion of the water from these holes. Exactly the same problem has arisen at Parkstone Golf Club in Dorset, so please, if your golf course is flat look after your legal right to remove water from your land naturally.

However should any of you need advice as I always say, I am only a phone call away.

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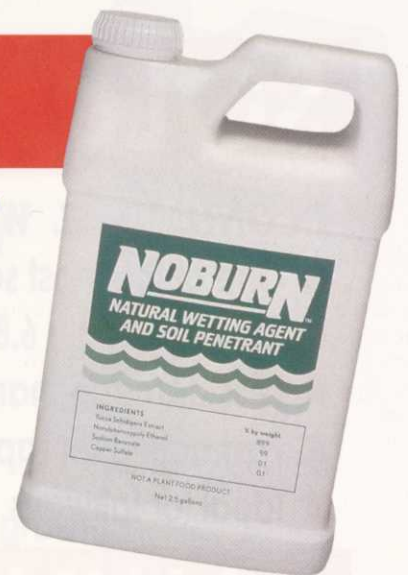
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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTLAND

West of Scotland

Once again this time of year approaches, winter greens construction programmes courses closed. What a lovely time.

A few pieces of news congratulations to our Chairman Steve Hogg, who has been appointed Course Superintendent at Quinta de Lago in Portugal. Steve has been a stalwart member of the association putting vast amounts of spare time into the running and organisation of the section. We thank him for his efforts over the years and wish him well at his new course.

Brian Hillan will take over the reins at Drumpellier. Before working at Easter Moffat, Brian was first assistant at the club. I hope everything goes well and we look forward to him contributing at committee level also.

Since the Chairman is leaving the Vice will take charge until the AGM. John Scott is looking forward to the challenge, a wee bit earlier than anticipated. His new Vice is myself and I will be taking notes for my time in office.

Annual dinner tickets will be out soon so get in their quick or you'll be to late. Venue is the Admiral Bar once again and the comedian is Clem Dane. From all accounts he is very good so here's to a successful, enjoyable evening.

A vote of thanks to Cecil George for organising the back up at the Loch Lomond invitation this being the first time problems always occur, but it will get better with practice. Thanks Cecil especially as you were called in at short notice. New members, afraid only one this month Gary Kenny from Kirkhill Golf Club. Hope to see you at the events.

Finally two items to mention the five-a-side tournaments had a poor response, 52 entries sent and only 10 returns. The tournament will be played on Sept 15 and a full report in next month's issue.

The circular sent to all members (180) with only 18 people replying. The committee are trying to organise events which the members want, but this shows we must be doing things correctly.

Last, but not least, if there are any pieces of interest for the

magazine then please contact myself at 0141 942 5554.

JS Taylor

North

Jocky Urquhart, Deputy Head at Tain, rejoins the Association. While on the subject of membership, we have 208 members in the North Section, almost the same total as this time last year and yet we have had around 30 new members! It seems each year we lose as many as we gain, which is better than a dropping membership, but still worrying. Anyone who knows a colleague who has not rejoined, please try and find out why, or better still, get them back into the fold. The more the merrier.

We should be holding the section AGM later this month, unfortunately as we go to press, details have not been finalised. It will probably held in the Moray area and we hope to have one or two guest speakers in attendance. Members should receive details any day.

Well done to Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill, for Flying the Section flag at the BIGGA annual tournament and winning a trophy.

It's that time of year again, when the Scottish Sections nominate members to receive the Patrons Awards. The lucky winners will be able to use their grants to go to Harrogate for BTME, buy books or pay for an educational course. So if you have supported your Section, Region and Association throughout this past year, you could be a winner. The nominations will be announced next month.

As we go through Autumn I hope the weather is kind for all the aeration programmes going on all over the country. After all the early season problems, most courses are finishing the year with superb greens, how many of you have had a member complain, why are you putting holes in the green just when they are in great condition. Happy hollow coring.

Iain MacLeod

NORTHERN

Northern Region

The Northern Team arrived at Fairhaven for practice in determined mood – the loss of the tro-

phy last year to the Scottish team had to be avenged.

As our team of nine went to the tee singing "it's coming home, it's coming home." it brought a lump to the throat. Nine holes of practice was all the boys needed and then back to the hotel for refreshments and in bed with cocoa and digestives by 8.30 (am!)

The big day arrived and began with an early breakfast. Gamesmanship was practised by Robin Smith who blocked up all the car park and had our opponents rattled before we got to the course.

Photo call at 8am and Paul Neve was hyping his team up – "Come on! Come on!"

Single figure boys our first – Paul Pearse striding forward confidently, Ireland's Brian Mulholland was still clearly jet lagged (unless it was alcohol). Mark Hodgson was next followed by "The Beast of Bedale", Alex Russell.

The middle order of Robin Smith, Alan Allsop and Colin Hopper did their bid and Tony Cheeseborough, Paul Neve and John Jones all scored well to give us a total of 642 – 12 shots clear of the Midlands team.

So the trophy did indeed "come home" to the Northern Region again. Well done and congratulations to the team and everyone who played.

This was an excellent tournament, as usual, and thanks must go to our generous sponsors Hayter, Fairhaven Golf Club and all who made the event such a success.

Congratulations also to two of my members Derek McJannet and Ian Buckley who played for the Rest of the World team in the International Cup.

It was good to see so many internationals there this year but a shame we did not have more time to meet them.

Until next year's competition – Well done Northern lads.

Bob Lupton

North West

The 'Roses' match between the North West Section and the Northern Section, was played at Whitefield Golf Club on August 15. This was the 17th year of this annual competition played for the Patisson Trophy, and

although the Northern Section have the edge in wins, this year the North West Section took the honours. Edwin Walsh had the course in beautiful condition as always, and the weather was good, although a little to hot. Some excellent golf was played, and the result was 6.5 -1.5 to the North West Section. I must thank Patissons for sponsoring the day, especially in their Centenary year. Whitefield Golf Course for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and the welcome we received from the members in the club house, and the caterers who arranged the catering at short notice. Also, of course, Edwin Walsh and his staff for preparing such an excellent venue for the tournament.

This year in order hopefully to increase the numbers at the AGM, we will be having a Christmas competition prior to the AGM. The competition will be at Wilmslow GC on Tuesday October 15 followed by the AGM. and dinner. Even if you don't play you can attend the AGM and support your section. This year's National Tournament was played at Skegness, and a very enjoyable few days we had. The North West was represented by only four members and although the team did not win a team prize, John Berry from Penrith GC returned home with a car load of prizes, well done John.

I have been informed that John Lennard from Merrydale GC has not been very well of late, and I am sure everyone who knows John will wish him a speedy recovery. Bert Cross

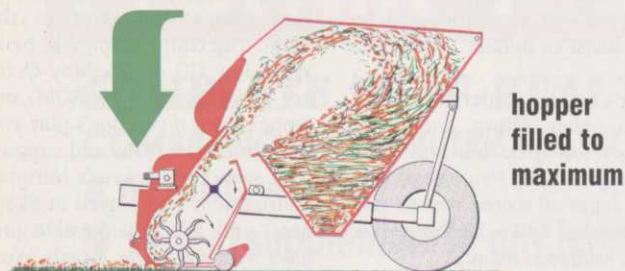
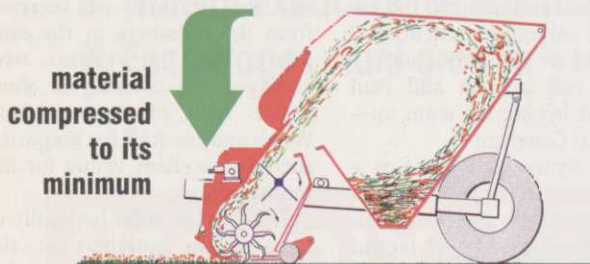
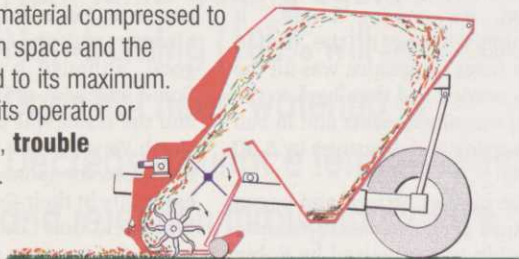
Cleveland

Hartlepool GC's greenkeeper's shed was struck by lightning recently causing a roof fire and received minor structural damage. Head Greenkeeper Alan Evans and his staff were thankful for the work done by the local fire brigade and the electricity board. Fortunately no machinery was damaged.

Future events will include lectures by Ocmis Irrigation; D&E Stephenson, the Toro dealer; Rules of Golf and how the greenkeeper can help. There will also be visits to Jacobsen at Kettering organised by Brian Skeen of

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Billingham and Ransomes at Ipswich organised by Rickerby's of Hexham.

Since the Teeside Development Corporation built the tees barrage to prevent tidal water from coming inland to Worsall the river is now clean with fresh water. Leisure users include anglers and pleasure boat rides from Stockton via Preston Park to Yarm while canoeists have a purpose built slalom course near the barrage for major events at Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland. Much pleasure has been derived from this £54 million development.

For BTME in January we are planning to cooperate with Jimmy Richardson of the North East Section to use one coach to pick up Cleveland members at Scotch Corner Hotel on the way to Harrogate.
Bruce Burnell

Northern

Congratulations to Mr Mel Guy of Greentech Amenity on being elected President of the Northern Section at a recent committee meeting. I am sure Mel will devote a lot of time and effort into helping the section run smoothly.

Now Mel is in the position of 'authority' the crude jokes may wear a little thinner? I don't think so!

This year's Roses Match with the North West Section was held at Whitefield Golf Club near Manchester. Many thanks to Edwin Walsh and his team for presenting the course in excellent condition. Thanks also to the 'Lancashire Lads' for being great playing partners and hosts. Well that's enough about that day! No seriously we got hammered and not only in the bar. The North West were in top form and came out clear cut winners, finally winning 6.5 to 1.5. Well done North West, we thought we would give you a chance this year.

With regard to the Roses Match, may I thank Peter Marshall and Pattissons for kindly supporting the event, also Brian Welbourn for providing all Northern Section team members with a Course Care baseball cap.

I would like to welcome Richard Barley of Alwoodley Golf Club to the section.

Diary dates Autumn - Malton & Norton G C - October 9; Winter Golf - Selby G C - December 11; Annual Dinner - Wetherby G C - March 15, 1997

Any member who has any problems or requires information, please do not hesitate to contact me at: 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA, Tel: 01484 519829
Simon Heppenstall

Around the Green



North East

On behalf of the section we would like to congratulate Tommy Harrison, Course Manager at Stockfield GC, on becoming a dad again we hope both mother and baby are well.

The end of August sees the retirement of Steve Pope, Head Greenkeeper at Tyneside GC, who has been there for over 30 years. On behalf of myself and others who worked under Steve we wish you the very best for the future.

A party for Steve will be arranged sometime in the Autumn details will be available soon.

The section now has 120 members yet there are potential members are still there.

The autumn competition is at city of Newcastle G C on Sept 19 and not the 25th. Tee off 9.34 to 11.05. Members please note jacket and tie must be worn in clubhouse.

J S Richardson

Sheffield

On September 2 we held our Autumn competition at Hickleton GC. The course was in excellent condition and our thanks go to Bob and his staff.

Our thanks go to the Hickleton Golf Club for the courtesy of their course and to the steward and his staff for providing an excellent meal. Also thanks to all the trade members who provided prizes.

The afternoon started dry and cloudy but that soon turned to rain and conditions became very wet, despite that there was some excellent golf played and congratulations go to all the prize winners, especially Dave Chapell who with an excellent score of 37 points won the competition. Well done Dave!

Results: 1. D. Chapell 37 pts; 2. P. Mason 36 pts; 3. G. Marsh 36 pts; 4. N. Morrison 35 pts; 5. P Hill 35 pts; 6. I Whitehead 33 pts.

Congratulations go to Mick Cottas on his new job at Worthley Golf Club, Mick recently moved from Bondhay Golf Course to Worthley, good luck Mick.

The following dates are for our winter lectures to be held at Rotherham Golf Club at 2.30pm. October 3 Mr R. Taylor (STRI) followed by AGM; November 7, Mr J. Le Mar (Bio Lube Uk Ltd); December 12 Mr C. Peel (ADAS); February 6, Mr R. Moore (Levington); March 6 Mr G.

Brudy (Rhone – Poulenc); April 3, Mr D. Godfrey & Mr M. Franklin (Boughton Loam Ltd).
John Lax

MIDLAND

East of England

The Hayter Regional Final played at Peterborough Milton saw John Hewson (Market Rasen) and Graeme MacDonald (Ryston Park) qualify for the National Final at Fairhaven. They will now represent the Midland Region, Graeme qualified in category one and John in category three. John Donaldson, Head Greenkeeper of Milton, set a tough test of golf over a very well conditioned course.

At the National Tournament held at Seacroft Skegness only four golfers came from EoE. This excellent valued four days saw James Dair (Oundale GC) take the 54 hole gross and Graeme MacDonald take the 36 hole competitions. Both players also picked up individual day gross prizes and Macdonald took the longest drive on day one. The EoE team came a credited third in the team event, just a pity about Kevin Hodges first round, he lost four balls on the par three 12th which cost Kevin and the team. Try again next year in Sussex.

The match EoE and our neighbours East Midlands played for the Toro Shield at Greetham Valley saw East Mids win 4-1. Valley Head Greenkeeper Adrian Porter had the hilly course in excellent condition, but did not use his local knowledge too well, he and his partner were the only loss for East Midlands. They went down to the EoE pair Andy Brown and Peter Down. Thanks to Bob Bevan Toro Area Manager, Jim Carr Chandlers Toro Dealer and Andy Humble Erringtons Toro Dealer for their usual Support in sponsoring the event.
Graeme MacDonald

Mid Anglia

Our annual match against the Midland section took place in August at Copt Heath Golf Club in the Midlands. By all accounts the golf course was in excellent shape and we managed to secure a win 71/2 to 61/2. Foursomes were held in the morning, notable winners being Steve Mason with Chris Brook, and John Wells with Mark Ellis, who managed to win their matches by 5 & 4. In the singles matches in the afternoon there were successes for Ken Bunting, Steve Mason, John Wells Mark Ellis and Jason Hatton. Ronan Mckeown managed to halve his match which was enough for victory. Well done to all the players for

taking part and representing the section so well. We look forward to the return match next year on our own turf! The Hayter Regional Final was also held in the summer at Peterborough Milton Golf Club. Neil Whitaker from Woburn was the only one from our section to qualify for the National final which I believe is being held this month. Our team finished third overall out of all the sections.

Our summer meeting was held on August 21 at Berkhamsted Golf Club, over 36 holes. A great day was had by all those who participated, over a superb golf course. Our thanks to Gerald Bruce and his staff for producing an excellent course, the Captain and Greens Chairman, who both attended the meal, prize giving, and our sponsors for the day, Boughton Loam, represented by Mike Franklin. The hospitality shown to us was exceptional as well, all of which are shown below;

Results: 1. Steve Cherry 35/43 78pts; 2. John Moorhouse 33/41 74pts; 3. Philip Judd 34/37 71pts. The trade prize was won by Nick Baldwin; Nearest the pin – Dick Coogan; Longest Drive – Steve Cherry; Best am round – Dick Coogan 38pts; Best pm round – Mark Richardson 38pts

A final note of thanks to all the other trade members who attended on the day and donated prizes.

Two notable events are coming up this month, which should be of interest to all section members. Our meeting for Autumn at Collingtree Park on the 25th of this month, followed by the AGM.

The regional seminar at Sketchley Grange on October 30. Both John Wells and David Golding are speaking at the seminar so let's try and offer our support on the day.

Entries for Collingtree, should you wish to play, should be in by the time you read this.

Looking ahead, the Texas Scramble Christmas Tournament is being held at Dunstable Downs Golf Club on December 3. You should be by now thinking about entering your teams for event.
Paul Lockett

Midland

Sorry I missed last month's Around the Green. I was very busy, plus the fact that I had not received any news or information.

Firstly I would like to congratulate Cedric Gough of Broadway GC, who has been successful in reaching the final of the Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year. Also thanks to

all the other contestants for entering. On a personal note, I hope Cedric takes the top award as a lot of my knowledge came from him.

The Midland Section played the annual match against the Mid Anglia Section at Copt Heath GC on August 12. Unfortunately our team lost after a closely fought contest. Congratulations Mid-Anglia Section.

The committee would also like to thank Copt Heath GC for the courtesy of the course and congratulate Harold and all the staff on the condition of the course. A big thank you to Bob Pilsbury of Alexander Mowers and Toro for sponsoring the day.

The Midland Section will be holding its annual seminar at the Sketchley Grange Hotel, Burbage, Hinckley, Leicestershire on Wednesday October 30.

Finally in next month's magazine will be the date and venue of this year's AGM. If any of you would like to stand for the committee then this is your chance to do so. The Section is looking for someone to take on the job of Secretary as I will be standing down at the AGM as I have decided that with my other interests I have not enough time to dedicate myself to this post. If you are interested in taking on this post, please give me a ring so we could meet for a chat to see if the job would be as you imagined. My home telephone number is 01527 524217. Mobile 0378 981165.
Kim Blake

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

There has been one golfing tournament which has been running all through the season and that is the Rigby Taylor Fourball Knock-out. At the time of writing this report we are at the semi-final stage.

There have been some cracking games played along the way. The biggest upset was the defeat of D. Goodchild and I. Rose in round two (twice winners in the past). They were beaten in a close match by O. Cassie and N. Baker on the last green. The tie of the second round had to be between B. Holt and N. Weedon verses T. French and G. Wheeler. The experience of Barry was no match for the raw power of the young 'uns and the birdies were flying all over the place (pardon the pun) with Tony and Geoff winning with ease.

The quarter finals through up a needle game between R. Clark and C. Jacobsen verses P. Reeve and myself (three from Harleyford famous for their turkey trot victory last year). The game turned out to be a battle between

Ray and Paul with Charlie and I spectating (I enjoyed the walk – nice scenery). The game went to the final green were Ray finished us off with a solid par four on a tough finishing hole.

I have to say the turning point was when Paul stood on a wasps' nest and was stung trying to retrieve his ball. He had to strip off on the green to shake out the culprits and thankfully there were no ladies in sight. In the last of the quarter finals P. Critchley and J. Thorne beat A. Wakefield and T. Hookham 3&1.

The semi final draw is: O. Cassie and N. Baker v T. French and G. Wheeler and R. Clark and C. Jacobsen v P. Critchley and J. Thorne.

Results of the above matches and the autumn tournament in next month's article.
Lindsay T. Anderson

East Midlands

Congratulations go to Dean Cooper on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Park Hill GC Dean formerly worked as Deputy Head at Rothley GC.

Again in golfing news is Richard Barker finishing second in the Leicestershire Fox held at Willesley Park with score of 71&70, also Richard finished runner up in this years National Tournament for the best Nett Score, also in the prizes was Ian Needham of Beedles Lake GC.

This year's annual East Midlands Versus East of England section golf match held Greetham Valley GC was won by the East Midlands by 4 games to 1 advantage. Thanks go to all members for making up the side at such short notice. Also I would like to thank Greetham Valley GC for hosting our tournament and Graeme MacDonald (EoE Section Secretary) for organising a wonderful day. Our winning team consisted of the following members, Carl Chamberlain, Anthony Foulds, Steve Goode, Jeff Dickenson, Adie Porter, Ian Needham, Anthony Bindley, Martin Smith, Mark Bindley and Dean Cooper.

For the third year running Dave Leatherland and Paul Tatlow have made it to the final of the pairs & singles K/O. The section wishes both players the best of luck on each day's final.

This year's Christmas Tournament is on Thursday December 12 and is hosted by Charnwood Forest GC.

Antony Bindley

East Anglia

What a day 60 people turned up to play at Bentley GC. Special thanks to Dennis Smith of Parker Hart who put up the money for the prizes, thanks Dennis.

Thanks go to John Vivers for

making us so welcome. Thanks also to the bar staff and catering staff for their hard work and the Green staff. Thanks Andy for having the course in such good condition must be all the rain we have had?

Nice to see Derek Farrington the Regional Administrator in evidence. Thanks for the raffle prizes from Tuckwells, Avoncrop, Patissons, Turf Actant, Does, Kings, Grasshopper, Greenkeeping Supply company, Bourne Amenity.

Two more thanks to Steve Newton for doing the cards and Ian Willett for doing the raffle.

On with the prize winners: Longest drive, M. Virley; Nearest pin at 8th K. Titshall; Nearest pin 17 P Hurrell.

0-9 Handicap. 1. A Toomey 37 pts; 2. J. Cook 36 pts; 3. C. Crotcher 34 pts 10-18 Handicap. 1. R. Mitchell 38 pts countback; D. Wells 38 pts 3. D. Smith 36 pts 19-28 Handicap. 1. K. Titshall 34 pts; 2. C. Steggalls 34 pts; 3. T. Huddleston 33 pts

Guest Prizes. 1. R Clark 34 pts; 2. M Stopps 33 pts

Thanks to Dave Parsons, the Bentley Captain, for presenting the prizes.

The overall prize goes to R. Mitchell and will be presented at the AGM on December 12 at Alderburgh GC this is a very important date for the New Sections so make sure you have the date noted.

Two more dates for your diary September 24 Writtle College same time same place with two more interesting speakers.

October 9 for 18 holes at Stapleford Golf Club.
David Wells

SOUTH EAST

London

Our autumn tournament was held in August at Finchley Golf Club. The afternoon event was well supported and the course was prepared to a high standard. I would like to thank the Course Manager, David Montgomery, for preparing the course.

I would also like to thank the Finchley Golf Club for their hospitality and for the use of their facilities. The evening meal was excellent and I would like to thank the catering manager for providing such excellent service. The results for the day were as follows. The winner was David Montgomery with 40 points and the runner up was Peter Creeber with 37 points. In third place was John Jackson with 36 points. The guest prize was won by the club captain, Mr Budgeon, with 41 points. The nearest the pin prize was won by David Montgomery and the longest drive was

Around the Green



won by John Jackson. I would like to thank all the trade for their support and especially, Johnny Beck for providing the refreshments at the half way point.

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES

South Coast

Our summer golf meeting was held at Stoneham Golf Club. The man above looked down and supplied us with a lovely dry summer's day. The course was in superb condition. Our thanks must go to Peter Marsh and his staff for all the hard work they put in for us.

First prize went to B. Emberley (Bernard and not Barry as appeared in September's magazine. Apologies Bernard.) and P. Hecton with 47 points, 2. A. Doolan and A. Doolan Snr also with 47 points. (Decided on the back 9) 3. C Sturgess and F Flood with 46 points.

Congratulations to all the prize winners. Our thanks must also go to the Captain and Committee for granting us the courtesy of the course to M H. Mulligans, the caterers who provided us with a very tasty meal. Our tournament organiser, Mark Webb, was on holiday during the run up to the competition his place was taken by Tony Gadd who did a great job. Thank you Tony. Last but not least a big thank you to our sponsors for the day, Parker Hart and Roffey Brothers who supplied the prizes.

Once again after continuous reminders about returning the trophies the Parker Shield was conspicuously absent. This trophy is given to the section by Parker Hart. It is in very bad taste that it was not at the prize table this is the sort of thing that gives the section a bad name. By the time this report is printed in the magazine your committee will have decided what action to be taken.

Our first winter lecture will be held at Bramshaw Golf Club at 2pm November 7. The speaker will be our Executive Director Neil Thomas. Neil will be updating us on what is going on at Headquarters. He will also be answering your questions. So come on gents make a big effort to be there. Let's have a record attendance this time the venue is as central as we can get, in fact,

it is the central point of our section.

Just another reminder that our regional seminar will be held at Cannington on Wednesday November 27. All applications and any other queries to Gordon Child. Previous seminars at Cannington have had some very good speakers. This year should prove no exception. Among the speakers will be George Brown the course manager at Turnberry. The cost of the day is £12.50 this includes lunch, if there is enough support a coach will be provided.

Seats for the regions BTME coach are going fast so get your bookings in now or it might be too late.

The 1996/1997 programme of Section and Regional events is at present being processed you should be receiving them very shortly if you haven't already.

Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall

Roserrow Golf Club was the venue for our August Summer Meeting on Wednesday August 21. The venue gave our Cornish members a chance to look around the newest club in Cornwall which at present is growing in, our thanks to Richard Smith and his staff for showing us around their new course and for providing the refreshments.

Our November Meeting will be usual be the section's AGM and will be held at Launceston Golf Club on Wednesday November 6, the morning's foursome golf competition will be for the Toro Trophy with prizes kindly being donated by Devon Garden Machinery.

The Region's annual seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 27, by know you should have received details of the seminar programme, if you haven't you would like to book your place or wish to know more about the programme please contact Gordon or Marion Child on 01803 844056.

Finally a reminder that bookings for the Region's package of transport, accommodation and entry to the BTME show and seminars are now being taken and are going fast. To avoid disappointment you are advised to return your booking form as soon as possible. That's it for this month I'm going on holiday.

Richard Whyman

South West

This year's match against the secretaries was held at Holsworthy GC in Devon Where two teams of 12 competitors each played six football games on a matchplay basis. After a light lunch the

matches commenced at 1.45 pm with a showery afternoon in store for those taking part. In a change to the previous two years it was this time the turn of the Secretaries to win back the Shield after a convincing victory by five matches to one. The day was concluded with an evening meal provided by the steward and stewardess of Holsworthy which was highly complemented for its quality. Prize giving followed the meal with thanks being given to Avoncrop Amenity Products for their generous continued sponsorship in providing both a prize for each member of the winning team and for putting wine onto the dinner table. Thanks also to Martin Townsend of Avoncrop for his help and organisation in the event, to Barry Megson Secretary of Holsworthy for allowing us course courtesy, and Derek Holloway and his team for their hospitality. Last but not least to the Greenkeeping Staff of Holsworthy who presented the course in such good condition.

Paul Jenkins, from Lilleybrook GC, will be this year's representative for the Region in the Premier Greenkeeper of the year competition sponsored by Miracle Professional. We wish Paul the best of luck as one of five in the final to be held at Aldwark Manor later in the year.


The regional seminar for 1996 will take place at Cannington College on November 27. As previously mentioned George Brown from Turnberry will be speaking as will Paul Clifton from Rhone Poulenc and Bill Lawson. Please register early for this popular event.

Another reminder to book BTME in January 1997 at Harrogate as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. If a booking form is not available to your self then please contact Gordon or Marion Child on 01803 844056

Finally I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this year's AGM at Bristol and Clifton Golf Club on Thursday November 14.

Kevin Green

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Huw Morgan, Wilderness GC

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Alec McKee abroad one of his machines with Ivan Miller, Graham Williams and Nick Ashman looking on.

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time, become so familiar with the distinctive green and yellow livery that she can point out machines I miss. My chances of success are good as the number of John Deere machines both in the fields and on the golf courses is going to increase significantly over the next four years.

That's not just my opinion, it's the stated aim of UK Managing Director, Alec McKee, who said at the recent dinner to commemorate 30 years of trading in Britain and ten years in the grounds care business, that the company ambition was to be number one in the UK by the year 2000.

It is a statement which should send shivers down the backs of competitors because John Deere and Co is a massive company with a history of patient and successful progression. The statement of intent also came just weeks after the company had signed up as the latest BIGGA Golden Key sponsor.

Speaking a week later at the company's Langar base, near Nottingham, Alec put some flesh on the bones of the statement and explained how they would go about achieving such a goal.

"When we started in Britain 10 years ago we only had four grounds care products, now we have a portfolio of 61 including the recently launched aeration equipment," explained Alec. The company is also the market leader when it comes to children's model tractors having sold 1700 last year, each boasting the same livery as the grown up versions.

"We strive constantly to improve service and keep ahead of expectations. There is no mystery to how we achieve our success. It's down to hard work and a desire to meet customers' needs."

With that he answered a ringing telephone on a nearby desk and took a message. It took all of a minute but it demonstrated how the man at the head of the team can, by flexibility and a willingness to deal with any task, lead from the front when it comes to the smooth running of a company.

So who was John Deere, the man who inspired this mammoth multi national company to such great heights and who gave the industry one of its most famous names?

John Deere was born in Vermont, US, in 1808 and became a highly regarded blacksmith thanks to the quality of his workmanship. He developed a plough using steel made in Great Britain and in 1846 the first slab of cast plough steel ever rolled in the United States was made for John Deere and shipped from Pittsburgh to Moline. Ten years later he was producing 1,000 ploughs a year. "I will never put my name on a

plough that does not have in it the best that is in me," was his vow and that has been carried forward by his company to this day.

To be exposed to the computerisation of the John Deere company is to be given an insight into just what can be achieved when the implementation of computers is planned at the very beginning and there is no well meaning, but ill conceived decision to change course or computer system.

Run from a mainframe in the United States every John Deere plant in the world is tied into the same system and everyone has access to the same information – even the John Deere dealers.

"All product information is put on our computer – the Service Communications System – to provide an encyclopaedia of information on every product produced by the company over the last 30 years," explained Product Specialist, Ivan Miller.

"If a fault is reported or some-

son's knowledge. It is all shared," said Ivan.

Other benefits from the system are that information can be relayed to dealers instantly by the "News Flash" service.

That came into its own recently when a Gator was stolen from a dealership. Information of the theft was instantly sent to all other dealers and the culprit was caught when he turned up at another dealer to enquire about the value of a Gator.

The parts department is equally high tech with the self proclaimed aims of providing market leadership in parts support, minimising customer down time and promoting sales.

"Our role is as an emergency parts department with the main European department in Bruchsal in Germany," explained Distribution Manager, Antony Scott.

"We hold 34,000 different parts in Langar and around £5 million work of stock at any one time. In

"Parts are held in stock for machines which go out of production for a minimum of 15 years but if there is still a demand we will continue to produce the parts."

With what averages at \$1 million a day invested in research and development John Deere prides itself on the quality of its product and spares no effort in ensuring its excellence.

The company hosts an annual Feed Back Fortnight at its US Headquarters in Moline, Illinois, where recently six greenkeepers from Britain met with colleagues from around the world to pass opinion on John Deere designed prototypes so that their views could be gathered and incorporated into the production models.

British customers and potential customers also are encouraged to visit Langar to see round the plant and become more acquainted with product.



Richard Charleton, Scotland and the North Sales Manager, with his trailer

one discovers something about a machine of particular interest it is logged on the computer using predetermined code words, to enable it to be filed accurately, and an answer is sent out from a service manager which is also logged permanently on the computer. Then, if anyone else discovers the same fault, they can check on the computer and they will find all the information they could possibly want to solve it," said Ivan.

By way of emphasising the point he logs on to a particular machine and one element of it and every fault ever reported, no matter how insignificant, was displayed on the screen together with what should be done to rectify it.

The added benefit of such a system is that trends can quickly be identified and action taken and that no one person has a monopoly of information as it is available to everyone.

"If we're out in the field we can have access to all this information just by a laptop and a modem and diagnose faults immediately and you are not reliant on one per-

total there are 150,000 different parts to fit all products but 90% of sales comes from 5% of the parts – that amounts to about 7,500.

"Approximately 99% of all orders can be dealt with here and in Germany and even if it has to come from the States this takes under 72 hours."

A dedicated delivery service of 12 vehicles – six leaving from Langar feeding into the others in other parts of the country – ensures next day delivery with a cut off point of 6pm the night before.

"In reality because of overnight delivery many orders arrive by late the same evening and all make it by 9am.

"If an order comes in a dealer knows the availability immediately and the delivery time and if there are nine items available from the UK and one from Germany, this will be dispatched separately so there is no time lost."

Even that system is not quick enough for some customers, some of whom have been known to fly in by helicopter, landing at the neighbouring air field.

"The UK operation has a total staff of 96 and the Commercial and Consumer Equipment division has nine – agriculture still takes 88% of the total business," explained Graham Williams, Divisional Manager Commercial and Consumer Equipment.

"We have four territory Sales Managers Richard Charleton in Scotland and the North; James Morley, West and Ireland; Richard Johnson, East and Philip Tong, South.

"Howard Storey is the new Golf and Turf Product Specialist in Europe having previously been in the West and Ireland.

"Ivan Miller is the Product Specialist who works with Nick Ashman, the Area Service Manager while Tony Smith takes the orders," said Graham.

It is a tightly knit team, each dedicated to the success of the company and it would be a safe bet that every effort will be made to reaching the Year 2000 goal and John Deere will become even more firmly established as one of our car journey conversation topics.

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Wentworth is probably the busiest club in the country, but Chris Kennedy and his team relish every action-packed day, as Scott MacCallum found out when he visited shortly before the Volvo PGA Championship. Course pictures by Brian Morgan

For many Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers the arrival of the pros for a tournament, whether it be a small pro-am or a major Tour event, is the highlight of a season, or in some cases, a career.

The pressures are greater, the demands on staff much more intense, praise is shouted louder but the criticism cuts deeper. The courses must live up to the high expectations of the professional players for the short time around the championships. Wentworth Members, however, quite rightly, expect the best all year round.

Even at the biggest golf clubs such occasions are at most annual and the preparations can be put in place months in advance.

At Wentworth Club, though, it's different. There are two major tournaments every year – the Volvo PGA Championship in May and the Toyota World Match Play Championship in October... plus innumerable smaller pro-ams, society and company days and product launches. It means that there is always something coming up to keep Chris Kennedy and his team from letting the grass grow under their feet.

"No-one else to our knowledge has got two tournaments every year", explained Chris, who works closely with the West Course's Head Greenkeeper, Graham Matheson.

The winter programme work is carried out during January and February – the only real rest time that the West is allowed.

"It's a bit of a disadvantage because most clubs can put greens away for the winter and have five or six months recovery period whereas we're talking just three months before another major tournament."

"Here we are in April and there's not a leaf on the trees and we've got five weeks to the PGA. After the tournament it takes three to four weeks to break down the tented Village which takes us to the end of June, providing a mere six to eight week fallow period before it starts to build up again for the Match Play."

The nutrition programme at the PGA has therefore to be looked at carefully. "You've got to push the green on as it is early season but you want the grass to be on the



The **BUZZ** never stops at **WENTWORTH**

wane rather than the rise and you want it not to be thinning out but healthy and vigorous and at the same time not growing too quickly when the tournament is on. We get the fertiliser programme set in April and use a lot of top dressing, a minimal amount of fertiliser and a lot of aeration which has to be done because of the length of the tournament day."

Although "peaking" twice a year, Wentworth Club has to be at its best primarily for its members, and the considerable number of pro-ams, celeb-ams, charity and company days held at all times of the year, every year. For many, playing at Wentworth is the highlight of the season. Anything less than perfect would be a great and lasting disappointment.

Chris came to Wentworth in 1989 having been Course Manager at Haggis Castle, where he was in charge of five European Tour Championships and two

Scottish PGA Championships, but there the similarities between that job and this one end.

"Since coming down from Scotland, I've had to rethink my greenkeeping strategies and management processes. If you're dealing with what is simply a private members' club you can make decisions designed to safeguard the golf course, whereas here you've got to think about a broader customer base and manage those customer relations accordingly. You can't say 'it's wet or it's too frosty today, we'll close the golf course.' At times you've got to open the course even though it's against your better judgement. Then you've got to think quickly can we recover from the damage which has been caused. Luckily we have the resources to make the recovery happen," explained Chris.

By the end of the year Chris' team will have coped with a deafening 23 shotgun starts; admit-

tedly a heavy workload, but this is compensated for by the fact that a third of them are charity days. This is the Club's way of supporting their fund-raising efforts.

"Whoever's big day it is, it is essential that their participants and guests leave with happy memories. We tailor the day to make it special. I sit on the planning meetings for these days and feed down the line to Graham and his crew."

Meanwhile, there are two other top quality golf courses, a par 3 course, a driving range, two practice facilities, plus 14 tennis courts to maintain.

The two major events of the year provide differing problems for the greenkeeping team. One, the Volvo PGA Championship takes in the final Bank Holiday in May and has a field of 154 players while the other, the Toyota World Match Play has just 12 players playing 36 holes with

spectators following at most four matches during the first two days and just two on the other two days. One bonus is that the tented hospitality Village is in the same place but on the downside it is laid out completely differently.

"We've asked if certain aspects could be the same, but the organisers have different marketing strategies", explained Chris. "The PGA Championship is the 'Ascot Week' of golf with a village green party atmosphere while the Match Play is a more commercial week where people visit, look at the sponsor's product, have lunch, be ferried out to watch some golf, come back and have afternoon tea", said Chris, who has close relationships with the European Tour whose headquarters are at Wentworth, and IMG.

As well as the PGA Championship itself, the entire week is filled with events which require the attention of the greenkeeping team. This year that started on the Sunday, a full five days before the serious competition began



Graham Matheson, left and Chris Kennedy

with an Andersen Consulting event with all their VIPs. On the Wednesday there was a Canon Shoot out with ten of the top players playing over nine holes of the West for charity, while on Thursday there was the Corporate Cup - there is no Pro-am at the PGA Championship.

But there must have been time to relax after the Championship and Costantino Rocca had been acclaimed champion. Nope.

On Tuesday there was a Volvo

Pro-Captains' competition run by the PGA over the West course and on the Wednesday there was a Members' and Guests' Day with the course set up exactly as for the final day of the Championship.

"Whereas normal golf tournaments have a four day programme plus a pro-am, typically, we have nine or ten days of competition," said Chris, in a matter-of-fact tone.

At both the PGA and the Match

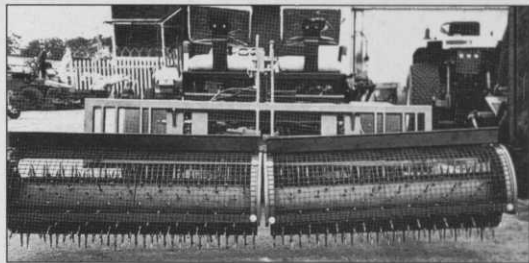
Play the greenkeeping staff start and finish work in the dark as the first tee time in the PGA is 7am and the practice ground, putting green and pitching facilities have got to be prepared and ready for use one hour before players begin.

"So we need upwards of 22 guys setting up course at 5am and the course has still got to be playing to tournament conditions at 8.15 in the evening."

There is a running crew of 24 for the PGA Championship and the preparation work cutting tees, surroundings, greens, fairways and semi rough, is all done before play every morning and then done again in the evening in case there is bad weather and it can't be done in the morning.

"People say 'why can't you get the greens lightening fast like Augusta?' Well, if you've prepared them at 5am and they are still being played at 8 in the evening, you're looking at a long growing period. The Masters has a smaller field of around 95 players.

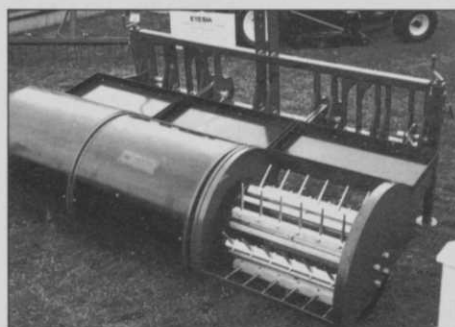
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There are similar problems in the Match Play to overcome.

"You can get frost and freezing fog. Last year the first ball struck in earnest was at 11 am and then they played two rounds".

Chris, Graham and Bernard Gallacher OBE, resident Club Professional and the successful 1995 European Ryder Cup captain, are always looking at ways of changing and improving the course.

Chris elaborated, "The new bunkers at 18 were re-designed again in the winter of 1995-96 to make them much deeper. It was done with the Tour's blessing and although we thought there would be great resentment from the players the view has been that it should have been done years ago. We are limited, because we can't add to the length of the Harry Colt design so what we can do is tighten up with new tees, bunkers and a reshaping of fairways."

One of the examples of this is the mini forest which has been planted on the right side of the 8th so anyone who blocks his shot



out will not have an easy path in to the green.

"The layout is a very good test of golf whether it's windy or not, but the players all agree it plays even tougher if the wind is blowing."

The course plays similarly for the PGA and Match Play. The world's best players participate in both championships, and they know Wentworth well. There are subtle changes in the shapes of

the fairways and pin placements because they are tougher for match play. We tend to use variations on tees more in the Match Play than we do in the PGA. Green speed, height of cut for fairways, semi rough and rough is primarily all set up the same. We aim for both tournaments to have green speeds of something like 10.5 to 11.5. Between 10 and 11 for the PGA because it's a longer tournament with more

feet going over the greens and between 10.7 and 11.5 is what we aim for at the Match Play and so far we've been quite lucky with the weather and we've been able to produce the goods. We can't stress how much the weather comes into it. We can put all the ingredients into the pot but if it goes cold on us there is not a lot we can do about it."

The Match Play offers up some

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'Some people say there shouldn't be any trees on a heathland golf course but I disagree'

difficult logistical problems to overcome.

"You can have 10-15,000 people watching just two matches and all hitting the tented village and clubhouse at the same time.

"We have a very good irrigation scheme and can now virtually control the bounce of the ball from the tee. Graham now has the facility to wet down the fairways, so provided the players hit the fairway, the ball reacts in the desired fashion. For example, making it spring forward to stop it in the landing area, particularly on a hole like the 17th with the big left to right slope. Seven years ago you couldn't have stopped a wedge on the 17th fairway."

A new irrigation system was recently completed on the Edinburgh, installation took place during the 1995-96 winter, while a new scheme is also planned for the East. The aim is that all three 18 hole courses should be brought up to the same standard as the West. Other areas of development include the re-design of

the driving range. Re landscaping will encompass total irrigation, while more bays will be added and the teaching facilities improved.

Over the years, nature has played its part in the re-design of the course.

"Some people say there shouldn't be any trees on a heathland golf course but I disagree. I think when Mother Nature does something you should try and work with her instead of having a constant tree felling programme. If you go out onto the Chobam Common end of the course - holes 8, 9 and 10 - there wasn't a single tree 40 years ago. Those that are there now weren't planted, they just appeared of their own accord. I think the course looks better for it.

Despite the vast experience of Chris and Graham like every other greenkeeper they are well aware that they never stop learning.

Chris said, "We're very lucky that we're part of a friendly industry and we can go and see

how other people tackle problems, how they present the golf course and people will pass on pieces of information. I've been going to The Open since I was 14 years of age and I've always asked questions of greenkeepers. At the open Championship every year, BIGGA greenkeepers get a chance to see the examination paper in the front line by doing bunker raking, divoting and any other task which they are asked to do. Guys who have never been involved in a golf tournament in their life are now in the front line and see exactly how things happen. Then they go away and use what they have seen at the Open championship on their own golf course. That can only be good for their members. This is an education process which happens annually and I'm very pleased to say that along with Walter Woods, I was one of the people who started that off many years ago. It's great to see it going from strength to strength on an annual basis and presentation at small 18

hole courses is now better than it's ever been because they see how it's done at golf tournaments."

"The last six years at the Club have been very interesting and with more plans on the drawing board, the future is going to be every bit as exciting."

Things just never stop at Wentworth.

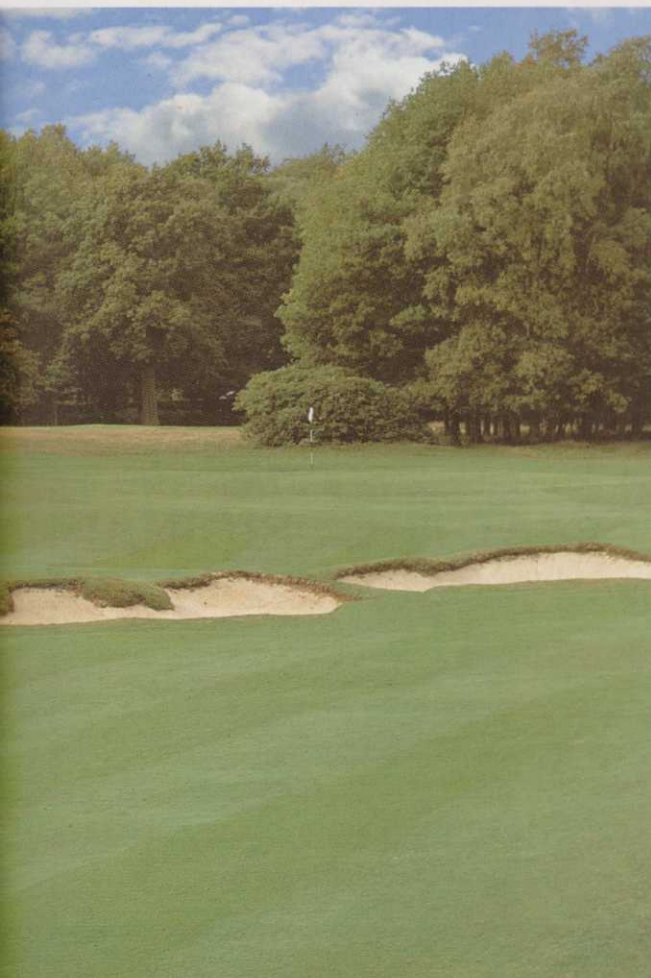
WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK I LIKE TO:



"Play in the Hayter Challenge Final and avoid a 9 on my card." (Robert missed winning by two shots after a 9 at the 15th).

Robert Washbrook, Porters Park GC

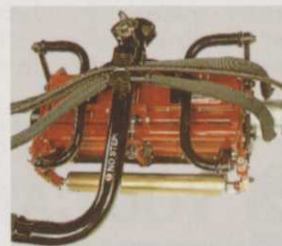
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Finnish golf put



Being virtually unique in terms of golf course conditions Finland offers many problems for its greenkeepers.

To find the best way of tackling those difficulties the Finnish Greenkeepers Association together with the Finnish Golf Union undertook extensive research in a bid to discover solutions to those problems.

Over a five year period beginning in 1989 with a visit to the STRI in Bingley to learn how to go about such a project greenkeepers from the length and breadth of the country administered to 15,000 test plots, on 16 golf courses, and the results show just how extreme are the conditions in which golf courses are expected to be maintained and the solutions which have derived from them.

All the work was done voluntarily with greenkeepers giving up their spare time to count shoots



More and more golf clubs in the United Kingdom are now employing full time mechanics but with the obvious benefit of having someone on site to service and repair machinery comes the need to provide him or her with a workshop.

This can range from a couple of spanners and a workbench to a fully equipped affair the equal of any dealer.

However, one workshop recently visited in Finland would be the envy of even the best equipped here at home.

taking two to three weeks over four consecutive winters. The samples were actually kept in a freezer so they could be counted



Mechanic Matti Niskanen at Katinkulta, the excellent course which is a major draw at Scandinavia's largest tourist resort, has everything he could possibly want from a workshop including,

would you believe, a "dish-washer" for machine parts.

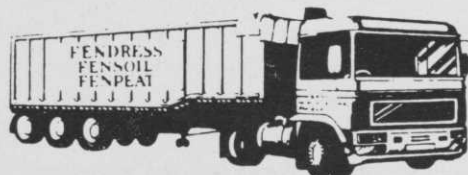
Everything is designed with cleanliness in mind. There is a cold shower outside the front door so any chemicals can be washed off overalls - as you can imagine it is also the ideal initiation instrument for new members of staff. Oil is piped into the workshop and then drained into a tank in the floor while the Finnish made machine parts washer is ideal for cleaning mowing units and many other pieces of equipment.

when the golf courses were not so busy.

"The tests were useful because in some cases they showed just

how little time there was to repair everything, ready for the new season. It can be days instead of weeks and this can come as a

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to the test...

shock to any non-Finnish greenkeepers who come to work in the country," explained Elise Jarvinen, the Chairman of FGA, and someone heavily involved in the research work.

"There has also been environmental benefits because it showed that better results were often obtained with reduced fertiliser or without any 'unnatural measures'," she explained.

● Fig 1. Shows the difference in fine fescue shoot density in a course in the north of the country, Brahestad, and another about 300 miles south, Bjorneborg. The northern course enjoys significantly greater shoot density but for a shorter period. This is particularly important as it allows the greenkeeper to know how much time he has to work on the course.

● Fig 2. When Finnish courses come out of winter they require a stimulant to encourage them to grow again.

This shows that the best results were obtained merely by brushing the greens, although the diagram clearly shows that verticutting, brushing and aerating all perform better than merely



And you thought you had it bad: checking for ice in Finland, a task carried out three or four times a year

allowing nature to take her course.

● Fig 3. Shows a list of varieties and how they performed in the Finnish conditions. The testing

areas were one metre square and each variety had three plots. Cutting height was 12 millimetres and the plots were maintained as tees. The golf course where the

tests were carried out is 300 miles from the Arctic circle.

● Published with kind permission of the Finnish Greenkeepers Association.

Fig. 1: Festuca Rubra Commutata. The development of shoot densities on greens in Raahel and Pori

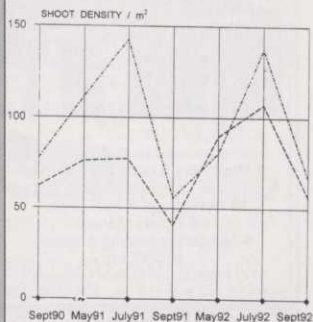


Fig. 2: Festuca Rubra Commutata

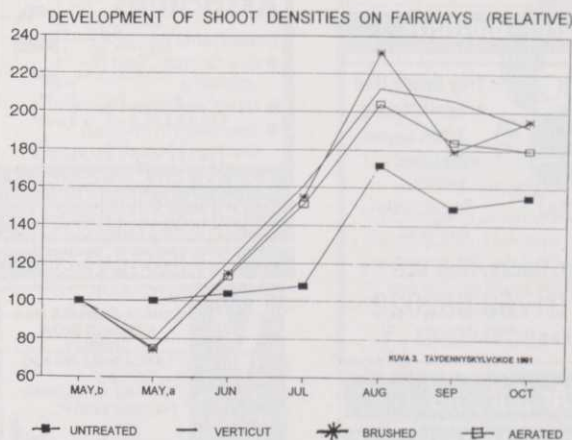
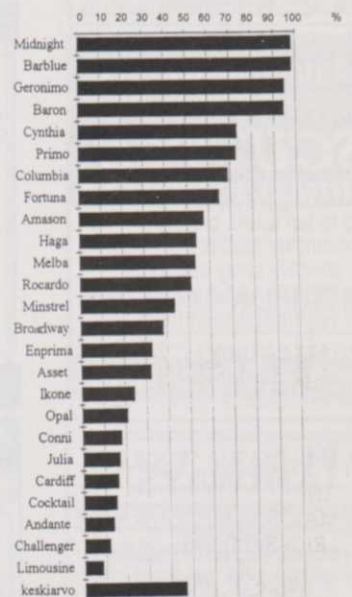


Fig. 3: Poa Pratensis - winter damages 1992-94



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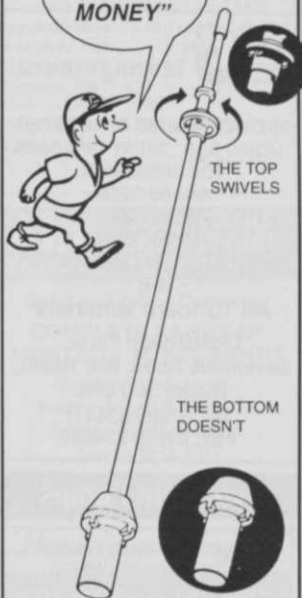
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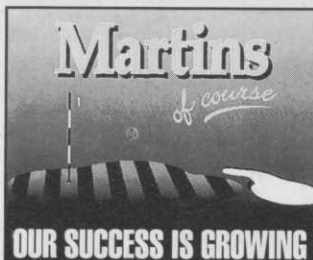
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Job Shop

Experienced Deputy Head Greenkeeper, 27 years old, qualified City & Guilds 1, 2, NVQ Level 3 (almost complete). PA1, PA2. Experienced in construction and all aspects of greenkeeping. Excellent references available. Seeks position in North West.

Box No JS 48/96, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Ane, York YO6 2NF

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Can be used with fixed or
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6 bladed reels.

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DEALER FOR DETAILS**

RECRUITMENT

Royal Musselburgh Golf Club

require an

APPRENTICE GREENKEEPER

Must be first year qualified.

Applications with CV and references to:

**Mr T H Hardie, Prestongrange House,
Prestonpans, East Lothian EH32 9RP**

by 19 October 1996. BIGGA wages scales will apply

Job Shop

Fully qualified First Assistant
Greenkeeper, aged 28, seeks
a return to the UK, preferably
Scotland. Experienced in all
aspects of golf course
management and
maintenance, including
construction. Hard working,
honest and innovative, with
professional attitude.
Looking for a challenging
position as Head
Greenkeeper.

Box No JS 47/96, BIGGA, Aldwark
Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF

Experienced Deputy Head,
28 years old, seeks Head
Greenkeeper's position in
southern England. 11 years
experience in all aspects of
course management
including construction,
drainage and irrigation. Fully
qualified with City & Guilds
Phase 1, 2 and 3, also PA1
and PA2 spraying certificates.
Very professional attitude;
excellent references.

Box No JS 49/96, BIGGA, Aldwark
Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF

Irrigation Technician seeks
employment with
challenging prospects - UK,
USA, Europe, anywhere I can
further my career and learn
more. Short term work
experience considered.
I'd also welcome more
information on irrigation,
that is, books and
magazines anyone can
recommend reading.

Box No JS 50/96, BIGGA, Aldwark
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Ex-Greenkeeper requires
employment, 18 years
experience. Past three years
employed as landscape
gardener but wishes to return
to greenkeeping. Available for
work immediately. Reliable,
trustworthy and hard
working. Knowledge and
experience a vital benefit
towards helping to maintain
high standard of work on
your golf course.

Box No JS 51/96, BIGGA, Aldwark
Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF



Royal Troon Golf Club DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate as Assistant to Head Greenkeeper.

The primary responsibilities of this challenging position relate to the management and development of our Championship Golf Course and associated Portland Course and Practice Grounds.

Key areas of responsibility include:

- a) Maintenance and presentation of the Golf Course for Membership to optimum level as expected of an Open Championship Venue.
- b) Supervision and development of all staff.
- c) Maintenance of Health & Safety requirements.
- d) A recognised qualification in Golf Course Management.
- e) Assist in preparation and control of budgets.
- f) A minimum of ten years experience as certificated greenkeeper.
- g) Strong working knowledge of all modern golf course management practices with the ability to train, motivate and manage staff.

We will offer an attractive remuneration package to the right person. No in-house accommodation is available.

Please send full Curriculum Vitae to:

Mr J D Montgomerie, Secretary/Manager, Royal Troon Golf Club, Troon, Ayrshire KA10 6EP

ADAS SPORTS TURF CONSULTANT

Location - Flexible

Salary range: £18,000 to £25,000

Fixed term 2 year contract with possibility of permanent employment

ADAS is the leading consultancy to land based industries in the UK, with around 1,800 staff and a turnover of £76 million.

ADAS is expanding its business within the sports turf industry and wishes to appoint an experienced sports turf consultant to take the lead in developing business in the area. You will negotiate and undertake commercial consultancy contracts and play a leading role in developing our research capability. This is a high profile position and you will represent ADAS nationally and have training responsibilities for other ADAS consultants.

A science based degree majoring on agronomy and BASIS qualifications are essential. A post graduate degree qualification is desirable. Knowledge of soils, climate, drainage, irrigation and construction methods and integration with turf management is essential.

You will need to be highly motivated, commercially aware with knowledge of the industry, entrepreneurial, computer literate and able to work on your own and as part of multi discipline project teams. The ability to develop effective commercial relationships with private, corporate, government and ADAS clients is vital.

For further information and an application form please write to or telephone: Mollie Leadsford, ADAS, Lawnswood, Otley Road, Leeds, LS16 5PY, (Tel: 0113 230 3803). The closing date for applications is 4 November 1996.

The post is open to UK, Irish, EU and Commonwealth citizens. ADAS is an equal opportunities employer.

Lilleshall Hall Golf Club



requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

This traditional members' golf club, situated in pleasant Shropshire countryside, invites applicants for the position of Head Greenkeeper.

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of Greenkeeping and have practical knowledge of modern machinery. The ability to manage and motivate staff is essential.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Applications in writing, together with C.V., should be sent to:

**D J Nation, Honorary Secretary,
Lilleshall Hall Golf Club, Lilleshall,
Newport, Shropshire, TF10 9AS**

St. Neots Golf Club, Cambridgeshire



Wish to appoint an

EXPERIENCED HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of course management and preparation. He or she must have appropriate Greenkeeping qualifications and possess the necessary man management supervisory skills to enthusiastically lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes, work within Budgetary controls and maintain health and safety requirements.

Please write enclosing your full C.V. and salary expectations to:

Mr A R Peck, Club Manager
St. Neots Golf Club, Crosshall Road
St. Neots, Cambs. PE19 4AE

Knole Park Golf Club

SEVENOAKS, KENT
AN OUTSTANDING NATURAL COURSE

Requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Minimum qualifications Greenkeeping to Phase I and II. In addition both PA I and PA II Spraying Certificates plus full driving licence. Salary based on BIGGA recommended rates.

Applications in writing with full C.V. to

D J L Hoppe
The Secretary
Knole Park Golf Club
Seal Hollow Road
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Driving Range and 9 Hole Par 3 Course in North London area

require an experienced, qualified

GROUNDSMAN/GREENKEEPER

to head a small team of greenkeepers and driving range staff.

Applicants need to be self motivated and able to cope with the demands of high specification, quality driving range and 9 hole course.

Please apply in writing enclosing a CV to:

Box No. R110/96, Greenkeeper International,
BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF

Corhampton Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicant must be experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping, including budgetary control. Leadership skills and the ability to motivate staff are essential requirements.

Accommodation is not available. Salary is negotiable according to experience.

Please apply in writing with current CV to:

The Secretary/Manager, Corhampton Golf Club,
Corhampton, Southampton, Hampshire SO32 3LP



MORAYSHIRE TRACTORS

PROFESSIONAL GROUNDSCARE MACHINERY SALES

The Company sells and provides after-sales support to Golf Courses, Local Authorities, Contractors, Estates and Leisure-related facilities throughout the Grampian area, the Highlands, the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland.

Market-leading machinery franchises held are Ransomes; Cushman; Ryan; Kubota; Charterhouse; Bomford.

A vacancy now exists for a Sales Representative to cover this area and applications are invited from persons with a proven record in machinery sales and demonstration, preferably in the grounds care market. The successful applicant will be expected to maintain and develop the existing strong market share and product training will be given where necessary. Age range 25-30 years old.

A competitive remuneration package is on offer and reflects the importance placed on this position.

Applications will be treated in strict confidence and should be made in writing, including full CV, to:

J S Falconer, Managing Director, Morayshire Tractors
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Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Toro Machinery and Club Car distributor requires an experienced professional to develop sales in several Gulf countries. Must have hands-on machinery experience to assist assembly/maintenance when required, but the emphasis will be on sales development and expanding customer relations.

Package/benefits will be negotiable depending on experience.

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Package will be negotiable.

All applicants should send CV and experience details to:

**Hydroturf International
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Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

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To cover Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Warwickshire.

Selling mowing and turf maintenance machinery to golf clubs, councils, contractors, etc.

You will be joining a very friendly and enthusiastic team, you must have experience in this field, be self-motivated and able to expand your sales area to achieve maximum potential.

Remuneration package will be discussed according to experience.

Apply in writing to:

**Mr Sissins, Charnwood & Highmeres,
14-18 Loughborough Road, Mountsorrel,
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New Zealand Golf Club

wishes to appoint a mature, experienced and fully qualified

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

prepared to make long term commitment to a small closely knit team.

Accommodation provided.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary, New Zealand Golf Club,
Woodham Lane, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3QD**

Jura Golfsport GmbH & Co

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

for our 18 and 9 hole golf courses with three driving ranges.

You will be responsible for managing our team of greenstaff and maintaining our golf courses to the highest level.

If you think this position is for you, apply with CV and covering letter to:

**M Loichinger, Jura Golfsport GmbH & Co KG,
Hilzhofen 23, 92367 Pilsach, Germany**

Nevill Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of

ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Nevill Golf Club is an 18 hole parkland course fully equipped with modern greenkeeping machinery.

The Club is over 80 years old and has hosted several major County events.

Applicants should be suitably experienced with relevant qualifications and possess good man management expertise.

A good financial package is available for the successful applicant.

Please apply in writing with full CV and current salary.

Details to:

**Miss K N R Pudner,
Secretary/Manager, Nevill Golf Club,
Benham Mill Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells,
Kent TN2 5JW**

RECRUITMENT



An
EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY



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COURSE MANAGER / HEAD GREENKEEPER / TRAINER

for our superb new 18-hole championship length members' club due to open in 1997 in Surrey

The 6,900 yard par 72 course, designed by David Williams for Merrist Wood Golf Club, will also be a unique centre of excellence for greenkeeping and golf education and training at Merrist Wood College.

This exciting post requires an exceptional individual with a unique range of skills. Applicants must be capable of growing-in and maintaining the course to the highest standards and also have the ability to successfully pass on their knowledge and skills to

students training to be greenkeepers of the future.

Not many people will be able to meet this highly demanding specification, but for the successful applicant, the rewards will be considerable, both in terms of the substantial remuneration package associated with this high-profile post, and the opportunity to make an outstanding contribution to major golf-related training initiatives.

For further details and an application form, please contact:

MERRIST WOOD GOLF CLUB,

c/o Barreldfield Golf Network, 302 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7AQ

Tel: 0181 390 6566 Fax: 0181 390 8830



MERRIST WOOD GOLF CLUB, WORPLESDON, GUILDFORD, SURREY GU3 3PE

Tenders

TENDER

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Department of Planning, Property and Technical Services

Applications are invited for:

THE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF GARNANT PARK GOLF COURSE, GARNANT, AMMANFORD, CARMARTHENSHIRE

Carmarthenshire County Council is inviting expressions of interest from interested parties who wish to tender for the maintenance and management of Garnant Park Golf Course.

The contract will commence on the 1st April 1997 for a period of six years, with an option to extend for four years.

Garnant Park is a high quality 18-hole public course recently constructed by Carmarthenshire County Council and is due to open in May 1997.

Carmarthenshire County Council is looking for an individual or company who can demonstrate a first class commitment to maintain and manage the golf course to the highest possible standards and to build on the foundation laid by the County Council.

The Council invites expressions of interests no later than 6th November 1996.

Draft contract documents are available from the address below provided a non-refundable payment of £100.00 (excluding VAT) is received from interested parties.

It is anticipated that tenders will be invited in late November/early December. For further information please contact:

**Mr John Rees, B.Sc., C.Eng, M.I.C.E., M.I.L.A.M., M.I.Mgt.,
Director of Planning, Property and Technical Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council,
c/o Civic Offices, Crescent Road, Llandeilo SA19 6HW.
Tel: (01558) 822521 Fax: (01558) 823331**

Student Greenkeeper of the Year

From an initial 400 students, the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition has been whittled down to eight finalists.

Selection from the 17 participating colleges produced 39 for the regional finals at Edinburgh, Bradford, Hemel Hempstead and Cheltenham and these were interviewed by Pat Murphy, BIGGA Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Education Committee, Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer and either Peter Mansfield, David Cole or Bob Bevan of Lely.

The final will be held at Aldwark Manor on October 27-28.



Alasdair McLean

Alasdair McLean

Representing Scotland Age: 21.

College: Oatridge

Alasdair has worked at Machrihanish Golf Club, by Campbeltown on the west coast of Scotland for two and a half years and is currently studying for the SVQ Level II on block release at Oatridge where he has been best student in both the first and second years.

A keen golfer, footballer and rugby man his ambition is to become a Head Greenkeeper on one of the country's top courses.



Karl Weston

Karl Weston

Representing: Northern. Age: 28.

College: Askham Bryan.

Employed by CJ Collins Construction at the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa, Karl is the Greens/Tees Drainage Foreman and has just completed his NVQ Level II.

He worked at Hanbury Manor before moving to Woodhall Spa where he hopes to remain after the construction has finished.

Keen to see all aspects of the golfing industry he feels fortunate to have worked at two such excellent courses.

Out of work he is a keen swimmer, gardener and hill walker.

John Donnelly

Representing: South East. Age: 28.

College: Oaklands.

Zimbabwe born John is an assistant at The Buckinghamshire GC, studying NVQ Level II. Another man who has come to greenkeep-



John Donnelly

ing from other areas having worked in a golf shop and caddied on the South African Tour. He has also undertaken his National Service, was the Workshop Manager in a small factory and was a security guard.

His interests include golf, running, swimming, diving and shooting.



Stephen Privett

Stephen Privett

Representing: South West and South Wales. Age: 31 College: Sparsholt.

Stephen is First Assistant at Hamptworth Golf Club, Landford, studying NVQ Level II, having initially come into the golf industry as a seasonal labourer at South Winchester. Previously a car mechanic and landscape gardener Stephen, who is married with two children, has set himself the target of being a Head Greenkeeper within five years and having reached First Assistant in two is well on course. His ultimate ambition is to become a Master Greenkeeper.

Not one to let the grass grow under his feet he is a keen golfer, judo player, snooker and pool player and rebuilt his own Escort MKI.

Fintan Brennan

Representing: Scotland. Age 32.

College: Elmwood.

A Metal Fabricator for 14 years an interest in golf encouraged a career change and he has risen to be Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Portmarnock in his native Ireland.

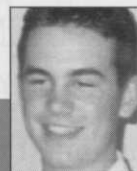


Fintan Brennan

Studying for his SVQ Level II, Fintan won the class prize and the BIGGA Scottish Region Award in his first year and the Barenbrug Student of the Year Award in his second.

Aims to complete his HNC and HND and take his golf club through a major professional or amateur tournament as Head Greenkeeper.

Outside interests include golf where he has a handicap of 6, photography and motor racing.



John Bachelor

John Bachelor

Representing: South West and South Wales. Age: 20 College: Cannington.

An assistant at Mendip Spring Golf Club John is another studying for his NVQ Level II.

He is currently on a five year apprenticeship run by the golf club.

A keen cricketer he holds six records for batting for Failand and Portbury Cricket Club while he is also interested in golf and horse racing.

Noel Greene

Representing: Midlands Age: 20

College: Warwickshire.

Noel is an assistant at Gay Hill Golf Club and is studying for his NVQ Level II. His Course Tutor at Warwickshire College described him as having the potential to become an ambassador for the profession.. A man with a thirst for travel he has ambitions to work in America and Sweden. He has also visited many European



Noel Greene

countries but would like to add India and Africa to the list.

He is currently learning to drive and is a keen supporter of Birmingham City FC and Warwickshire CCC.



Michael Hartney

Michael Hartney

Representing: Ireland. Age: 26.

College: Stiofain Naofa.

An assistant at Ballybunion GC and currently studying for his NVQ Level III and C&G Phase 2, he has previously been a Course Ranger and a caddie, where he worked alongside the likes of Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson.

He has ambitions to build his own home in Ballybunion, a course he describes as "phenomenal".

Off the golf course he plays traditional Irish music on the accordion and breeds canaries.

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Dave Leatherland, Kedleston GC

Free air miles ...from Hardi

The free flow of air through the soil is an essential requirement for the development of healthy, dense turf.

Compaction of the soil restricts the passage of air, together with moisture and nutrients to the grass roots and is a major cause of plant stress.



Coremaster 12
Fully adjustable tine depth from 0-4" (100 mm). Any combination of tine pattern and depth is possible.

Coremaster 12 with its fully adjustable aeration system will break through compacted soil to a depth of up to 4" (100 mm) introducing some 8 miles of air passages to an area of just 500 square metres.

Gentle on greens, yet fast on fairways, Coremaster 12 offers a wide range of tine sizes, patterns and coring depths to accommodate varying turf situations and operating conditions.

Mounted on the rear of a compact tractor it's high speed action will allow 18 greens to be treated in just one day.

Air travel, made easy by Greencare.



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Walk-behind machine options also available.

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90



Tough on turf disease


- Rapid contact action.
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- Unique rainfast formulation allows application all year round but especially useful during the cooler months.
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- The No 1. choice for turf professionals for over 11 years.



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