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REPORT AND PICTURES INSIDE



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should be with you by
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GREENKEEPER

International

SEPTEMBER 1996

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Not too long ago, Tom King's life revolved around dairy farming. Now he's a Course Manager after setting up a new addition to the Edinburgh golfing scene **Pages 33-34**

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Laukaan Peurunkalgolf in Finland, just one of eight courses featured in this issue
Picture by Scott MacCallum

WIN

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Market Development Manager,
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Golf Greenkeepers Association

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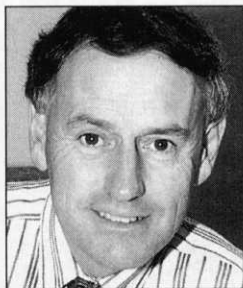
There are only a few exhibition spaces left for BTME 97 – for more details contact Louise Lunn on 01347 838581

Perceptions of BIGGA membership

I recently attended a meeting in Bury St Edmunds where some 50 greenkeepers had gathered to consider the formation of a new Essex Section.

It was a meeting where the situation was complicated by the fact that many of those present who were interested in joining the proposed new section were currently members of the long established East Anglia Section. In a wide-ranging discussion it was clear that the arguments had been well thought out and that members attending had come prepared and done their homework. I was impressed with the concerns expressed by those present, whatever position they were taking in the debate, to ensure that the best interests of the Association and particularly the East Anglia Section were served. There was no friction but much understanding. The outcome was a decision to proceed with the formation of an Essex Section which will become operative following the East Anglia Section's AGM in November.

Certain members currently serving on the East Anglia Committee will step down at the AGM with a view to taking up places on the new Essex Committee. They in turn will need to be replaced and a letter has been sent to all East Anglia members making them aware of the situation well in advance of the AGM. It is essential that two viable, forward looking sections emerge



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

from the changes and I believe that there is enough commitment from members to ensure that this will happen. The East Anglia Section will become more compact and hopes to align itself with a local college for the future benefit of its members. The Essex Section has a considerable potential membership and again will seek a close relationship with a local college. Here then are examples of member enthusiasm, commitment and a will to take the Association forward at local levels.

Decisions to form new sections are not taken lightly, for the failure of a new section would not reflect well on the Association. Indeed since 1987, the Essex Section will be only the second new one following the formation of the North Wales Section some five years ago.

Headquarters will be working

closely with both the East Anglia and the new Essex Committees to ensure that all is in place by the time of the East Anglia AGM and members are encouraged to make any observations or comments to Headquarters or locally over the next few months. So far this has been a most encouraging exercise reflecting very well on members who are determined to see the Association develop and continue on a growth curve.

In writing of these developments it is pertinent to consider the enthusiasm and commitment of members throughout the Association. In broad terms, I would suggest that they fall into three groups. You at local level will know far better than me which of these groups encompass your colleagues and yourself.

1. The first group are the really dedicated ones. Visible at section, region and national events, they are always eager to be involved, ready to take on new tasks, prepared to serve on committees and give freely of their time in the BIGGA cause. They have a clear perception of BIGGA's aims and aspirations and see the professional benefits of being part of and active in the Association.

2. The second group is supportive of BIGGA and willing to contribute to the ongoing development of the Association. Their work and family commitments militate against them being involved in BIGGA to the extent that they and the Association

would wish but they do attend BIGGA events and contribute in varying measures to BIGGA's cause.

3. The third group are relatively disinterested members, perhaps joining BIGGA as "the thing to do" under coercion from colleagues or because the club wishes its greenkeepers to be members. To them the BIGGA magazine is a welcome benefit of membership as is the membership card if they are golfers. Little thought is given to the benefits of the legal protection and insurance services unless they suddenly find themselves in need of them, whilst education is often a neglected area.

It is impossible to hazard a guess as to how many members fall into each group. The more who gravitate to group 1 the better but realistically many will fall into group 2 and serve BIGGA to the best of their abilities. The concern must be for those in group 3 and the need for them to become more active and involved, not only for BIGGA's sake but also for their professional development. Much can be done at local level to change attitudes and in the years ahead I would hope that group 3 declines in numbers with a corresponding increase in members who can be categorised in groups 1 and 2. As a member, in which group would you honestly categorise yourself? If it is group 3 then perhaps there is cause for thought.

Contract in Algarve

Bill Hawthorn, Chairman and founder of Watermation, seen here shaking hands with Mr. Sander Van Gelder, owner of the prestigious Vale do Lobo Course in the Algarve, on the signing of the contract to provide automatic irrigation to the new Royal Course, which is presently under construction and expected to be finished this autumn.

The Royal Course has been created on new land adjoining the existing nine holes of the Yellow Course which itself has undergone updating and recon-

struction. Great care has been taken by the architect however to retain the famous "cliff top" hole which has been in play now for over 30 years. It was decided to replace the irrigation on these original nine holes and design a completely new 18 hole system for the greens, tees, and fairways. This comprehensive scheme will require over 800 sprinklers throughout the course.

The irrigation system will have all the latest technology from Watermation including the TW2



irrigation controller complete with remote control operating in conjunction with PC central con-

trol. The sprinklers are the Watermation GR2 and GR3 models.

As I see it...

BY DEAN CLEAVER
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

It doesn't seem any time at all that I was talking about our time in Lytham at The Open and now here I am looking back at the National Tournament at Seacroft Golf Club in Skegness.

I must say it was nice to see so many families there and I am sure everyone, of all ages, enjoyed themselves. It was also good to see an international

flavour to the event with Thorbjorn Raun and Alan Brebion of Denmark and France respectively playing. It was particularly pleasing to hear how much they got out of their BIGGA membership.

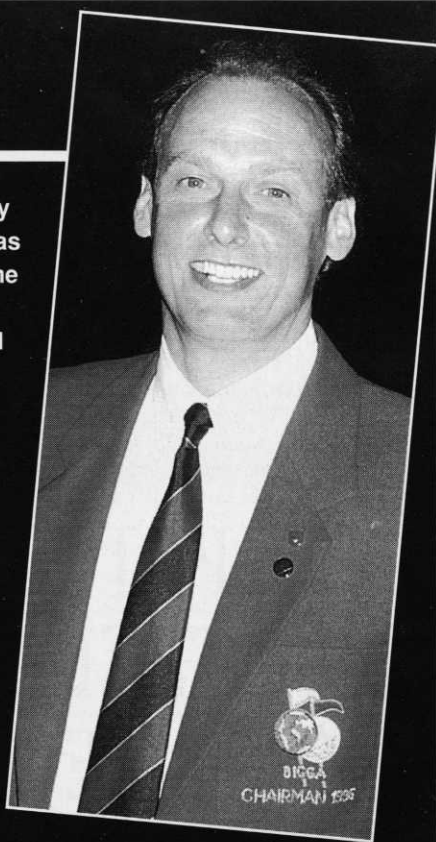
I would like to thank the Seacroft for the excellent hospitality afforded to us and, in particular, Head Greenkeeper Richard Hardie and his team who had the course in first class condition. Bearing in mind the weather we have all had to contend with over the last 18 months it was absolutely superb.

Congratulations to all the winners and I would personally like to thank all the sponsors and, in particular, Miracle Professional for their support, without whom the prize table would not have been the superb spectacle it was.

September is going to be a busy month for me. It begins with Saltex, then I'm off to Sweden to deliver a talk at the Swedish Greenkeepers Association Conference. I get back on the Friday and then on the Saturday we have the Hayter International and Hayter Challenge tournaments at West Lancs and Fairhaven golf clubs.

The Hayter International is a unique event and I am looking forward to meeting everyone involved. I am Captain of the Rest of the World team and I've already contacted Bernard Gallacher for some tips on captaincy.

I am sure the events will be a great success and immense credit must go to Kim Macfie and Hayters who have been instrumental in ensuring their success.



NEWS



Paul takes the cup

Paul Rennie from Andover, who has just successfully completed his studies on the National Certificate Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sportsground Management

Course at Sparsholt College, Hampshire has been awarded the Kings Worthy Parish Council Prize given to the student who has produced the Best Major Course Project.

Sod growers to stage demonstration days

On October 10 and 11, especially for sod growers, demonstration days will be organised by the French Sod Growers Association in cooperation with Nannings v Loen BV, the Netherlands.

The demonstration will take place in the northern part of Holland. Latest developments and appliances will be demonstrated like "De Hy Tek" machine with automatic stacking system and the "Brouwer Rollmax" sod harvester.

Manifold manufacturers and suppliers will demonstrate all the essential devices required for an efficient sod cultivation.

This unique occasion provides you with the opportunity to become fully apprised of the latest European advancements in sod cultivation.

Further detailed information will be readily provided by Nannings v Loen BV, the Netherlands. Telephone: 00 31 33 4564 550, Fax: 00 31 33 4564 433.

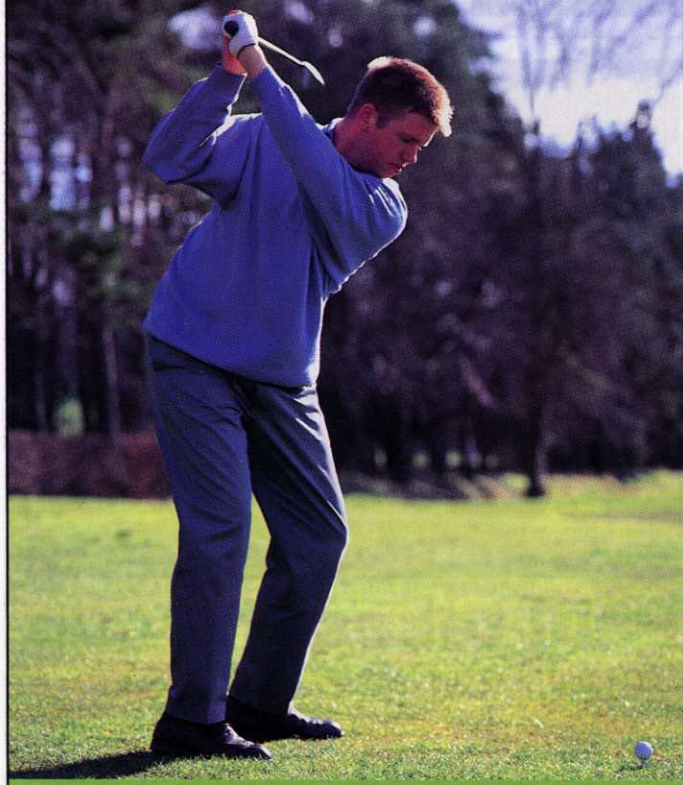


Stuart Ashworth has joined the staff of Amenity Technology as the company's Technical Sales Manager for the UK and Europe.

Previously Stuart worked in the North East of England for Rickerby Ltd as Technical Sales Representative and following his appointment will be moving to the South West of England.

Following Saltex he will commence an intensive training course on all products available from Amenity Technology.

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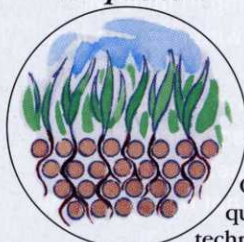
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Differences... and similarities

Brad Owen, pictured, of the Augusta National Greenkeeping Staff, made his first visit to the UK to work as a member of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team. He gives his impressions of his visit...

Tom Lehman said it best with a single word, "Wow". Although he probably said it with a good bit more emotion, the same word can describe my trip and impressions. It was quite an experience to see up close and be part of "The Open" for the first time. To be inside the ropes and walk with the players gives you a better understanding of how the player attacks the course and how the course can fight back. It also was unique to walk the course from the player's perspective in the early part of the day and then to see behind the scenes maintenance in the late evening. The maintenance that so many people take for granted, or are not even aware of, is very interesting and I was surprised that it was not discussed more by the media.

There are many differences in philosophies concerning the maintenance of turf for a major golf tournament between England and the US but the most important philosophy is very similar to any other major tournament. That is, to pro-

vide a fast, firm and difficult challenge for the golfer that puts a premium on a well played shot and anything less is a take away shot. Other similarities include some of the goals of BIGGA and our Superintendents' Association and those include: projecting a professional image and furthering the education of its members along with educating the public on just what the superintendent's job is all about. During our stay in Blackpool, BIGGA proved to be a very good host as did many of the people we met along the way. I would strongly recommend this experience to anyone who appreciates golf and turf grass management. A big thanks goes out to BIGGA for making this trip a reality.

Finally, I found it interesting to see a course such as Royal Lytham St Anne's that was obviously a model for so many American courses that try to imitate the links style course (even if it is inland just a little bit!). You can read all you like and look at pictures all day but you really need to see it up close for the best impression. The very first course I worked on was designed by Jack Nicklaus and he incorporated many features such as the mounding, small bunkers and elevated tees along with penalising rough in his design.

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All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of the three superb prizes is to answer six questions – there were two last month, two in this issue, below, and the final two plus the entry form appear in October's issue.

SEPTEMBER QUESTIONS

1. Name BIGGA's Education Officer?
2. What date does the National Education Conference start?

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The third full week in September could quite easily be renamed Hayter Week because during that time both the inaugural Hayter International Cup and the Hayter Challenge Final will be played at West Lancs and Fairhaven respectively.

The culmination of 25 sectional qualifying events and five regional qualifying events plus qualifying events in both northern and southern Ireland sees 63 greenkeepers converging on Fairhaven Golf Club in Lytham St Annes for the 1996 Final of the Hayter Challenge.

The event, which goes from strength to strength, will this year be run in conjunction with the inaugural Hayter International Cup which has brought a truly international field together for the Rest of the World v The Americas competition at West Lancashire Golf Club earlier in the week.

Once the spoils have been divided out the entire Hayter International Cup field will travel to Fairhaven and play their own singles event, the Hayter International Medal, in tandem with the Hayter Challenge competition.

West Lancs GC is no stranger to BIGGA and Hayter, having played host to the 1995 Hayter Challenge, and such was the warm welcome afforded to everyone by the club and the superb course presented by John Muir and his team it was the ideal venue to host what is likely to become a firm favourite on the greenkeep-



Head Greenkeeper Peter Simpson: Best of both worlds at Fairhaven

WEEK OF THE HAYTERS

ing calendar. It will be a biennial event with the United Kingdom and the United States sharing the duties of host.

Fairhaven, on the other hand, is a new venue for Hayter but such is the quality of the golf course it is sure to become an immediate favourite.

"The finalists are going to find a long golf course, it's 6883 yards off the back, and if the wind blows it can be quite tough," explained Head Greenkeeper Peter Simpson.

The course comprises two loops, an inner and an outer, and

as a result the wind can get you from any angle and unlike some courses, which offer up some shocks in the shape of hidden hazards, at Fairhaven what you see is what you get.

"Fairhaven isn't really a links, it's a semi links but all the links characteristics are there but with trees as well. You get the best of both worlds as it's probably the most picturesque of the four local courses," explained Peter.

Peter (32) and his team of five have a rolling programme of returfing the bunkers.

"We have around 126 bunkers and we've done about 65 so far."

Looking round the course you can see that he is not making any false boasts. The course is magnificent with a little touch of Woodhall Spa or Sunningdale about it.

It has been a busy time for Peter and his team as the course was used as a final qualifying course for The Open Championship at nearby Royal Lytham & St Annes while Peter returned to Lytham, where he began his career, to assist with the daily preparation of an Open venue which received universal acclaim at the end of a less than perfect spell of weather.

"I started at Lytham as a YTS trainee and was kept on and learned the ropes under Jimmy MacDonald. It was a terrific place to work and I felt that if I didn't move in 1991 I probably never would," explained Peter, who went to Huntercombe near Henley-on Thames before returning to Fairhaven in December '93 and becoming Head Greenkeeper two years ago.

HAYTER COMPETITORS

SOUTH EAST

Richard Hickford, Newton Green GC
Huw Morgan, Wilderness GC
Neil Gilham, Chart Hills GC
David Jones, Epsom GC
Ray Malt, The Ridge GC
Robert Washbrook, Porters Park GC
Douglas Smith, Thorpe Hall GC
Ben Abbot, The Ridge GC
Toddy Huddleston, Retired
DEREK FARRINGTON – Captain

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES

Nigel Pring, Oake Manor GC
Cyril Rawlings, Marlborough GC
Rob Walker, Queens Park GC
Anthony Knight, Kingsdown GC
Wyndham Potter, East Devon GC
Philip Wentworth, Army GC
John Barr, Bristol and Clifton GC

Clive A. Archer, Broadstone GC
Alan Crichton, Kington GC
GORDON CHILD – Captain

SCOTTISH

George Mitchell, Newmacher GC
Robert McKay, Prestwick St Nicholas GC
Ian Bell, Glencorse GC
Brian Hillen, East Moffat GC
Tom Hindmarsh, Erskine GC
John McLachlan, Brunston Castle GC
Graham Shearer, Balmore GC
Gordon McRae, Ratho Park GC
Garry Crosbie, Dumfries & County GC
ELLIOTT SMALL – Captain

NORTHERN

Paul Pearse, Stockport GC
Alex Russell, Bedale GC
Mark Hodgson, Woodham G&CC
Robin Smith, Gotts Park GC

Allan Allsop, Cavendish GC
Colin Hopper, Doncaster Town Moor GC
Anthony Cheeseborough, Wearside GC
Paul Neve, Brough GC
John L Jones, Abergele & Pensarn GC
BOB LUPTON – Captain

NORTHERN IRELAND

Brian Mulholland, Lisburn GC
Patrick Devlin, Belvoir Park GC
Lee Eager, Knock GC
Paul McBlain, Royal Belfast GC
Glenn Culbert, Clandeboye GC
Craig Posnett, Belvoir Park GC
Eric O' Neill, Portestewart GC
John Cuffey, Crossgar GC
James Logan, Edenmore GC
TERRY CRAWFORD – Captain

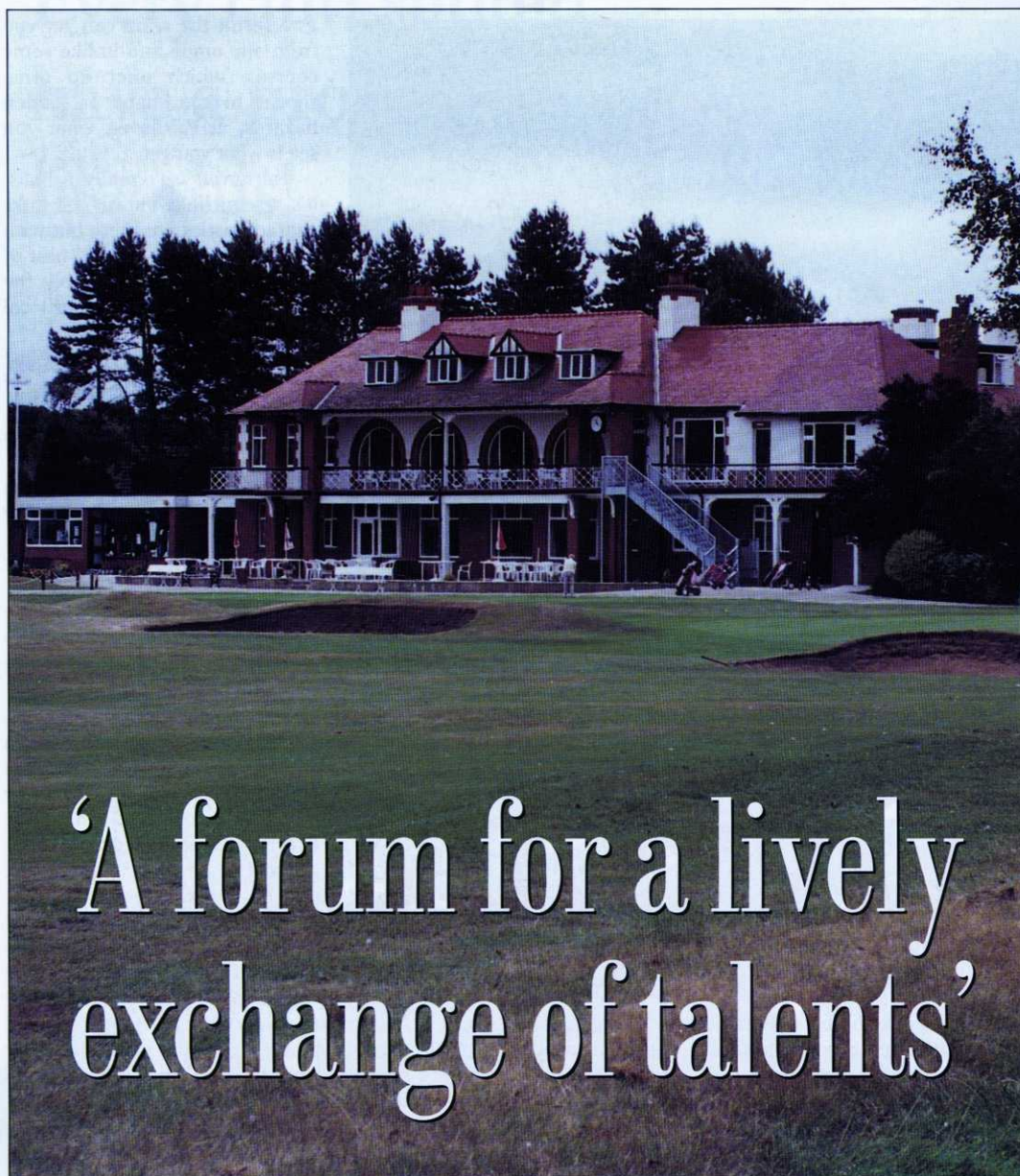
SOUTHERN IRELAND

Joe Bedford, Hollystown Golf Castle GC
Gerry Bryne, Luttrellstown

Paul Fitzgerald, Beech Park GC
Tom Mulqueen, Mahon GC
Martin O' Shea, Castle Corner GC
Maurice Clarke, Corrstown GC
Brendon Harman, Elm Park GC
James McGuinness, The Island GC
John Plummer, The Grange GC
IAN RICHIE – Captain

MIDLANDS

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Graeme MacDonald, Ryston Park GC
Richard Clarke, Trentham GC
Neil Whitaker, Woburn GC
Mark Cutler, Edgbaston GC
Steven Heap, Rothley GC
John Hewson, Market Rasen & District GC
David Gibbons, Great Barr GC
ROGER WILLARS – Captain



All of the excitement of the Ryder Cup...

With the Rest of the World tackling the Americas the event promises to have all the excitement of the Ryder Cup coupled with the rare opportunity off the course to share greenkeeping experiences and knowledge with colleagues who cope with altogether different problems.

Like the Ryder Cup the Hayter International Cup will be biennial with Great Britain and the United States taking turns to be host country and the event will consist of six fourball matches in the morning and 12 singles in the afternoon.

"I am convinced that the Hayter International will become an established part of the greenkeeping calendar throughout the world and am thoroughly looking forward to both it and the Hayter Challenge Final – to be played at Fairhaven GC in Lytham St Annes on September 18 – which is already a popular and respected event on the domestic greenkeeping scene," said Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA.

"The Hayter International Cup aims to foster a fraternal yet competitive atmosphere among greenkeepers from all parts of the world. It will be the forum for a lively exchange of talents both on the course and about the requisites to maintain the great golfing venues of the world. I feel sure everyone will benefit from the opportunity," said Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter Limited.

'A forum for a lively exchange of talents'

The impressive clubhouse at Fairhaven

"I knew I preferred links courses before I went south," he explains, "but going to an inland course just cemented what I really felt."

During the Open Qualifying the Fairhaven course record was broken by Justin Leonard – who won on the US Tour a couple of weeks later – with a 64 when it was hot and there was no wind but perhaps the main story of the qualifying event was also produced at Fairhaven. It came from Paul Eales, Lytham's Touring Pro-

fessional, who birdied the final five holes to qualify right on the limit.

"The last five holes include three par fives, a short par four and a little par three and by birdying them all he fulfilled his ambition to play in The Open at Lytham," said Peter.

Ironically Peter could have been playing in the Hayter Challenge Final as well as preparing the course.

"I won the Sectional qualifier at Morecambe but had to pull out of

the Regional Final because of the Open Qualifying so it was unavoidable."

He is looking forward to welcoming not only the 63 Hayter Challenge finalists when they arrive but also the International competitors.

"I am looking forward to the event. It's been a good year for us with the Open Qualifying and now this. It's good to see the Hayter event snowballing and it's nice to have been chosen for the final."

HAYTER TEAMS FOR INTERNATIONAL CUP

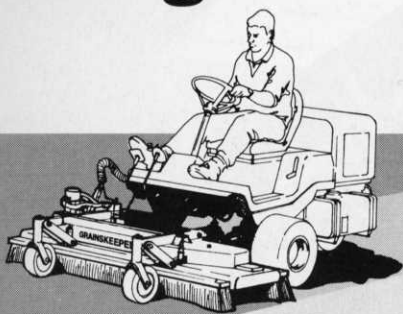
Americas: Samuel T. Williamson, Ojai Valley Inn and CC, USA; Jim Dusch, Atlanta National GC, USA; Robert Heron, Beacon Hall, GC, Canada; Douglas Meyer, Cedarbrook G&CC, Canada; Ricardo de Udaeta, Olivos GC, Argentina; George Renault, Burning Tree Club,

USA; Dean Morrison, Calgary G&CC, Canada; Paul McGinnis, Moon Valley CC, USA; Alejandro Young, Las Praderas de Lujan, CC, Argentina; Randy Nichols, Cherokee Town CC, USA; Thom Charters, Bayview CC, Canada, and Gary Grigg, Royal Poinciana GC, USA.

Rest of the World: Cosme Bergareche, San Sebastian GC, Spain; Fredrik Goa, Ljunghusen GC, Sweden; Andreas Kauler, Club sur Vahr, Germany; Derek McJannet, Sherwood Forest GC England; Ignacio Soto Alarcon, Pineda GC, Spain; Peter Schumacher, The Grange GC, Australia;

Peter Frewin, Winchelsea GC, Australia; Michael Dohlon, Bro Balsta GC, Sweden; Ian Buckley, Northop Country Park Golf, Wales; Matthias Ehser, Clubcolf Duren, Germany; Alexander Reid, Letham Grange GC, Scotland; Brian Mulholland, Banbridge GC, Northern Ireland.

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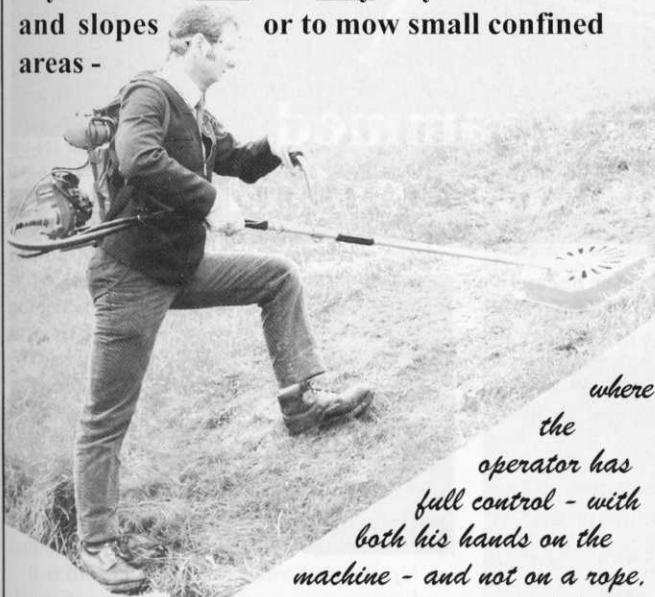
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SEACROFT

goes down a storm

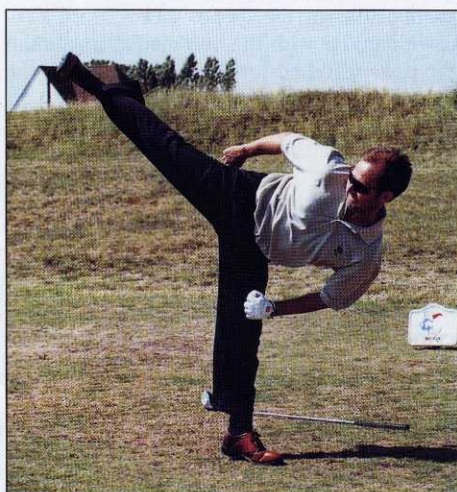
The 1996 National Tournament in association with Miracle Professional was a big hit with all who attended, reports Scott MacCallum.

Driving home from the National Tournament, news that scientists had uncovered life on Mars was being announced over the radio. It struck me that it was an extraordinary coincidence because at just about the same time so many people had discovered the time of their life in Skegness.

The National Tournament in association with Miracle Professional at Seacroft Golf Club was a resounding success. Many who had attended year after year declared that it was the best ever and others that National Tournament week was always the highlight of their summer.

It is difficult to analyse why 1996 should go down as a great year. The weather wasn't bad but it wasn't perfect. Indeed the thunder storm which deposited five millimetres of rain on the course in 20 minutes during the second round and lit up the sky with forked lightning had players and caddies racing for shelter. The course certainly wasn't of the "feel good" variety and didn't surrender any really low scores. In fact quite a number of players had to record hole scores which required more than one digit.

But the welcome afforded to BIGGA by the golf club, the superb service of the Crown Hotel in which the Monday night barbecue and the Tuesday night banquet were held,



Dave "2nd Dan" Leatherland opens his legs and shows his class...

together with a prize table which looked more like a window display at Dixon's ensured that 1996 would be a year to remember.

Seacroft is a traditional links golf course of the out and in variety beautifully maintained

and presented by Richard Hardie and his team. It is extremely well bunkered – some of which are big enough, if some of the competitors are to be believed, to contain double decker buses – but the principle hazard is one over which Richard has no control. The wind wasn't particularly fierce over the three competition days but still played a major influence on Seacroft's playability. Whipping in from the sea the prevailing left to right wind going out meant early danger and more than one player was forced to reload on the 1st or 2nd tees.

Peter Holtham was the star of day one. In conditions which were perhaps the toughest of the entire tournament he posted a gross 77 off a handicap of 9 for a three under par nett 68 which was the best of the day by three clear shots. Dropping only two shots to par on the more difficult outward nine Peter completed the round with nothing worse than a five on his card. A remarkable achievement.

Barry Emberley was next best, also with a gross 77 off a 6 handicap despite double bogeys at two of the par threes. He too kept a six off his card. The best gross score of the day came from John Berry who shot a 72 just heading Richard Barker on a card play-off.

The evening saw the Miracle Professional barbecue in the Crown Hotel, an event which drew a record attendance for the traditional Monday night function. Over 120 competitors, family and friends munched through 200 hamburgers, 120 chicken legs, 217 Lincolnshire sausages, 8 bowls of potato salad, 30 lettuces and 12 bowls of coleslaw, all washed

'Scoring was much better on day two'

down with assorted fluids.

Second round and the day of the storm. Ironically it was a much better day for golf than the first day with only a very small breeze to influence any club selection decisions.

For those who were lucky enough to witness it there was a unique sight early on the Tuesday – that of Scottish Regional Administrator Elliott Small, a man not known for his tolerance of late comers when he and wife Edna are organising events, running the final 50 yards to the 1st tee. The starter had already showed extreme compassion by allowing the Kincardine man's two playing partners to tee off before him and anything short of the lung bursting run Elliott put in would have resulted in his ignominious disqualification. His excuse? He and Edna had become stuck behind a tractor on the way to the course. As it was he struck a fine drive down the opening hole and came away with a bogey five.

Scoring was much better on day two and the day included the best nett round of the entire week – a nett 66 by 11 handicapper A. Roberts.

It was the lower handicap players who were beginning to dominate at the top of the leader board. Four handicappers Graeme MacDonald, John Berry and Richard Barker came in with gross 73, 74 and 75 respectively all playing in the same three ball.

They were also among the players caught in the spectacular – and potentially dangerous thunder storm in the middle of the afternoon. Fork lightning etched the inky black sky and the rain



A prize table and a half!



Everyone a winner



Roger Mossop and Richard Hardie

tumbled as though turned on by a tap. Those in the safety of the clubhouse set out in cars to retrieve anyone seeking refuge but such was the downpour – five millimetres fell in 20 minutes – it was impossible to leave the car and attract anyone's attention.

Ironically the storm coincided with Headquarter's Vickie Peckham's introduction to the peculiarities of the game. Vickie, until now more familiar with the 400 metres track than the links, caddied for Richard Barker on the second round and was not sufficiently put off by her drenching to stop her offering her services to Bert Cross as caddie for the final round.

The Vitax Putting Competition was also held during the second round and an excellent putting green surface was confirmed when Steve Sullivan triumphed with a "six under" score of 30.

In the evening it was back to the Crown Hotel for the Banquet and another full house. The excellent meal was complemented by the fine speeches by Club President Dr Gus Polard, BIGGA National Chairman Dean Cleaver and Miracle Professional Business Manager Roger Mossop. They were followed by comedian, Reg Thompson, whose 45 minutes of quick fire one liners and reminiscences of legendary music hall entertainers, were met by an enthusiastic audience.

Another feature of the evening was the antics of the table magician Mr Clive "Grate Suprendo" Heginbotham who had the many



Dean Cleaver and Roger Willars

children eating out of his hand.

The evening was also an opportunity for Midland Regional Administrator, Roger Willars, who is retiring from the role to be thanked for his excellent work over the years. He was lost for words when he was called up during the dinner to be presented with a watch by National Chairman Dean Cleaver.

Richard Hardie was also presented with a token of appreciation for the work he and his team had put into the golf course

Wednesday, and by an amazing fluke the draw, made three weeks before the event, threw up the three leaders in the final two groups.

Graeme MacDonald, John Berry and Richard Barker all struggled on the front nine Richard opening with a six, Graeme having a seven at the 2nd and John recording four bogeys to be out in 42, 40 and 40 respectively.

It was the Penrith man, John Berry, who pulled out the stops in the back nine coming back in level par to edge out Kirby Muxloe's Richard Barker, who dropped a shot at the 17th, by a single shot. John was therefore the overall winner of the Miracle Professional Trophy for the best nett score of the week.

The best gross round of the week was scored by the lowest handicapper in the field. James Dair, a one handicapper had not done himself justice over the first two rounds but shot a level par 71 on the third day to clinch the 54 hole gross prize.



Spot the ball



After the storm



The "Miracle" workers

FULL RESULTS

Miracle Professional Trophy (Best Nett 1-14 - 54 holes) J. Berry.

2. R. Barker, 3. P. Holtham.

Miracle Professional Trophy (Best Nett 15-28 - 54 holes) I. Needham.

2. T. Patchin, 3. N. Maltby.

Hardi Amenity Sprayers Trophy

(Best Gross - 54 holes) J. Dair.

Jubilee Cup (Team Prize) Midlands - M. Hughes, P. Loffman, P. Holtham.

The David Royle Cup (Best Nett 1-14 - 36 holes) J. G. MacDonald

2. P. Holtham.

The Pattisson Trophy (Best Nett 15-28 - 36 holes) 1. T. Patchin.

2. R. Pearce.

The Toro Trophy (Best Gross - 36 holes) J. Berry.

Over 55s (Best Nett - 36 holes)

M. Hannan.

Monday:

Best Gross, J. Berry

Levington Trophy (Best Nett)

P. Holtham.

2. B. Emberley; 3. R. Barker

Longest Drive (Aitkens Sports Turf) G. MacDonald

Nearest the Pin (County Crop)

S. Pope

Tuesday

Best Gross, G. MacDonald

Standard Golf Trophy (Best Nett)

A. Roberts

2. P. Wentworth, 3. P. Fitzjohn

Vitax Putting Cup, S. Sullivan

Longest Drive (Avoncrop) A. Brebion

Nearest the Pin (County Crop)

M. Hughes

Wednesday

Best Gross, J. Berry

William Hargreaves (SISIS) Trophy

(Best Nett) J. Dair

2. J. Seisun, 3. I. Needham

Longest Drive (E.T. Breakwell)

S. Sullivan

Nearest the Pin (County Crop)

S. Pope

BIGGA would like to thank the following sponsors for making the tournament such a success:

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Have you got what it takes?



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

An advertisement in the August edition of this magazine for a Course Manager at a prestigious golf club asked for a greenkeeper with skills in the maintenance and presentation of the golf course and the following:

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There are some places left on this Autumn's BIGGA sponsored, Education and Development Fund subsidised Supervisory Courses for Greenkeepers. **Make sure of your place by returning the, reply paid card in this magazine, or by telephoning HQ on 01347 838581, TODAY.**

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Module 2-Managing People- October 14-18 (Places available)

- Listening and questioning skills, appraisal, assertive communication, constructive feedback, grievance and discipline, further computing for greenkeepers.

Module 3-Managing Operations and Resources- October 21-25 (A few places left)

- Resource planning, estimates, budgets, quality care, competency based training, portfolio development and computing for greenkeepers.

Module 4-Managing Information- October 28-November 1 (Plenty of places left)

- Memos, letters, report writing, managing meetings, communication skills, presentation skills and computing for greenkeepers.

Module 5-Managing Finance, Management of Health and Safety, Recruitment and Selection-November 4-8 (Almost full)

- Controlling budgets, expense reports, cash flow forecasting, computerised accounts, health and safety management, interview techniques, employment law, race relations, equal opportunities and computers in management.

The cost of each course, which includes all food, accommodation, tuition and access to individual computer terminals is £426 + VAT. Equivalent courses are available commercially for £1200 excluding accommodation.

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Master Robert Hotel	Hounslow	October 16/17, 1996	Frank Newberry
Royal Clarence Hotel	Exeter	October 23/24, 1996	Frank Newberry
Slieve Russel Hotel	Ballyconnell	November 18/19, 1996	Brin Bendon
Moat House Hotel	Washington	February 10/11, 1997	Brin Bendon
Moat House Hotel	Peterborough	February 13/14, 1997	Frank Newberry

Some places left on all courses except Hounslow which is now full.

COST: BIGGA Members £50 per delegate, all inclusive. Non-BIGGA members £150

Budgeting and Finance for Greenkeepers

Introduces and develops the essentials of financial management including, budgets, expenditure, cash flow etc.

Old Ship Hotel	Brighton	October 14/15, 1996	Frank Newberry
Moat House Hotel	Bournemouth	October 21/22, 1996	Frank Newberry
Slieve Russel Hotel	Ballyconnell	November 20/2, 1996	Brin Bendon
Waterton Park Hotel	Wakefield	November 11/12, 1996	Brin Bendon
Quality Friendly Hotel	Walsall	November 28/29, 1996	Brin Bendon
Inchyra Grange Hotel	Falkirk	October 3/4, 1996	Brin Bendon

Some places left on all courses except Birmingham/Walsall which is now full.

COST: BIGGA Members £75 per delegate, all inclusive. Non-BIGGA members £150

Golf Course Health and Safety Management

Does your club meet the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act? Find out by attending one of these courses, which cover policy, risk assessments, manual handling etc.

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Thornbury Golf Centre	Bristol	October 23/24, 1996	Jon Allbutt
Moat House Hotel	Nottingham	November 12/13, 1996	Jon Allbutt
Moat House Hotel	Blackburn	November 5/6, 1996	Jon Allbutt
Inchyra Grange Hotel	Falkirk	October 3/4, 1996	Douglas Shearer

COST: BIGGA Members £75 per delegate, all inclusive. Non-BIGGA members £150

Some places left on all courses

Essential Presentation Skills for Greenkeepers

Whether it's presentations to committees, seminars and conferences or you just need to improve your verbal presentation skills then this course is for you.

Old Ship Hotel	Brighton	October 29/30, 1996	Frank Newberry
Aldwark Manor Hotel	Aldwark	November 25/26, 1996	Brin Bendon

COST: BIGGA Members £75 per delegate, all inclusive. Non-BIGGA members £150

Several places left on each course

Each of the courses is linked to N/SVQ Level 3 Supervisory Units.

Remember, the costs of all of these courses is kept at such a very low level by subsidies from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund which is supported by our Gold and Silver Key Circle Members. Equivalent two day courses are available, commercially for £700, without accommodation.

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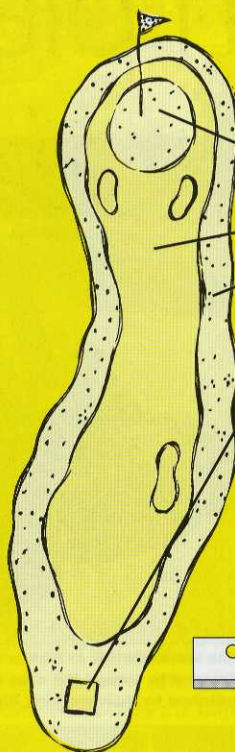
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Sound investments with planned finance

Budgeting for future course machinery purchases is one of the most difficult tasks faced by any golf club.

Although it is comparatively straightforward to compile a shopping list of new equipment that one might like to acquire over the coming years, unexpected breakdowns, failures or other pressing course requirements can disrupt even the best-laid plans.

By the time the specified item has reached the top of the list, needs may have changed or the machine may have been superseded by a new model. Result? Insufficient money is available for the purchase, leading to a frustrating delay for another year or so.

Although many clubs still feel most comfortable with the cash purchase, there is a growing realisation that the investment of a large sum of money at one time in a single item of machinery is not the most effective use of available funds. It may avoid the payment of finance interest charges, but it can also seriously affect cash flow. Paying cash to buy a machine outright also means that one has purchased a depreciating asset using today's money.

Many successful businesses have failed not because they were unprofitable but simply because they ran out of cash. There has long been a trend in Britain for smaller companies to use short-term funding – usually cash or the overdraft – to invest in items which have a medium to long-term working life.

This is madness. Whoever heard of a machine which worked harder for you because you paid cash for it? The most sensible way to take the pressure off cash flow is to spread the cost of capital investments over periods more closely matched to their working life.

This argument is reinforced by the fact that many finance schemes are currently available at a low, fixed rate of interest – reflecting the lowest UK bank rate for more than 20 years. One can also take advantage of manufacturer-subsidised finance offering zero and low cost finance over a realistic period of time.



No machine works better or harder for you because you paid cash for it. Using planned finance to spread the cost of capital investments over periods more closely matched to their working life can help ease the pressure on cash flow.



Exhibitions such as Saltex and BTME provide an excellent opportunity for golf clubs to plan a replacement schedule and budget for the key machines on the course.

Cash or the overdraft are much better used to fund the day-to-day running of the club and to pay for variable inputs such as fertiliser, seed, chemicals, fuel and wages. If surplus cash is available, then it should be directed initially to reducing any short-term borrowings, such as the overdraft. Liquidity is valuable and should not be discarded lightly.

When planning a replacement machinery programme, golf clubs should first estimate the value of its principal equipment fleet and any additional seasonal items such as specialist aerators, a hollow tiner or drainage machine.

Assuming a core equipment valuation of £90,000 to £100,000, it would not be unreasonable to set up a five year replacement programme to ensure that the key

items of machinery are kept up to date and maintenance costs are kept in check.

"The most budget-friendly way of achieving this would be through a five-year rolling finance scheme equating to a finance requirement of about £25,000 in each of the five years," commented John Westrope of leading golf course equipment finance company, FAF.

"Although many machines are needed daily throughout the year, certain items are used solely on a seasonal basis. It could be more cost-effective to hire these in when needed or arrange to share them with a neighbouring club."

When looking at a club's overall machinery budget and ways to optimise cash flow, certain finance options are more

favourable than others. The principal consideration at the outset is whether one wishes to own the equipment. If the answer is yes, then other than cash from existing funds, the two standard funding methods are a bank loan or hire purchase.

Mr Westrope points out that a bank loan can leave one vulnerable to rising interest rates and can be called in at any time if one has difficulty in meeting payments. Furthermore, the equipment is not regarded as security for the loan putting pressure on the assets of the club.

Hire purchase involves a deposit (normally between 10 and 20 per cent of the amount financed) and a series of fixed repayments over an agreed period. The deposit can often be covered by the value in any trade-in machine.

Once the final instalment has been made, title passes to the user, with depreciation being shown on the club's accounts. Clubs run as businesses or with an annual expenditure of about £44,000 or less can normally reclaim the VAT, which is paid in one lump at the start of the agreement.

Methods of acquiring equipment which do not involve ownership have gained rapid ground in recent years due to the appreciation that it is not necessary to actually own something to derive maximum benefit from it.

A finance lease is one option which allows full use of a machine without giving final ownership.

In principal, the business uses and maintains the machine for a given period in return for a fixed monthly "rental", enabling easy budget forecasting. At the end of the period, the item can be traded-in and the club shares in the sale proceeds.

Following the new VAT regulations of 1994, FAF recommends a finance lease as the best option for non-profit making members' clubs. Because the VAT element is spread across the whole period of the lease, this method reduces pressure on cash flow for those clubs unable to reclaim all the VAT at the outset.

An alternative to the finance lease is the operating lease, also known as contract hire. This is

equivalent to a long term hire and can include all maintenance and servicing costs. Unlike a finance lease, where the lessee and lessor share in the risks and rewards associated with ownership, an operating lease agreement reflects solely the operating costs of the machine over a fixed "hire" period.

Neither the equipment nor any maintenance charges appear on the accounts as a capital asset, an important consideration for those clubs run as businesses.

At the end of the period, the item is simply returned to the contract hire company, leaving the user free to start a new agreement. Beware, however, hidden extras such as charges for excess hours and damage or wear and tear to the paintwork and main components.

Whichever finance option selected, John Westrope points out that FAF is happy to structure



Using a finance lease, Coventry Golf Club has acquired new equipment valued at more than £200,000 at lower outlay than that required previously each year to hire in specialist machines and to replace, repair and maintain the club's existing equipment fleet.

repayments to suit each club's income and cash flow.

A members' club, for example, may prefer to pay annual instalments in the month following subscription renewals. A pay and play course will normally wish to arrange monthly or quarterly repayments. The length of agreement period can also be tailored according to the machine's level

of use and its importance on the course.

While highlighting the flexibility offered by medium to longer-term finance schemes, John Westrope stresses the importance of seeking professional advice before making the final decision.

The expression 'act in haste, repent at leisure' could well have been coined as a warning to those

who make important financial decisions without considering all of the options or the long-term consequences.

■ Thanks to John Westrope of FAF for assistance in the preparation of this article. For further information or to discuss a finance quotation, call the FAF Free Phone Help Line on 0800 225567.

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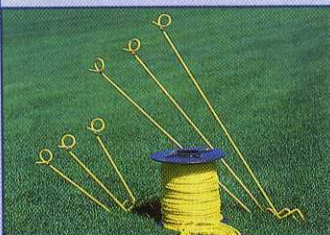
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A GREENKEEPER'S DIARY

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Time to plan ahead

What a year so far! After such a late spring followed by a summer of variable weather, we are suddenly catapulted into the throes of planning for the autumn and beyond.

September is a month of great change, forcing all greenkeepers to assess the present condition of their fine turf areas, with the knowledge that well planned work executed in September can lay a firm, healthy foundation for the months ahead.

Our general cutting regime will continue this month with the putting greens and tees receiving a low dose application of liquid fertiliser in early September to ensure the grass is in a better position to recover from the rigours of the intensive maintenance work ahead.

We, like many, will be hollow coring all the putting greens and tees in a not too dissimilar fashion to that described by Anthony Davies' article in last month's *Greenkeeper International*. This single but time consuming work allows these playing surfaces a much better

chance of a healthy, problem free winter. We will verticut the putting greens deep and scarify the tees extensively to reduce the thatch before hollow coring. These will not be overseeded as this work was completed with great success earlier in the summer. The topdressing will be pure sand which is the same as the construction rootzone, ensuring continuity and no layering. Following this work a granule, slow release fertiliser will be applied, 15.0.30, followed by an application of iron spray to help reduce the formation of fungal mycelium.

We may need an application of Fenarimol late September to stem the spread of the disfiguring Take-all disease in these four year old greens.

The putting green and tee banks will also receive fertiliser and a spray of iron. The fairways have controlled release fertiliser

which will still be active and help regenerative growth after the drought this summer. Due to no fairway irrigation we will need to overseed some areas and will use a coulters type seeder to get seed into the ground. The height of cut will be raised from 15mm to 18mm and any weeds present will be sprayed with a herbicide before the seed is applied.

Other items to be covered in September's work programme include:

1. Marking out the dead trees in the shelter belt areas, adjacent to the A34 Newbury bypass so they may be removed in the winter.
2. Cut out winter tee areas in front of existing tees. Some use is allowed on the tees proper but this cannot be to the detriment of next season's expectations by the

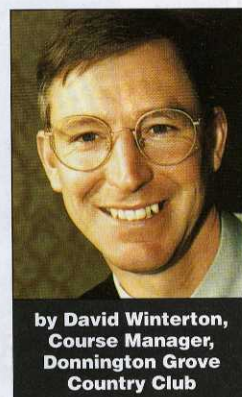
club membership.

3. Leaves may well start to drop early this year due to drought stress so these will be cleared as necessary.

4. As Course Manager I will be planning ahead, writing up the winter work programme to see us through to next spring. This will include all the general maintenance

requirements alongside major course improvements/costings, staff training and a list of unusual items like the pursuance of a grant to allow us to plant trees in some of the larger, open areas we have on the course. This should provide a long-term ecological improvement over regular grass mowing.

With the timely appearance of the Saltex show, this obligatory visit always leaves me dreaming of just how much more we could achieve if I had an open cheque-book! I hope you all enter the autumnal phase with pleasant memories of a long, successful summer gone by.



by David Winterton,
Course Manager,
Donnington Grove
Country Club

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NEW PRODUCTS

Supaturf Products has recently been appointed as European distributor for Aquatrols Corporation of America, whose products include Aquagro, Primer 604 and InfilTTx.

Supaturf is now to introduce another product to the UK and Europe from Aquatrols called CleanCarbon.

It is a spreadable, water dispersible activated carbon product which is capable of binding many materials such as organic pesticides, petroleum products and hydraulic fluids.

Ordinary activated charcoal is a messy fine black powder which is often difficult to handle and apply and does not suspend well in water, but CleanCarbon is a new granular formulation or activated charcoal which is both spreadable and water dispersible.

Supaturf recommends it for emergency treatment to deactivate mis-applied pesticides or spills and as a once a year clean up of harmful residues from greens and tees. It will also act as a warming agent – warming up soil by up to three degrees.

Further information Tel: 01455 234677.

Wicksteed Leisure Ltd of Kettering has recently installed rubber safety surfacing tiles at Leek Golf Club.

Normally used for children's outdoor playgrounds the tiles are being used on walkways around the course – an area which had previously caused problems.

The walkways, many with steep gradients, needed a surface which was non-slip and porous, would allow tractors to travel up and down, would not damage mowers and create no mess. Golfers wearing spiked shoes needed to be able to walk on it and the noise level had to be kept to a minimum.

Wicksteed's Safety Tiles solved these problems.

Further information Tel: 01536 517028.

Tonick Watering has launched an extended range of replacement decoders which have guaranteed compatibility with other types. The range includes competitively priced

R+R has launched the Heftee 3600 lift, as a big brother to the Heftee 2000, designed to accommodate 86 inch wide greens mowers.

"Users are increasingly undertaking service and maintenance themselves," said R+R's Equipment Head Tony Watson, "and the Heftee lifts are a proved cost-effective investment."

As the name suggests the lift has a payload of 3600lbs and has detachable wheels enabling it to be moved around the workshop. It also has a boom that enables easy engine removal and there is a clear-

replacements for Watermation, CIC, Wright Rain, Primetime and Roby dome decoders; although directly interchangeable, the replacements are designed to last very much longer. They do not have switches and are carefully sealed in a special compound for a long operational life.

Available with up to four solenoid outputs, each with its own address, the Tonick versions save money and minimise wiring tangles in the ground. They use the latest digital microprocessor technology, have no moving parts and are truly "fit and forget". Each decoder has built-in lightning surge arresters, carries the CE mark and is guaranteed for three years.

A companion, low-cost programmer is available which conveniently and easily sets the decoder address as many times as required. The programmer also tests any decoder connected to it whatever the make.

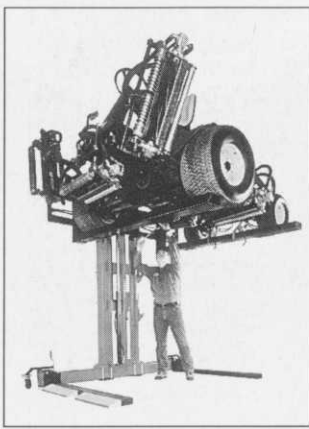
Tonick Watering decoders are now stocked by most independent irrigation distributors and installers.

For information Tel: 01903 262393.

Kubota (UK) Ltd has added a new 25hp out-front mower to its professional ride-on range.

Called the F2560, it is aimed at the local authority and contracting sectors, and is equipped with Kubota's advanced Dual-Acting Over Running Four Wheel Drive.

This feature is designed to



ance of six feet under the forks.
Further information Tel: 01480 455580.

deliver greater levels of operator control by allowing automatic change over between 4WD and 2WD to match the demands of the terrain in forward and reverse operations – 4WD for rough and uneven terrain and 2WD for large flat areas of turf. For constant use on hilly terrain permanent 4WD can be selected.

The F2560 has a top travelling speed of 17Km/hr, and also features hydrostatic transmission and power steering.

The 60" mower deck has side or rear discharge options and has a clearance level of 200mm for easy travelling between sites and over obstacles such as curbs.

This latest addition means there are now nine ride-on units in the range of Kubota professional machines.

Further information Tel: 01844 214500.

Brand new additions to the John Deere range of grounds care equipment include the Aercore 1500 and 1000 tractor-mounted aerators; and the 3235A Turf System II fairways mower.

With working widths of 95cm and 146cm, the 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. Depending on model, they can be mounted on compact tractors from 15 to

30hp, equipped with a Category I three-point hitch and 540 rpm power take-off.

Built around heavy-duty frames and tine rams to provide durability, the aerators can pull up to 30 cores per square foot, at over 75,000 square feet per hour, according to individual requirements.

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.

John Deere's improved 3235A lightweight fairways mower boasts a new hydrostatic transmission and larger wheel motors now provide higher transport and mowing speeds, and improved 4WD performance on slopes.

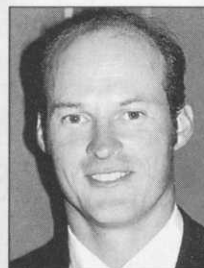
This five-reel 32hp diesel-engined machine features 56cm wide seven-blade cutting heads as standard, or optional eight-blade heavy-duty ESP, extra strength and precision, units, with one touch lifting and lowering.

The patented RFS (rotate for service) feature means the cutting units can be rotated and presented for easy servicing, by simply flipping up an unlocking spring and pulling out a single pin.

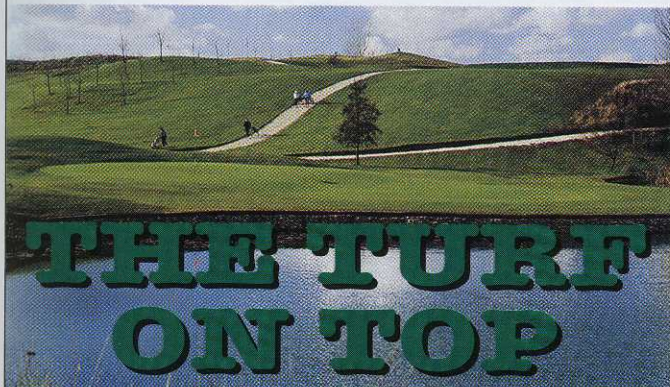
Height of cut can be adjusted from 9.5 to 76mm, with patented hydraulic down-pressure on the reels to follow ground contours more closely. On-board backlapping and simple reel speed adjustment are further standard features.

Further information Tel: 01949 860491.

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Where golf courses h

Master Golf

Head Greenkeeper – Jukka Silventoinen.

One of the most popular courses in Finland with 43 thousand rounds a year. Currently 27 holes with another course under construction. "These are not USGA spec. They are my own greens," said Jukka, proudly.

He has a staff of five including himself for the existing course with another 15 working on the construction of the new course. They dig their own gravel and make their own root zone on site.

They have wall to wall Rain-bird irrigation and under soil heating on all greens which is considered ideal for bringing seeds along in the spring.

The practice course also doubles as a testing station for new



Novel way of dealing with rakes at Master Golf

types of grass – up to four on one green.

"We started with 14 different types and are now down to seven. Poa Supina is very aggressive and is very strong against disease but it requires mowing three times a day."



Jukka Silventoinen with his Master Golf complex

Helsinki GC

Head Greenkeeper – Petteri Lehmuskoski

The oldest golf course in Finland having been formed in 1932.

It is a beautiful parkland course with many Salix trees which are native to Finland. Ideal tree for golf because they catch the ball and once the bottom few branches have been pruned there is enough room to allow a player to play from beneath them.

The course averages 30,000 rounds a year, there are 1,200 members 850 of them are active and the average age of the member is 52. There are 900 on the waiting list.

The FGA has excellent relations with the Finnish Golf Union and the two have worked closely



Finnish Golf Union Secretary Osmo

Saaicinen with Helsinki GC Head

Greenkeeper Petteri Lehmuskoski

on research work which is benefiting golf all over Scandinavia. A report on the research work will appear next month.



Golf Talma

Head Greenkeeper – Pekka Nieminen

One of the country's newest and most lavish golf developments, with a par 3 course as well as the magnificent 18 hole layout. Six years old, costing £9 million with some spectacular holes and stunning views. Attractive bridges span the stream which winds its way over the course.

The club has 400 members and there is a greenkeeping staff of 11.

Magnificent Greenkeeping facilities with yard full of Toro equipment.

"Winter is the chance to empty the brain and fill the

belly. In the summer work is extremely hard with long days," explained Pekka, who was previously the Head Greenkeeper at Helsinki GC.



Pekka Nieminen at Golf Talma

The attractive equipment store at Helsinki



ve a superior Finnish

Finland may not be widely known for its golf but in the limited playing season the quality of both the courses and the course maintenance is second to none. Report and pictures by Scott MacCallum

Think of Finland and the brain immediately heads for its files marked "S" and "Ski jumping", "Saunas" and "Snow", while also taking in the "Ms" and the "Js" for "Middle Distance Running" and "Javelin Throwing".

For those who have not had the pleasure of visiting the country it's likely that the "G...s" and "Golf" would not be given a moment's thought.

However, despite the complications of being so far north and with a long non-playing season, golf is very much a growth sport in Finland and the quality of the golf courses and people who maintain them are second to none.

There are 83 golf courses in the country with many more under construction and the Finnish Greenkeepers Association, in harness with the Finnish Golf Union and the Government, are ensuring that each step in the development of the courses and game in general is taken in the knowledge that everyone is pulling in the same direction.

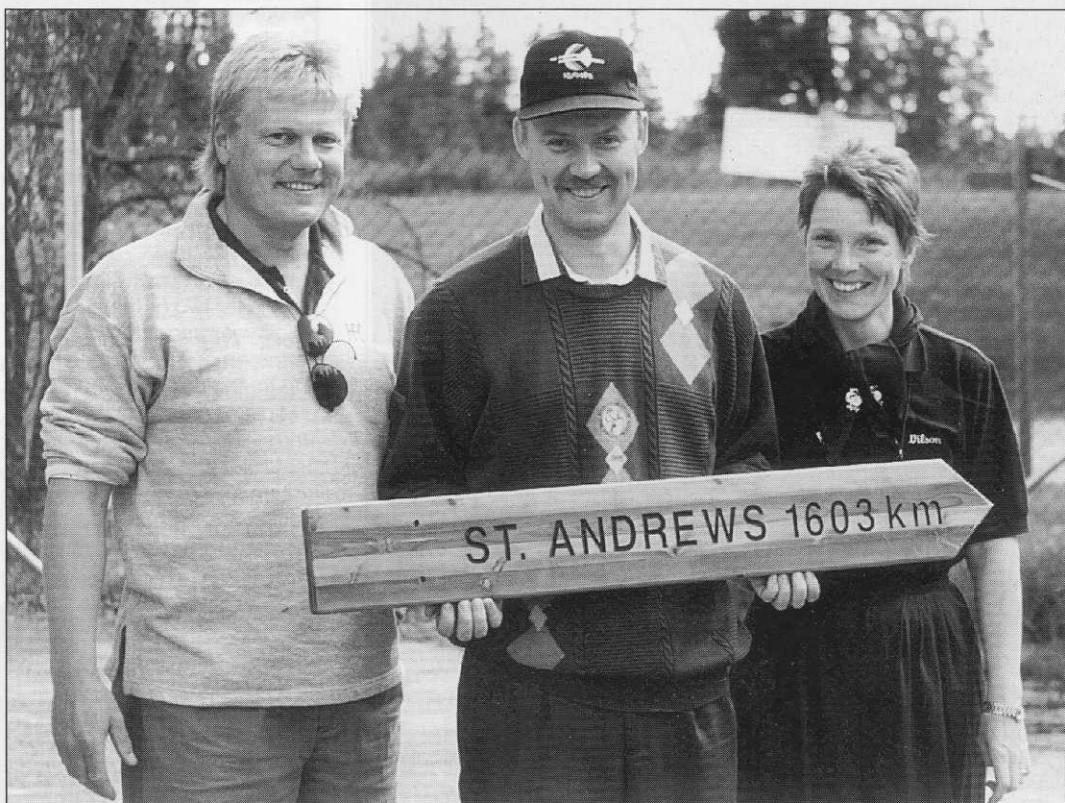
The FGA is filled with committed, enthusiastic and talented individuals who work closely together – in a country of five million population there are over one million mobile phones and having spent five days in the country I am convinced that the highest proportion of calls is made by Finnish greenkeepers to each other.

"There is a network of greenkeepers in Finland and you can always ask a second opinion of another greenkeeper. We don't have consultant agronomists," explained Jukka Silventoinen, Head Greenkeeper at Master Golf, about 15 miles from Helsinki.

While Kristina Laukkanen, Head Greenkeeper at Vierumäki, says "Greenkeeping in Finland is not a profession. It's a disease."

So what are the main golf course maintenance problems in Finland?

Well on many of them they can be covered by up to a metre of snow for as much as five months



Ilkka Kaivosoja, Pekka Neiminen and Elise Jarvinen prove they're not that far from the home of golf

of the year. Then in the summer months, because there is so much daylight the grass can grow at up to three times the speed of the UK.

They make up for it in the summer months working long and hard and without holidays which are used up in the winter.

Course maintenance work breaks down into three distinct periods. The spring is when the course is reactivated after the winter shut down, the summer is the playing season when grass cutting takes up much of the time while the autumn is when the "winter programme" work is car-

ried out before the snow returns.

Finland is a country where the visitor can end up doing some strange things.

When anywhere else you would be tucked up in bed dreaming of that next great drive or monster putt in Finland you can be out there doing it – with the midnight sun enabling reduced green fees from 8pm to 7am.

Where else would you strip naked before total strangers, sit in a filthy, smoke filled room whip yourself with birch leave, then fling yourself bodily into seas and lakes where the temperature is far better suited to white wine?

Where else would you eat things that you would ordinarily run away from – wild boar, moose. You even eat reindeer! – without turning a hair?

In Finland all these happen with an air of ordinariness which sucks in visitors and leaves them wondering why they are not common practice at home as well.

During the trip we visited eight golf courses each excellent in its own right and each with a Head Greenkeeper committed to ensuring the highest possible standards. The Equipment Stores were well stocked with the latest equipment with all the major manufacturing companies represented and several pieces of equipment specially devised for working in such extreme conditions.

Space prevents us looking in depth at each of the courses but a "snapshot" from all eight should give a flavour of golf and greenkeeping in Finland.

■ Next month we will examine the research work carried out by the Finnish greenkeepers and the Finnish Golf Union and take a look at the state of the art Mechanic's workshop in Katinkulta.



A Finnish sauna backs on to the sea

Where golf courses have a superior Finnish



An extra large bunker at Vierumäki Golf

Vierumäki Golf **Head Greenkeeper – Kristina Laukkanen**

Part of Finland's biggest and oldest of the 11 sports institutes in the country which gives the country's elite athletes and sports men and women top quality coaching as well as offering sporting holidays to the general population.

Golf is one of the biggest growth sports within the Institute and the golf course which was opened in 1988 is shortly to be extended.

Kristina has a staff of 11 plus a mechanic. "My job is to decide what we don't do. There is just so much," said Kristina.

Like most other clubs in Finland the members offer their services for a weekend to help with course maintenance. "We get around 30-40 members and they rake bunkers, pick stones and fill in the holes left by the stones with sand. It is voluntary and the members do it because they want to see their course looking good. We close the course when it is being done," explained Kristina.

Girls cut the fairways because,



Kristina Laukkanen

says Kristina, golfers are more careful if they see a female on a mower.

"My ambition is to have Nick Faldo come and play my course... just once," she said.

The Director of the Institute is Tapani Ilkka, who was also President of the Finnish Olympic team at Atlanta.

"In 1985 there were just 11 golf courses in Finland and 10,000 players. Now there are 83 courses and 45,000 players," explained Tapani.

"Initially people were saying that golf was not really a sport but now those same people are playing every day. Older people need something to do and they now play golf and swim in the summer and cross country ski in the winter and for many golf is their number one sport and they play as many as 100 rounds during the summer season."

Imatran Golf **Head Greenkeeper – Veijo Kettunen** **Course Manager – Jorma Pakkanen**

Close to the Russian border – you can actually see Russia from several of the holes on the east of Finland – with 12 Russian members.

Excellent conditioned course which has been remodelled recently because of a new road coming through the area. Also three years ago removed 3,000 trees but still need more taken away.

A total of 960 members with 17,500 rounds a year played.

Course has one of the best restaurants in the country.

"Snow is better than straw for insulating greens but I also

Laukaan Peurunkagolf **Head Greenkeeper – Veijo Hamalainen.** **Course Manager (Equivalent of Director of Golf) – Jorma Paakkanen.**

Course designed by Ronald Fream and 250 miles north of Helsinki.

A total of 12 holes where water comes into play. It is closed from October 31 to the middle of April. Experience one metre of snow in January, February and sometimes March. Can only play on greens for two or three months of the year and often put straw on the greens to insulate them and try to prevent ice burn.

Midsummer day shotgun starts at 8pm finishing at half past midnight and start again at 7am and normally have 242 players a day playing – three players every seven minutes for 11 hours.



Head Greenkeeper Veijo Hamalainen, left and Course Manager Jorma Paakkanen

Normally start cutting greens at four or five in the morning and because of the long hours staff of five work a shift system. The annual greenkeeping budget is £120,000.

They have also developed an unusually ball collector for the practice range – as our picture (below) shows, a converted Saab!



sometimes put sheeting down if the weather is going to be really bad," explained Veijo.

He has developed his own ice crushing attachment for a tractor.

■ Pictured left, Veijo with the ice breaker; below, the 17th with Russia in the background.





The course - complete with ski jump on the horizon

Katinkulta

Head Greenkeeper - Jarmo Saajanne

Biggest holiday resort in all Scandinavia with time share apartments, ten pin bowling, badminton, indoor golf, badminton, squash, a gym, restaurants, beauty salon and the best sports shop in Finland!

An all season resort with skiing in the winter while Katinkulta is a major ski jump centre plus all the indoor activities.



Head Greenkeeper Jarmo Saajanne

Jarmo has a staff of seven, including himself, and he works repairing bicycles in the winter and so is employed full time while three others work on the ski slopes in the winter.

The course spends five months under one metre of snow. "It is good for the course and if we spray chemicals before the snow arrives we won't get diseases or ice burn," explained Jarmo.

He showed one green where they had been unable to spray because of a baby in a nearby apartment and it was the worst green on the course.

"We do get snow mould which destroys grass and three or four times in the winter I will dig a hole in the snow and take a look at the grass and check that there is no ice."

Played golf at 1am with more than enough light to make it a worthwhile game.

Amer Golf

Head Greenkeeper - Elise Jarvinen

Nine hole course which belongs to Amer Group Ltd, the parent company of Wilson Sporting Goods Ltd and for the personal use of Wilson Directors and their guests.

Magnificent, yet tough, course on the edge of the sea - there is a private sauna which sticks out into the sea giving participants the opportunity to cool down with a quick dip. 2,500 rounds a year.

Wildlife on the course and greens the equal of anything you would see anywhere.

Greenkeeping team of five including a mechanic and several students many of whom return year after year and this year including one studying to be an economist and another who is studying to be a geneticist.

Another course which has under soil heating but Elise doesn't feel it is particularly useful.



Head Greenkeeper Elise Jarvinen is also Chairman of the FGA

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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

West of Scotland

Summer over and everybody should be hard at work starting renovation work. What a summer if it can be called that – been and gone in a flash. Let's hope winter is kind to us.

Apologies to Peter Cowan for omitting you in last month's issue with regard to your new appointment at Clydebank and District, as First Assistant. Congratulations and I hope you settle in well and encourage them to come along to West events.

I hope everybody has returned their questionnaire forms full of ideas. It will be interesting to find out what sort of response has been forthcoming.

Remember to return your entries for the autumn outing at Balmore. It is sure to be popular.

Last but not least best wishes to Brian Inglis of Souters on account of taking the plunge. His new wife Kathleen must have a big heart taking on such a challenge. No more golf for Brian. Apparently they had a beautiful honeymoon in St Lucia which means he'll be chasing orders when he next sees you folks. Only kidding. May you have many happy years together.

S Taylor

East

Welcome to this month's report. First of all by the time you read this we shall have had had the Willie Woods Memorial Tournament at Seahouses GC on August 22. So I hope that everyone and his partner, whether it be Captain, Secretary, Greens Convener or any other committee member had a very enjoyable time. Results and report in next month's magazine and perhaps even a photograph or two.

On the subject of photographs if anybody has any photos that may be of interest send them to me and we will see if we can get them into the magazine.

People on the move include one of my former assistants Craig Pennyquick who has moved to Winterfield GC, Dunbar as Head Greenkeeper. Congratulations and all the best for the future in your new job. Craig moved to Dunbar from Duddingston GC in Edinburgh where he was assistant greenkeeper. So now I will wait for an invite to play his course at Winterfield.

I must apologise for the next one. This slipped through and should have been in the column a couple of months ago. So belated congratulations to Scott Ramsay, who has become Head Greenkeeper at Harburn GC, where he has taken over from Bob Smith who retired in April. All the best in your new job Scott and best wishes from the Section to both of you.

Up and coming events. We have arranged a skittles night at the Right Wing on Willowbrae Rd, Edinburgh on Friday October 25 from 7.30pm until 11.30pm. As well as skittles there is a basket supper included in the price of £5 per person. So if you want a good night out and good company get our entries in as soon as possible with numbers – call Andy Forrest 0131 339 1315 or Steve Dixon 0131 660 3965 or Chris Yeaman 01875 870485 to book one of this winter's social nights.

We have arranged a shopping trip again for the Christmas Shopping (Already it's only September) (Exactly, and a yellow card from the Editor for being the first person to mention the "C" word) to the Metro Centre in Gateshead by coach with various pickup points in and around Edinburgh. The price will be £8 per person and the bus will be leaving Edinburgh on the morning and returning at night. The date for this is Sunday November 24. It's a great opportunity to get your Christmas shopping done and we hope to see a big turnout and support for your section.

Coming up in next month's report are the results and comments and possibly a few photos from the Autumn Tournament at Murrayfield GC which is celebrating its centenary this year.

Next month we will also have the list of winners of the Patron's Prize for 1996 – look out as you could be one of the lucky ones as there are four chances available.

Also dance tickets are going fast with just over a quarter gone already as I write. The venue once again is Kilsplindie House Hotel, Aberlady, Saturday December 7 at a cost of £18 per person and £20 B&B per person. Hurry they're going fast.

That's it all folks. Don't forget to support all your section's activities not just the golf! Social events as well because it is after all your section.

Also if you have anything of

interest let me know or you would like to write an article give me a call – you pick the topic – and send it to me and we'll make every effort to get it into print.

Chris Yeaman

North

This month we return to Grantown-on-Spey to stage our Autumn outing, unfortunately, rained off last year. As usual there should be a good turnout to play this lovely course. At the outing we will draw the next four winning numbers in the 200 Club, so if anyone still has not paid for their ticket, please do so quickly. This is the Section's only fund raiser and all tickets need to be sold to help the Section thrive. Anyone wanting to buy a ticket should phone Gordon McKie on 01334 653995 before September 11, the day of the outing.

Once again, I will mention the second Section Dinner/Disco (I am not trying to fill space honest!). The venue this year is the New Inn Hotel, Ellon, the date Friday, November 29 and it will cost £12.50 per person with a double room available at the hotel for £33.00 bed and breakfast. Telephone Hughie McLatchie on 01779 470173 to book your tickets. Family and friends are welcome to come.

The Open Championship at Royal Lytham was a great success again. My only complaint was the heating being on in the hotel bedroom all week, with outside temperatures in the high 70s and 80s, although it gave us the perfect excuse to stay up all night as it was cooler outside. I won't name the people who took it a bit far and had an early morning dip in the sea! It was great meeting up with all my old friends again and making new ones. A special thank you to Paul Murphy for getting me to my train in Preston with a couple of minutes to spare after I misread my ticket and missed the train at Blackpool! We had BIGGA members from Sweden, USA, Vietnam and all over Britain in the team to make it a really cosmopolitan group. Any of you who visited the STRI tent and had a go at the putting competition might like to know that I won the prize for Friday, the new edition of the "Care of the Golf Course", very nice indeed. Roll on Troon 1997.

Iain Macleod

NORTHERN REGION

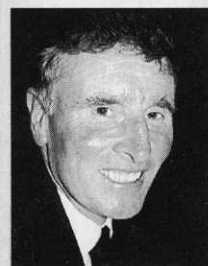
North Wales

Later in the year our section will again be organising first aid courses. There will be a two day refresher course at £40 for those people who are already certificated and wish to keep their certificate valid. A four day certificated course at £80 and a one day Emergency First Aid course which should cost less than £25. I believe that as we work in an environment that involves both hazardous machinery and quiet isolation on the golf course it is in our own and our clubs' interest that we should each have at least the basic emergency first aid knowledge. An application form for the above First Aid courses will be posted along with the entry forms for our autumn competition which I can confirm will take place on October 16 at Chester Golf Club.

Our records of past prize winners seem to be a little bit lacking and I would ask anyone who knows the whereabouts of the Richard Campey Trophy, which was won in April 1995 at Abergele, to please contact me.

Our Chairman, Brian Anderson, and our Treasurer, Dave Proctor, will both be standing down from committee at the end of this year. So, if you can spare four or five evenings per year and you wish to take a more active role in your association, please contact me or any of the following committee members that you might know personally: Brian Anderson (Abergele), Dave Proctor (Storws Wen), Stuart McCall (Chester), Justin Cheung (Eaton), Terry Adamson (Gem), Phil Davies (Mommersteeg), Terry Evans (Nine of Clubs), Neil Toner (Wirral Ladies) or Dave Goodridge (Denbigh).

MY IDEAL HOLIDAY DESTINATION IS:



"North West coast of Scotland or, abroad, Bermuda"

Elliott Small, Kincardine GC

Our congratulations go to Andy and Sarah Peel on the birth of their second son on July 19.

The Welsh College of Horticulture advise us that three students have achieved their NVQ4 and they are almost certainly the first in Wales to do this. They are Robert Wilkinson of Bargoed Golf Club, Matthew Horton of Bultth Wells Golf Club and our own Alan Cefn of Carden Park. Awards day in July at the College saw various trade prizes being awarded for meritorious achievements. The Gem Professional prize went to Cefn Owen of Conwy, the Hortiplay prize to Alwyn Jones of Bull Bay, the Rufford prize went to Tudor Owen of Lanidloes and the Mommersteeg prize was won by Carl Price of Northop Golf Club.

I am sure as a section we would like to wish Ray Cotgreave of Bromborough every success in the forthcoming Toro/PGA Student Greenkeeper of the year award.

Please ring me on 0151 336 6675 if you have anything that may be of interest to your fellow greenkeepers.

Trevor Johnston

Northern

The Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes is over and all the lads on the support team had a great time, me included. It is nice to meet up with "boys" from all over the British Isles and even a couple from Augusta.

The vacant sponsorship place for our invitation day at Bingley St Ives on September 4 this year has been kindly taken over by the Ritefeed liquid fertiliser company. This position being vacant due to Yorkshire Mowers going into liquidation.

May I take this opportunity in welcoming the following new members to our section: John Edmund, Cottingham Golf Club; John Crowhurst, Howley Hall Golf Club; Christopher Peel, ADAS (Associate member).

A couple of dates for your diary: Christmas golf at Selby Golf Club on December 11 and Annual Dinner Dance at Wetherby Golf Club on March 15, 1997.

Around the Green



Finally, anyone wishing to purchase a caravan please contact Dennis Cockburn. But be sure to check out the stability of the bed before purchasing!

Simon Heppenstall

North West

I have just returned from The Open at Lytham as part of the greenkeeper support team and once again met many old friends and some new ones. It was interesting to see again some international representatives from Sweden, Thailand and the USA. The two greenkeepers from the States work at Augusta and although Lytham and Augusta are as different as chalk and cheese, they were very impressed with the condition and the design of a true links course. I would like to congratulate Jim MacDonald and his staff on the fine condition of the course. To produce a course to the standard that Lytham is, takes many hours of hard work and dedication and Jim and his staff fit the bill perfectly and are a credit to our profession.

A funny thing happened while out divoting after the second day's play which just shows how gullible people can be. I happened to comment while removing a large divot, "This must be one of Woosnam's" and five or six passing spectators stopped to gaze at the divot. Alec Davies quickly responded that the divot he had removed was one of "Seve's" and another one was one of "Daly's". We soon finished up with a crowd around us, asking for the divots to take home. I feel sure that had we set up a stall and labelled the divots we could have been in business.

Now back to reality, and a reminder to get your entry for the

Autumn Tournament at Wilshire Golf Club. The details are in the August section notes.

Not often do I receive any news from section members but John Nicholson, Head Greenkeeper at Longridge Golf Club, passed me a letter which I think is well worth a mention. On June 22 at Longridge Golf club after the President's prize presentation, the Club presented John with a silver tray, decanter and glasses. John gratefully accepted the gift and in thanking them decided to enlighten them on what is a greenkeeper. To some he is, "The guy who cuts grass in the summer and plays cards in the winter, fails to cut the grass where the ball has landed, puts the hole in bad places and alters things when they have just got it right." However, a greenkeeper is, "A machine Operator, Mechanic, Botanist, Weather Forecaster, Architect, Constructor, Gardener, Ecologist, Irrigation Engineer, Manager and above all a Diplomat." John once again thanked the club for their gift and left them with a parting thought that the greenkeeper is also their friend (I think John might be right).

I would like to finish by thanking the Northern Region and particularly Ian Holoran and Bob Lupton for the donation of £75 which was raised by two raffles and will be used to help the children at KASISI orphanage in Zambia to purchase much needed medical supplies. Any queries, please ring on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Cleveland

Bill Rank, Head Greenkeeper at Thirsk and Northallerton Golf Club is moving fairways and rough on a new 9 hole extension. Turf will be laid this autumn on greens and tees which will be open in spring 1997 for play.

The new course at High Throston, Hartlepool will open the first 9 holes in September, Farmer Owner, Fred Sturrock told me.

Wynyard is now open which is near Billingham on the A689 road.

Our Autumn Tournament to be held here. See newsletter from Gary Munro.

Nick Bissett at Askham Bryan has been promoted to Head of Horticulture. Stephen Prinn is the new head of Greenkeeper Training. Now is the time to enrol for college courses. Work based assessors are helping colleges. Verification is becoming more time consuming. Further work needs to be done here. Liaison committee is useful in taking feedback to the College from industry in order to meet the requirements.

Graham Scott has moved from Billingham Golf Club to a course north of Inverness. Colin Graham is now with D & E Stephenson, local Toro Dealers.

Bruce Burnell

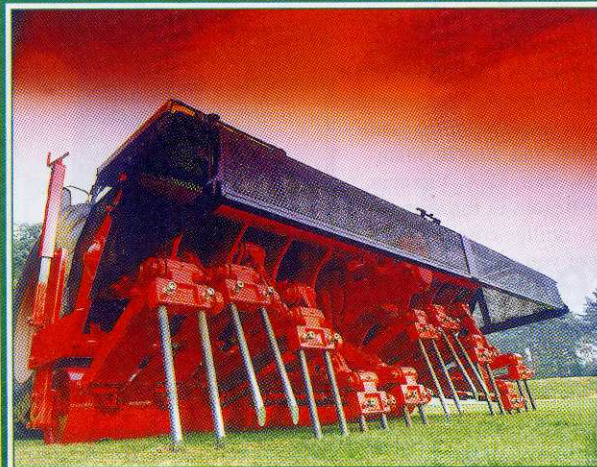
Sheffield

On July 3 the Northern Region Final of the Hayter Competition was held at Abergele and Pensarn Golf Club in North Wales. This was attended by seven of our section members.

It was a good day of very different weather conditions. It started with heavy rain and strong winds and finished the day with glorious sunshine.

Congratulations go to three of our members who qualified for the Final. They were Allen Allsop, 2nd in 10-18 division, Colin Hopper, 3rd in 10-18 division and Paul Neve 2nd in 19-28 division. Well done to you all and good luck for the Hayter Final at Fairhaven Golf Club in September.

The following week we held our annual competition at Abbeydale Golf Club on July 9. The course was in very good condition and our thanks go to John and his staff. We would also thank Abbeydale Golf Club for the courtesy of their course and to the Steward and his staff for an excellent meal and thanks to all the trade members who provided the prizes for the competition. Congratulations go to all the prize winners. Well done to Paul Neve who continued his good golf of the previous week and won the overall 27 hole competition. Paul also won the



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THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP C

9 hole competition in the morning and well done to Steve Currie who won the scratch competition: 1. P. Neve, 2. S. Currie, 3. M. Coltas, 4. R. Needham, 5. R. Browning, 6. R. Ward. The nearest the pin competition was won by Allan Allsop. The prize presentation was a bit disappointing for Paul and Steve as the trophies were not there to be presented as last year's winners had not managed to return the trophies on time.

A date has been fixed for our Christmas competition. It will be held on November 27 at Wortley Golf Club.

It is with regret that I have to report that Cyril Chappell has died. Cyril spent nearly all his life in greenkeeping and was Head Greenkeeper at Phoenix Golf Club for 30 years. He retired from greenkeeping 10 years ago and enjoyed his retirement very much. May I, on behalf of the Sheffield Section, convey our sympathies to his family.

Finally, a message to our Chairman – keep practising your darts Neil!

John Lax

MIDLAND REGION East Midlands

This year's Hayter Challenge Tournament Regional Final was held on July 16 at Peterborough Milton Golf Club. Unfortunately, we could not make it a hat trick of wins, narrowly missing out to the Midland Section. Congratulations should go to Dave Leatherland, Kedleston Park, and Steven Heap, Rothley Park, on qualifying for the National Final to be held at Fairhaven Golf Club. Thanks should go to Peterborough Milton for courtesy of their course and once again a special thank you to everyone from Hayter.

I was sorry to hear of the recent illness of John Stonebridge of Glen Gorse. On behalf of all the section members I would like to wish John a speedy recovery.

Congratulations go again to Richard Barker on winning himself a trip to America in a prize draw.

Finally, good luck to all members

in this year's Autumn Tournament, held at Ramsdale Park Golf Club on September 12. Our next section event will be held at Hinckley Golf Club on November 6, this being the AGM.

Antony Bindley

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

I can't believe we are approaching the end of yet another season. When it gets to autumn I start to wish I was back working on a links course. No need for a leaf sweeper there.

Never mind we will have them all cleared up by January.

The last golf day was back in July, and what a day it was – an absolute scorcher. The venue was Henley, a delight to play any time of the year. The field was a small one but this did not prevent those taking part from having an enjoyable day. There were a couple of surprises in that two new members picked up the main prizes (how dare they. I've been trying for years). 1. Phil Cushnie, 37pts; 2. Tony Brown, 36pts, 3. Adrian Cooper, 34pts (on count-back from myself). Nearest the Pin, Home Boy Richard Fletcher with some help from his partner Bernie; Longest Drive, Dennis Edwards – there was talk of him having to submit a sample for a drugs test but saying he only scored seven points overall we thought better of it.

Many thanks to Henley GC for their hospitality on the day. The course was superb and food delicious. Thanks to Tim Webb, Tacit; Bernie Wall, Gem; and Johnny Beck, Miracle. Johnny provided refreshments at the halfway house which was very welcome. It's a shame he couldn't have followed me around (maybe next time).

Congratulations to our very own Ray Clark, Chairman, for flying the flag at the Hayter final. He came first in category two. Thanks to all who supported this event from our section.

The next event is the invitation at Studley Wood on October 7. If anyone is not receiving their entry

forms. Please phone me on 01491 578147.

Lindsay T. Anderson

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES

South Coast

Our autumn golf meeting will be held at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club on Thursday, October 10. The competition will consist of 36 holes.

The cost for the day will be £15. All cheques to be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section and forwarded along with entry forms stating current handicap to: Mark Webb, 12 Lime Road, Alresford, Hants, SO24 9LD. Tel: 01962 733061. The closing date for entries is Monday, 2 September 2.

Once again, please make sure that last year's winners return their trophies and make sure they are on the prize table at the end of the day.

By the time this report gets in the magazine you should have received all the details for the regional seminar at Cannington College. It would be nice to see a few more faces from our section there this time. Transport can be arranged. All you have to do is contact me on 01329 282362. By the way, on the Section Programme Fixture Card, it reads November 29. This should read Wednesday, November 27. More details next month.

As I said last month I would give you a list of the assessors we now have in our section, they are as follows: Alan Mitchell, Hampshire Golf Club; Jeff Drake, Hampshire Golf Club; Ed McCabe, Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club; Mark Webb, Alresford Golf Club; Adrian Archer, Broadstone Golf Club; Trevor Smith, Canford Magna Golf Club; Matt Maryon, Canford Magna Golf Club.

As you can see, the whole of the section is well covered. The only weak area being West Dorset. Anyone who wishes to be assessed for their NVQs may contact any of the above. I am sure they will be only too pleased to give you all the information you require.

Our annual match against the

South West Section this year will be held at Wells Golf Club on Wednesday, October 2. All those wishing to play, forward your names to Mark. At the present time the South Coast Section hold the trophy.

BTME will soon be with us again. The region will be running a coach the same as last year. The only difference is that a larger coach has been booked. This is due to ever increasing demand. A coach will also run from the Section to meet up with the main coach. I strongly advise you to book early so that you are not disappointed. Initial enquiries to our Secretary, Jeff Drake (Tel: 01722 330277).

Finally, if anyone would like any news item included in the magazine, give me a ring. It could be births, retirement, marriage, pastures new or any other interesting topic.

Ken Lodge

■ At Writtle College on Tuesday, September 24, two lectures will be given. Starting time 7.30pm in the main building, room L60. Contact Andy Sheehan (Tel: 01277 215765) for further information.

Martin Forrester

South West

As with last year's Summer Tournament at Long Ashton, the weather played a large part in this year's event held at Mendip Golf Club on July 25. Although perhaps not as humid as last year, the temperatures were certainly in the high 70's which led to some thirsty souls at the 19th and in most cases some high scoring as was with last year some 9s and 10s on the cards being common place. The course itself was playing very short due to the prolonged dry spell and fairway accuracy was demanded on a course with some tight holes. Head Greenkeeper, Richard Flower, however, had the course in excellent condition with the speed of the greens causing problems for a high percentage of the field.

Forty people played in what was a very successful day for two first prizes, these being for the best

ITS EFFECT IS SHATTERING

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We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts.

Comment From Walter Woods

St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Head Greenkeeper's score and the best Assistant's score. Michael Fawcett from Marlborough Golf Club won the event outright and the Best Assistant's trophy with a nett 71 on the back 9. Ivor Scoones, Long Ashton Golf Club, had the Best Head Greenkeeper's score with a nett 74; 2nd Steve Panting, Henbury, nett 71; 3rd Adam Turner, Woodbury Park, nett 74; 4th Simon Shipley, Henbury, nett 75 (back 9); 5th Duncan Smith, Cotswold Hills, nett 76. There was also a prize for the best guest, that being Club Captain, Tony Taylor, with a nett 73.

Thanks are given to Mendip Golf Club, and Secretary Jackie Howe, for their hospitality and granting of course courtesy and to Club Captain, Tony Taylor, for finding time in his busy year to participate in the day's events. Thanks once again to Richard Flower and staff for course presentation and to the Steward and Stewardess for feeding us so well.

Trade members donated several prizes for the prize table, these being Avoncrop, B S Mowers, T H Whites and Miracle Professional and thanks are given for your continued support of the Section.

This year's AGM takes place on Thursday, November 14 at Bristol and Clifton Golf Club and anything that you feel requires discussion at that meeting should be put in writing and returned to myself by the end of September for discussion by the Section Committee prior to the day. Another reminder that if you wish to take on the responsibility of the Secretary's position from myself at the AGM then please contact me immediately.

Finally, we wish competitors from the South West Section taking part in the Hayter Final at Fairhaven on September 18 the best of luck. Kevin Green

Devon and Cornwall

Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club was the venue for our summer meeting on Wednesday, July 17 which saw 30 members attending. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to work commitments. Our Chairman, Bill Mitchell, reported that the evening went very well and thanks go to Course Manager, Jeff Mills, for guiding members around his impressive course. Our last meeting of the summer programme will be held at St Mellion Golf & Country Club on Wednesday, September 18. The agenda will be as usual with members meeting in the car park at 6.15pm prompt, course walk with host Course Manager, Robert Brewer, returning to the Club house at approximately 8pm for a bite to eat. If you would like to attend, please call Steve Evans on 01208 863647 by Wednesday, September 11.

With summer meetings drawing to a close, thoughts turn to autumn

Around the Green



and winter programme which start at Dartmouth Golf & Country Club on Wednesday, October 9.

Dartmouth has kindly allowed the section 17 start times which will allow a maximum of 51 members the chance to play their tremendous course. Starting times will run from 7.30am-9.44am. With the early start, I intend to send out starting times the week prior to the meeting as I did last year for St Mellion. The early return of the entry form is suggested to avoid disappointment.

You should have all received your fixture card sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery with our forthcoming events on. If you haven't, please let me know and I will make sure you receive one.

To reduce postage, we have decided to send details of our meetings to one member per club (Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper) as in previous years. If you don't receive details and would like to, please let me know so I can put you on the mailing list.

Finally, a reminder that your local Regional Supervisory Management course will be held at the Royal Clarence Hotel, Exeter on October 23 & 24. For more details, ring Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ. Richard Whyman

South Wales

The section's summer competition was held at the Caerphilly Golf Club near Cardiff. The course has recently been extended to a full 18 hole layout but due to the lack of good growing conditions, the new layout has yet to be brought into continuous play. However, the original layout that we had the pleasure of playing proved enough of a challenge (indeed too much for some) and was in excellent condition thanks to the sterling efforts of Head Greenkeeper, Adrian Panks, and staff.

We were blessed with good weather, indeed glorious sunshine all day. This made the going tough, especially up on the top holes high above the clubhouse. The return to the lower holes and the 12th was welcomed by all and saw most people dash to the pro shop to take on board refreshments.

The winner on his home course was A Panks with a nett 71 winning the Birdie Cup and cut glass decanter. 2nd nett was Daryl Bray of Morriston Golf Club winning a carriage clock. Best gross and winner of the President's Shield was Andy Roach with a 78. Winner of the John Duncan Cup was Cradoc's Richard

Patterson.

The sponsor of the day was R S Bird Ltd, "Birds" of Cowbridge, and Managing Director Roger Bird made the presentations along with the Section's President, Colin Murphy. Our sincere thanks to Birds for their continued support, to the Captain of the Caerphilly Golf Club, Mr David Edwards, who joined us for our evening meal and presentations, to Ann Fletcher and her staff for an excellent four course meal and to the Committee of the Caerphilly Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course for this annual competition.

The annual match versus the Secretaries is fast approaching and will take place at the Southern Down Golf Club on Wednesday, August 14. Last year we had our best attendance ever and we are again hoping for a team of at least 20. Please make every effort to attend this competitive and enjoyable day.

It is with great sadness that I should inform you of the sudden death of Mollie, beloved wife of Henry Fry. Mollie who, for those who had the privilege of knowing her, was one of life's true characters will be sorely missed.

The winter evening lecture programme and seminar is nearing completion but any requests for subjects or speakers will be considered. Dates will be with you shortly!

Hopefully, by the time the seminar comes round in the spring, the new conference suite presently under construction at Pencoed College will be complete. This will be a tremendous addition to the facilities. Peter Lacey

SOUTH EAST Kent

Sorry members but Huw has gone on holiday so you have to put up with me, your secretary, writing the column this month.

The recent greenkeepers golf day held at the Wilderness club proved to be a great success. Many thanks to Huw Morgan and staff for the course thanks also to the club for their efforts for making it a memorable day. Thanks to Parker/Hart for sponsoring this event and to trade members for their support.

Congratulations to the eventual winners Lee Sayers taking first prize on a countback with Trevor Hindmarsh being runner-up. Well done Lee. Best gross H. Morgan, second best gross M. Arthur and winning the trade prize, G. Ogilvie.

Please note any member wishing to play at a golf event must send a cheque with their return form. Thankfully Huw will be back writing next month. Watch this space. Best wishes to all Section members.

Steve Johnstone

Surrey

A brief report this month. Just to say

a big thank you to Epsom GC for allowing us to play the annual England vs Scotland match. Fortunately for me, as England Captain, I was able to see my team return victors with a 4-1 result.

A big thank you also to Dougie Fernie and his team for presenting the golf course to the highest of standards I'm sure Epsom Downs has never looked so good. Its members can be very proud, also thanks to Patisson's, Brian Wilmott, for the refreshment on the way round.

Forthcoming events include the Parker Salver on September 12 at Addington Palace. Also the autumn tournament on October 3 at Effingham GC and the Turkey Trot and AGM on December 3 at Guildford GC. Please make an effort to attend these tournaments. Thank you.

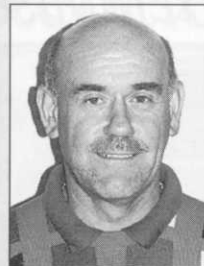
David Gibbs

London

Our first inter club team challenge was held at Dyrham Park Golf & Country Club on July 31. The event was sponsored by Miracle Professional and the challenge trophy was donated by Mr Bernberg, Chairman of Dyrham Park. The course was in excellent condition and the Course Manager, Don Wilson, and his staff must be congratulated for preparing the course. I would also like to thank Don for all his efforts in organising the event. As usual, Dyrham Park must be thanked for their hospitality and I would like to thank the Catering Manager for a superb evening meal and lunch. I would also like to thank the bar staff for their service throughout the day. The winning team with 48 points was Finchley Golf Club and the runners up were Old Fold Manor with 47 points. The nearest the pin was won by David Montgomery from Finchley and the longest drive was won by Ian Semple from Old Fold Manor. I would like to thank the club Captain, Mr Blackstone, for presenting the prizes and Johnny Beck for all his help throughout the day. The event attracted twelve teams and was a great success and next year the event will be held at Hadley Wood Golf Club.

Tony Dunstan

MY IDEAL HOLIDAY DESTINATION IS:



"The Algarve for the great golf and magnificent beaches"
Barry Holt, Burford GC



From cows to birdies

Tom King has made the leap from dairy farmer to Course Manager with remarkable ease, while his course is set to become a superb addition to the Edinburgh golfing scene.

When six years ago dairy farmer Tom King and his father, John, decided the time was ripe to diversify, golf was identified as the ideal opportunity. The move also opened up an entirely new career for Tom, one which he is now following with great enthusiasm and success.

The piece of land earmarked for an 18 hole golf course – King's Acre – could have been intended for the Royal and Ancient game in the first place. Just south of Edinburgh, close to the City By-pass, the land is undulating, tree lined and designated as an area of great landscape value.

"We were looking to diversify out of pure dairy farming as we felt we had expanded the dairy as far as we could," explained Tom, whose family had farmed the site since 1939.

"I'm not a golfer myself but some people visited us who were interested in developing the site as a golf course and that is what started the ball rolling," he explained

A feasibility study was then carried out



Tom King: We knew there would be a demand

which involved speaking with local golfers and learning more about the waiting lists at other local courses.

"We knew there would be a demand but we felt we had better get something on paper."

The Greens of Scotland Division of the Aberdeen's Scottish Agriculture College carried out the research and submitted the plans to the local authorities which were ultimately approved.

The course was designed and constructed by Graeme Webster, of the Aberdeen-based design and construction company Glen Andrews Ltd, but much of the early hands-on work was done by Tom and his father

"The ground work started in January '95 and my father and I started stripping the top soil for the greens, tees, fairways and bunkers," said Tom, from the farmhouse which sits in the middle of the site.

Most of that work was completed by April at which time the construction equipment was brought in – a D7 Bulldozer and scraper box and a D4 Bulldozer which was used for the big earth shifts and general shaping up. A tractor shovel was also used for much of the shaping and the adding of the green contours and the tees.

"We have quite a lot of contours here anyway and I'm extremely pleased with the design because Graeme has used a lot of the natural contours in the layout. However, we did do quite a bit of earth moving to remove possible blind shots into holes."

That work was completed by July last year and all the top soils and root zones were in place by October.

"We've tried to design the course so that we could use as much machinery as possible

From cows to birdies

reducing maintenance time and I'll be looking as to how best the job can be mechanised."

Not reliant on outside investors keen to see a return on their money Tom is happy not to rush jobs through in order to open the gates to the golfers

"We had hoped to have everything sown out last autumn but the wet weather came and we weren't able to get it done. It got too cold and we didn't want to risk sowing too late. I would think we would be open for business by next June (1997) but wouldn't want to rush the opening if it is not ready – it all depends how it grows in," explained Tom (30), whose wife Lizzie and the rest of the family, also got involved, picking stones when the drainage was going in.

"My father and I also did all the drainage on site. We installed the main circuit for irrigation putting in Toro twin speed sprinklers on the greens and tees. The surrounds also get done. Knowing the land we knew where the wet spots were. We maybe don't know how to run a golf course yet but we know our own land."

Knowing how to run a golf course is something which Tom is learning quickly how to do.

"I'm going to be the Course Manager and I went to Oatridge College and did an HNC in Golf Course Management," explained Tom, who also has a BSC in Agriculture from Edinburgh University.

"A lot of people in my position would employ a Head Greenkeeper and just look after the business side but I like practical work and I enjoy working on the course side of the job.

"Greenkeeping is totally different to farming and people who try to jump from one to the other immediately see the difference. Farmers are trying to grow grass as quickly as possible and as much as they can while in golf there are totally different cultivars and you are trying to grow it slowly and get colour."

Tom has much praise for his fellow greenkeepers at Oatridge.

"They were very helpful as I was coming in not very knowledgeable and they were great at putting me in the right direction."

So successful were they that he won a prize for being the best HNC student over the two years of the course.

"It was tough because it was one or two days a week in the winter from 1pm to 8pm and it was while we were still farming cattle so it was a busy time for me."

It was that personal commitment, coupled with a willingness to learn greenkeeping from the bottom up, that has enabled Tom to forge ahead with the project.

"A long as you don't enter greenkeeping thinking that you know it all agriculture knowledge definitely helps because you have an understanding of the soil and drainage."

On the golf side green construction was something which really took him, until he got



more involved, aback.

"The amount of work involved really did surprise me with the different drainage layers, the root zones, the lot."

The course is going to be around 6000 yards, par 69 and will definitely be open to the public while a decision on what form of membership will be available will be taken shortly.

"We have a cottage which we are going to extend to include changing facilities and a bar but we are not meaning to invest heavily on the clubhouse but it is something which we can expand in the future."

Even on a rainy day in April and with the course still a long way from what will be its

picturesque best it was still easy to see what an excellent new course King's Acre is going to be and as a new golfing development just a stones through from the capital of the home of golf it seems set for long and prosperous future.

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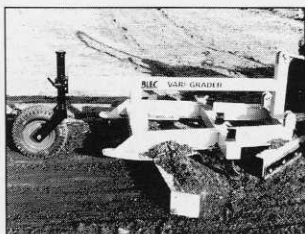
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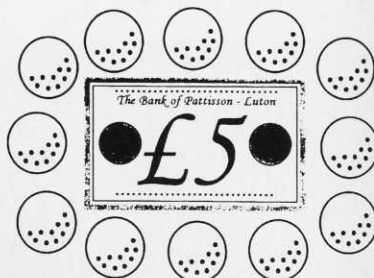
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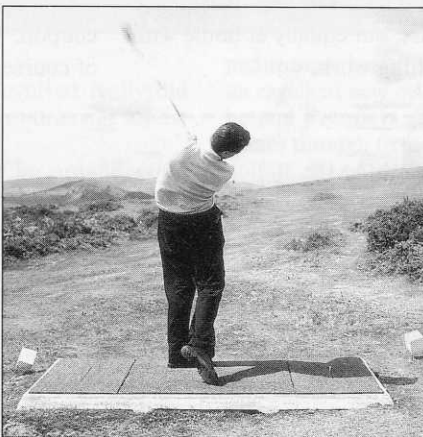
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GRINDING OUT

Hugh Tilly in his sharp suit and newly sharpened pencil was sent out to examine the world of grinding.

Successful cutting equipment

Everyone agrees (don't they?) that mowers, greens mowers in particular, need to be kept 'razor' sharp, but there is significant dissension over how this should be done. Most ride-on hydraulic mowers have built-in back-lap facility, but there are electric drives for pedestrian and trailed cylinder mowers which enable these to be quickly and easily 'touched-up' by back-lapping. But not everyone believes that back-lapping is a good idea, in fact, there are some who believe that back lapping is an anachronism, that it increases drag and considerably reduces the life of both bottom blades (or bed knife) and cylinders – most of these people either sell grinders or have a grinder. Never-

theless for many greenkeepers back lapping is the quickest and most economic way of resharp-ening, using a grinder to put the correct edge back.

Nor is there agreement over whether cylinders (reels in American), should be relief, single blade or spun ground, although there is a change in perception in this and an increasing number of converts to relief grinding – single blade grinding would seem to all intents to be the same as relief grinding. For any greenkeeper to make a decision it is necessary to know what each process involves. So first a little explanation of the terms and methods, and a diagram. Of course the final test is the effect on the grass and whether it can be cut cleanly. The

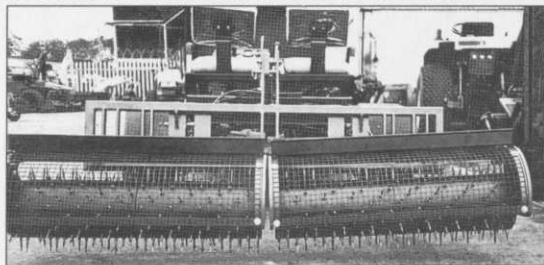
universal test is to cut a piece of paper. This is, of necessity, done by hand which is slightly different to operating with grass, on the ground, but still... The accepted standard seems to be 'ordinary' copy paper, but perfectionists will state 'bank' – 35gms – paper which is thinner, or even cigarette paper.

Greenkeeper International has spoken to several Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers or their Mechanics, First Assistants about what they were trying to achieve and their means of achieving it. There are now only two UK manufacturers of cylinder and bottom blade grinders, (and no obvious importers), and an increasing number of clubs have invested in one of these (or

those of the two recent ex manufacturers BRL and Supreme Mowing, nevertheless there are still many clubs which send their mowers away and rely on back-lapping to keep an edge on their blades and cylinders.

In simple terms spin grinding involves grinding the cylinder while it is revolving – this gives a face behind the cutting edge which follows the circumference of the cylinder, whereas relief grinding means each blade is cut so that the face is angled back from the circumference. Single blade grinding means grinding each blade separately without specifying the relief. Back lapping is essentially a spin grinding process. Whatever process is used the aim is to produce clean sharp

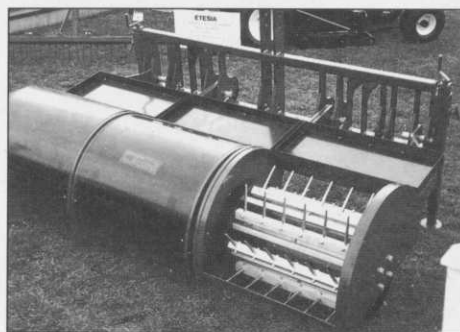
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GRINDING OUT



Jim McKenzie, left, Course and Estate Manager and Patrick Callaby, Head Mechanic with Express Dual grinder at Celtic Manor

edges to both cylinder and bottom line. Some relief angle is automatically produced by the relative locations of bottom blade and cylinder but there is no formula for this and each manufacturer has his own idea of what is "optimum" but extra relief can be introduced by how cylinder and bottom blades are ground. How much varies by make and model – and a greenkeeper/mechanics past experience, but most people rely on the figures provided by either mower or grinder manufacturer

The advantage of providing relief is that it gives better clearance behind the cutting edges thus reduces the power required to drive the cylinder and the heat build up. Relief grinding should (perhaps) be followed by a light spin grind or back lap to ensure concentric surfaces and an optimum match of cylinder and bottom blades. The disadvantage of a lot of relief is that edges will (perhaps) blunt more easily and

quickly. On the other hand it is possible to back-lap more often or for longer before all the relief has been ground away. Back-lapping should ensure optimum sharpness of the edges, but it will remove relief and extend the contact area of the blades, thus increase power requirement and heat. Top dressing – sand – is abrasive and so quickly removes any cutting edge and wears down the blades.

Most greenkeepers aim for a minimum of back-lapping and an increasing number have bought a grinder to enable the club to sharpen their mowers more often. Frequent light sharpening is far better than an infrequent heavy sharpening. Having to screw the cylinder tight to the bottom blade to get a good cut leads to rapid heat build-up which may destroy the temper on the blades or even distort them. Most modern grinders will both spin and relief or single blade grind, and some will sharpen

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GRINDING OUT

both cylinders and bottom blades on the same machine. Older machines may not be able to be adapted to the latest requirements such as in-situ grinding, where the cylinder and perhaps the bottom blade do not have to be removed from the machine for sharpening. There are also attachments for getting the mower or cutting unit up on the machine for in-situ grinding.

The Celtic Manor Hotel, Golf & Country Club with Atterton Ellis Express

With a third course now in construction things at Celtic Manor have to be 'right' – and mowing is only one aspect where Course and Estates Manager Jim McKenzie expects the best. He sees Celtic Manor's workshop as a maintenance facility, and justifies two mechanics in it. But theirs is not a 'fire fighting' job – repairing machines that go wrong – they are expected to be active in ensuring that machinery is set

right and produces its optimum performance before it goes out on the course.

As regards mowers, all the cylinder mowers, (or reel mowers they are mostly Toro), are checked for 'cut' daily and are resharpened every three to five weeks. This requires a comprehensive facility and Celtic Manor certainly has that – built specifically with wall level light and ventilation, and fume extraction. For grinding they have an Atterton & Ellis Express Dual with the attachment for relief grinding and an Anglemaster for bottom blades and these machines served for the exclusive use by trained personnel and for mowers so excluding the possibility of misuse or abuse.

The machines are fitted in the main building in the walled maintenance bay and not separated as Patrick 'Cal' Callaby, Head Mechanic likes to see and hear the grinder when it is working. Jim also said that it is essen-

tial that whoever does the grinding is always aware of what is happening and so should not be called away and detained. The grinders have automatic traverse. Celtic Manor has estimated that currently it has 70 mowing cylinders to maintain.

Cal is also adamant that the machines are only used for their intended purpose, so that the stones remain true and unblemished. A line is painted round each machine in the workshop indicates the danger area – a simple health and safety feature – and is intended to keep the operator aware of his need to be conscious of the risk when venturing within working distance of each machine.

The Express Dual has in-situ ability and a lift table to raise mowers and units to working height. This table is used to raise pedestrian mowers to a convenient height for their daily check. The machine was also bought with the relatively new relief

grinding kit and the club's aim is to spin grind during the season and then to overhaul each machine during the winter and to relief grind the cylinders. Cal said that this relief will then be removed progressively during the next season. He intends to take the manufacturer's suggestions for the angle of relief to be ground in. In-situ ability was an important feature in selecting the A & E machine as it is not seen as practical to dismantle the cutting mechanism each time before sharpening. The Express Dual is normally kept set up for grinding pedestrian mowers and the fittings do not have to be removed to allow the cutting units of other machines to be ground.

The Anglemaster is seen mainly as a stand-by machine as most bottom blades are replaced rather than sharpened. However some part worn blades are kept in case an almost new blade has to be replaced having been

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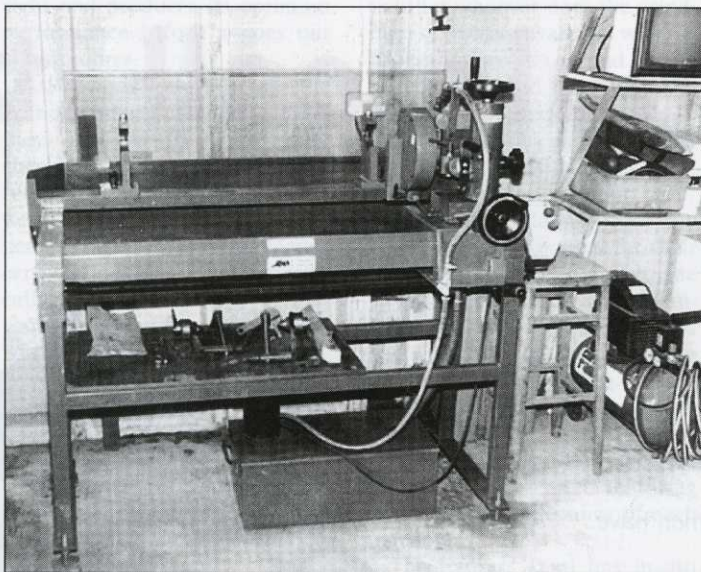
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GRINDING OUT

notched by a stud or similar foreign body. It is admitted that this may be extravagant but the view is that bottom blades are relatively cheap, and a high priority at Celtic Manor is to maintain the 'look good factor' in the belief that this equates to 'feel good' and leads to actually 'being good'.

The club carries over £8,000 worth of parts in stock but this is seen as an important insurance, and perhaps it relates to the past when the supply of parts was not good. Another perspective to this is that the club will soon have three courses and the building and perhaps some re-building of these places extra emphasis on the maintenance facility. At Celtic Manor, Cal insists that all cylinders are installed accurately, thus bearings or bottom blade carrier are packed if and as required to ensure that each cylinder relates correctly to the carrier and bottom knife – he commented upon how inaccurate this can be on supposedly new machines.



Eric Hunter Grinders – Juno 36" at Taunton & Pickering Golf Club

Toro has now appointed Ted Hopkins of Wentloog in Gwent as dealer, he is both more active and more local to Celtic Manor than their previous Toro dealer.

Taunton & Pickering Golf Club with a Eric Hunter Grinders' Juno

Taunton bought a Juno grinder about two years ago because they

found themselves with time to spare in the winter and the club considered it cost effective to buy a machine which would allow them to undertake their own maintenance and sharpening during the 'off' season. Taunton and Pickering is a private 18 hole club built on clay overlying rock without drainage, and therefore it has times when the course has to be closed.

The greenkeeping staff of five includes Head Greenkeeper Roger Bale, plus one part-timer who concentrates on cutting banks. Thus with time at a premium all greens and tees are cut using triples while a Ransomes Commander (5 gang) is used for the fairways. The Jacobsen Green King with hydraulic cylinder drive is back-lapped about once a month while tees and fairway mowers are not re-sharpened at all during the season. The eventuality of hitting a rock or other 'hard' object has either not occurred or had not been consid-

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ered, however, although to most people having to dismantle a cutting unit is seen as taking time and being a great nuisance, in point of fact it seldom proves to be too much of a problem nor take too much time when the necessity occurs and the alternative is to send the machine away. New bottom blades are normally fitted each year during the annual overhaul.

The Juno has proved to be extremely reliable and easy to use. It has been mainly used by one specific greenkeeper and he reported no problems in using the machine. Eric Hunter Grinders which provided the machine is proud of the training that they give new buyers and obviously this has been particularly effective, up to two days is allowed, while telephone support is always available there after. One of the major reasons for selecting the Juno was that it was particularly price competitive, furthermore one machine

handles both cylinders and bottom blades. However Roger said that by adding various options it was easy to upgrade the grinder, and he anticipated that the club would be upgrading the system, although at present he has no plans to change to in-situ or more frequent sharpening. Both in-situ and a hoist are available for the machine and can be retro fitted according to the makers.

One comment that Roger made was that when the club first began to undertake its own resharpener it found 'all the problems' and how inaccurate past sharpening and aligning had been. This equates with the Eric Hunter's boast that his machines are exceptionally accurate and can produce cutting edges which can be set for a 0.002 inch (0.05mm) clearance. There is a large body of opinion that says cutting edges should never touch - a blade of grass is perhaps 0.2mm thick and can be cut cleanly

by a mower with a clearance of up to 4 thou. (0.1mm).

Other Golf Clubs

Greenkeeper International also spoke to Paul Bishop, Course Manager at Manor House Golf and Country Club at Castle Combe, expecting to find a Charterhouse 'Easy-lap' back lapping machine.

However Paul said that the machine had been stolen and has not been replaced but that since building the new greenkeepers' facility with its heightened security the club has bought and installed Atterton & Ellis Express Dual and Anglemaster machines to maintain their mowers. Paul said he had found the Charterhouse machine effective and it made back-lapping very easy. Mowers were back lapped every two or three weeks, however he felt that a full grinding facility was more efficient and the objective will be to relief grind in winter and to spin grind in-situ as

necessary during the cutting season. The club has a full time mechanic.

Ransomes since deciding to close its Supreme Mowing subsidiary will be making parts and service available from head office at Ipswich. While ceasing to produce grinders Ransomes will still produce and market Super-lap and Ecolap machines.

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Understanding the role of the training providers

Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer and David Golding, Education Director for the GTC, conclude this series of articles with questions and answers about training providers.

1. What do you mean by Training Providers?

In greenkeeper training, Training Providers are, in simple terms, any person, college or other organisation that provides training for greenkeepers.

2. How many colleges are there?

There are 28 colleges approved, by the GTC, to offer greenkeeping courses at craft level with a reduced number approved to offer supervisory and management training.

3. Where are the colleges?

There are approved colleges in England, Scotland, Wales and in the North and South of Ireland. Full lists of approved colleges may be obtained from the GTC and BIGGA. Moreover, full college lists are printed in the June and December issues of Greenkeeper International, each year.

4. What is meant by approved colleges?

GTC approved colleges have to meet GTC criteria, including the setting up of an industry liaison committee, a commitment to pro-



vide N/SVQ courses and courses that cover the different sections of the GTC Training Manual. Colleges also offer a range of full time courses such as National Certificate and National Diploma, Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma.

5. What other organisations offer greenkeeper training?

BIGGA organises and runs GTC endorsed courses in Supervisory Management, both at its headquarters at Aldwark Manor and out in its regions. These courses include leadership, motivation, organisation, discipline, planning, budgeting and finance, health and safety, first aid, pesticide application, oral and written presentation and employment law. BIGGA also organises a National Education Conference

and Workshop programme, each January, and regional and section conferences and seminars. BIGGA also runs educational seminars during BTME. The Sports Turf Research Institute, based at Bingley in west Yorkshire, offer courses in greenkeeping, both at their headquarters and by Open Learning. These courses are based on the contents of the greenkeeper training manual and can, therefore, lead to the award of a recognised vocational qualification. Managing agents, who work for local TECs and LECs, offer training in some parts of the country. However, check with the GTC, before enrolling with a managing agent. Many manufacturers and suppliers of horticultural machinery and golf course equipment provide training courses

6. Does that mean that I can become a trained greenkeeper without going to college?

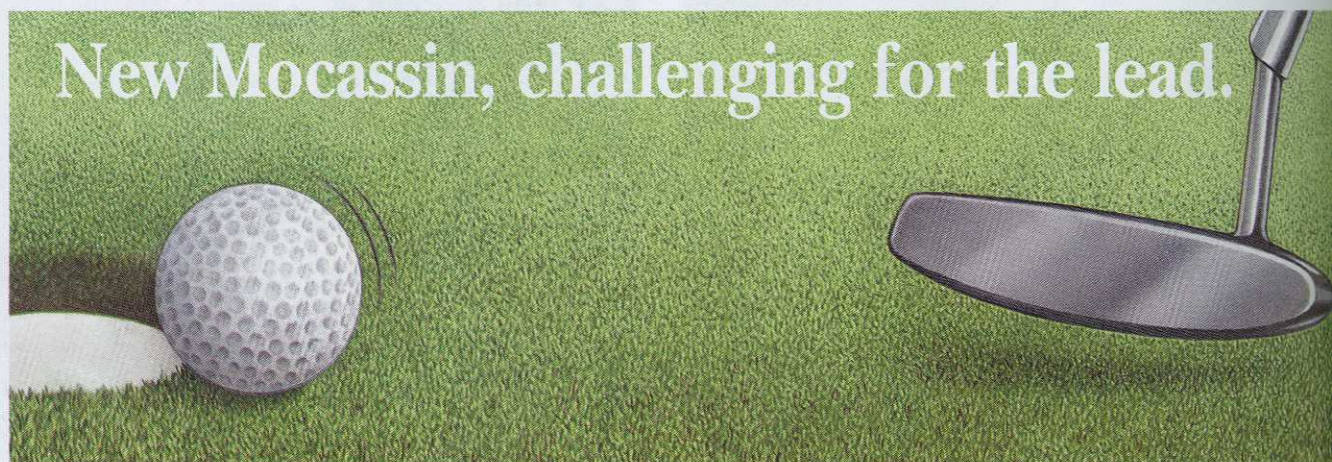
It all depends on your starting point. If you do not work or have ever worked on a golf course, then it would be very difficult to acquire the skills needed to be a greenkeeper. If, however, you are already working in greenkeeping and have acquired the practical skills, then it is possible to acquire the theoretical knowledge by distance learning eg correspondence course or from BIGGA conferences and seminars, books, videos and Greenkeeper International.

7. Could my Head Greenkeeper become a training provider?

Yes he/she could. In fact many Head Greenkeeper/Course Managers conduct on-the-job training for all of their staff as part of an overall staff training scheme. Those Head Greenkeeper/Course Managers who hold an assessor qualification can also assess their staff to National Standards and recommend the award of a Nationally recognised qualification.

9. How do I find out more information on greenkeeper training?

Contact the GTC on 01347 838640 or BIGGA on 01347 838581 or contact your nearest approved college.



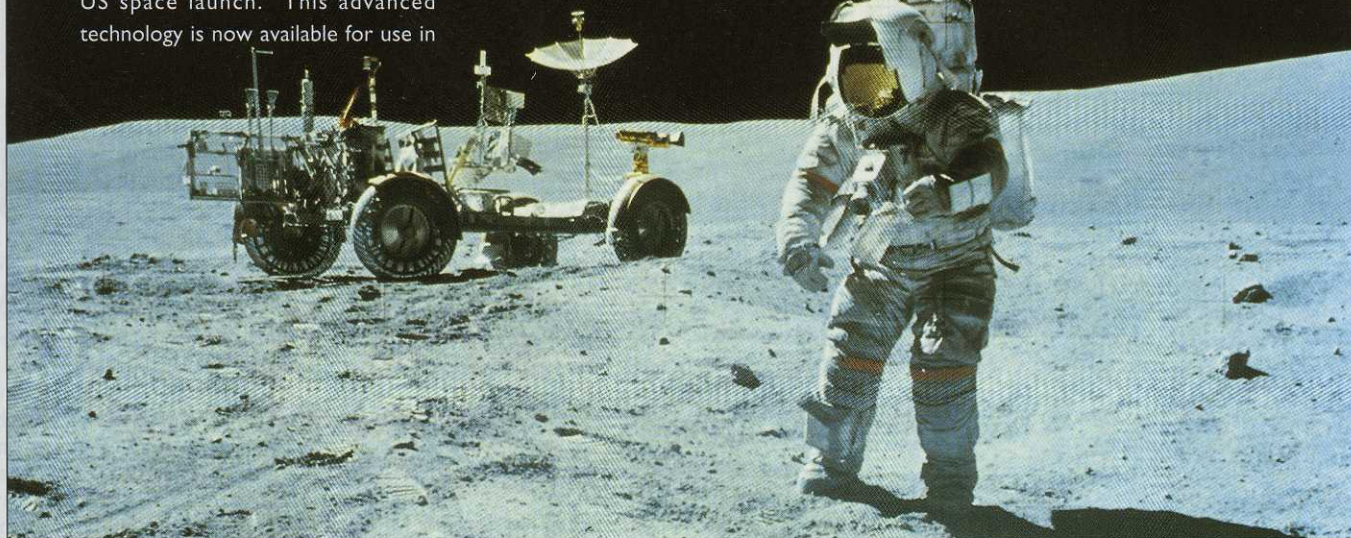
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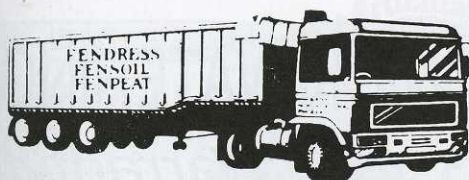


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Roland Taylor examines the problems autumn brings and looks at some of the solutions.

It's time again for those autumn leaves to start to fall. They may inspire song writers and poets to pick up their pens, but for most of us it is a time consuming operation that seems never ending. How many times have you cleared away the previous nights fall, only to turn round and find that mother nature has played a cruel joke on you by depositing twice as many leaves over your cleared area?

Do not despair, help is at hand in the form of a host of mechanical aids. All are designed to make clearing up leaves and other general debris as easy as possible.

In the beginning there were rakes and brooms, then there were blowers. These come in all shapes and forms from hand held petrol powered unit to larger push and self-propelled models. A small unit is an effective replacement

for the traditional broom. It is far quicker, more efficient and less strenuous to use. A fan produces a strong blast of air to move leaves and other debris in whatever direction you require. This makes them ideal for all those awkward areas, such as

under seats in gutters, ditches and among flower beds. By careful manoeuvring the leaves can be blown into a heap, ready for collection. Most of the hand held units are easily converted into a suction model with a collection facility. This, however, is generally

THE BIG CLEAN UP



more suited for domestic use as the collecting bag is relatively small.

Pedestrian and tractor-mounted blowers are ideally suited for use on large open spaces. These units produce a very powerful air flow and are available with a wide choice of engine sizes. Along with clearing leaves off the greens they will also remove dew. Some of the larger blowers have a suction and delivery hose attachment as an optional extra, to suck up leaves and deposit them into trailer or vehicle.

Specifically designed truck loaders are now readily available. These units can be mounted on to a trailer or a vehicle's tail board. They make the loading of leaves and any other litter or rubbish fast and easy.

Greenkeepers looking for a self-contained leaf and litter collector will not be disappointed. There are plenty to choose from including push, self-propelled and ride-on models. With these machines

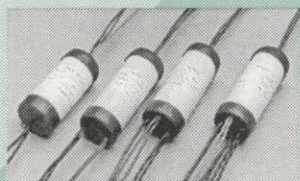
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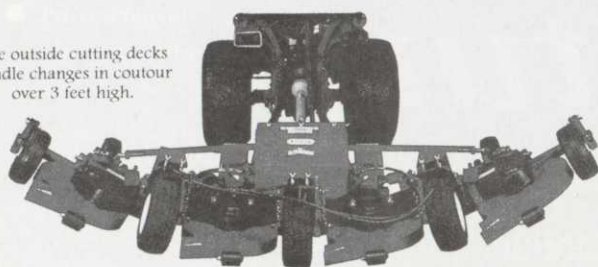
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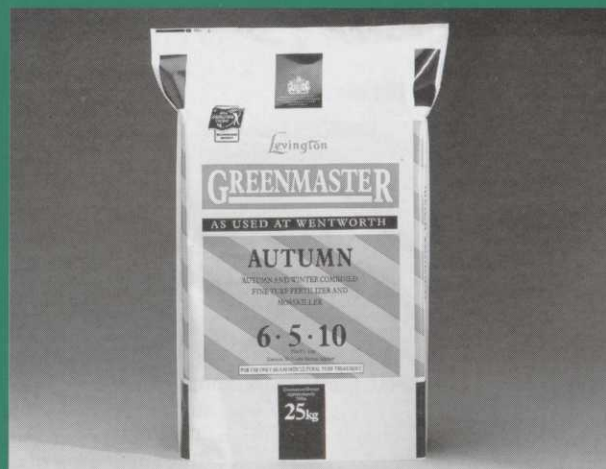
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the bulk is reduced as it passes through the unit – this ensures the collecting system is used to its maximum. Wanderhoses are usually available as an optional extra. These enable the operator to clear awkward areas, drains, ditches and flower beds.

It should not be forgotten that most rotary mowers will collect leaves off grassed areas and that for smaller tractors there are sweeping attachments available.

In recent years we have seen the introduction of mulching and recycling mowers. The suppliers of this type of machine claim that the system will finely chop leaves and deposit them back into the earth. The effectiveness of this method will be dependent on the volume of leaves involved. Large amounts are going to be difficult to reduce to a level where they virtually disappear. However, recycling has its advantages.

For areas of where the leaf fall is very large there are tractor-mounted units. These fall into

two categories; combination units and specific sweeping systems.

The combination units are usually a flail mower that can be used for cutting light and heavy rough, adapted for scarifying, plus leaf and litter collection. A large hopper is fitted and this is often available with high-lift option. They can only be used on grass – this could be a disadvantage where there are paths, roadways and car parks that have to be cleared.

Sweepers are an alternative. These incorporate a rotary brush plus impeller that creates a vacuum to suck the leaves into the collector. As the material passes through the system it is shredded

and reduced in volume by as much as 50 per cent – thus minimising the number of times the collector has to be emptied. Brush and suction heads are usually available in a choice of widths from 2 metre to 2.5 m. These are usually fully floating both vertically and horizontally, which enables them to follow the ground contours closely.

A wanderhose for clearing ditches, awkward areas and even emptying rubbish bins is available as an optional extra.

Self-propelled ride-on sweepers are usually specifically designed for collecting general litter, as well as leaves. Generally the average golf course has insufficient


work throughout the year to justify the cost of one these machines.

Before making any choice of available equipment it is important to determine exactly what problems are likely to be encountered. A large unit may look good on paper, but is its size going to limit the number of areas where it can be used, thus reducing its cost effectiveness. At this stage expert advice should be sought. It will probably be necessary to consider more than one type of appliance for your particular needs. There is nothing like seeing equipment in action, so an on-site demonstration is a sure way of finding out exactly what the machine's capabilities are.

If this autumn you find a member of your staff leaning on a broom or rake, having just gathered up a great pile of leaves, consider for a second – there is much better, easier and faster way of carrying out this operation.




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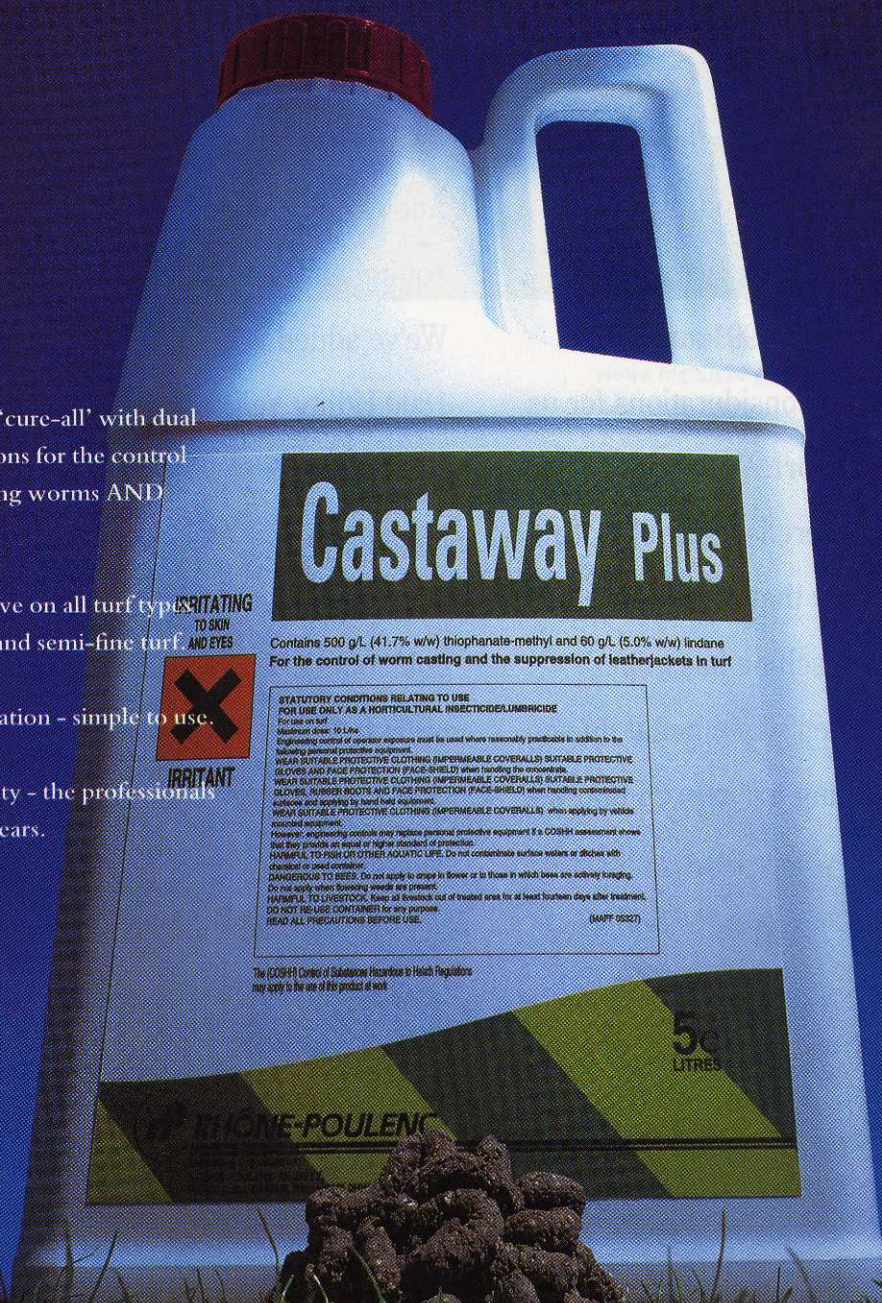
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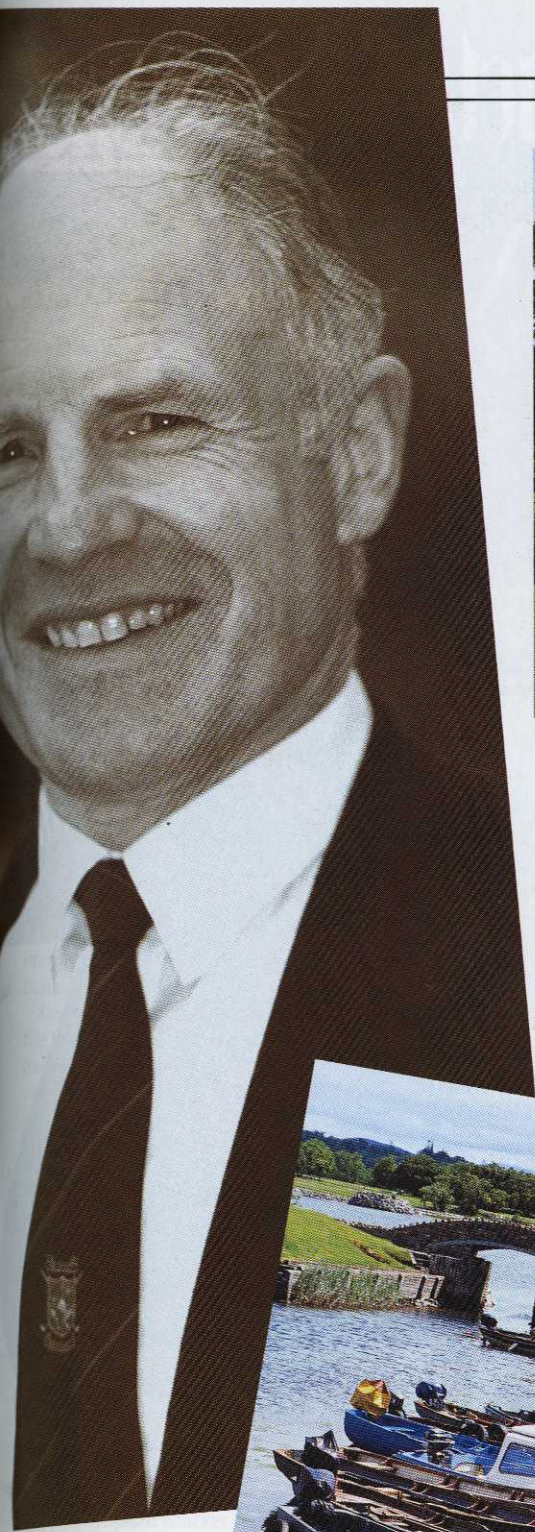
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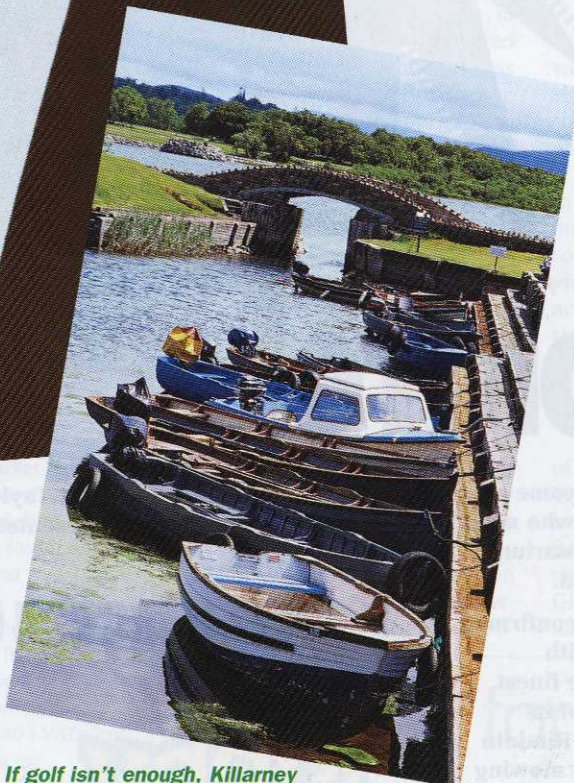
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Nick Faldo won both the 1991 and 1992 Irish Opens held at Killarney.



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Architects celebrate big event in style

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects will mark its 25th anniversary with the staging of the Silver Jubilee Conference at the Wentworth Club, Surrey, in October 2-4.

Day one is the Barenbrug Golf Day. The evening sees the Conference Dinner, when around 100 golf course architects and their invited guests will celebrate the anniversary. Specially struck silver medals will be presented to the Institute's surviving founder members – Fred Hawtree, Hamilton Stutt, Donald Harradine – and to the Institute's oldest member Eddie Hackett and to its honorary member, Geoffrey Cornish.

Principal guests at the dinner will be Viscount Whitelaw, President of BIGGA and Michael Bonallack, Secretary of the R&A.

Day Two will be taken up with the Silver Jubilee Conference itself, featuring a series of presentations on golf course design and related topics by architects and experts.

The President of the Institute, Martin Hawtree, will lead the Conference, with Donald Steel, Geoffrey Cornish and Colin Hegarty among the speakers.

The afternoon session will begin with the announcement of the formation of the Federation of European Golf Course Architects, the coming together of the British, French and European groups to cooperate and collaborate as a single voice in the European Market.

Day Three sees the staging of the Conference Workshop, a morning discussion forum on golf green design and construction.

Registration for the Silver Jubilee Conference is now open.

The whole conference package (dinner, conference, workshop) costs £240+VAT. Golf and accommodation are separately bookable and each element of the package is also available separately.

Throughout the three day event, an exhibition is being staged. The exhibition is already fully subscribed with 31 stands taken up by contractors, irrigation companies, seedsmen, fertiliser and turf producers.



The award winning students with representatives of Gleneagles, Ransomes, Scottish Grass Machinery and the Greenkeepers Training Committee

In search of excellence

Eight Higher National Diploma golf management students from nine associate UK colleges and one international student received The Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award certificates and bursary awards following their one year placement at the Perthshire golfing resort.

Most students develop within a structured course and this is true in the case of the recently established Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme. Sponsored by Ransomes and Scottish Grass Machinery, and benefiting from Gleneagles modern approach to training, the award scheme has also flourished.

George Graham, Gleneagles' Operations Director, and Andrew Sunaway, Sales and Marketing Director of Ransomes, presented the awards in the company of David McInroy, Scottish Grass Machinery.

Ransomes and Scottish Grass Machinery are committed to a three year bursary award and financing a research library at Gleneagles for the benefit of students and existing golf course operational staff.

Marc Westenhorg, Cannington College, was top student following practical, theoretical and pro-

ject assessments by a panel consisting of James Kidd, Gleneagles Golf Developments, Carol Borthwick, Elmwood College, Nick Rigden, Cannington College, and Hugh Stewart, Head Greenkeeper on the Queen's course.

Marc received a cheque to include a trip to the Golf Course Superintendents Association conference and show in Las Vegas next year.

Other recipients of Certificates of Excellence and bursary awards were Leo Cahalan, Kenneth Harper, Mark Higgs, Steve Johnson, Trevor Norris, David Stevens and Niall Quinn.

Niall, through his involvement in the scheme, has been offered an exciting opportunity by Ransomes. He has been invited to visit their manufacturing plants across America and also to visit the golf courses where Ransomes prototype machinery is tested. He is funding this with a percentage of his 2nd Prize bursary award.

Stuart Green, a previous winner of the scheme in its inaugural year, recently completed an HND in Golf Course Management at Reaseheath College and has now signed a full-time contract with Gleneagles Golf Developments and the resort's golf team.

■ Peter Hawkes, the Sales Administration Manager for Massey Ferguson, has died suddenly. He was 52.

Peter had become both a friend and a colleague since joining the company in 1990 and he was highly regarded as an invaluable member of the Grass Equipment team.

As a mark of respect the Grass Equipment office was closed on the day of the funeral.

He is survived by his wife Val and their two children Rebecca and Simon.

■ Peter Simpson, formerly of T. Parker and Sons has died.

His career with Parkers spanned 38 years during which time he rose from junior rep to Sales Director.

He is survived by his wife and children.

■ Greenkeeper International would like to apologise unreservedly to Mr Ronnie Bunting and Kilmacollm Golf Club for comments which appeared in August's issue. Mr Bunting's professionalism and ability as a greenkeeper or the quality of the course at Kilmacollm Golf Club has never been in question.

Hattrick for Graeme

Graeme MacDonald, Head Greenkeeper at Ryston Park near Peterborough is fast earning himself the title of the city's Mr Golf. He has just completed the hattrick of winning the club championship at three of the local clubs – Orton Meadows, which he won for the fifth year in a row and broke the course record with a 71 in the

process; Thorpe Wood, which he won for the second time; and Peterborough Milton which he won for the first time.

"It's never been done before, I think partly because no-one else plays in all three," joked Graeme, who plays off 3 and who also picked up prizes at the National Tournament at Seacroft.

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Mr D Hayes, First Assistant Greenkeeper at Chine Fleet Country Club, Cornwall, was the lucky winner of last month's competition. A crisp £50 is on its way. Don't despair – YOU could be the next winner! Get searching straight away!

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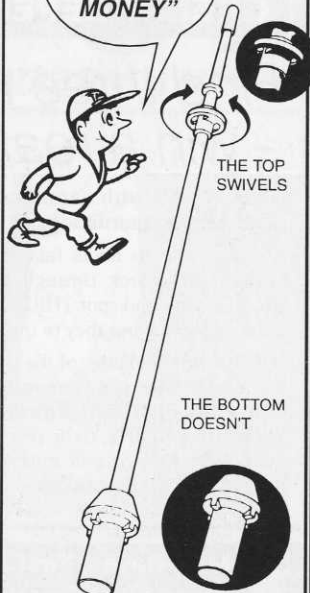


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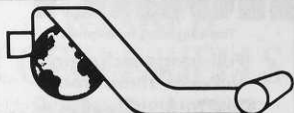
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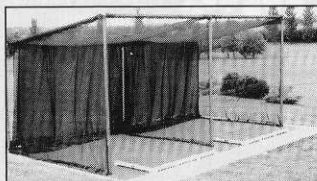
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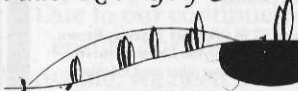
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*The closing date for applications is Friday
13 September 1996.*



An American dream

After being selected for the National Final of the Toro/PGA Student Greenkeeper of the Year, it was a great honour to be awarded the title of 1995/96.

Three months after my weekend at Aldwark Manor it has still not sunk in that I was actually going to America to study Turfgrass Management, visit Toro Machinery and Irrigation Headquarters and Manufacturing Plants along with the GCSAA Show in Orlando.

The nine week trip became reality when I stepped onto the aeroplane at Heathrow. When we arrived at Boston International Airport USA the weather had taken a turn for the worse. I had flown into what the US media called "The Blizzard of 96". My flight was the last flight allowed into Boston and I later found out that the airport was to be closed for three days. This meant that my flight to Bradley International airport was cancelled. I was told to book a room in "Downtown Boston" but decided to catch a bus, which were still running. I eventually caught three buses in total to Amherst where I ended up flagging down a Police car as there was no public transport running due to heavy snow falls. The Policeman very kindly gave me a ride to my destination. Stuck in the back of an American Police car behind a grill was not a great prospect on my first day in the USA but I was very grateful and now see the funny side of the experience.

After settling into my accommodation I found out that the University where I was to study for the next seven weeks, the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, "UMASS" for short was closed for the opening day for the first time in 13 years due to three feet of snow which had accumulated over two days.

On arrival at the University it became apparent that the seven weeks of studying was to be on a greater scale than I was used to. In some ways it was, but my education at Askham Bryan College was found to be invaluable later on. I found it gave me a great advantage especially in soil and weed plant management.

The course consisted of eleven subjects including Weed Management, Soil and Fertiliser Science, Turf Management, Entomology Diseases of Fine Turf, Physiology of Turfgrass, Golf Course Design and Construction, Calculations, Arboriculture, Organisational Management and Equipment Shop/Irrigation Class.

All the classes were lectures given by Professors and Lecturers very highly qualified in their subject.

The class consisted of 59 pupils. Contrary to what Euan Grant wrote in his report from last year, there were no ladies present on this year's

course. The majority of the students were employees of golf courses. Approximately half of the 59 students were employed as Superintendents or Assistant Superintendents and there were also a few Landscape Gardeners.

The studying was very in depth and some of it was probably too deep but I found it very interesting and beneficial.

We had seven exams and also had to prepare two large assignments along with

today some Greenstaff are not given the chance to work on complex machinery as certain staff on the greens team are selected to do certain jobs and stay with those jobs allocated to them.

Greenkeeping is becoming a greater attraction to school leavers and people who have career changes as it now offers a prosperous career path with a great deal of qualifications to offer to the career minded individual with ambition to move forward and onto greater things.

My visit to Minneapolis to Toro Machinery Headquarters was an experience that I will never forget and must give a great big thank you to the Toro Company for sponsoring the entire trip across the United States along with the great opportunity to increase my knowledge of Greenkeeping. The tour of the Machinery Factories was very impressive along with the strict and intense testing of all parts made. Looking at the actual designs of new machinery on computer and all the modern technology that is used to design new products to be used on Golf Courses and many other types of recreational areas and grounds.

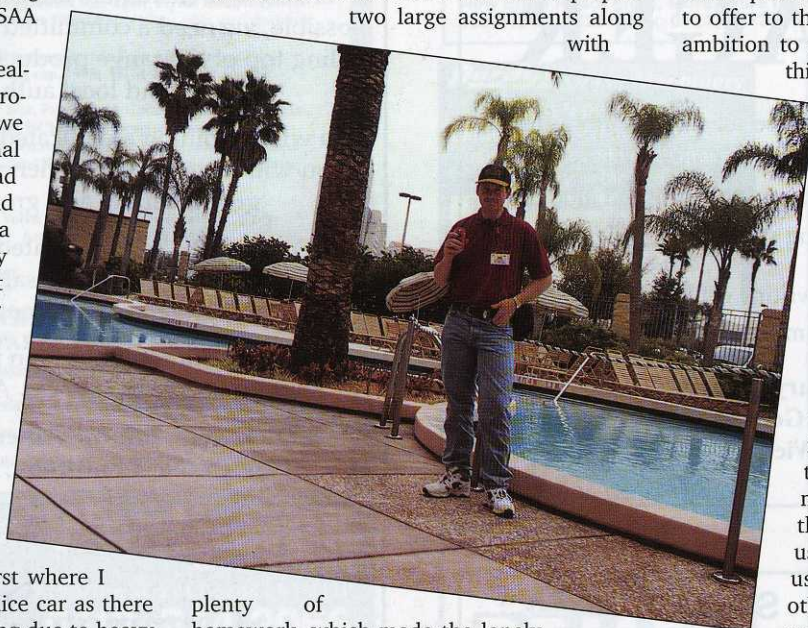
The visit to the Irrigation Headquarters in Riverside California was also very interesting looking at different types of irrigation heads and controllers, how they were designed and how they were put together by very complicated pieces of machinery.

In between the Toro visits and University, I also had a chance to visit the GCSAA in Orlando for two days. The conference centre where the Seminars and Show was held was very large and it took a great deal of time to walk around and look at the many different products on display.

The Gala meal on the Saturday night must have been attended by many Golf Course Superintendents from all over the USA and many different countries from all around the world. This was televised and put out on the GCSAA's own television show called PAR FOR THE COURSE.

On a final note I made a great deal of friends in the USA and hope to visit a few when a chance to return to the USA with my family is possible. The education was fantastic and has really shown me another side to Turfgrass Management and I hope I will benefit from this in the future.

Studying at UMASS was a great advantage and I would recommend it to anyone who has the chance to do so and take full advantage of the opportunity to extend their knowledge in Turfgrass Management along with the different way of life in the USA.



plenty of homework, which made the lonely weekends fly by... assisted by a few bottles of Budweiser at the local bar.

Some of the work needed a great deal of time spending on it which turned into many long hours of study, of which I am glad to say paid off in the long term.

I found that Soil Science, Entomology and Fine Turf Diseases were very in depth, having labs using microscopes to identify Hyphal runners (Mycelium) on roots of turfgrass Sclerotia (spore pods) and different types of fungal diseases, different types of bugs and how to take soil samples etc.

The majority of the studies were very relevant to our climates as we were taught about cool season grass species with Massachusetts being in the North East of the USA, above the Transition Zone. The main grass cultivars were Pencross and Providence creeping bent.

Talking to fellow student I became aware of the great difference in Greenkeeping between the two countries. One student told me that on their 27 hole course, during the summer there are 50 staff.

With only a few being actually qualified the education system for Greenkeeping in America is very in depth in certain areas but does not offer actual practical training as does our S/NVQ system.

In my estimation this part of the British Education system is very important, as it actually gives the student hands on experience rather than just reading and writing about it. Still



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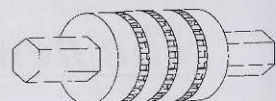
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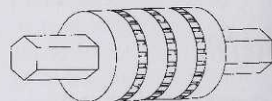
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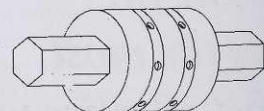
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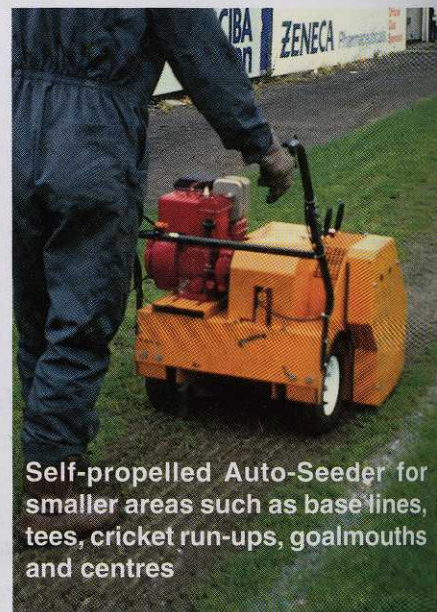
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