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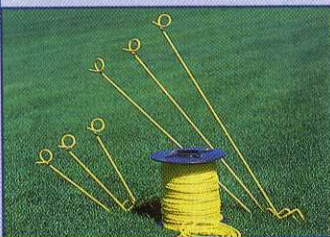
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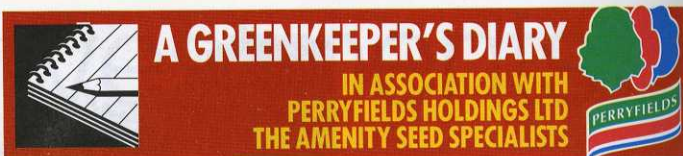
44 PAGE COLOUR CATALOGUE

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### A GREENKEEPER'S DIARY

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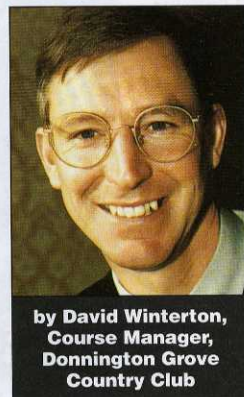
# Time to plan ahead

**W**hat 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



by David Winterton,  
Course Manager,  
Donnington Grove  
Country Club

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.

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