

Fusarium? Not on my patch, thank you

As you are all too painfully aware probably the most important disease that occurs on highly maintained greens is Fusarium Patch. *Microdochium Nivale* is highly disfigured and occurs primarily in the late autumn and spring but may strike at any time of year under

conditions of cool wet weather.

Regarded as one of the best ways to control attacks of Fusarium Patch, as recommended by the STRI, is regular switching with a fibreglass flexible rod or brushing with a dew brush. Both perform the same job as they

combine the droplets of water sitting on the surface of the turf, dropping them onto the soil and allowing the natural drainage of the soil to disperse the moisture towards the root level of the turf.

Indeed it is especially important to switch greens that are well

protected by tall trees or buildings as the green is therefore well protected from wind and direct sunlight and therefore dries slower. An added benefit of switching is a better cut if it is performed immediately after it is done.

Tim Webb, Tacit

'Course for all seasons' a good aid

This soft back A4 sized book has been produced by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club to bring some of the issues which their Golf Course Advisory Panel have identified as being of great importance to the management and maintenance of golf courses.

The book looks at six main areas that have an impact on the management of golf; Best Management Practice, the World around the Golfer, Golf Course Management, Communications, Golf Course Developments and What the Golf Authorities are doing. The book sets out to illustrate some of the issues that lead to conflict between golfers and greenkeepers eg. green speed, the 'TV' effect, problems due to the changing climate and all year round play. However, it shows that by having a sound course management policy, by investing in greenkeeper training and education, by working with nature and by using good communication skills, many of the problems can be overcome. Useful to greenkeepers as a reference guide, as a source of basic advice and as background information for talks to members, the book would be a useful addition to all Head Greenkeeper's bookshelves. However, if the book was read by all golf course committee members and all golfers then many of the problems that confront greenkeepers would disappear as golfers developed a much better understanding of the complexities of golf course management.

Copies of the book are available, priced £5, from Michael Barratt Limited, Profile House, 5/7 Forlease Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1RP

Ken Richardson



Barenbrug makes its marque

■ Barenbrug's Arnold Pilon has been driving from Europe to Asia as part of the Paris-Peking Classic Car Rally. For the car, Barenbrug chose the good old British Jaguar MK 1, dating back to 1960. Undoubtedly, it's the first time the marque has been driven to the Chinese capital with a bag of

BAR 7/Amenity Leys on board, waiting to be sown!

For Arnold, the trip has not been straightforward. As well as participating in the Rally he had the task of visiting many of Barenbrug's European offices along the way. At least he was greeted with a warm reception.

Meanwhile there's a palpable air of excitement around Michel Mulder, Managing Director of Barenbrug UK. "It's great to see a quality British car, taking quality British grass, on behalf of a quality British company all that way to China", he enthused. "I can't think of a better form of cultural exchange."

Laser levelling brought in to fit new root zone

The first 18 hole golf course to be built using the new ProSport Eco-Zone root zone from Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals is at an advanced stage of construction at Biddenham near Bedford.

The course will be the focal point and principal amenity of a new development by Bovis on the western side of Bedford. David Pottage is the architect and designer and the course is being constructed by Golf Landscapes of Brentwood, Essex.

A total of 5000 tonnes of ProSport Eco-Zone has been delivered by HMC for the construction of the greens.

"One of the problems with this

site," says Bob Dunning, the Director in charge of the contract, "is that across the full 50 hectares of the course there is a fall of only about five metres, so we had to be very accurate in sculpting the base of the greens to the architect's design and that accuracy must be maintained as we fill them. Laser levelling has been needed."

After installing the drains, a porous membrane was laid on the base of the greens. 100mm of aggregate was then laid followed by 50mm of grit. Finally, the root zone was laid to a compacted depth of 275mm, with constant checks being made to ensure that the hand raked final

surface followed accurately the line of the base.

Where possible the vehicles, which each carry over 20 tonnes of root zone, tipped at the green site on to a porous membrane to prevent contamination. Where a green was not accessible to heavy transport, the root zone and other construction materials were tipped on a stockpile and taken to the green by dumptruck.

"We handle root zones as few times as possible," says Bob, "not just for economic reasons, good root zones perform best after their initial mixing so it is preferable not to mix them again any more than is essential."