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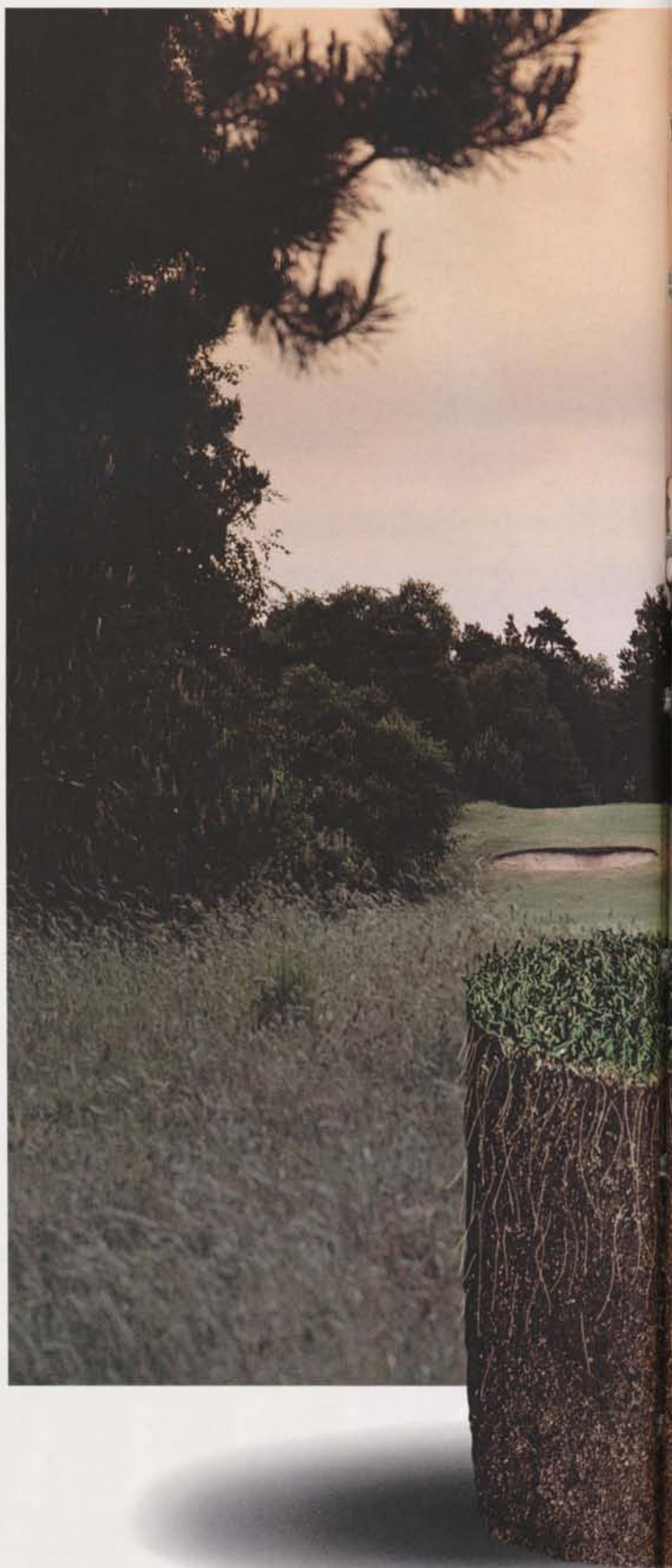
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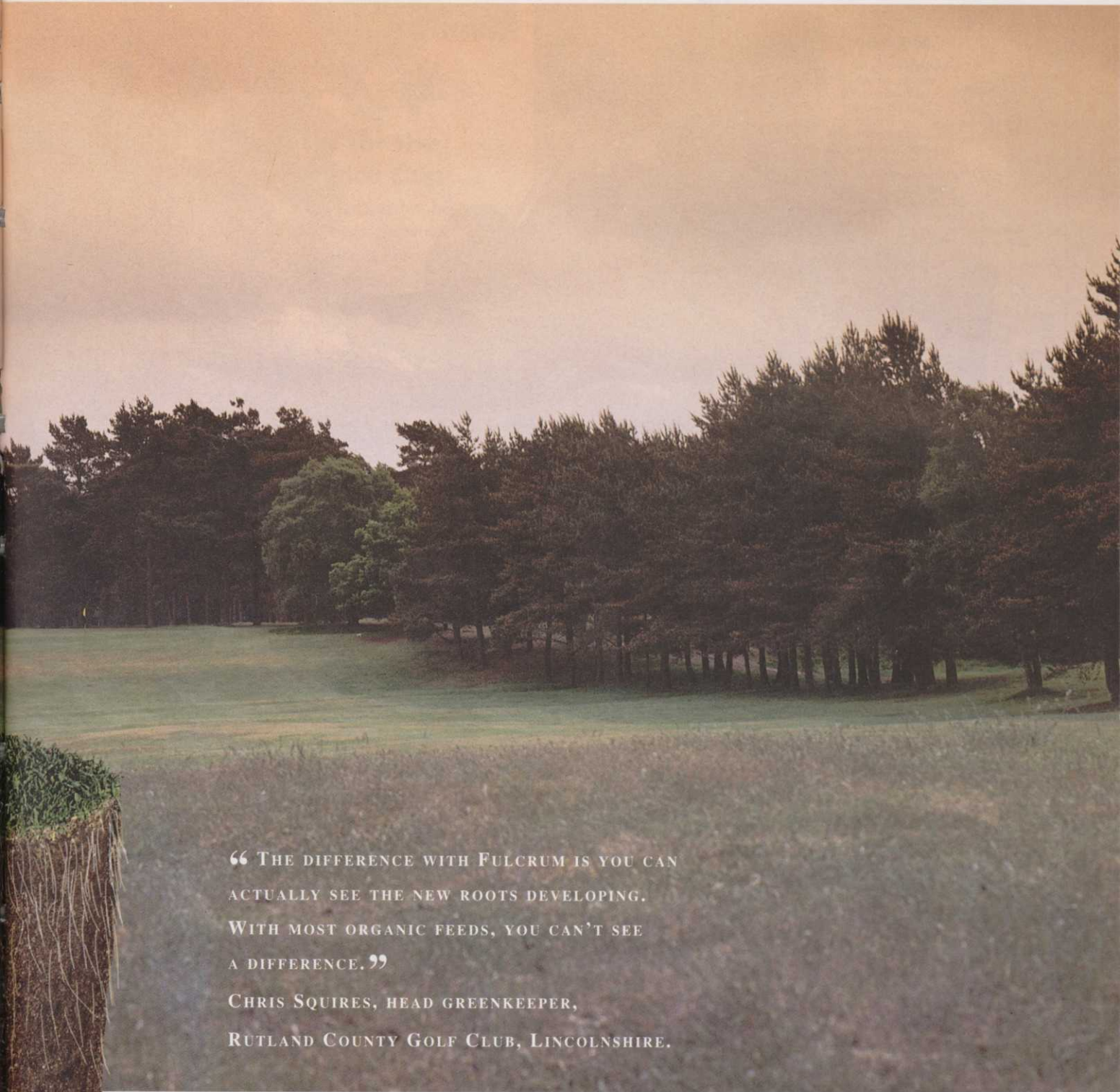
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SEPTEMBER 1997

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...to laptops and bytes! RiteFeed is BIGGA's latest Golden Key sponsor and the people behind the company reveal the bizarre methods they used when they first set up.....**Pages 13-14**

Greens mowers in the spotlight

The ride-on triple greens mower is possibly the most used piece of equipment on the golf course. Hugh Tilley talks with greenkeepers who use them every day.....**Pages 17-21**

Wet, but certainly not a washout

The BIGGA National Tournament, in association with Miracle Professional, was possibly an even greater test for participants this year – thanks to rain, rain and more rain.... **Pages 22-24**

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Valderrama, venue for this month's Ryder Cup, plus the winner of BIGGA's National Tournament. Picture by Scott MacCallum

WIN £50 CASH IN OUR BUYER'S GUIDE COMPETITION: TURN TO PAGE 53

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Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 6 for further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the companies' Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us and we'll arrange for further information to be sent to you direct.



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Golf by the hour hailed as 'major breakthrough'

A new idea could change the shape of golf and help to bring the sport to areas where space has previously denied the opportunity for courses to be built.

Golf Courts have been hailed as a major breakthrough for the sport on a number of fronts, not only because a golf court can provide a full round of golf on just 6-15 acres, but also because it provides the opportunity to play the game by the hour. And with the prospect of floodlit golf, Golf Courts looks set to revolutionise the game.

The concept of the Golf Court

stems from its development in 1988 when Systems Designer, Farrel Bradbury, suffered a stroke and was advised to take up golf. Soon hooked on the game, he converted six acres of land into an 18 hole course comprising par three and par four holes.

Having spent eight years fine tuning his idea, Bradbury's system of a stepped fairway using four greens, and eight tee positions means that with no more than 15 acres, or a tenth of the normal size of a golf course, a full round of golf can be played.

Interest is now intense in Golf Courts around the world with developers of urban land keen to have the court installed.

The Golf Court is booked on an hourly basis with three matches on the court at any one time. Every club in the bag is brought into use and whether the court is in the grounds of a hotel, a private home or is part of a mix of leisure facilities, it is ideal for those who want to fit more golf into their week and is certain to provide the answer to many personal and corporate dreams.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Emma Duggleby, who worked for the Association during the winter of '92 - '93 and in the



early part of this year on a temporary contract, has returned to Aldwark Manor on a full time basis as an Administrative Assistant.

A top amateur golfer, Emma (25) won the British Ladies' Championship in 1994 and has represented England for the last three years and Great Britain and Ireland on several occasions, including in South Africa when she played on a GB&I team which won a "Test Series" 2-0.

This year she won the Northern Foursomes and the Keighley Trophy and was runner-up in both the English Strokeplay and Yorkshire Championships.

She was made an Honorary Member of Malton and Norton Golf Club while her boyfriend, Neil Clarkson, is an assistant professional at Sand Moor Golf Club.

Away from the golf course she is also a keen netball player and represents Broughton, Swinton and Amotherby.

"I'm delighted to be back at BIGGA and thoroughly enjoy working at Aldwark Manor," said Emma.

■ Former US Vice President Dan Quayle will speak at the GCSAA Conference and Show in Anaheim, California next February.

Quayle, an avid golfer who was a 1997 US Senior Open entrant, will speak on the issues of commitment to family, personal value structure and his career as an elected official.



The King's Course features the world's first floating fairway

Bumper package for US courses

Eight golf courses in the Myrtle Beach area of South Carolina, USA, will soon be groomed almost exclusively by Ransomes, Cushman and Ryan turf maintenance equipment. Owned and operated by the Myrtle Beach National Company, the eight courses are part of one of the top golfing resort regions in the United States.

The extensive package of new equipment includes 20 Greens Super 55 walk-behind greens mowers; 13 Ransomes fairway 305 fiveplex mowers;

12 Ransomes Fairway 250 fiveplex mowers; 12 Greensplex 160 riding greens mowers; 12 Ransomes T-Plex 185 tee and surrounds mowers; nine Cushman Groom Master bunker groomers and seven 700 Series rider rotary mowers

One of the newest Myrtle Beach courses, The King's Course was designed by Arnold Palmer. The course derives its name from The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews' crowning of Palmer as "The King of Golf" in 1995

during his final appearance at The British Open. The course features the world's first floating fairway.

Clay Brittain Jnr, Chairman of the Myrtle Beach National Company, said, "We realised we were spending too much time and money on the repairs of equipment we had kept for too many years. This caused a lot of downtime. When we decided to bring our equipment up to date, Ransomes came to us with an exceptional package of equipment."

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Adrian Porter
Head Greenkeeper
Greatham Valley
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There are some things which really get to you

Have any of you seen Room 101 on BBC 2 on Friday nights? It's where celebrities get the opportunity to send their dislikes or petty hates into the room for all eternity. Recently I know Eric Cantona and caravans began their periods of exile.

It got me thinking about what I would send into Room 101 and I found it was quite therapeutic.

I've come up with just a few of the things which I think I'd be better off without and a couple which I know have hit the mark with some of you.

Lorries which pull out to overtake other lorries when you know it'll take them ten minutes to complete the manoeuvre; People who push in front in queues when you're only 90% sure you were there first so can't say anything about it and paying for something and finding it doesn't work or is not what you ordered.

Professionally, and I don't mean this as a slight to people who are only doing their job and many of them do it in a very pleasant way, it's people who phone up and ask, "Did you receive the press release we sent you?" What they really mean is, "I know you must have got it because I posted it to you a couple of days ago. Are you going to use it?"

The answer is one to which I can never say a definitive "yes" or "no" because I never know how much room I'll have for such things yet we both have to go through the ritual of asking and answering the questions.

They always seem to call at a time when I'm particularly busy.

I know Stefan Antolik, of Cooden Beach, would send Goretex water-

proofs into Room 101. He thinks they are the biggest scourge he has faced as a greenkeeper as they allow people to stay dry in conditions that do no end of damage to the golf course. After a few days of torrential rain at the National Tournament I can see why. Another occupant I know of would be caddie carts, both manual and electric, which tear up the course. I had a call from a member who suffers badly from caddie car damage but felt he was powerless to do anything about it.

Write in and let me know of anything which you would send into Room 101. It may be you are not alone in your thoughts and if there are a great many of you with the same candidate we can campaign to improve matters.

Can I say thank you to the BBC, Hatrick Productions and Nick Hancock for the use of their idea.

■ This month is The Ryder Cup and can I, on behalf of us all, wish Seve's team well. Success at the top level certainly increases interest at the grass roots and that can only be good for golf and for all of us who earn our living from it.



Scott MacCallum
Editor

As I see it...

BY PAT MURPHY
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

In recent months people could be forgiven for thinking I've been auditioning for Dustin Hoffman's role in the sequel to "The Rainman". You will recall that two of the Hayter Regional Finals I attended had to be reduced to nine holes because of torrential rain. They did well even to get any holes played at all.

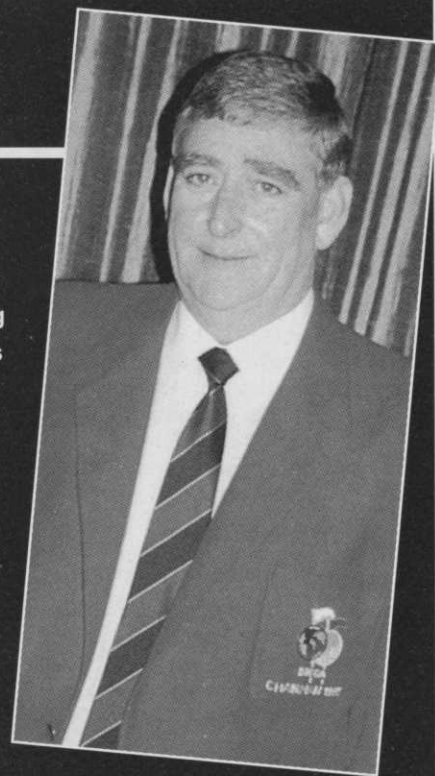
Now I go to Cooden Beach for the National Tournament in association with Miracle Professional and after two reasonable days the final round is a complete washout – an inch of rain fell in half an hour. The event had to be cut back to 36 holes. That was bad enough but that was the day I'd decided to play the course! I must be jinxed.

Despite that the tournament was greatly enjoyed by those who attended and Stefan Antolik, his team, the Secretary and all the other clubhouse staff must be congratulated and thanked for making it such a success. For me it was a chance to meet up with so many old friends while I always enjoy meeting up with Derek Farrington the South East Regional Administrator.

While it is not quite so hectic with BIGGA business at the moment – the Executive Director is on holiday so my phone isn't quite so busy – I've a lot on at my golf club. As I write I'm preparing for the Bradford Team Championship and the Yorkshire Boys with barely a day without some event on at the club. Fortunately the course has been good all year and my team have been doing a great job while I've been away.

And next month I'll be on my travels again as I first head to Saltex, where I've been asked to judge the stands, then on to Ireland for a meeting. I break the journey on the way back to attend the Cumbria Cup, where I understand Viscount Whitelaw will be making an appearance, and then I head to the Berkshire College of Agriculture where I shall be turning the first sod on the new Golf Greenkeeping Academy.

Talking of turning sods, I'm looking for someone to donate an edging iron and turf lifter for when I perform the same task for our new Headquarters. Can anyone help?





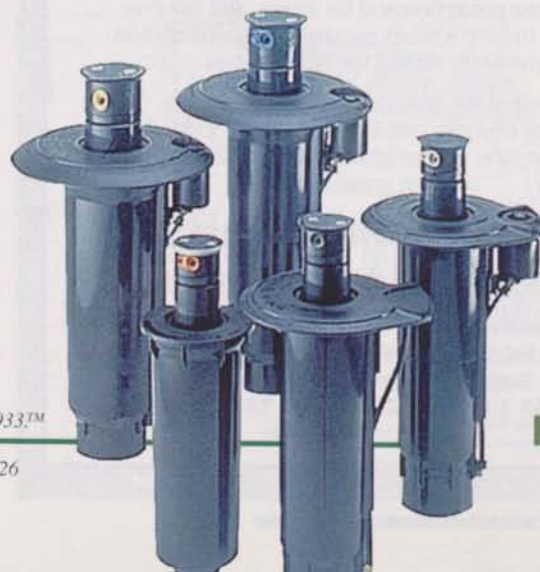
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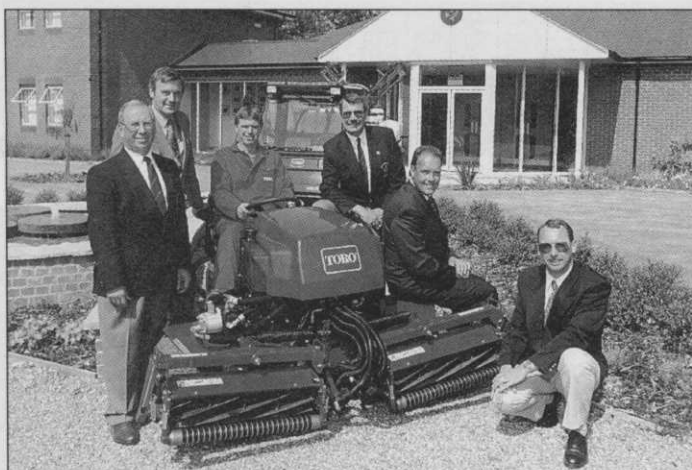
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Woodhall Spa Head Greenkeeper David Hornsey, seated, with, from left, Paul Baxter, EGU Secretary; Graham Dale, Lely Managing Director; Peter Wisbey, Course Manager at Woodhall Spa; Bob Buckingham, The Toro Company European Sales Manager and David Cole, Lely National Sales Manager

Toro kit selected by English Golf Union

The English Golf Union has chosen Toro to supply golf course turf maintenance equipment and irrigation systems for its two courses at the National Golf Centre in Woodhall Spa, Lincs.

In a five-year agreement signed between the EGU and The Toro Company and distributors Lely UK, Toro is supplying £350,000-worth of new equipment in two phases this year and next.

The EGU's Courses Manager at Woodhall Spa, Peter Wisbey, who joined The National Golf Centre in December after working 10 years in Portugal, where he was Technical Director at both Quinta da Lago and Pinheiros Altos, said that Toro won the contract after a competitive tender.

"Toro was chosen because their's was the only package where every single machine in our specification was either the best in the field or at least equal to the best of the others," he said.

"The Toro machines not only met our needs, they offered more than we were looking for."

The agreement was sealed at a special signing ceremony at the EGU's national headquarters attended by Peter Wisbey and EGU Secretary Paul Baxter. Toro were represented by Lely Managing Director, Graham Dale, and National Sales Manager, David Cole, as well as Bob Buckingham, The Toro Company's European Sales Manager.

David Cole said: "Everyone at Toro and Lely UK is delighted that we have won this valuable contract against stiff opposition from our major competitors, and to be involved with such a prestigious name and organisation as the English Golf Union."

Speaking at the signing ceremony Bob Buckingham said: "This is an important deal for us. We believe that our success was helped by the fact we could supply both machinery and irrigation equipment from the one company."

The new Toro fleet delivered under phase one of the agreement consists of a Workman utility vehicle, Reelmaster 6500-D fairway mower and a Groundsmaster 3000-D with both rotary and flail cutting units. All three machines are fitted with deluxe Mauser safety cabs with air conditioning and heating. There are also three Greensmaster 3200-D ride-on greensmowers, as well as two 1600 and four 1000 walk-behinds, plus a Reelmaster 2300-D.

These and a further delivery under phase two of the agreement next spring will be used to maintain both the National Golf Centre's existing championship or Hotchkin Course and the new The Bracken Course which is scheduled to open next June.

It is all part of the major initiatives being undertaken at Woodhall Spa by the EGU on behalf of its 700,000 members from 1,800 clubs which will also see the opening later this year of a unique 11-acre training and coaching academy where facilities include a 20-bay covered driving range and short game practice area complete with putting greens, target greens and a range of practice bunkers.

Both 18-hole courses have Toro irrigation on greens, tees and approaches. This may be extended in the future to encompass the Hotchkin Course fairways.

Feedback event helps to maintain standards

A party of 11 Course Managers from some of the UK's top golf courses took part in this year's Toro Turf Professionals Club visit to the United States as guests of The Toro Company and distributor Lely UK.

The visit was designed to provide a forum for a two-way exchange of ideas and opinions about existing and future Toro professional turf products covering both equipment and irrigation systems.

On the first part of its eight-day tour, the party visited The Toro Company's corporate headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where the Course Managers met and heard from senior management including Toro group Vice President Chuck Lounsbury, as well as other members of the team from engineering, manufacturing and product testing. They then toured the engineering and test facilities and were shown Toro's new state-of-the-art training centre.

This was followed by a round table forum led by Vana Lonn, Toro's Manager of Advanced Engineering who, with his team, is responsible for developing many of the new concepts in technology and design for future Toro products.

The next day the party visited Toro's main commercial products manufacturing facility in Tomah, Wisconsin, where there was an opportunity to discuss product related issues with senior production management and to tour the factory to see products being assembled as well as Toro's impressive component-testing facilities.

Toro's Worldwide Marketing Manager in Minneapolis, Barry Beckett, who was responsible for the visit and hosted this first stage of the programme, said: "Toro is a great believer in listening to what our customers have to say about how our products perform in the field, in their own conditions, and how in the future



Keeping Toro in the picture: Barry Beckett, front left, Toro's Worldwide Marketing Manager, in Minneapolis with UK Course Managers and others

we can help them meet the challenges they face in their everyday working lives with innovative new developments.

"These UK Course Managers are responsible for some of the world's best-known or up-and-coming golf courses. The heavy demand that places on them to achieve excellence in what they do makes their opinions and ideas invaluable to us in maintaining Toro as a world-leading maker of turfcare products."

On the second stage of its visit the party flew on to Riverside, California, the home of Toro's headquarters for the design and manufacture of its irrigation systems. Here again the visitors met senior management and went on a conducted tour of the irrigation manufacturing facility where they saw products being assembled as well as the extensive test facilities. This was followed by a round table forum to discuss and hear about current and future golf course irrigation products and issues.

Speaking about the importance of such feedback, Toro's European Sales Manager Bob Buckingham said: "Toro is committed to looking at customer requirements on a world-wide basis, not just from a US standpoint. This

visit provided an ideal forum for listening to what our UK customers had to say about our products and the key turfcare issues that affect them in their daily work, so that Toro can ensure that it meets all their current and future needs."

The UK course managers who attended the Toro Turf Professionals Club Visit were: Walter Woods; George Brown, Turnberry; Chris Kennedy, Wentworth; John Philp, Carnoustie; Alan Purdie, Crail; Jim McKenzie, Celtic Manor; Rob Brewer, St. Mellion; Phil Chiverton, Buckinghamshire; Brian Turner, Sunningdale; Steve Jones, The London; Jim Cassidy, Ashridge.

Course first for college

Myerscough College has launched Europe's first degree course in Turfgrass Science, commencing in September 1997. This unique four-year programme will take turfgrass education to a new level in Britain. The course is specially designed for students who wish to gain a thorough technical understanding of turfgrass growth and development, the ecology of turfgrass environments and construction systems.

Myerscough College runs the programme in conjunction with the University of Central Lancashire, to provide students with a comprehensive knowledge of turfgrass management, rootzone technology, golf course and sports ground drainage, irrigation design and installation, and research methodology.

Formal links with American Universities will enable students to take a 12 month work placement in the United States and gain practical experience on some of the world's finest golf courses.

"It has taken five years of extensive discussions with a range of industry representatives to develop this unique learning experience," said Martyn Jones, Head of Turfgrass Science.

Distributor appointed

Avoncrop Amenity Products has been appointed as a main distributor for Green Releaf Biotech Inc, to cover the South of England and South Wales. Green Releaf, based at Jacksonville, Florida, is the

leading US manufacturer of soil management and plant nutrient products.

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(mis)adventures of Gordon the Greenkeeper



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From mangles and tights to laptops and bytes...

RiteFeed has come a long way since its early days but BIGGA's latest Golden Key Sponsor is still progressing at great pace.

It would perhaps go down as one of the more unusual conversation topics for a dinner party but when John Walker and Richard Lawrence got onto the subject of cow slurry during one such memorable occasion 11 years ago it resulted in the birth of a company which has not looked back since.

Eight years after the launch of RiteFeed Richard, a man with 22 year's experience of the industry as Marketing Director for Rigby Taylor and National Accounts Manager for Rhône Poulenc, was persuaded by John to join the company. Between then and now RiteFeed has grown to 15 times the 1994 size.

"I would hope that we at least double the size of the company next year and continue to double it year on year," revealed Richard.

"That means that next year the company won't be 15 times the size it was when I started but 30 times the size."

To help make that possible RiteFeed has been recruiting its sales force covering the country - Robert Bruce in Scotland; Brian Mainwaring in the North West; Alan Cordingley in the North East and John McCully in London.

The company may never have been launched at all if it hadn't been for that dinner party back in 1986.

Richard explained the background to the bizarre tale.

"John's family rent out some farms which they own and over dinner at my house one night I told him that we were selling cow slurry. When I told him the price he just couldn't believe it - it was more expensive than petrol but they had been just tipping the stuff away."

The beginnings of the company are a typical example of the heroic "Heath Robinson" methodology which has been at the root of many a successful British innovation.



The Rite stuff: John Walter, Brian Mainwaring and Richard Lawrence



"John started off with a mangle and a pair of lady's tights," revealed Richard.

"He filled the tights with cow slurry and put them through the mangle to force out the liquid. Unfortunately the tights exploded and John got covered.

"Things have changed a lot since then and now we offer what I believe is the most technically advanced product on the market."

It is through this insight into the early days of RiteFeed that you realise why John says, "I just can't believe the success that the company has enjoyed since we launched. There is a tremendous difference now to when we started."

Much of the success of the company is down to an ability to listen to the customer and cater for what he wants.

"Everything we do is led by the customer. I think the trade has been wrong for a number of years in going into golf courses and saying, 'This is what we offer'. We have changed that totally by going into golf courses and saying, 'What do you need?' There is a massive difference between these statements," said Richard. "The majority of the good new products we've launched have come from ideas from greenkeepers and Course Managers. They come to us, for example, and say they've got a problem and that they believe it to be sulphur. So then we work on that and end up with a product."

RiteFeed has a product list of 12 but the vast proportion of the business is specially formulated for each golf course. From a production base in Preston, Lancashire, the company have the capacity to produce enough product to service 10% of the market with the scope to double produc-

tion if required.

"It is a very efficient process which John has developed," said Richard.

The sophistication now employed is a league away from merely grading the product through a range of 7 to 40 denier tights.

"We have developed a way of putting nitrogen, phosphate and potash into the product. It's a secret method and we're very proud of it.

"We also give a choice of source or nitrogen so customers can have fast or slow release of ammonium nitrate, very slow release with methidine urea or anything in the middle," explained Richard, who added that they have also found a way of keeping the microbes in the product live through to the application stage.

"If the Course Manager says he wants an 8-0-6 with iron we make him an 8-0-6 with iron. We make whatever they want whether it is on our catalogue or not."

Together with Gleneagles, RiteFeed has also developed a computer programme into which they

'We can do a full year's programme for a greenkeeper in about 25 minutes'

can feed a golf courses soil analysis and it will give the ideal fertiliser for every hole on the course.

"We can do a full year's programme for a greenkeeper in about 25 minutes," explained Richard, who added that he reckoned RiteFeed do more soil analysis through the STRI than any other company.

"A number of Course Managers have asked me to take the computer and show the Greens Chairman - we'll never speak to anyone without the Course Manager's approval. Often a committee will have no idea how complex it is to run a golf course and the problems which face the Course Manager every day. The computer shows the situation in a very graphic way and highlights why problems exist and, importantly, what is being done to solve them.

"Course Managers are often criticised for things that are frequently beyond their control and that annoys me."

The delicate balances that are required can be illustrated by one of RiteFeed's clients.

"We actually have one course which has 18 different mixes for

18 different greens. That's rare but you might find a need for three different mixes and do six greens with each mix.

"What golfers look for is consistency and if it takes a range of tailored formulas to achieve it that is what should happen," said Richard.

It is in answer to the question "Why do you think liquids are still a smaller proportion of the market than granules?", that Richard drops the baton in the Modesty Olympics.

"Because I haven't been to every golf club yet!" To be fair to him he did follow it up with a laugh.

He does, however, extol the virtues of liquid with all the zeal of a prophet.

"If you've paid £100 for a round of golf you don't want to putt over granules, you want the course to be magnificent but you want them to feed it some other day. But at most courses there is play every day of the year. With a liquid you can spray the course and play on it half an hour later and no-one would even know. It's also much faster to apply."

Warming to his theme he continues.

"If you think about it a granule is ineffective anyway. No grass plant has teeth so it can't chew a granule and eat it. The only way a grass plant can take up a granule is if it turns it to liquid first.

"I'm firmly convinced that the days of the granule are finished. If you apply an 8-0-0 granule you are putting on 8% nitrogen and the other 92% is filler," said Richard who claims a 90% conversion rate when he visits golf courses.

"The only limitation was until recently I was effectively the only salesman."

RiteFeed took the unusual decision not to use a distributor network to promote its products.

"Our product is highly technical and highly complex and it doesn't fit into a distributors normal catalogue. They were unable to stock it in large quantities because they didn't know what the customer was going to want. We have to be very flexible and unfortunately the distributor system doesn't allow for that," explained Richard.

"So we took the decision to go direct and instead host golf days which we organise including

some at Gleneagles and The Belfry.

"I've heard people in the trade say 'How can RiteFeed afford these things?' The simple answer is that we use the money we would have paid the distributors to pay for these events. We find that every efficient."

Becoming a Golden Key sponsor and contributing to BIGGA's Education and Development Fund is just part of RiteFeed's overall involvement with the Association.

"Between John and myself we have a number of year's experience in the trade and in that time we have known and appreciated how influential BIGGA is. It is important that greenkeepers speak with a unified voice and BIGGA has enabled this to happen and done a massive amount to benefit greenkeepers and we want to be involved," explained Richard who added that John is currently President of the North West Section.





"Greenkeepers and Course Managers are our livelihood and without them we would have no business. We will continue to support them and their association," he added.

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AD REF 501



ACCIDENT

by **Tony Rees** MIOSH, Health & Safety Consultant and Senior Instructor with ATB-Landbase Training Services

The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995

These Regulations (RIDDOR) require persons (eg the employer) to notify the enforcing authority of any accident which results in, or which could have resulted in, death, injury or disease.

RIDDOR 1995 replaces the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1985 (RIDDOR 1985), the Railways (Notice of Accidents) Order 1986 and certain provision of the offshore Installations (Inspectors and Casualties) Regulations 1973 and the Submarine Pipelines (Inspectors etc) Regulations 1977. Certain provisions of the Regulation of Railways Act 1871 and the Transport and Works Act 1992 are also repealed or amended.

RIDDOR specifies:

- a) the person responsible for making the report
- b) types of injury which must be reported immediately
- c) types of injury which must be reported within ten days
- d) types of occupational related diseases which must be reported
- e) types of incident with the potential for causing injury (Dangerous Occurrences) which must be reported immediately
- f) requirements for keeping specified records

In addition RIDDOR specifies further additional provisions relating to mines and quarries. The Regulations also identify different reporting procedures applying to incidents covered by the Road Traffic Act 1972, the Explosives Act 1975, the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1985 and certain other enactments.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is given the power to require further information relating to any accident or case of disease and a defence is provided for persons charged with an offence under the Regulations. This defence provides for the accused to demonstrate that he was unaware of an event requir-

ing notification and that all reasonable steps had been taken to have all such events brought to his attention ie that there was a well defined internal reporting procedure.

The following notes give brief guidance.

1. The Person Responsible for Reporting

Generally the person who should report the accident or disease is the injured person's employer (the training provider in the case of work trainee) or the person in control of the premises in the case of a dangerous occurrence or injury to a person on the premises who is not an employee.

2. Reporting an Accident

Accidents arising out of or in connection with work or which are attributable to the undertaking, the plant, substances or premises must be reported to the Enforcing Authority if they result in death, specified injury or condition, injury resulting in more than three days off work or are classed as a Dangerous Occurrence.

The Enforcing Authority is either the HSE (factories etc) or the Environmental Health Department of the Local Authority (offices, shops etc) though if in doubt report to the HSE who will pass on your report if necessary.

2.1. Immediate Reporting

The following must be reported immediately, by telephone if possible:

- a) any accident resulting in

death or specified injury to an employee

b) any accident resulting in death or specified injury to any person who is on premises under your control. Where the person concerned is employed by some other Employer then his Employer will normally make the report.

c) any dangerous occurrence which happens on premises under your control.

A specified Major Injury or condition is defined as follows:

Major Injuries

- 1. Any fracture, other than to the fingers, thumbs or toes
- 2. Any amputation
- 3. Dislocation of the shoulder, hip, knee or spine
- 4. Loss of sight (whether temporary or permanent)
- 5. A chemical or hot metal burn to the eye or any penetrating injury to the eye.
- 6. Any injury resulting from an electric shock or electrical burn (inc any electrical burn caused by arcing or arcing products) leading to unconsciousness or requiring resuscitation or admittance to

hospital for more than 24 hours

- 7. Any other injury:

- a) leading to hypothermia, heat-induced illness or to unconsciousness
- b) requiring resuscitation

c) requiring admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours

8. Loss of consciousness caused by asphyxia or by exposure to a harmful substance or biological agent

9. Either of the following conditions which result from the absorption of any substance by inhalation, ingestion or through the skin:-

- a) acute illness requiring medical treatment, or
- b) loss of consciousness

10. Acute illness which requires medical treatment where there is reason to believe that this resulted from exposure to a biological agent or its toxins or infected material

Explaining some of the main terms used:

a) fracture includes a break, crack or chip

b) amputation means either traumatic amputation at the time of the accident or surgical amputation following the accident

c) requiring admittance to hospital for more than 24 hrs includes situations where, had the injured person not already been in hospital, the injury would have resulted in admission for more than 24 hours

d) acute illness means illness which:-

- i) progresses rapidly to a crisis after the onset of symptoms, and
- ii) has severe symptoms

e) medical treatment covers hospital treatment, treatment by a GP or treatment by a firm's medical staff

f) loss of consciousness means the injured person enters into a state, for however short a period, where there is a lack of response, either vocal or physical, to people trying to communicate with them

g) biological agent is defined in the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regs 1994 as meaning 'any micro-organism, cell culture or human endoparasite including any which have been genetically modified which may cause any infection, allergy, toxicity or otherwise create a risk to human health'. In the context of the infection hazards relevant to RIDDOR



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REPORTING AN ACCIDENT

1995 this will in practice cover bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites.

The kind of accidents which can lead to the reportable health conditions included in the list of major injuries:

- a) loss of consciousness resulting from asphyxia (lack of oxygen)
- i) entry of a person into a confined space with oxygen deficient atmosphere
- ii) failure of air or oxygen supply in breathing apparatus
- b) acute illness (absorption of any substance)
- i) overturning, collapse or bursting or something containing a toxic substance, causing a spillage which contaminates the working environment
- ii) handling of surfaces of plant, containers etc onto which a skin absorbable toxic substance had leaked without the knowledge of the person affected
- iii) use or handling of material containing a toxic substance, the presence of which was not known, in a way which led to an episode of high exposure to that substance
- iv) an unexpected reaction between chemical compounds giving off a toxic gas or vapour which contaminates the working environment
- v) inadvertent or unknowing entry of a person into a confined space containing a toxic gas or vapour
- c) acute illness (exposure to a biological agent or its toxins or infected material)
- i) escape or release of a biological agent or its toxins or infected material into a working environment by, for example, the failure of a fermenter or a centrifuge, breakage of a flask, a spillage, filter failure;
- ii) exposure to a biological agent or its toxins or infected material through, for example, accidental self-inoculation (eg by the needle or a syringe or other contaminated sharp item), animal bite or laceration.

Following your immediate report by telephone a written report must be sent to the Enforcing Authority within ten days on form F2508.

Details of the accident must be entered into a register.

2.2 Reporting Within Ten Days
Other injuries which result in that person's incapacity for work for more than three consecutive days must also be reported to the Enforcing Authority. The report

must be sent within ten days of the accident on form F2508.

Details of the accident must be entered into a register.

Note: Incapacity for work means off work or not able to perform work which the person may reasonably be expected to do; Three consecutive days includes every day of the week except the day of the accident.

2.3 Death Within Ten Days

In addition to the reporting procedures above, if an employee dies, as a result of injuries sustained in an accident at work, within one year of the accident then this must be reported to the Enforcing Authority when it becomes known.

3. Reporting a Disease

The Regulations list 72 types of diseases associated within certain occupations and, when it is confirmed by a registered Medical Practitioner that an employee is suffering from one of these diseases it must be reported immediately to the Enforcing Authority on form F2508A.

Self employed persons must also make arrangements for such reporting when suffering from a confirmed prescribed disease.

Again, records of such reports must be kept.

4. Records

Records of all reportable information must be entered into a register. The register must be kept at the place of work concerned, unless not reasonably practicable, and must be kept for three years.

Copies of the form F2508 will be sufficient for this purpose.

Details to be entered into the register must include the following information:

- i) date and time of accident or dangerous occurrence
- ii) details of the person affected including full name, occupation and nature of injury or condition
- iii) the place where it happened
- iv) a brief description of the circumstances.

Where the report is of a gas incident or condition then a record of the information sent to the HSE must be kept.

A list of Dangerous Occurrences and Reportable Diseases can be found on the new F2508 RIDDOR Report Form Pads.

Further information on training courses and consultancy contact ATB Landbase Training Services (Jean John on 01282 617466 or Tony Rees on 01686 622799).

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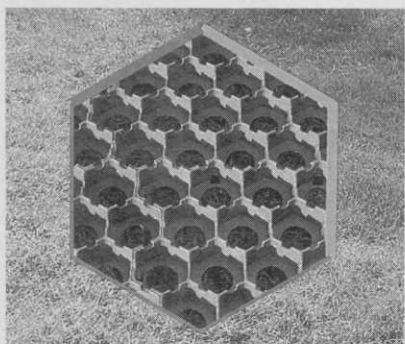
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REAL WORLD TEST GREENS MOWERS GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Hugh Tilley investigates the pros and cons of the two styles of greens mower - ride-ons and 'triples'.

The ride-on triple greens mower is possibly the most used piece of equipment on the golf course. While most greenkeepers and Course Managers may prefer to use pedestrian or hand mowers, practical constraints of time and money, (lack of either or both), usually mean that most inevitably use a ride-on for the bulk of their greens mowing. July's feature suggested that it is also the ride-on which is often equipped with verti-cutters, but often older machines, thus saving the need to change units, although modern triples have quick detach cutting units although some are more "quick" than others.

Although there are about seven makes of greens triple only about five are currently readily available or supported in this country.

Most of these triple mowers can also be fitted with alternative reels, cylinders and/or bottom knives allowing them to be used for rougher areas including tees, collars and approaches. Roller brushes, groomers or combs and verti-cutters are other options usually available which may or may not be specified. In fact many clubs will have several triples and down grade older machines for these uses.

Each manufacturer is likely to offer several options, not just of cutting unit but also of engine and drive. However, while the diesel has become king in UK, there is still often a choice between two or all wheel drive. For power transmission hydrostatic units are virtually universal for both for traction and reel drive, and no one reported any lack of

power from these and the only comment was the worry of oil leaks and seals wearing.

Jacobsen Greens King V at High Post Golf Club - Salisbury

Now into its second season, High Post's Greens King V has converted Head Greenkeeper, Lauchlan Millar, to this make, mainly because the groomers are so good. The club expects to buy new about every five years and to down grade the previous main greens machine to aprons and other less critical areas.

Lauchlan stated that the new machine, which has now done 371 hours, is a very significant improvement on previous machines, and that the groomers are "brilliant". In particular, he singled out the self steering cutters and the way the units stay on cut. He believed that the maker had listened to greenkeepers and produced what they want. All greens staff at High Post use the Greens King and all like it.

The Mark V has no clutter on the driver's platform and a walk through design, so that he can easily get on or off either side, furthermore operation is simple. Also cited was the fact that lift/lower is now a single switch



Lauchlan Millar and the Greens King V

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REAL WORLD TEST
GREENS MOWERS
 GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

operation and that fuses have been replaced by relays which are instantly re-settable, (not that they have ever come out).

The new design also has quick release attachment cutting units, and although the club does not interchange with verti-cutters – these still fit and are used on an older triple, it does remove the units for back-lapping.

Re-grinding and bottom blade replacement is carried out (off site) once a year, with back-lapping undertaken as necessary. This operation is undertaken on the bench using an independent electric back-lapper, but it was admitted that the units are heavy to hoist onto the bench. Lauchlan uses a blade of grass to check blade set, rather than the traditional piece of paper, believing that it gives a more accurate indication. The 11 blade reels give a cut which Lauchlan believes is actually superior to hand cutting.



Alresford Golf Club's Huxley Greenstar

A standard bottom blade is used and cutting is down to about 1/8 inch (3mm). However, because of the excellent effect of the groomers cut appears to be shorter and the greens faster. Groomers are kept just 1/16 in. higher than the reel and are used for every cut. The self-steering design of the cutting unit has eliminated scuffing even on the perimeter cut.

Another important point was made about the box, these are easy to lift off and replace, particularly the middle unit as this has an extended location pin – Lauchlan suggested this was typical of the thought which had gone into the design. Boxes fill completely

and cleanly. There was some damage to the boxes, which had occurred when the tether (lift check) wires broke – Jacobsen has now provided new, stronger and improved wires.

The machine has a short wheel-base and is very manoeuvrable, the rear wheel turning inside the track of the front wheels – ensuring it does not go over edge when turning close to bunkers or banks. The machine is front wheel drive only. The handbrake is effective, but must be set before the driver leaves the seat or the engine cuts out.

Another standard modification, made by BS Mowers of Bristol who supplied and support the machine, was to put a small bleed hole on the bearing housing of the reel spindle, this has ensured that any over greasing will leak away outside the frame and not onto the reel where it is spun out onto the grass.

The club has been extremely pleased with the service provided by BS who Lauchlan has found quicker to react and respond than most other would-be dealers.

On price, Lauchlan admitted that this was higher than some others, but he added, "you only get what you pay for," and he is happy that High Post have excellent value for money.

Huxley's Greenstar at Alresford Golf Club

New as Head Greenkeeper at the club, Darren Thatcher prefaced his remarks by saying that he was not responsible for purchasing the Greenstar, and admitted that he was not yet committed to all aspects of the machine. However, with Huxley's within walking distance from the club and enjoying an excellent relationship with it, the club would have difficulty making any other decision although they did look at other machines.

Darren admitted that Huxleys respond well and were an exceptional fount of knowledge. The club also have other Huxley

mowers including a 358 greens triple which is now used for less critical areas.

Darren said that the new Greenstar shows the many improvements made as a result of experience and dialogue with greenkeepers. The machine at Alresford is now just over a year old and was the development model so the club played an important part in its design. Since then it has been brought up to current specification.

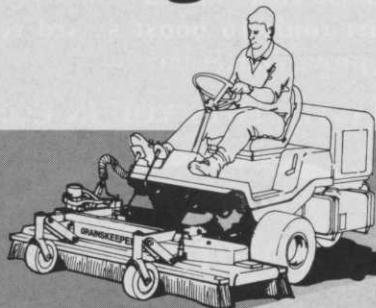
Darren was critical about the look of the machine with its pipework exposed to view, however, there have been no major problems, and only one leak, a coupling not being tightened up. Biodegradable oil is now used. Some greenkeepers like this exposed pipework as it allows leaks to be seen almost instantly. Darren said an advantage was that Huxley's did know the machine intimately which meant that even the smallest problem was sorted quickly and effectively. For instance, when a problem of grass build up on rear rollers in damp conditions was reported, wire scrapers were fitted to effect an instant cure.

The machine has all wheel drive and this does mean that it will go anywhere, no matter how steep. It is also very manoeuvrable which is ideal for a tight course, and in fact perhaps too manoeuvrable because this can induce wear at the edges of the green – noticeable in winter. Alresford's greenkeepers, knowing this, have learnt to drive with consideration. This is probably no different from other similar machines, nevertheless Darren is planning to hand mow the greens next winter.

Power is provided by a Perkins 3 cylinder engine, which operates at about two thirds of its peak output, ie in the range of maximum torque, and this makes it not just economical, but also very quiet. Darren commented that neither ear defenders nor plugs are needed and that this quietness was a bonus which would be useful for courses close to built-up areas or around hotels.

Cutting units are quickly detachable without any need for spanners, they are also self steering and eleven bladed. The

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Nick Tyley on the Ransomes Greensplex 160D at Bristol's Stockwood Vale

groomer is used at all times. Cut quality and setting is examined regularly with back lapping only carried out as required.

It is easy to remove and empty the boxes, however, Darren did not consider that the cylinders threw the grass in far enough if wet, thus boxes have to be emptied regularly.

Criticism was made about the hand brake and although there was a light to show when it is set, it was still possible to drive away with it on. Nevertheless the machine has not run away without a driver.

The expectation is that the machine will be replaced in about three years time when it will be down graded. Verti-cutting is not carried out however greens are scarified to clear thatch.

Ransomes Greensplex 160D at Stockwood Vale - Bristol

Stockwood Vale is an 18 hole membership plus public pay and play course with a driving range just outside Bristol. Nine of the holes are recent additions and the GP160D was bought in May to add to the course's other mowers of which a Ransomes GT remains the main greens machine. In making the decision Head Greenkeeper Nick Tyley explained that the swinging factor was the fact that Ransomes' local dealer, TH White, is not far away, is a known factor and has been extremely effective and supportive in the past. Nick added that the facility had another Ransomes mower - a rotary - which had proved less than reliable and in supporting this both Whites and Ransomes had been "first rate". Nick said that "of course the proof of their ability to support the Ransomes machines will be in three or four years time - when the machine gets into the wear stage". But it obvious he has no qualms over this.

Nick said that the GP160D had proved itself totally reliable and while it has a few failings, these

were few, and perhaps the most serious, from a user's point of view is that the seat could be improved, and like most other ride-ons - not just Ransomes - there was very little storage space and a very small toolbox. Certainly there was no place to store waterproofs, or the sundry other items which the greenkeeper needs and likes to carry. Nor was there storage for rake or switch.

The Stockwood Vale machine was supplied without groomers or verti-cut units, verti-cutting being carried out with pedestrian machines - usually monthly. Nick said that the original budget did not allow for more than bare essentials.

Adjustment of cut height is quick and easy, this is a bonus because two cut heights are used on the two different halves of the course. Setting the cylinder is more difficult, and compares badly against the GT as it is set on four studs. Fortunately adjustment is an infrequent requirement. Back-lapping is carried out as required, normally less than weekly unless greens have been topdressed. Back-lapping is carried out by reversing the units' drive motors. Cylinder sharpening and bottom blade replacement is not expected to be needed more than annually.

The foot controls were exemplary. Nick said he couldn't knock the cut quality the machine produces either. Boxes were easy to attach and filled completely without any problem, and they were equally easy to remove to empty, with a single hand hole so he gave this aspect "top marks".

Another plus for the machine was its ability to steer straight, a fact which was mentioned more than once - it was suggested this was because the steering had a lower gearing ratio.

Yet another plus factor was the built-in lights which Nick considers will prove invaluable for going out in early mornings in autumn, certainly he feels that

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Phil James and colleague on the John Deere 2243 at Whitehill GC



Steve Putt on the Toro Greensmaster 3200D at Witney Lakes GC



this gives him more flexibility.

In terms of maintenance this has proved to be easy, and the ability to see and get to parts is a bonus. Nick cited the fact that the belts to the roller brushes are visible so that it is obvious when they need retightening or replacing. Grease points are easy to reach.

Since supply, Whites had fitted, free, a modification to the centre unit to make it quickly detachable so that it can be removed out under the side, without undoing the lift arms.

The machine is heavier than some others, including the GT, however as a disadvantage this is negated by the larger tyres and the fact that it is a well built machine designed to withstand heavy use.

The machine is only driven by the two front wheels, however Nick said with its weight distribution there is no tendency for slip and it goes up anywhere, and as the course has some quite steep slopes this is an excellent recommendation.

Overall Nick said he is extremely pleased with the machine, and next year it will become the No. 1 machine on the course.

John Deere 2243 at Whitehill Golf Club - Lydford, Somerset

This four year old private 18 hole course just off the Fosse Way in Somerset had a very limited budget and so when the decision was made to replace the elderly greens triple the original intention was to look for another good second hand machine. However Phil James, Head Greenkeeper, said they were unable to locate a machine which matched their requirements for price and condition. As a result they bought a new JD 2243 from Rochford Garden Machinery who were new JD dealers and had the machine, which is petrol engined, at the

right price (JD had just released the diesel model). Since new two years ago it has cut all the greens and not given any trouble. A recent oil leak due to a worn oil seal was sorted within a day by Rochfords and Phil said, "you can't get better than this".

Reel resharpening and bottom blade replacement are standard winter service items while during the season back lapping is practised as often as necessary to keep the edge, usually weekly.

One of the manufacturer's claims for the machine is that the offset cutting units allow the perimeter cuts to be made in alternate directions to avoid getting tracking. Phil commented that this noticeably works, and he has seen the difference between the JD and another machine of his experience where a perimeter track was noticeable.

Operation is simple with the boxes easy to put on and take off. Driving has proved easy and maintenance is simple. No groomers or verti-cutting units were bought, the latter operation being carried out by the club's pedestrian mowers.

Although the 2243 is only front wheel driven and petrol driven, Whitehill has found it has plenty of traction and power for this course which is mainly flat.

Phil said that he would certainly consider replacing the JD with another, but next time would prefer a diesel engined model while he would consider having groomers as a bonus.

Toro Greensmaster 3200D at Witney Lakes Golf Centre in Oxfordshire

Bought in November 1996 to replace a very elderly GM3 which was beginning to become demanding on replacement parts, the Witney 3200D is an ex-demo machine which was priced right by Handy Garden

Machinery of Swindon. Steve Putt, Head Greenkeeper, of this five year old 18 hole and range facility, said that Handy had proved their and Toro's ability to support the previous machine and this weighed heavily in favour of Toro for the replacement. Steve had considered another machine but although the franchised dealer was a known quantity, the machine itself was not. The ex-demo price made the Toro equal in price, and probably better in value.

The machine was bought without verti-cutters or groomers, but Toro's thatching reels, which Steve said, have the effect of verti-cutters have been ordered. These will also fit the older GM3 and Steve expected to use them mostly on that machine in future. The units are quick and easy to change. The centre pull design is seen as better and has reduced damage around the perimeter, however there is still some wear evident.

He too believes that the cut quality is better than hand mowing.

In the early stages of the course the greens were hand cut, however, this proved to expensive on time, so the GM3 was bought second hand to allow all greens to be cut within three hours by just one man. A leaking hydraulic line, which could not be seen by the operator, dropped a fine trail of oil on nine greens and this pressured the centre into investing in the new machine.

The ability for the operator to see most of the "plumbing" was cited by Steve as a plus for the Toro design - the GM3 leak was under a footboard. To date there have been no leaks or other major problem, although at the time of writing a failed exhaust bracket means that the exhaust is discharging onto the ground, and raising dust when on the tracks or around the compound perhaps more cosmetic than real as a problem.

While the GM3 was petrol engined the 3200 is Diesel, and very significantly less thirsty, a tank full of fuel allowing the machine to cut all the greens at least twice. Greens have been double cut for matches. The

engine is considered "quiet" nevertheless ear defenders are worn, but the one way in which the 3200D far outshone the GM3 was that it has hydrostatic steering which made manoeuvring very much easier. Steve added that there were other ways in which the new machine had taken some getting used to, mostly adapting to instincts such as having a foot speed control and hand lift/lower lever. These comments were not intended as criticism, just comment on adapting from older technologies.

Green speed was good, while the ability to control forward speed on the green was brilliant, but just reflects the advantage of hydrostatic transmission.

Maintenance is simple, although Steve commented that the engine filters are not quite as easy to change as he would have liked. Overall he thought it was a sturdy machine which was not likely to give trouble, although when questioned he admitted that there had been a few minor niggles, such as the throttle adjuster which worked loose - perhaps just a worn nylon nut, which could easily be righted.

Safety on the machine is excellent, and Steve liked the safety features although this did mean that the greenkeepers trick of grabbing the flag before cutting over the hole without getting off the seat did not work.

Damp grass could build up in the box and require more frequent emptying, but overall there was no complaint over this.

Back lapping is carried out manually using a hand brace, possibly with the advantage that no more metal is cut than is necessary.

Greens are topdressed monthly and cutting units are normally back lapped a few days later.

Height of cut adjustment is easy and effective, and is normally between 4.5 and 6mm. Most of the maintenance is carried out in-house, and because the owner has another business with resident mechanic only the more complex and technical repairs will go back to Handy's.



BIGGA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 1997

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The 18th green after a hour of rain which would have got Noah a little twitchy and searching through his tool box

The preview for the National Tournament in association with Miracle Professional carried the phrase "Up Periscope". It was based on the fact that much of Cooden Beach Golf Club is below sea level. On the afternoon of the what should have been the final round of the 54 hole tournament a periscope was exactly what Head Greenkeeper, Stefan Antolik, needed as he sped off on a three wheeler to consider the future playability of the back nine after the thunder plump to end all thunder plumps.

As it was, just as he disappeared down the 18th fairway the rain started again and even the option of a 45 hole event disappeared.

Indeed the only way any golf could have been played on the Wednesday afternoon was if the Man from Atlantis, Captain Nemo and Jacques Cousteau had all doned waterproofs and teed it up.

A total of 51 millimetres of rain fell between 11.45am and 3.30pm which added to the 15 millimetres which fell after the first round give added credence to the views of Stefan in June's preview that he wouldn't mind the then drought continuing.

The golf itself was of a remarkable standard. Before the first round the Club Secretary, Terry Hawes, expressed his reservations about the ability of any of the competitors to get near par.

After two holes Steve Sullivan

WINNING in the rain

may have been forgiven for agreeing with him. He included a fresh air shot in an attempt to dislodge the ball from an awkward spot behind the green on his way to an 8. Channelled his anger in the most positive way possible the 3 handicapper from Craigie Hill GC in Perth retorted by birdieing the next three holes.

Gordon Child, BIGGA's Vice Chairman, and a fine golfer in his own right (although not this particular week), was the man marking Steve's card. Gordon's view was that the round was made on the back nine, playing at its toughest, when Steve produced a string of fine pars. The gross 73

was the round of the week and drew admiration from the Secretary, particularly as it contained that unwelcomed snowman.

Mike Hughes was not far behind after a 75 but the defending Champion, John Berry, struggled in the first round and his name did not appear among the prize winners at the end of the week.

Before the rains came in the evening - there was a three hour thunder storm - drinks were enjoyed on the veranda of the Cooden Beach Hotel during the traditional Monday night barbecue. The evening was spiced up by the appearance of magician,

Mark Wild, who kept everyone amused and by the end of the evening was a veritable Pied Piper to the children.

A familiar figure walking the beach on the morning of the second day was Roger Willars, former Midland Regional Administrator. Roger has shot a fine opening round and was either seeking inspiration from the English Channel or harking back to his days in the Home Guard. Only kidding, Roger.

Steve Sullivan, unhappy with his driving, shot a 78 in the second round, again with an 8 on his card. The gross prize for the day went to Richard Barker, who later



Report
and pictures
by SCOTT
MacCALLUM



saw his blazer used as a prop by comedian Barry (Harvest) Moon in the excellent post Tournament Dinner cabaret. I'm sure a darned needle will repair the damage.

The final day wash out left Steve Sullivan high, if not dry, as champion over the curtailed 36 hole distance.

It was perhaps fitting that he took the honours as he had featured in Greenkeeper International last year by saying that his favourite holiday destination was "Wherever the venue is for the National Tournament".

It was the fifth successive year that Steve his wife and, appren-

tice photographer son, Kevin, had visited the National Tournament but by far his biggest haul of prizes. He became the proud winner of four trophies, a framed picture of Cooden Beach GC donated by Stefan Antolik, a watch and a television set.

In fact the presentation resembled an episode of The Sullivans complete with repeats.

One man who had more time on his hands than he perhaps wanted on the final day was David Luxford, of Sisis, who had travelled down to present the SISIS Trophy for the best nett score on the final day. Alas no takers!

Pictures, this page, clockwise from top: Quite a haul for winner Steve Sullivan • Johnny Beck, of Miracle Professional, about to break into 'Singin' in the Rain' • Stefan Antolik arrives at the halfway house during the second round • The lavish prize table from which the National Tournament in association with Miracle Professional has become known • Richard Minton presents Stefan Antolik with a tankard in recognition of the excellent work he and his team did to prepare the course



BIGGA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 1997
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→ The presentation also had one final drama. Richard Minton, of Miracle Professional, was deputising for Roger Mossop who was unable to attend due to business pressures. It was Richard's big moment – his one chance to get himself onto the cover of the magazine. Having geared up and beautified himself in preparation the camera decided to pack up just as his big moment arrived. Fortunately a new battery solved the problem and Richard had his moment. I hope you think it was worth it!



Peter Richmond is presented with the Vitax Putting Trophy by Alan Stowe



Stefan Antolik presented Steve with a framed print of the scene of his triumph



David Luxford, of Sisis, with the forgotten trophy



Barry Moon – no dark side to him!



Mark Wild keeps the Chairman's grandson and son, Lee and Ian, transfixed

RESULTS

Tournament restricted to 36 holes due to rain on the final day.

Overall

Miracle Trophy (Best Nett) - Steve Sullivan
Hardi Trophy (Best Gross) - Steve Sullivan

36 Hole

David Royale Trophy (Best Nett - 1-14) - Steve Sullivan - 145
Patisson Trophy (Best Nett - 15-28) - Paul Neve - 153

Toro Trophy (Best Gross) - Steve Sullivan - 151; 2. Mike Hughes - 152
2. (Nett - 1-14) Peter Holtham - 148
2. (Nett - 15-28) Roger Willars - 145
Best Nett (55 and over) - Peter Biscoe 152

Jubilee Cup (Section Team) - Midland

Daily Prizes

Day 1
Fisons Trophy (Best Nett) Steve Sullivan - 73 - (3) - 70
Best Gross - Mike Hughes - 75
2. Nett - Roger Glazier - 83 - 9 - 74
3. Nett - David Roy - 88-13-75

Nearest the Pin
Maurice Hume

Day 2
Standard Golf Trophy (Best Nett) Alan Roberts - 81 - 11 - 70
Best Gross - Richard Barker - 77
2. Nett - Peter Hotham - 81-10 - 71
3. Nett - Steve Wood - 85 - 12 - 73

Longest Drive
1st. Thorbjorn Raun.
18th Richard Pride.

Nearest the Pin
Thorbjorn Raun.

Vitax Putting Competition
1. Peter Richmond 32;
2. Neil Woolfry 34; 3. Robert Pearce 34.

ROUGH

Where is thy sting?

by Ian Dair

I think greenkeepers do a fine job. I have to think so for two reasons. I'm a great golfer (great in the sense of frequent) and there's nothing like playing on a course that's obviously well cared for. And I have a son who is a greenkeeper so I have to watch what I say. But, but – I can hear the readers of *Greenkeeper International* drawing in breath – wait for it? Here's another golf club member who knows nothing about the science of agronomy or the art of keeping 100 plus acres playable in all weathers, about to sound off with some ignorant opinions. Now, give me a chance, lads and lassies, I'm on your side. But, but – again, I can imagine you greenkeepers raising your mattsacks in a defensive/aggressive stance. Yes, I know, any complaints should go to the Chairman of Green and it's bound to be the fault of the interfering busybodies who call themselves the Greens Committee and they're only on that because they're retired and don't have a garden so they need to exercise power over something, or they've noted that the Club Captain often comes from their ranks.

I have to agree. I don't know my agronomy. However, I like to think I know my golf. It used to be a difficult game. You had to hit the ball straight because there were those areas to the right and left of the fairway called "rough". If you were lucky enough to find your ball in the grass/bushes/heather or anything else that grew naturally beyond the manicured fairway, you had to hack it out with something with a heavy iron head and a lot of loft. Golfers with a tendency to slice or to hook i.e. 99% of any club's membership, would spend many happy hours exploring the rough, increasing their affinity with nature or pondering on the mysteries of philosophy or plate tectonics. Or, if they had a good score going, praying that the next sweep of the long grass would uncover that shiny ball with a name and number roughly corresponding to what they'd hit off the tee.

It's different now. I don't mean that club golfers, with the new drivers that always go straight and the new balls that never veer off line, have become so good that the rough doesn't come into play. If anything, the wonderful new equipment enables the average player to hit it even further into the rough. But who cares any more? The ball makers should be worrying. Nobody loses a ball in the rough. Smack it in there and you can see it, sitting up, giving a juicy lie, better than the dry fairway, reach for the three wood, crash it towards the green and if it's still in the rough you'll get your wedge under it nicely and pop it on.

I know, I know. The rough needs rain and there's been little of that. And everyone hates slow play so the orders go out – cut the rough if it dares to grow more than the height of a ball. After all, say the Greens Committee, it's the same for everyone. No, it isn't. The absence of real rough changes the game. If you can hit the ball anywhere it takes away the strategy if you don't have to think before you strike. No rough to speak of brings everyone down to the same level in a game where straight used to be good and crooked meant, possibly, several lost balls and, certainly, a higher score. When did anyone last play a recovery shot from the rough?

Who am I going to blame? We'll leave the weather gods out of it since they don't read this magazine. I don't know if Greens Chairmen do – they should. You greenkeepers can slip a copy under the Committee room door. And you can do your bit by suggesting to the powers that be that proper rough is a good thing. It is more natural and is a home for wildlife. It must be cheaper to let the rough grow instead of whizzing round on the mower whenever a few green shoots appear. It puts back into the game the need for judgment and, when even the good golfer nods, the well thought out recovery shot. All reasons for welcoming the rough back into golf.

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NEW PRODUCTS

■ Yorkshire based Course Care has launched Course Wear a range of stylish yet rugged workwear featuring the Tuckaway Rain Suit – a lightweight, ripstop, pu backed nylon rain suit which comes in its own drawcord stuff bag designed to “tuck away” in any machine ready for the operator to combat sudden downpours.

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For further information Tel: 01535 611103.

■ Shropshire-based Links Leisure, has redesigned its golf practice net to include a one-piece net which, it claims, simplifies both installation and replacement.

Originally designed to allow golf clubs to make maximum use of the space available for practicing facilities, the Pro-Tee nets can be constructed in single or multiple ways.

Extremely robust and requiring little or no maintenance, the nets measure 3.5 by 3.5 metres in single bay multiples and each bay consists of a rust-resistant frame – either galvanised or coated in green plastic – and a cage net, plus a long-life baffle net.

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■ Following the successful launch of the Hosecomatic kit earlier this year with over 1 000 sold. Spalding have introduced a new Hosecomatic kit containing BSP fittings. Developed in close cooperation with their customers, the kit, say Spaldings contains 1/2 inch and 3/8 inch BSP fittings in both male and female hoses ends, 90 degree elbows and unique hose menders to fit both 3/8 and 1/2 bore pipe sizes.

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it to the workshop for repair. No electric or hydraulic power is required making the kit totally portable. The kit is supplied with all the components required.

A full range of replacement fittings are available, say Spaldings, including JIC fittings and adapters from BSP to JIC.

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■ Two-stroke engine technology is constantly under development by Stihl, the international power tool company. The latest tool to benefit from the Stihl design team's attention is a new blower/vacuum unit – the STIHL BG75

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For further information Tel: 0800 137574.

■ The Maestro Model 778S drinking fountain has an attractive “high-tech” appearance. Made of gleaming stainless steel the Model 778S features a sculptured bowl on a slim pedestal.

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■ Over recent years many of the products that have been taken for granted by the modern turfgrass manager have become unavailable due to changes in

health and safety, and environmental legislation. In view of this it is logical that that alternate and effective products designed to ensure turfgrass health and quality would be developed.

For the past 25 years research has taken place in Germany into the development of substances known as membrane effectors which act on the membranes of micro-organisms, including those in the soil, and can stimulate or inhibit microbial activity. Most of this research has taken place in agriculture and horticulture however it has now been applied to fine turfgrass with impressive results.

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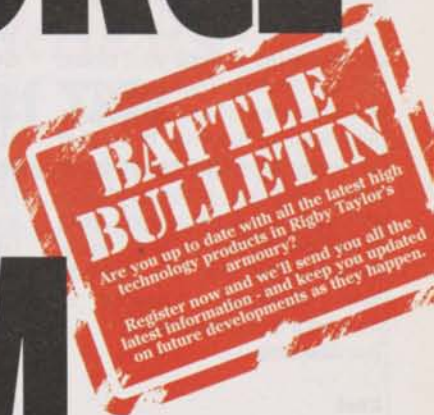
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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small
Tel: 01259 731445

North

Just the one new member to report this month, my newly-qualified Assistant Paul Rooney rejoins after one year's absence, welcome back.

We wish Stewart Hogg, of Fortrose, all the best as the Section nominee for the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award. Anyone who has played Fortrose will know what a great job he does there and is a worthy representative for the Section. The Spring outing is there next year.

Good luck to the Scottish Team in this month's Hayter Challenge, we hope you bring back the trophy.

The Section was represented by four members in the Greenkeeping Support Team at Royal Troon for the Open this year, Sam Morrison, Royal Aberdeen; Paul Murphy, Downfield; Caroline Ross, Royal Dornoch, and myself. Everything ran smoothly due to the superb organisation of John Pemberton and all. I was on bus driving duty this year and apologise to anyone who hasn't recovered from one of my journeys. Thankfully I finally missed that kerb at the traffic lights in Troon on the Sunday.

I do not know how I did it but my ugly mug is in the *Golf Monthly* Open profile again this year, between Justin Leonard and Tom Kite. Signed copies may become available soon!

Finally I hope you all are remembering to book your tickets for the Section Dinner/Disco at the Cloverleaf Hotel, Bucksburn, Aberdeen on Saturday November 22 price just £12.50 per person with overnight accommodation just £38 for a twin room with breakfast. With the event on a Saturday this year you could do your Christmas shopping in Aberdeen at the same time.

Iain Macleod

East

Welcome to this month's article. I hope this great weather is pleasing you all. Since last month we have had our summer tourna-



ment at Harburn GC. Our thanks to the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course and the facilities. Our thanks to the clubhouse staff for the excellent meals and refreshments and to Scott Ramsey and his staff for the excellent condition of the course, as was the weather on the day. We greenkeepers can arrange most things given time! Also, a big thank you to everyone else who helped during the day.

A special thank you must go to Craig Pennycuik who did the cards regardless of his broken leg – any excuse to sit in the bar all day and drink vast amounts of alcohol and then be driven home! We hope the leg gets better soon Craig. The Tournament this year was a Texas Scramble with teams of three which everyone enjoyed so we will continue this next year. It was good to see some new faces as well as the old diehards. Well done to one of our senior members, George Stavert who was part of the winning team playing with a couple of the Section's big hitters. George doesn't hit it very far these days (sometimes I think he is hitting his putter first!) but it is always straight down the middle of the fairway. Well done again George, see you soon!

The results were:- 1. T. Murray, I Thompson, G. Stavert, 61.6; 2. S. Ramsay, I. Henderson, A. McCleish, 61.6; 3. S. Dixon, C. Irvine, T. Wilson (Captain of Harburn GC), 61.7.

Next on the East Section calendar in September is the Willie Wood's Trophy at Kingsknowe GC. We hope to see a good turnout this year, so speak to your club committee and invite them along to what is a great day out. Entry forms will be out soon so fill them in and return them as soon as possible. No entries will be accepted after the closing date. The Autumn outing is on September 25 at Swanston GC. We hope to see a good turnout for the final major of the season, as it is also the first Hayter Qualifier so see you up there! We are in the process of finalising some winter lectures so hopefully I can notify you of these in the very near future.

I have been asked to mention that some people have been contacted by a company who are selling trees ie pines. They have been told they are from a cancelled order. People have gone ahead and bought these trees and have had a lot of problems with them dying off etc. If you are approached by anyone selling trees in this way think before you buy as it is you who has to answer to your club if problems arise after paying out valuable budget money for these trees.

Sadly one of our older members from the days of SIGGA has passed away in mid-July. Charlie Newlands, a past Chairman of the Association (SIGGA) was also a founder member of the Association of which he was very proud. Charlie was a true character. He could tell more jokes than Frank Carson and it was always great to sit in his company at a golf outing. He was Head Greenkeeper at Newbattle GC for almost 27 years before retirement. He is survived by his wife Janet and two daughters and a son and grandchildren. He will be sadly missed. Our thoughts go out to them all.

Any member who has not received a fixture card – kindly donated by Souter of Stirling (Sportsturf) Limited – please contact Steve Dixon, Secretary, on 0131 443 0235 and he will send you one out.

If anyone has any suggestions on courses for outings next year or an offer of your course then please drop me a line with any information you can give us. It would be much appreciated.

The membership at the time of writing has dropped dramatically in the Section from 170+ to 140+. We would like to know why as we wish to Section to get bigger and not smaller. If you know the reason behind this fall please drop me a line or ring any of the committee members whose numbers are on the back of the fixture card. Even if you know of anyone that has not rejoined speak to them and try and get them to reconsider. Explain the benefits of joining BIGGA – remember, your Section needs you!

We have arranged an 11-a-side

football match against Provan Chemicals on Wednesday September 3 at Meadowmill Sports Centre so I will be calling people who wish to play in the match as we will need to win this one as they beat us last year in Bathgate. We want revenge this time!

Well that's it for this month and as I say every month if you want to drop me a line at 74 Muirfield Drive, Gullane, East Lothian EH31 2HJ or call me on 0131 445 7165 (work) or 01620 842037 (home) feel free as I would like to hear from you as I don't get much feedback from the membership of the Section. If you are reading this but a member of another Section I would be pleased to hear from you about anything that may interest the member of BIGGA.

So I would like to hear from you with any suggestions, useful information or offers of money etc. Winging is not accepted, take it out on the ball!

PS – it was good to see our old Secretary, Robert Hogarth, as part of the Open Championship Greenkeeping Support Team at Royal Troon taking a well earned rest on the grass outside the Portakabin. I take it it was raking all these bunkers and not the late nights/early mornings that forced him to have 40 winks in the shade. However the weather was very hot that week so the need to consume various amounts of liquids may have had something to do with it!

Chris Yeaman

West

Firstly, thank you to all those members who have phoned to give information about special events or things which have happened over the season. Although summer isn't quite over it just feels as if it is – what summer there was that is! One consolation has been the good growth weather but the stuff just hasn't stopped jumping!

The Autumn outing is just around the corner so make sure to submit your entries. This, and the Spring outing, go towards qualifying for the Hayter Tournament next year. Hilton Park is bound to be a good venue, tight,

well groomed, windy and I'm sure in splendid condition. We will look forward to the experience.

An evening out will be arranged for September/October and notification to all members should have been received, please make the effort to attend. The Section needs as much support as possible and we look forward to seeing a few different faces.

The Loch Lomond Support Team was a big success with some 17 members from all over Scotland helping out and working well along with the staff. Ronnie Bunting is to be thanked for his help in the organisation and he has stated those interested for next year should contact him as soon as possible.

Ronnie and Robert Hogarth will be running a moderation meeting in the Autumn for those D32/D33 assessors to try and iron out any problems.

Once again, if you have any interesting facts or information then please contact me on 0141 942 5554. Last but not least the Cathkin Brass position has been filled by Douglas MacIntosh, Bothwell Castle. We wish him well in his new position.
Stuart Taylor

Central

Unfortunately the proposed visit to Parkhead Stadium, originally planned for August 8, had to be postponed due to the lack of confirmation in writing from the Celtic Facilities Manager. At the moment the reasons are unclear but I have asked if they can accommodate us later in the season so I will keep you informed as to when the visit can take place.

The arrangements for the visit to Stewart's Turf Farm at Kinnesswood are that we will meet at the Lomond Country Inn, Kinnesswood between 12.30pm and 1pm for a light lunch and then proceed to the farm. In order to finalise catering arrangements would you please return your forms to me by Friday September 26.

I received a call the other week from former Section member, David Murdoch. David was employed at Dunfermline GC for a number of years before moving down south. He is now Course Manager at Liphook GC in Hampshire and from all accounts he is thoroughly enjoying himself

there. If you know any former Section members who have moved down south or abroad for that matter, ask them to get in touch and we will let their friends know how they are getting on.

We extend a warm welcome to the Section to Dudley Aitchison, from Scoonie GC, in Leven, and look forward to meeting him at some of our future events. We are now down to averaging one new member per month which will leave us well short of our target for '97 - we were hoping for a total Section membership of 250! So come on, let's try and achieve it - at the latest count we are still needing another 25.

So far I have not heard any stories concerning the fishing on Loch Leven so I don't know if those who took part are very modest or if they failed to catch anything! I hope a certain A. O'Hara was not taking part or we will never hear the end of it, even if he catches the smallest tiddler or on the other hand it would give me something to write about!

I am still searching for courses to host our various tournaments in 1998 so if you fancy holding one PLEASE get in touch with me.

Former Section Secretary and Chairman, Elliott Small, is retiring as Regional Administrator for Scotland next month and on behalf of the members I would like to thank him and Edna for all the hard work they have put into the running of the Region over the past seven years.

The next main event is the Section AGM which will be held at Kinross GC on Wednesday October 15, details of which should be with you all by now so if you have any grievances with the way the Section is being run now is the chance to have your say. Hopefully we will have more than the faithful dozen at this year's meeting.

John Crawford

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750539

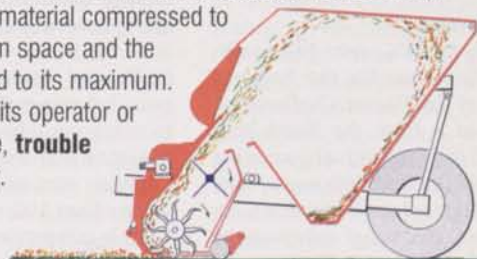
Cleveland

We wish David Boocock, STRI Senior Agronomist our best wishes for his impending retirement due in October. He has been of enormous help to many Head Greenkeepers and his advice has

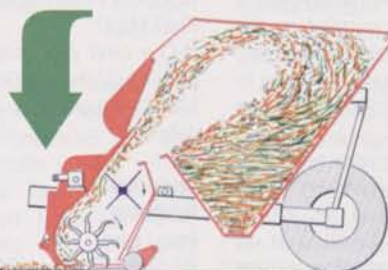
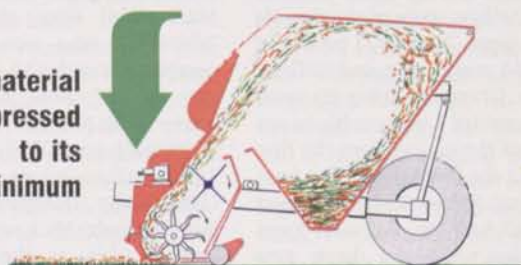


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Around the Green



seen courses improve over time. David thank you, and we all wish you well.

Now is the time for greenkeeper students to book in at college.

Bruce Burnell

North West

Maften Hall GC, near Newcastle, was the venue for the Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge. A team of 9 from the North-West played their individual games but we only finished with one winner to go forward to the final at Ganton. Paul Pearse not only won the Scratch to 9 Section but came in with the best score of the day. He shot a gross 72, nett 71 on what I am told was a long and difficult course. Of course, doing my usual job as starter, I was unable to see more of the course than the first tee and the first fairway but I am told that Jimmy Richardson and his staff had the course in great condition. We did have two reserves, Sean Moon and Andrew Bennett both got pipped at the post for third place in their categories and will have to wait to see if anybody drops out before September.

I have not long returned from The Open at Troon and we had a good representation of greenkeepers from the North West on the Support Team. The course was in great condition and listening to some of the comments from the players it was tough going especially when the wind came up on the Wednesday. I am now packing ready to go to the National Tournament at Cooden Beach GC, Bexhill-on-Sea. Three members from the North-West will be playing – myself, John Berry and Neil Woolfrey so at least we will be able to take part in the team prize. While I am away the North West will be playing their annual tournament against the Golf Club Stewards at Saddleworth GC so I hope I can report in the next Section news that a win was recorded. Anybody with any news, views or queries please contact me on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Sheffield

On July 7 we held our annual Tournament at Silkstone GC. Our thanks go to Silkstone for giving us the courtesy of the course. Silkstone was in excellent condi-

tion and our thanks go to Mick Crossland and staff for all the hard work they have done on the course. Thanks also to the steward and his staff for providing an excellent meal which was enjoyed by everyone. Our thanks also go to Brian Booth from Rigby Taylors for sponsoring the competition and to Steve Burroughs, Les Purdy and Peter Fell who also provided prizes. Congratulations to everyone who won prizes at Silkstone and well done to Mark Knowles who with an excellent score of net 102 won the overall 27 hole competition and also won the 9 hole competition, well done Mark. Well done also to Ian Whitehead who won the gross competition with 119. The results for the 27 hole competition were:- 1. M. Knowles, net 102; 2. D. Neve(!), net 109; 3. P. Hill, net 109. Congratulations go to Mick Coltas who qualified for the Hayter Finals. Mick won the Second Division at the Northern Regional Final – good luck in the final Mick!

Our next golf competition will be at Sickleholme GC on September 22 at 1.30 pm.

John Lax

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East of England

Last of the individual competitions took place at Boston GC. The course was in excellent condition and thanks go to Bruce Hicks and his staff for the day. The greens stood up really well considering the torrential rain we all had to play in. Some members called it a day after nine holes but Richard Owen, Boston West GC, came through the storm to take home the Lambs Cup with 35 points. Second was Graeme Macdonald, Newark GC, with 33 points and last year's winner Barry Anderson, Toft GC, was third with 27 points. The guest prize went to Peter Pearson with 36 points. Peter is Boston's Greens Chairman and gave our members a warm welcome at the dinner.

As usual our sponsors looked after us again and everybody who played received a prize. The sponsors were Lambs Mowers, Fieldcare, Colliers, Amenity Technology, Rigby Taylors, Purdys, Chandlers and Roy Harrison.



The conclusion to the Order of Merit came to a head and saw Graeme Macdonald, Newark GC, win the second Order of Merit BIGGA Blazer with an overall score of 22 points, followed by Richard Owen, Boston West, on 16 points.

New appointments this month – Kevin Hodges takes on the Head Greenkeeper's post at Ryston Park.

If anyone has any news or information to pass on then simply pick up the telephone (01733 260297 or 01636 626564) or drop me a line at Newark GC.

That's all this month!
Graeme Macdonald

B B & O

The second golfing event of the season proved to be successful – phew! The Course proved to be the winner again with only two people breaking par out of a field of 36. I am sure you will all agree this was partly due to the testing pin positions set by Dean. I can provide his phone number if you want to pass on any comments personally!

The day was a success thanks to our sponsor Rolawn providing some excellent prizes, I wonder what Steve has done with the telly? Andy Church, from Rolawn, deserves a big thank you for his contribution. Andy had a bit of a dilemma as he was leading in the clubhouse with only two groups out on the course. The whispers around the bar were that he was going to take the prizes home with him, thankfully Steve Putt saved his blushes by romping in with a splendid 40 pts! I am sure everybody that is reading this article will think that name seems familiar and so it should because Steve actually won the Spring Tournament as well. I have already had Colin Vernon, Handicap Secretary, on the phone to say that Steve's new handicap is +2 so as to give everybody a chance! The results were:- 1. Steve Putt, 40 pts; 2. Trevor Hookham, 35 pts; 3. Ray Clark, 35 pts; Longest Drive – Brett Moggridge; Nearest the Pin – Ross Edmonds; Wooden Smith – Richard Haynes.

Thanks to Jon Connel, the new Director of Badgemore, for giving us the courtesy of the course and also thanks to all the staff at the club for looking after us on the day, the food was excellent.

Thanks to my staff for all their hard work prior to the day, it was much appreciated.

The Rigby Taylor matches are underway so I will inform you of the results as and when they come through.

The next golfing day is at Lambourne in October – see you all there.

Lindsay Anderson

Midland

On July 7 the Summer Tournament was held at the Worcester G and CC on a very hot and humid day. The winners were as follows:- 1. T. Cheese, nett 70 (gross 72!); 2. P. Holtham, 70; 3. M. Hughes, 70; 4. M. Bryan, 71; 5. M. Cutler, 71; 6. A. Roberts, 71; 7. E. Stant, 72; 8. J. Wood, 72; 9. R. Hunter, 72. The Trade Prize was won by Nigel Tyler of County Crops. The Longest Drive was won by Richard Minton and Nearest the Pin by Mark Cutler.

We would like to thank our main sponsors for the day who were ARC and Bathgates. I would also like to thank Worcester GC for hosting the Tournament and to all of you who took part under very demanding conditions.

The annual match against the Mid Anglian Section is to take place on August 12 at Harpendon GC, best of luck to those taking part.

I will ask again to any members who have any information or news that could go into this report to please contact me.

Finally, I would like to introduce our new members to the Section, they are as follows – Charles Paul Duffy, Mark Black and Jon Philip Jinks.

Jonathan Wood

East Midlands

Firstly I would like to thank the following members Richard Barker, Dave Leatherland and Steven Heap for taking part in the BIGGA Support Team for this years Open at Royal Troon.

A reminder to all entrants of the singles knockout that your matches must be played by the closing date, September 30 for the Final.

This year's AGM will be held at Greatham Valley GC on November 5 at approximately 4.30pm. The Christmas Tournament on December 17.

At the BIGGA National Tournament the Section was represented

by Richard Barker, Ian Needham and Roger Willars. More information on results will appear in next month's article.

Finally if anybody has any information that they would like to see in this column then please give me a ring.
Antony Bindley

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

London

Our summer tournament was held at Bush Hill Park GC in July. The course was in excellent condition and I would like to thank the Course Manager, Tony Taylor, and his staff for all their efforts.

I would also like to thank the Secretary, Peter Allan and the Club Captain, David Turner for their hospitality and for the use of the club facilities. I would also like to thank all the trade for your valuable support and in particular the following companies - Kings for providing the nearest the pin prizes, Parker Hart for paying for the postage and sundries and Johnny Beck from Miracle for providing the refreshments.

The results for the day were as follows:- 1. Neil Pereira, 40 pts; 2. Simon Ringrose, 37 pts; 3. Roger Mace, 36 pts; Guest - Richard Lewis, 38 pts; Longest Drive - Roger Mace.

Finally, I would like to remind all members that a jacket and tie must be worn for the presentation and meal. Jackets can only be removed during dinner with the approval of the Club Captain.
Tony Dunstan

Surrey

The McMillan Tankard was held on Thursday July 31 on the New Course at Sunningdale. 45 members turned up to play, which for me as Secretary is very gratifying. Thank you fellas, it does make life worthwhile!

Brian Turner and his team turned the course out in the usual superb Sunningdale condition and he even got the weather to behave so we owe a vote of thanks to the management for a great day. The Artisan Section allowed us to use their Clubhouse again where we were looked after by Bob Reynolds and his assistant and our thanks go out to them. The buffet was prepared by Mrs Kirkham ably assisted by our

Chairman and her husband Mike. The food was great and there was plenty of it!

Jack McMillan gave a short speech and Rita presented the prizes. I again forgot the raffle tickets so the prizes went down to 6th place and were as follows:- 1. Mark Todd, Nizzels, 38 pts; 2. Jimmy Russell, Lingfield, 38 pts; 3. Nigel Colley, a newcomer to the Section now at Roehampton, 35 pts; 4. John Davidson, Gatton Manor, 35 pts; 5. Dave Langhiem, Foxhills, 35 pts; 6. Kevin Boxall, Liphook, 34 pts. The Trade Prize was won by Ian Sellars, for Gem Professional. Our thanks to the trade for the prizes they donated.

One more item of note, Billy eagled the par 5 6th hole. Well done Billy! I can give you his telephone number if you would like him to talk you through it! By the time this goes to print we will have played the Parker Salva at Effingham, I say this just to let you know that it is important to get your entries off early. As most of you know I am now retired but you can still reach me most evenings, that is unless I am swanning around the countryside.

Unless the Editor corrects them I expect Northants staff to let me know how many spelling mistakes I have made.
Ted Stiles

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

Devon and Cornwall

With the summer drawing to a close our thoughts turn to our Autumn and Winter meeting programme which start with the Rofeys meeting at Bowood GC on Wednesday October 8. The mornings golf start times for the D O Hunt Trophy will run between 8.30am and 10.22am with as usual the non-golfing course walk leaving the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Lunch will be from 1pm followed by the golf presentation and a short Company presentation by Rofeys, our sponsor for the day. Concluding the day, our educational talk will be presented by Cannington College on "Winter Golf".

When attending meetings and any BIGGA event please remember that you are representing

BIGGA and our profession. Please ensure you are smartly dressed with collar and tie for lunch and no jeans at all.

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

To reduce postage costs I will continue to send details of meetings to one member per club (Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper) plus those of you who have asked to be added to the mailing list last year. If you don't receive details and would like to please let me know.

Finally a reminder that your local Regional Supervisory Management course will be held at the Manor House Hotel, Moretonhampstead on November 3 and 4. For more details ring Ken Richardson today to avoid disappointment at BIGGA HQ on 01347 838581.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

Our regional seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 26. The main sponsors for the day will be Rigby Taylor Ltd. Some very good speakers have agreed to give us their time and they include Jack McMillan, who will be speaking on Golf Course Preparation; Cameron McMillan, who will be talking about Golf Course Construction; John Stirling will be giving us some pointers into how a golf course should be set up for important tournaments and Andrew Lawrence will be speaking about BIGGA insurance. We then have Rod Baker from Amazone whose subject will be The Importance of Working with the Environment and Nick Blasdale from Time/System UK Ltd will be telling us how to make the best use of our time. Finally we have our two students from the colleges. The cost of the days proceedings is £15 for members and £22 for non-members. With all those names this has got to be a bargain. All enquiries should be made initially to Jeff Drake on 01722 503938. You should all be receiving your seminar application forms very shortly. All that remains to be said is see you all on the day. Any problems with transport let me know. My telephone number is

01329 282362. Likewise anyone with empty seats let me know so that we can fill them up.

On July 8 I had the privilege of being invited by Sparsholt College to witness their annual award ceremony. This was held at Winchester Cathedral and the Bishop of Winchester presented the awards. There were quite a number, the one that was of most interest to me was John Groombridge who was the top student greenkeeper of the year. John was presented with the BIGGA Shield which is donated by the South West and South Wales Region. John is the Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Petersfield GC. Well done John and good luck with your career in greenkeeping. I would like to thank Sparsholt College for allowing me to witness such a moving event. Everything was so well organised and went off without a hitch. The cathedral was packed with Mums, Dads and guests - I would imagine the Bishop would like to see that amount of people every Sunday!

Alan Mitchell, our Section Chairman, has left his position as Course Manager of the Hampshire GC. Alan is now working for himself within the industry developing training initiatives. He will be working closely with Sparsholt College and the GTC. I am sure that we all wish Alan every success in his new venture.

Just another reminder about the trip to The London GC on November 6. Jeff has now booked the coach and all we required now is to fill it up. All those of you who wish to make the trip, contact Jeff Drake. He will be sending out more details when he sends the fixture lists out for 1997/98.

This is the last reminder for the Autumn Golf Meeting at Barton-on-Sea GC on Thursday October 9. All entries complete with current handicaps and cheques (£15 per person) should be forwarded to:- Tony Gadd, Cherry Trees, Lymington Road, Milford on Sea, Hants, SO41 0QL. All cheques should be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section. All applications to be with Tony by first post on Tuesday September 30.

Ken Lodge

South West

A warm and pleasant day greeted



Around the Green



34 enthusiastic greenkeepers for our summer tournament at Cumberwell Park in late July.

Modesty forbids me from dwelling too much on the course and the winner on this occasion but I am sure everyone agreed it is a very good venue and I think we all enjoyed the day.

Thanks go to Sarah Bickland for providing her usual high standard of haute cuisine and to the Club Captain, Keith Townsend, for joining us for the day.

Students of greenkeeping may have noticed how we have perfected the art of cultivating an especially fibrous form of poa annua capable of producing several hundred seed heads per tuft but apart from that I think everything went pretty well and I would like to thank my staff Andy, Nigel and Paul for their usual hard work. Our sponsors for the day as our Vice Chairman, Chris Sealey, pointed out in his introductions were Scotts UK formerly Miracle Amenity formerly

Zeneca formerly ICI or one of the above depending on what day of the week it was.

Anyway our thanks to them for providing the prizes and for the much needed halfway refreshments.

The results were as follows:- Head Greenkeeper - 1. M. Haring, 73; 2. P. Worster, 76; 3. R. Hook, 76. Assistant Greenkeeper - 1. A. Knight, 68; 2. A. Turner, 71; 3. A. Parker, 77. Nearest the Pin - M. Pierce. The Nearest the Pin prize raised £34.00 for the Captain's charity, Dorothy House. The Head Greenkeepers Tournament comes with a particularly elegant piece of silverware but we are unable to ascertain the winners from 1987 onwards and so cannot update the engraving. We would therefore very much appreciate it if anyone could provide us with this information. So if you were a winner or know who has won from 1987 onwards then could you please contact any committee member and let

us know.

Although the 34 present at the summer tournament had a very enjoyable time they represent a very small percentage of the 273 members in our section.

Now we no longer receive funding from Headquarters it would be especially nice to see some new faces.

These events are not about playing good golf but are there for meeting up with ones friends and colleagues and having a chat, exchanging ideas and generally enjoying the social aspect as much as the golf. You are guaranteed an enjoyable round of golf and an excellent meal for just a few pounds so please make an effort and come along to support the Section.

While on the subject of funding, if anyone has got some good ideas or would be willing to organise an event other than golf to help the Section then please come forward, all help is greatly appreciated.

One such idea of cutting costs is to send an initial circular to all members at the beginning of the year asking if they would like to receive information on forthcoming events. If they would not then they would not receive particulars on future events and we would then cut the costs of stamps and stationary for the rest of the year.

This idea and any others could be discussed at the AGM in November.

On the education front we will be running the following short courses from October onwards:- Chainsaw, First Aid, PA1, PA6, PA2 and hopefully an abrasive wheel course. Some of you may already be on the lists to do a course but if you are not and you want to do one then give me a ring on 01380 828380 and I will put your name on the relevant list but hurry as places are limited and on a first come first serve basis.

Marc Haring

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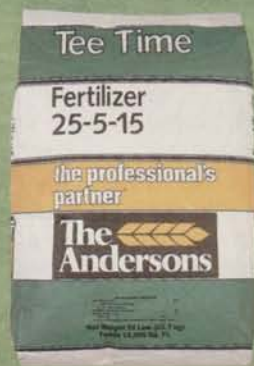
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13-2-13 w/ 100% Ammonium Sulfate	100	20	200	9	26	4	26	13.00% Ammoniacal N	18.3% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	D 1/2	I 1/2	3 3/4
19-5-19 Spring Starter w/ 25% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	38	10	38	1.95% Ammoniacal N 12.88% Urea Nitrogen 2.44% SAWSN* 1.73% WIN**	6.5% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	D 1/2	I 1/2	3 3/4
25-5-15 w/ 50% Nutralene®	125	20	200	9	50	10	30	1.96% Ammoniacal N 12.14% Urea Nitrogen 6.40% SAWSN* 4.50% WIN**	5.1% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	F	L	4 1/4
14-28-10 Seed Starter w/ 50% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	28	56	20	5.60% Ammoniacal N 2.27% Urea Nitrogen 3.59% SAWSN* 2.54% WIN**	3.4% S	E	J	3 3/4
18-6-15 w/ 65% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	36	12	30	2.35% Ammoniacal N 5.41% Urea Nitrogen 6.00% SAWSN* 4.24% WIN**	5.1% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4

Tee Time® Premium Fine Turf Summer Fertilizers

22-0-22 w/ 65% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	44	0	44	9.3% Urea Nitrogen 7.5% SAWSN* 5.2% WIN**	7.5% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4
18-6-15 w/ 65% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	36	12	30	2.35% Ammoniacal N 5.41% Urea Nitrogen 6.00% SAWSN* 4.24% WIN**	5.1% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4
21-3-16 w/ 97% Nutralene®	100	25	250	11	52.4	7.5	40	1.18% Ammoniacal N 1.97% Urea Nitrogen 10.45% SAWSN* 7.40% WIN**	5.4% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E 1/2	J 1/2	4
15-0-30 w/ 100% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	30	0	60	1.87% Urea Nitrogen 7.69% SAWSN* 5.44% WIN**	10.04% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4

Tee Time® Premium Fine Turf Autumn and Winter Fertilizers

10-5-25 w/ 50% Nutralene®	125	20	200	9	20	10	50	1.95% Ammoniacal N 3.67% Urea Nitrogen 2.57% SAWSN* 1.81% WIN**	8.5% S	E 1/2	K 1/2	4 1/4
14-0-24 w/ 65% Nutralene®	125	20	200	9	28	0	48	6.05% Urea Nitrogen 4.66% SAWSN* 3.29% WIN**	8.16% S, 2% Fe, 5% Mn	E 1/2	K 1/2	4 1/4

Tee Time® General Purpose Fairway & Sports Grounds Fertilizers

28-3-10 w/96% SCU	215	20	200	9	56	6	20	1.12% Ammoniacal N 26.88% Urea Nitrogen 26.88% CSRUN***	14.29% S	F 1/4	M 1/2	4 1/2
37-0-0 w/100% SCU	215	15	150	7	55.6	0	0	37.00% CSRUN***	15% S	H	L 1/2	4 1/2

*Slowly Available Water Soluble Nitrogen

**Water Insoluble Nitrogen

***Coated Slow Release Urea Nitrogen

NOTE: Tee Time spreader settings were established using the standard equipment available from the spreader manufacturer at swath widths and speeds typically used within the industry. It is recommended that all spreader equipment be calibrated at the time of application to achieve the desired application rate.

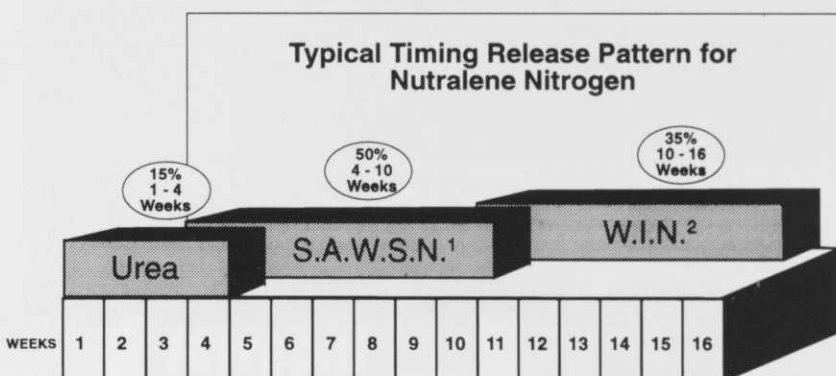
•Bag Weight = 22.68 Kilos



The Andersons range offers comprehensive formulations of both slow release and conventionally available plant nutrients. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS!** The Andersons offers the flexibility to choose your fertilizer based on the needs of the turf at all times of the year. As we know, the weather is not always as predictable as we would like. Here at The Andersons, we offer products with various amounts of slow release nitrogen so that the nutrients are best utilized at the time of application.

THE HIGHEST QUALITY NITROGEN SOURCE IN THE INDUSTRY TODAY

The Andersons Tee Time® with Nutralene® formulations incorporate the industry's ideal nitrogen source together with advanced, mini-granular fertilizers. Nutralene methylene urea nitrogen offers the advantages of "tri-phase" technology – designed to give short, medium and long term release. Nutralene releases both by hydrolysis and microbial activity which means that this methylene urea is not solely dependent upon either soil moisture or temperature for its ideal release pattern.



Nutralene - Trademark of Nu-Gro Corp.

¹ Slowly Available Water Soluble Nitrogen
² Water Insoluble Nitrogen

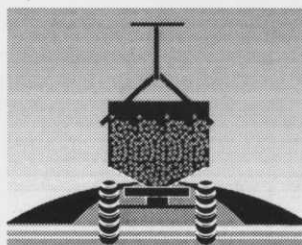
This chart demonstrates Nutralene's fractional release availability over time. The water soluble portion, slowly available water soluble portion and water insoluble portion have overlapping release to provide efficient nitrogen availability as plants require it.

NOT ALL PARTICLES ARE CREATED EQUAL

The Andersons precise screening and processing ensures that all particles are consistently uniform in size. As a result, we've been able to eliminate the majority of variability and resultant "speckling" that can occur due to the "flight path" of particles. You can count on getting an even application of product that you need for your fertilizer program to be successful.

The Andersons offer you three particle sizes, defined as "size guide number" or "SGN", ranging from GREENS GRADE 1 mm (SGN 100) to 1.25 mm (SGN 125), and FAIRWAY GRADE 2.15 mm (SGN 215). The Andersons greens grade fertilizers (SGN 100) will apply 16 particles per square inch, MORE THAN ANY OF OUR COMPETITORS! Product uniformity and precise sizing of particles ensures that the fertilizer gets under the turf canopy where they can't be seen, picked up by a mower, or deflect the path of a ball.

Application Uniformity



Trajectories For Several Sizes Of Granular Raw Materials (Granular Urea)

- 3.3 mm / 6.2 ft.
- 1 mm / 5.2 ft.
- .5 mm / 4.2 ft.

The importance of uniformity in application is demonstrated here if a wide disparity exists in particle sizing the risks of uneven - and improper - product coverage increases.

Application Flow Through



Ratholing Severe Funnel Flow Uniform Flow

The Andersons greens grade product uniformity helps deliver the product to the turf consistently for maximum effectiveness.

**Having the technical expertise
to produce the finest particle size
in the business is one thing.**



**Applying that expertise
particle ✪ after ✪ particle, ✪ after ✪ particle,**

is an entirely unique achievement in advanced formula
product production for performance consistency



The Andersons.

Uniformly the best in the business.



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Goodbye empties.



**Miracle will take care
of your used containers**

Empty pesticide containers are no longer a problem. In conjunction with a registered waste disposal contractor, Miracle Professional offer a *free* service on the UK mainland for all Miracle (ICI/Zeneca Professional Products) labelled containers. Envirogreen Ltd will collect and dispose of your empties in full compliance with legal requirements.

Good buy, **Intrepid**

MIRACLE
PROFESSIONAL

Preparing for the...

Drama

Valderrama hosts this month's Ryder Cup. Scott MacCallum visited the course and spoke with the man who has created the jewel in Europe's golfing crown.

The ambition to be the best is one which drives many but few achieve. Indeed, whether the feat has even been achieved is often a very subjective matter. There are some areas, however, where the top spot can be identified. Tiger Woods, for example, is currently top golfer as assessed

statistically by the world rankings, Pete Sampras is the same in tennis. Others occur by vote by agreed experts or the general public with the Oscars, phone-ins etc.

In golf Pine Valley generally comes out on top in the "Best Course in the World" Poll but one course is the undisputed Champion in the "Best on Mainland Europe" category having won the vote in a British golf magazine for the past six years.

That course is Valderrama, in Sotogrande, Southern Spain, the course which later this

month becomes the first non British or non American venue for the Ryder Cup.

That a course so young – it is only 12 – could be chosen, from all the wonderful courses Great Britain and Europe has to offer, for the the year's top sporting event in the world would perhaps be a surprise if nothing of the background of Valderrama and its illustrious owner were known.

Jaime Ortiz-Patino is by any yardstick a remarkable man. He was President of the World Bridge Federation for ten years

before deciding in the mid '80s to devote his time to golf. Since then he has become one of the most influential figures in the game.

The venue for the Ryder Cup match began its life as Sotogrande New, and was originally designed in 1975 by Robert Trent Jones Sr, regarded by many as the greatest living golf course architect.

He was given the rare opportunity of redesigning and refining the layout freed of the budgetary handcuffs that had shackled him first time round.



...at Valderrama

This he did with "Jimmy", as he is universally known at his side to ensure that, while the course was just as the revered architect wanted, it also passed the test laid down by the man who paid for the changes. It was in 1985 that the course took on the name for which it has become famous.

With Augusta National as Mr Patino's model the attention to detail shown by he and Trent Jones Snr was incredible.

"I brought in 4000 pine trees because I don't like seeing houses when I play golf. I want

to see green that's why I love playing Pine Valley and The Berkshire," he explained, adding that he is a member of 18 golf clubs.

"I also put in 400 cork trees which are very difficult to transplant and 600 olive trees.

"Everyone laughed when I brought these big stumps and planted them and I was told that I'd lose 20% the first year and 15% the second. I made sure they got no water and lost five trees the first year and ten the second.

"I have the course now just

how I want it. I have more work to do in maintenance but the golf course is perfect," he says with all the satisfaction of a contented man.

Now you would assume he would seek out, head hunt and lure to Valderrama one of the world's top Course Managers. But not Jimmy Patino. He developed his own knowledge of the complex areas of agronomy and general course maintenance, picking some of the finest brains in the world, and is proud to be Valderrama's Head Greenkeeper, Course

Manager, Course Superintendent - however you want to describe him.

Having hosted the season closing Volvo Masters since 1987 the Ryder Cup fell into the Patino sights and it was little surprise, when it was decided that Spain would have the event, that he would prevail.

Since the confirmation came through Valderrama has been preparing itself for the three days when the course will be the centre of every golfer's attention. And nothing has been left to chance.

Preparing for the... *Drama* ... at Valderrama

"From September 1 we are down loading the entire irrigation system and there will be no more automatic irrigation while we will not irrigate anywhere outside the ropes," explained Mr Patino from his vast office overlooking his pride and joy.

"We will only irrigate from the satellites stations during day time so we will know what is going on and no accidents can happen. If a sprinkler head (there are 3,700 on the course) gets clogged we will see it."

All the sand is removed from the bunkers every four years and replaced – they use crushed granite taken from up in the mountains – and the overseeding is also done every four years but both practices were brought forward this year to coincide with the Cup match.

In the main, however, the maintenance programme has remained at the same intense level which has seen the course in such peak condition for the Volvo Masters.

"We close the course down for four weeks every year around the middle of May. We don't close earlier because the poa is still seeding and we don't want to aerify the greens when it is still in the air."

The maintenance programme starts with the closing of one nine when all the fairways are heavily sliced, aerified and verticut. The verti drain is used in the rough and the Bermuda rough is cut down, top dressed and fertilised.

"I believe I was the first to top dress fairways and now three or four clubs in the States also do it."

Once the top dressing has been brushed in the first nine is reopened and the first phase of the procedure has been completed. The second nine is then closed for a fortnight to allow for the same work as the first nine to be completed as well as all the greens and areas around the greens done as well. Once this has been completed they return to the first nine and do the greens and surrounds.

The programme is worked out by Mr Patino and Bill Bangerfield, formerly the Director of the USGA Greens Section, who spends time at Valderrama every year supervising the work.

"Bill and I set up the maintenance programmes for six months at a time and this includes everything that needs to be done on a weekly basis. For example, now until the Ryder Cup we will hand brush greens with brooms every afternoon against the grain," he explained as we talked in early June.

Valderrama has Penncross greens but Mr Patino is not convinced that it is the right grass for the Spanish climate.

"Despite my love of Robert Trent Jones I don't think he did the right thing in bringing Penncross down to the Costa del Sol. It is too delicate, it needs a lot of care, a lot of chemicals and a lot of water. I have got the resources, the manpower to keep it – we have two girls who hand weed the greens five days a week to get the poa out, so they are poa free – but it is very costly and other courses can't do it. Furthermore we have very little play – 1200 rounds a year."

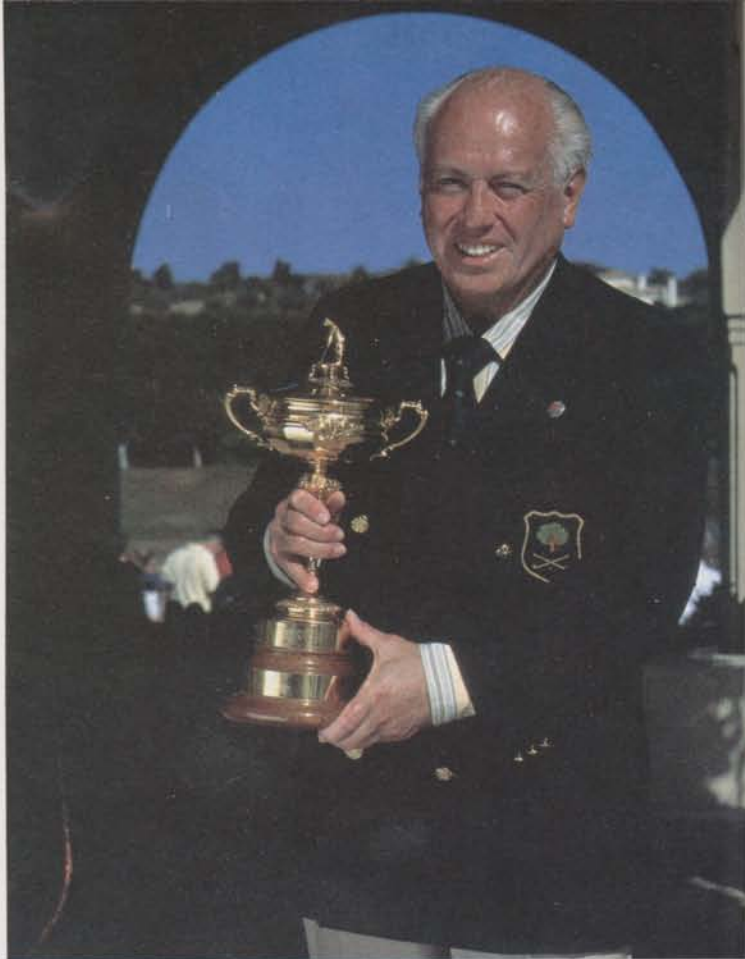
He is also adamant about what the green should be – Bermuda, which doesn't need much water and is much stronger than Penncross.

"I don't think Robert Trent Jones did the right thing in bringing Penncross to the Costa del Sol. It is too delicate, it needs a lot of care, a lot of chemicals and a lot of water"

"Every time a new golf course is built in the area I tell them to put in Bermuda but they ask what I've got. When I tell them I know the comments that come back Jimmy wants us to put Bermuda in because he's the only one who wants to have good greens'. It's a no-win situation!"

To say that Valderrama "has got the resources" is akin to saying that Bill Gates has a little bit tucked away for his retirement.

The greens staff numbers 70, broken down into two crews of



Jaime Ortiz-Patino with the Ryder Cup

Picture: PHIL SHELDON

35, which are then broken into crews which cut greens, crews which do bunkers, another which do tees etc.

"They work for seven days non-stop – a 56 hour week – and then have seven days off. You may feel that is very expensive but it isn't really when you think about it because they work on Saturdays and Sundays, when you would normally have to pay double and they also work on holidays including Christmas and New Year's Day if they happen to fall on a working week.

"So for 26 weeks one crew is working and the other crew works for the other 26 weeks.

"Then when I have maintenance or tournaments I give them extra pay and they all work. I have had a lot of problems with the unions but I told them that the workers like it and if they were to take a vote they'd all stand against the unions," he explained.

There are also three mechanics, a painter and a brick layer.

"Supervisors work a system whereby they work five days and then take four days off so a supervisor works with all the crews as they overlap. Then every tenth day both supervisors are there and they can compare notes."

Mr Patino also leads from the front when it comes to training his men in the use of equipment.

"I try all the machines when they first come out and then, as the manuals are in English and

not Spanish, I explain to the men how to use them.

"I like Toro equipment. I started with it but I deal directly with the Head Office in Minneapolis. The local Toro dealership is in Marbella which is fairly local but I find I've got more spare parts than he does."

"We do everything we can with walk behind machines – aprons, collars, tees. Then everything on the fairway is the lightest equipment you can have – we use a triplex which most people use on the greens. I know Toro has some very good fairway mowers and gangs which are very light but I said 'Leave me alone, I will cut them with your greens mowers. We always pick up our clippings on the fairways."

He has also found a unique way on curing the Spanish habit of being hard on equipment.

"They do not know about preventative maintenance. They fix it when it is broken. Red lights go on or flash and they don't stop.

"I saw someone driving a big 4500 five gang recently and could see a light flashing. I pointed it out and he said 'It's alright it's been flashing all day. There must just be something wrong.' I sent him straight back to the maintenance centre.

"Mowers never used to last here. A walk behind would be broken after a year when it should last ten.

"So I said 'OK. I'll give you each a mower.' There are eight people

unique WHAT'S NEW IN DECODERS & CONTROLLERS?

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Our decoder sales have surged again this year, in particular TORO, Watermation and CIC equivalents. We also offer Wraithtrain, Primetime, Robydome and Robydome MkIII versions. Extensive field experience (thousands installed world-wide) and the completion of accelerated life tests allow us to confidently predict a useful decoder life of 10 years plus.

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Aquaflow Irrigation	North Ascot	Berks	01344 882398	D.D.M Irrigation Installations	Sunbury-on-Thames	Middx	01932 781449
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Bredy Agricentre (Dorset) Ltd	Sturminster Newton	Dorset	01258 473301	Autoflow Systems	Barnham Broom	Norfolk	01603 759701
Electric Irrigation	Verwood	Dorset	01202 824580	Irrigation Services	Norwich	Norfolk	01603 720217
Lakes and Greens Ltd	Nr. Uckfield	East Sussex	01825 790483	Kiem Irrigation Engineers & Consultants	Ludlow	Shrops	01584 856606
Denis Broderick (Electrical & Pump Systems)	Youghal, Co. Cork	Eire	02492705	Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd	Martock	Somerset	01460 241939
Clearwater Ltd	Co. Dublin	Eire	018461025	North Staffs Irrigation	Stone	Staffs	01785 812706
CMW Equipment Co.	Coggeshall	Essex	01376 562569	Turf Machinery Ltd	Woking	Surrey	01483 764467
H T Davies & Partners	Newport	Gwent	01633 893449	Pierre Vaughan Irrigation	Sutton Coldfield	W. Midlands	0121 354 5350
Mist Irrigation System Controls Ltd	Ringwood	Hants	01425 474614	Golf Course Maintenance	Stoneleigh	Warks	01203 416271
Architectural Landscape Design	Beckenham	Kent	0181 658 4455	Ocmis Irrigation (Scotland)	West Calder	West Lothian	0131 220 2102
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LAST BUT NOT LEAST, LOOK OUT FOR MORE EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM TONICK WATERING SOON.

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See us at
**SCOTSTURF and
SALTEX**

Preparing for the... *Drama* ... at Valderrama

who cut greens so eight mowers. Eight with other regular jobs so eight other pieces of equipment.

"People said it was ridiculous because the mower would only be working one week in two but the mowers have now lasted eight or nine years and are as good as new. They look after them, wash them and generally take an interest in their equipment. It is an interesting concept."

Walking around the course during the maintenance period, despite the fact that work was going on and the sand had been removed from the bunkers it was still possible to imagine the Ryder Cup matches and what would be facing the likes of Colin Montgomerie, Nick Faldo, Tiger Woods and Tom Lehman some three and a half months later... until we reached the 16th.

Arriving at the end of the fairway we were met by the sight of the green staked out and in the very early stages of being completely relaid.

"We are rebuilding all the greens to USGA spec," explained Mr Patino without a hint of concern that had it been The Open and the UK that the same proce-

dure was being undertaken time would have been very much at a premium and the press would have been having a field day.

Because of the climate and the labour intensive practices the green would be back in play in a couple of weeks.

"We do the work in-house so the people who are putting them in are the same people who are going to be looking after them.

"I follow all the pros recommendations because on the whole they've been very constructive... Nearly all," he laughs as the corrects himself. "I didn't take out the rough at the 17th," referring to the par-5 re-designed by Seve which although controversial is bound to be the scene of some significant action during the match.

"I'm talking about people like Montgomerie, Langer, Faldo, Olazabal, Johansson and Forsbrand - our own professional. They are good boys and have given us some good tips.

"That's one of the reasons they like coming here because they know that every year they will find something better."

Valderrama is also going to host

the first green Ryder Cup. The club is the first European course to join the USGA-Audobon Cooperative Sanctuary Programme for golf course and Mr Patino works closely with the European Golf Ecology Unit headed by David Stubbs - who captained the European Bird Watching Ryder Cup team which, with Valderrama as a key player, defeated the American team.

Valderrama has set aside ten sanctuaries the wild area between out-of-bounds which provide an ideal habitat for wild flowers. During one of the course surveys 78 species of birds, 11 mammals, four reptiles, three amphibians, 20 butterflies and three dragonflies were logged. Anyone attending the Ryder Cup will also see the wonderful display boards describing what Valderrama has to offer sited around the course.

Aware of the need to improve greenkeeping knowledge in Spain he has introduced a scholarship to Michigan State University where he sends an English speaking Spanish graduate on a two year course. They work here for six months in the winter to be sure he really wants to be a greenkeeper then when he comes back I find him a golf course.

Although closely allied to the American system he has seen improvements in European greenkeeping in the last 12 years and he has some interesting observations of the differences on either side of the Atlantic.

"It is a very respected profession in America but in Britain the greenkeeper is often not allowed

in the clubhouse. This is beyond my comprehension. It is a highly professional and respectable career and it should be treated as such.

"If that doesn't happen you won't be able to attract the best people but I do think improvements are beginning to be seen.

"The more it improves the more the quality of people wanting to do the job with improve. It is the best thing that can happen to the game. I think BIGGA is very important in the role it is fulfilling."

Hosting the Ryder Cup is a dream Mr Patino has fostered for some time.

"In 1989 I started to think that it could become a reality and I think it will be a great thing for Spain. This part of Spain could be the Florida of Europe and if the Spanish do things well it is a great opportunity to promote themselves."

When it is all over, and bearing in mind the Volvo Masters has moved to pastures new, what will he do then.

"For nine years I've been privileged to have the best players in Europe for the final event of the European Tour ever year. In the 10th year I now have the best players in Europe and the best players in America. The only thing left is to get the best players in Europe and the best players in the rest of the world for a tournament. That is what I'm working towards."

And you know. I think he'll just do it.



"It is a very respected profession in America but in Britain the greenkeeper is often not allowed in the clubhouse. This is beyond my comprehension. It is a highly professional and respectable career and it should be treated as such."



BTME 98 show space expands to accommodate extra exhibitors

Almost at the end of summer and here at BIGGA headquarters our sights are firmly fixed on winter as we work towards producing the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition for 1998.

Here at last we are able to reveal the plans for this show and the regular visitors among you will see that changes have been made. The most significant of those being the addition of a new Hall, a marquee (Hall G) situated at the front of Hall C.

The success of the last show with a record visitor attendance of 5,486 has resulted in many requests for more stand space from existing exhibitors and a growing list of companies wishing to attend for the first time – Hall G has given us the opportunity to accommodate all these requests.

There are at present 148 exhibitors attending the '98 show offering visitors the widest possible range of products and services

for the fine turf professional.

"We believe that in expanding into Hall G we have been able to increase the size of the show without losing its unique atmosphere," said show organiser James McEvoy.

New companies to BTME include Flymo, Olivers Seeds, City Irrigation, Bailey's of Norfolk, Verde Sports, Data Form, Par 4, Merrist Wood Golf Club and returning from a four year break Fairfield Turf Limited. When asked what had prompted their return, Ellis Cummins, from Fairfield Turf, said: "I have been a visitor to the show for the past two years and have been very impressed.

"I feel we would be missing out on a great opportunity if we did not exhibit this time."

There are limited spaces left so anybody wishing to exhibit at BTME 98 should contact Amanda Mayo on 01347 838581.

HOW THE SHOW IS SHAPING UP: THE EXHIBITION PLAN SO FAR, OVERLEAF

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION



BTME 98

A DECADE OF SUCCESS

HARROGATE
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& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

WELCOME TO THE 1998 BTME QUIZ!

Come to the show FREE!

★ Here's part two in our competition where you as a Greenkeeper can go to BTME 98 ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Together with the BTME, the Learning Experience 1998 will provide a varied and informative education programme. The workshop programme for 1998 once again includes the very successful golf course design and construction, and levelling and surveying, with the introduction of a NEW workshop on irrigation and drainage.

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.

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

SEPTEMBER QUESTIONS

1. Name BIGGA's Education Officer.
2. Name the new workshop.

Don't miss your chance to attend the largest indoor turf management exhibition in Europe.



For more information about BTME 98 contact Amanda Mayo or James McEvoy on 01347 838581

Exhibition plan and guide to exhibitors to date: August 1997

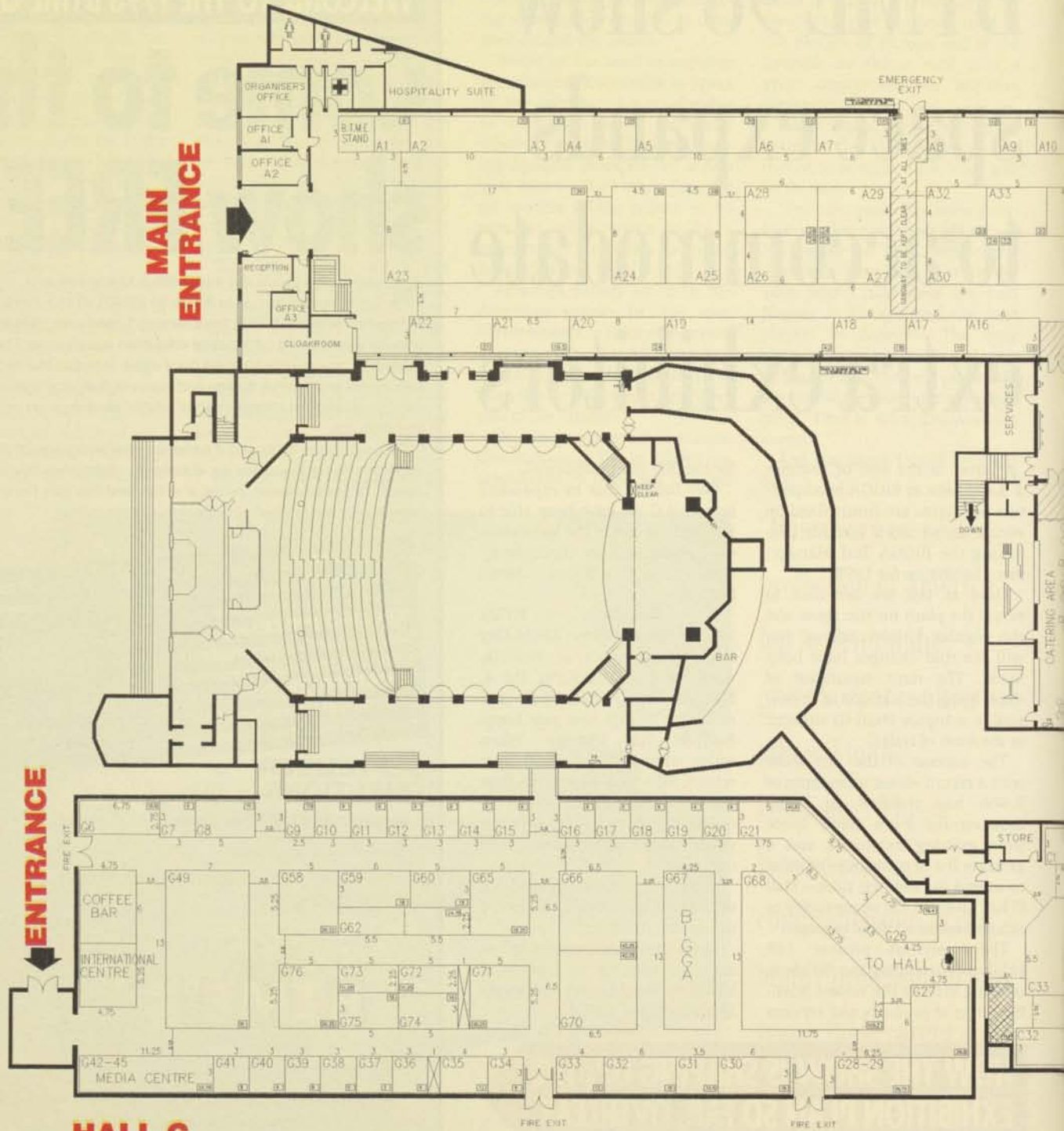
A1.....NORTH WEST TURF
 A2.....WATERMATION
 A3...GREENKEEPER SUPPLY CO
 A4
 A5.....OCMIS IRRIGATION
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 A9.....PSD AGRONOMY
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 A11.....TOTRAX
 A12 - A14.....KUBOTA
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 B8.....YORK & MARTIN
 B9.....KING'S HORTICULTURE
 B10.....TURF MANAGEMENT
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 B13.....TALBOT
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 B35.....LELY UK LTD
 B36.....PAR 4
 B37.....TIL
 B38.....CHARTERHOUSE
 B39.....ETESIA
 C1.....SWAN PLANT SERVICES
 C2
 C2A.....VERDE SPORTS
 C3.....MOMMERSTEEG
 C4...INDUSTRIAL POWER UNITS
 C5.....PERRYFIELDS
 C6.....TURFACTANT
 C7.....EP BARRUS
 C8.....WHITE HORSE
 CONTRACTORS

C9.....ALLETT MOWERS
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 C15
 C16.....BANKS AMENITY
 C17.....COURSE WEAR
 C18
 C19.....SOVEREIGN TURF
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 MACHINERY
 C23.....TILDENET
 C24.....NATURE FIRST
 C25.....MAXICROP
 C26.....HYDROSCAPE
 C27.....HUMATE
 C28.....SEWARDS



HALL G

The must-not-miss dates for your diary:

9am-5.30pm Wednesday 21st January

9am-5.30pm Thursday 22nd January

9am-1.30pm Friday 23rd January, 1998

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION



BTME 98

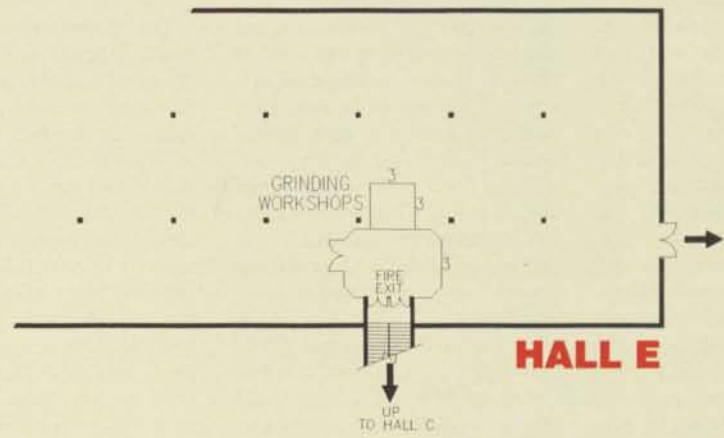
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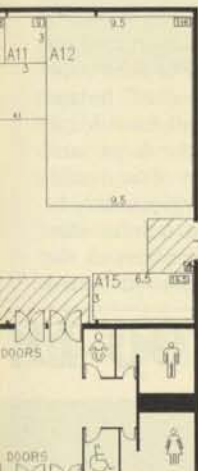
& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME



Education programme starts Monday 19 January

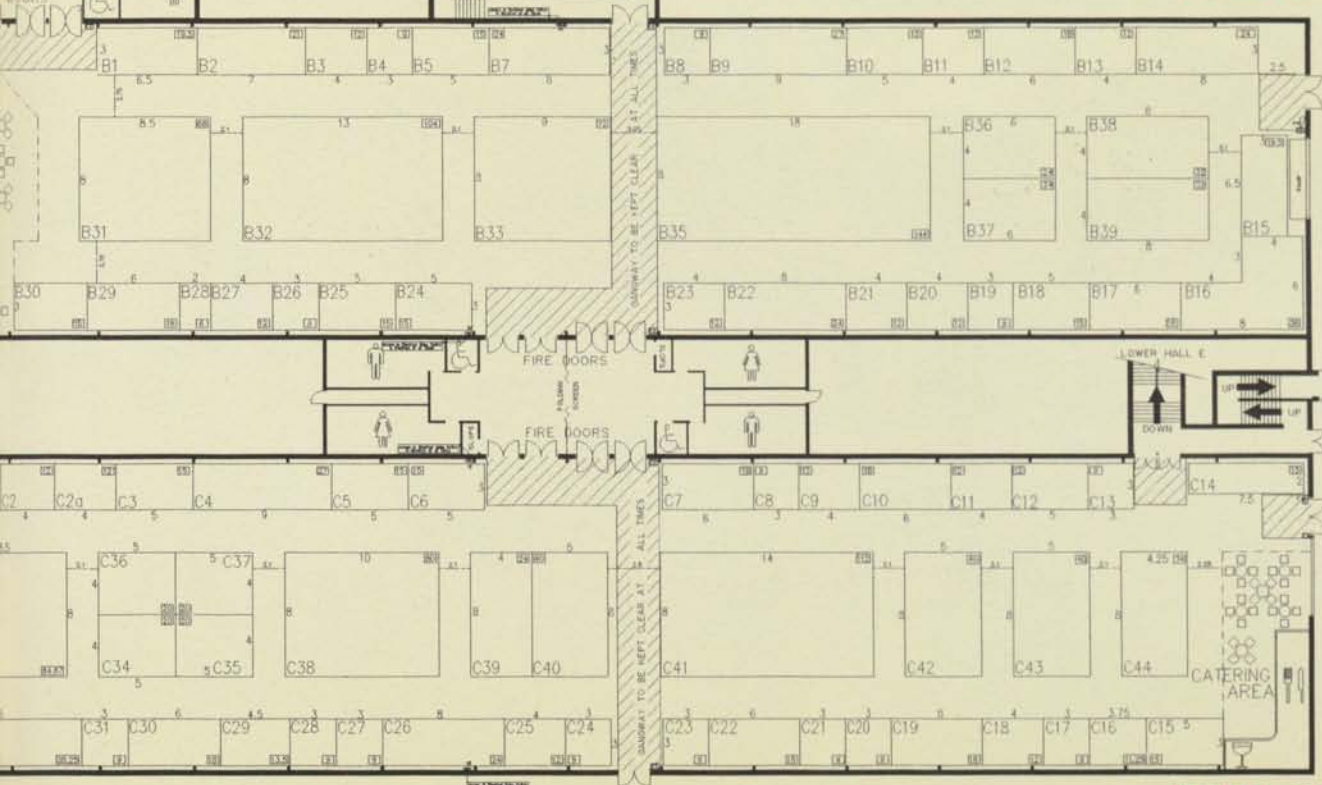


HALL A



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|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| C29.....ERIC HUNTER GRINDERS | G9 ...BIGGA NORTHERN REGION | G30.....COOPER PEGLAR | G60-61.....GTC |
| C30.....ROFFEY BROTHERS | G10...BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTORS | G31 | G62.....LOGIC IRRIGATION/T & G TURF |
| C31.....TONICK WATERING | G11.....EURO-GOLF | G32.....EAGLE PROMOTIONS | G65.....FORCE LIMOGRAIN |
| C32 & C33.....JOHN DEERE | G12.....PREMIUM CREDIT | G33.....CITY IRRIGATION | G66.....RHÔNE POULENC |
| C34.....BLEC LTD | G13.....ASSOCIATION OF GOLF CLUB SECRETARIES | G34.....WELSH COLLEGE | G67.....MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE |
| C35.....D W TOMLIN | G14-15.....BIOSEED | G35.....MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE | G68.....HARDI |
| C36.....BOUGHTON LOAM | G16.....SEMINAR REGISTRATION | G36..WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE | G70.....GEM PROFESSIONAL |
| C37.....TARMAC | G17.....GOLF COURSE NEWS | G37.....HADLOW COLLEGE | G71.....RAIN BIRD |
| C38.....NEW HOLLAND | G18 | G38.....ELMWOOD COLLEGE | G72.....BRITISH INSTITUTE OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS |
| C39 | G19.....GCSAA | G39.....CANNINGTON COLLEGE | G73.....FLOWTRONIX |
| C40.....SISIS | G20 | G40.....REASEHEATH COLLEGE | G74 |
| C41.....HAYTER | G21-25..AMENITY TECHNOLOGY | G41..ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE | G75.....CAPRARI PUMPS |
| C42.....PATTISONS | G26.....BLAZON | G42-45.....MEDIA CENTRE | G76.....BAILEYS OF NORFOLK |
| C47.....I.O.G. | G27.....ENGLISH GOLF UNION | G49-57.....RIGBY TAYLOR | |
| G6 | G28.....TWOSE OF TIVERTON | G58.....PAN BRITANNICA INDUSTRIES | |
| G7...NORTH STAFFS IRRIGATION | | G59 | |
| G8.....STRI | | | |

HALL B



HALL C

More than just an exhibition

Links: The perfect terrain

Dr Tom Kavanagh has been a consultant to golf clubs for a quarter of a century. He has a special interest in links.

Following early retirement from Kinsealy Research Centre in 1988, where he was Head of the Turfgrass Unit, he now advises courses throughout the Republic of Ireland as an independent consultant.

Golf courses on dune sand are recognised as providing the best challenge for golf as well as the best all year round conditions for play. They have enormous advantages in the quality of the turf, always dry underfoot with contours shaped naturally by the wind and with a beautiful unique flora. Golf started in Scotland on seaside grazing land where sheep did the mowing as well as forming the bunkers. As golf became popular, linksland was sought for golf courses but it was a scarce commodity. So golf migrated on to inland soil where greens were

initially mowed out of fields, top-dressed with sandy soil and eventually surrounded with mounds with possibly a bunker or two. All of that happened over a period of a hundred or so years. These kinds of greens could stand the use they got when golf was confined to one or two half days per week and membership was limited to a few professional people. As the game became more popular, and particularly in the last decade, these inland clubs were faced with reconstructing their greens or moving to new sites. Now the clubs and the contractors were faced with the high cost of having to import gravel and rootzone sand for green construction.

The position in links was quite different in that all materials for green construction were on site. But to understand how, even on links, drainage problems could occur in low fairways, one has to remember how links originated hundreds of years ago. Walking on a beach on a dry day, sand can

be seen moving in waves along the beach, carried by the wind. If the day is very stormy, sand will even hit walkers in the face. Over centuries sand has been moved inland in this way, covering agricultural fields. If these fields were free-draining, no waterlogging occurred in the sand but if the fields were marshy or peaty, the impervious nature of the underlying bog could affect the sandy covering in lower areas. Also if the fields were at sea level or below at high tides, this could lead to ponding in the overlying sand. In this last case, raising the level of the sand is the only solution but in other cases drainage of the underlying bog might be possible sometimes even by cutting through peat accumulations formed over many thousands of years to the mineral soil underneath. Sea water coming on to low lying parts of fairways in spring tides may cause no damage because over many years the fescues and bents have become adapted to these conditions.

The movement of sand on a beach depends on the strength of the wind and the size of the sand particles. Particles which hit a walker in the face have become airborne because they have a particle size below 0.1mm in diameter. Particles which blow in waves close to the ground are in the size range 0.1mm to 0.5mm. Particles above 0.5mm simply roll along the ground. Sand blowing inland from a beach is trapped initially by shrubs and rocks. As more sand accumulates, vegetation, especially marram grass, develops in the sand. This grass which thrives in a moving sand situation traps the sand and thus a dune is formed which grows in height depending on the exposure of the site and the supply of sand available. In the west of Ireland courses such as Ballybunion and Belmullet have very large sand dunes. The majority of sand particles in the dunes will probably be in the 0.1mm to 0.5mm size. Sand covered areas behind the dunes become colonised by red

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fescues chiefly with a wide variety of wild flora which are so attractive in the rough on links golf courses.

In designing a golf course on linksland the architect has the task of producing a challenging course with minimum alteration

of the terrain. Where some modification of fairways is necessary, the original turf should be removed together with the attaching black sand which is usually not more than 150mm deep. This black sand is an invaluable and scarce commodity

on links invaluable because of its lower pH, its organic content and its microflora. When modifications to shape the fairway have been made, these turves and black sand can be returned and rotovated into the surface in preparation for seeding. If the

Ballybunion

Picture: BRIAN MORGAN

original turf and black sand are not saved when fairways are modified, alternatives are hydroseeding with a mulch of peat and woodpulp, or slurry or a chemical stabiliser such as poly-

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Ballybunion

Picture: BRIAN MORGAN

acrylamide, but saving the turf and black sand is preferable as this method facilitates seedling establishment which can be very difficult on links due to wind blow. Organic sand also provides moisture retention and promotes deeper rooting.

If greens can be mowed out of fairways with minimum modification, all the better – these will have very natural contours. They will have a tough sward mainly of fescue if they have been grazed by sheep. If not grazed, a deep pile of moss, fescue and miscellaneous weeds and sedges will have developed which treatment with ferrous sulphate and traffic will quickly reduce to a mowable condition. Where major modifications are necessary, saving the original turf and underlying black sand is essential. These turves can be laid back on the modified ground preferably in their original condition with black sand and roots attached extending up to 150mm in depth. Obviously these cannot have been cut with a sod cutter but to have been dug out with spades. When laid back roughly and allowed to begin to grow, a mechanical compacter can be used to produce a reasonably smooth surface which will be further improved by repeated topdressing. This method of green construction and establishment is very successful.

Links sand is usually limey due to the marine shell it contains.

The amount of lime can range from zero to over 5070. Greens on courses with very limey sand usually suffer severely from Take All disease especially in their early years as a result of topdressing with the sand or after hollow coring. Use of black sand for topdressing may reduce this problem because of its lower pH, its organic matter content and the microorganisms which it contains. Wind blown sand coming on to greens from a beach or from bunkers can be another source of Take All.

'In recent years our changing climate has put a severe strain on links which had no irrigation arrangements on tees and fairways'

Nutrition on links differs from that on inland courses in that care must be taken to preserve the links character by not over fertilising. Too high nutrition especially with nitrates and phosphates would favour annual meadowgrass invasion at the expense of fescues. Golfers tend to expect greens, tees and fairways to have a rich green colour such as they see on tournament courses on television. However, aiming to produce such colour

would damage links which should have a pale greenish brown overall colour typical of seaside links. Forcing green colour by fertilising will introduce annual meadowgrass.

Leatherjackets are usually abundant in links and can damage fairways, tees and greens if not controlled. Crows and other birds can do severe damage searching for leatherjackets in the turf. An insect which is more difficult to control is the garden chafer. These occur in large numbers in uncompacted areas around greens, tees and bunkers. They damage the turf by eating the roots and birds searching for them do further damage. Chafers seem to have increased since persistent insecticides were withdrawn. Spraying as for leatherjackets does not seem to be effective because they are deep in the sand. When they emerge as beetles in late May or early June, spraying is more effective.

In recent years our changing climate has put a severe strain on links which had no irrigation arrangements on tees and fairways. Now such provision is standard particularly in the drier eastern coasts of these islands. However, in the interest of preserving the links character, irrigation should be restricted. Another climatic effect on links courses is the increasing occurrence of severe gales and the consequent erosion of the coast. Some clubs

spend large sums on counteracting erosion and these will be pleased at the prospect of getting financial assistance through recent EU directives on coastal zone management. The forecasted rise in sea levels due to global warming will be a topic of great interest to links early in the next millenium.

Apart from the quality of links as golfing terrain, its flora is a major attraction. The number of flowering species is extraordinary, ranging from eyebright, lady's bedstraw, cowslip and birdsfoot trefoil to orchids, burnet rose, dwarf willow and gorse. More than 50 such species have been identified on one course. Needless to say, apart from daisy control on fairways, no broad leaf herbicide is used on areas of rough in these courses, undesirable weeds such as ragwort being controlled by hand rogueing. It is unlikely that further development of linksland for golf will take place because of EU habitat directives and establishment of Special Areas of Conservation. Sand dunes will undoubtedly be ranked as priority habitats. What restrictions will be placed on existing links courses, of which there are only about 150 in existence, remains to be seen. One restriction which will be necessary whether from an EU directive or not is the limitation of traffic on these scarce and sensitive areas.



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Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

I had hoped to have been able to give full details of the Finalists for this year's TORO Student of the Year Competition in this article. Unfortunately, this edition of *Greenkeeper International* went to press before we had chance to complete the judging. However, the judges, Peter Mansfield, from TORO (Lely), Gordon Child, Vice Chairman of BIGGA and myself, thought that it would be useful to describe the process of selecting the National Finalists and to give some idea of what we, the judges look for.

The organisation of each year's competition begins as soon as the previous year's National Final has taken place, when representatives from TORO, Lely UK and BIGGA meet to discuss the current year's competition, to discuss any changes that are needed and fix the dates of Regional and National Finals of the next year's competition. The next step is the production of the Competition Leaflet, which contains the Competition Rules, a list of prizes, and the dates when entries have to be submitted. The prizes for this year's competition were slightly different to previous years as the

How

two runners-up now win a trip to the GCSAA show and conference, which will be held in Anaheim, California, in February 1998. The Winner, who becomes the TORO Student of the Year wins the TORO Scholarship, which includes; a six week turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts, visits to the TORO Company Headquarters in Minneapolis, the TORO Irrigation Division in Riverside California and, if time permits, a visit to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show where he/she will join the two runners-up and his/her tutor. There is also the additional benefit of being named the TORO Student of the Year which is a major achievement to put on anyone's CV. I remember reading that if Margaret Thatcher were ever to look for another job then all she need write on her CV under achievements was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. TORO Student of the Year is not quite in that league but in the Greenkeeping Industry it would certainly open many doors.

By this time any student reading this article must be asking "How do I enter

Hard work, but enjoyable

On July 27 I made my way to Edinburgh by train where I was joined by Peter Mansfield, the ever smiling General Manager of Toro Products, and BIGGA Education Officer Ken Richardson. Our mission was to interview all Toro Student of the Year nominations and pick the regional winners to go forward to the final at Aldwark in October.

We spent all day Monday at the Royal Terrace Hotel meeting the Scottish entrants, leaving late afternoon for the next day's interviews in Bradford. The journey was to prove a forerunner for the week ahead. Those of you who have been in Ken's company for long will know that he is an ex RAF man with many stories to tell, and as we sped through the scenic countryside of Scotland and Northern England, there seemed to be a never ending list of old RAF depots or places Ken had visited. Talking about them only served to refuel his tank and with the aid of a Maurice Chevalier lozenger to sooth the working parts, he was able to complete the trip with his voice intact.

Down to the serious job of judging. The standard varied in all four venues but all had their highs. After Bradford, where we met the Northern nominees, we travelled south to Hemel Hempstead for the South

East, then on to Cheltenham for a long day with the South West followed by the Midlands.

For the students to win nominations is an achievement in itself, but to reach the final and maybe to go on to win this prestigious award must give their career prospects a big lift. So it was disappointing to see some dressed more appropriate to a day digging ditches than an interview which could play a major part in their chosen career. I may be old fashioned but first impressions and presentation go a long way.

The four days were hard and tiring but very interesting with still one to go in Dublin. I am sure all the winners will make a very good close final at Aldwark. I must on behalf of all students of greenkeeping and BIGGA, thank Toro for their generous support to this competition. The winner will have the wonderful opportunity of receiving the Toro scholarship to the USA, where he or she will go to Massachusetts University for six weeks and visit the Toro factories and the GCSAA Conference at Anaheim, California. The two runners-up will win a visit to the Conference and Show in Anaheim. For the ones who don't make it, the whole experience will I am sure enhance their greenkeeping career.

Gordon Child

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to be a winner

this Competition". The answer for 1997 is that you are too late as the Competition is reaching its final stages. However, the leaflets for the 1998 TORO Student of the Year Competition will be available on the BIGGA and TORO stands at BTME in Harrogate, in January, and copies will be sent to colleges. All nominated students, who should be from N/SVQ Level 2/National Certificate/Diploma Courses, must complete application forms, available from BIGGA. Greenkeeping tutors must complete nomination forms for each student. Nominated students must be employed or at a college or be resident in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland. Application forms normally have to arrive at BIGGA HQ by the end of May, when the entries are sorted into Regions ready for the Regional Finals which take place during late July. The panel of judges, normally comprising a representative from TORO, usually Pete Mansfield, from Lely UK, the Vice Chairman of BIGGA and myself, travel to each BIGGA Region and to the Republic of Ireland to interview each candidate and compare him/her against the others in that Region. This enables them to select six National Finalists. They may also select up to two other National Finalists from those candidates who showed exceptional talent but has were not selected in a particular region. These National Finalist reassemble in October, usually at BIGGA HQ, although the 1997 National Final will take place in Harrogate, where a further set of interviews select the TORO Student of the Year.

Many people, including Student of the Year candidates often ask "What makes a TORO Student of the Year?" There is no easy answer. The interviews are subjective, candidates can react well at Regional Finals and not so well at the National Final and the overall standard of candidate varies from year to year. I suppose an easy answer would be that the judges select the candidate who they think will gain most from winning. The standard of greenkeeping skill and knowledge is defined by the requirement for the candidate to have or be working towards N/SVQ Level 2 or National Certificate/Diploma in Greenkeeping/Sportsturf Maintenance/Sportsturf Management but the level of skill and knowledge varies between candidates as some have got more practical experience than others, some have been given more responsibility, some have had careers in other industries etc. The judges are, therefore, looking for 'that certain something' that puts a candidate above his/her peers. All candidates should remember that the Regional and National Finals are interviews therefore, as in any other formal interview, they should ensure that they arrive on time, that they are dressed in their "interview clothes", that they are clean and well shaven and that they understand the competition rules and prizes. The composition of the Interview Panel should give an indication of the subjects that will be covered eg Pete Mansfield may well ask questions about machinery, check the candidates understanding of the Competition and attempt to discover if the candidate will be able to cope with

the American Study Tour. The BIGGA Vice Chairman, Gordon Child, in 1997, may ask questions on the candidate's golf course eg the number of holes, the number of staff, the type of course, the grasses used on greens, tees and fairways, health and safety, etc. I usually ask questions on BIGGA, education and training, future studies etc. We can all ask questions on general matters such as hobbies, sports, family and other activities outside work.

Finally, we have to make some difficult decisions. All students nominated for the Competition have been selected, from a large number of college students. This not only makes them all winners, but it also makes the final selection even more difficult. The final selection depends on candidates performing well on the day of the Regional Final and then on the day of the National Final. Looking back over the years that this competition has been running, it is gratifying to note that all of the past winners not only coped well with their visits to the USA and proved to be good ambassadors for TORO, BIGGA and the greenkeeping industry but that they have also used their status to move up the greenkeeping career ladder.

If you feel that you could gain from being a winner, that you could cope with flying to the USA, finding your own way to a university, two factories and a major greenkeeping show, all in different States and live with the publicity and status of being the TORO Student of the Year then watch out for the 1998 leaflet and make sure that your college enters you for next year's Competition.

LETTERS

No point

I welcome the discussion in *Greenkeeper International* concerning the CONGU proposal that distance points on tees shall be not less than four yards in front of the rear of the tee. It is a subject that requires airing.

My own club Wetherby, is bounded by a river with a disused railway embankment running through the centre of the course. If this proposal is implemented it will create serious cost problems if we attempt to conform and if we fail it will lead to a reduction in the SSS.

Similar to many clubs without any desire to produce a "Championship" course" the Committee has already maximised the available land to produce a par 71 course of 6,235 yards with a SSS of 70. It is a good test of golf where position is more important than length off the tee.

A survey of the tees has revealed that currently only two will conform to the four yard ruling, on five holes major tee reconstruction will be required and on the other

11 it is impossible to obtain the extra length, because the rear of the tee is either backing on to the river, a flood bank, ditches or neighbouring properties. At best the measured course will be reduced by 44 yards with the result that the standard scratch has to be revised to 69, despite the fact that at considerable expense, a further 28 yards is added to the playing length.

We hold just one members' 36 hole Championship event a year, of whom perhaps ten could be said to be in contention. There may be a professional event as well, but they play their events against par not the SSS, so what is the point of adding two extra yards on 18 tees for the average club? Although one can appreciate the logic of CONGU in respect of Championship courses who stage county and national tournaments, this ruling will do no more than increase handicaps for average club golfers as well as adding extra costs for tee construction, sign alterations and re-printing score cards and yardage charts.

John Lelean, Chairman, Development Committee, Wetherby GC

Courtesy call

For many years now, BIGGA has campaigned relentlessly to increase the profile and professional standing of Greenkeeping and its Association.

However, after recently applying for numerous Head Greenkeeper vacancies advertised in *Greenkeeper International*, and the unprofessional lack of response or even the common courtesy of acknowledgement, I wonder if the message has ever gotten through.

Having discussed this issue with my colleagues, I was amazed to hear of similar cases and now believe that this is a frequently occurring problem and one which should be addressed.

I understand that BIGGA cannot be held responsible for such unprofessional behaviour, but believe that BIGGA, when accepting advertisements from golf clubs, should stress the importance of proper protocol and the need for basic courtesy.

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Last year he was among the first to try Fortiva coated seed, introduced to the Province by Elizabeth Wilson of JA Humphrey Agriculture.

"We hollow-tined, top-dressed and seeded three greens with a bent and creeping red fescue Fortiva mixture," he says.

"The Fortiva started to strike a lot quicker than any other seed I have used - particularly around the edges of the greens where wear was worst. After two weeks you could clearly see the newly established grasses.

"It also helped obtain a good take, particularly of the bents, where Anthracnose had completely wiped out patches of meadow-grass.

"I'm now going to start to use it on our tees as a divot mix, where I would expect even better results," he says.

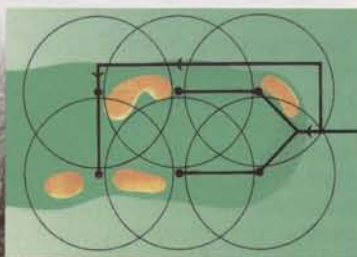
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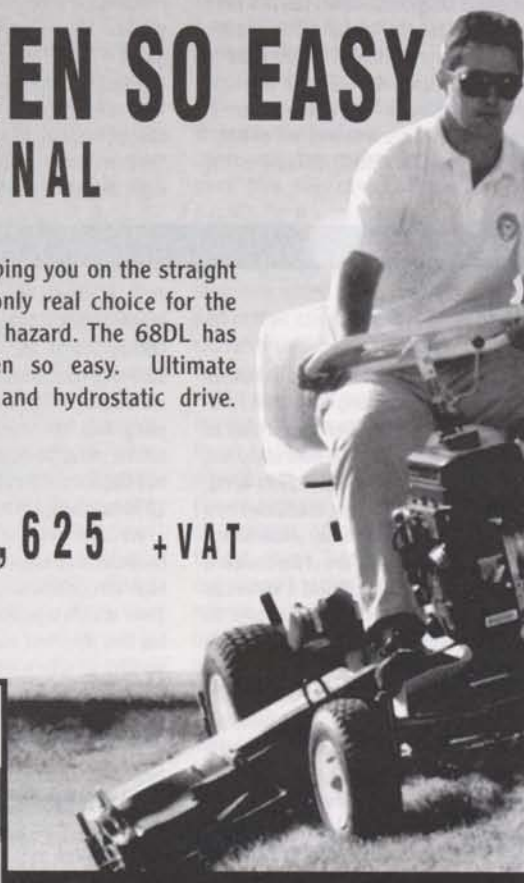
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■ The tranquil Fota Island Golf Club, situated in Cork Harbour was the scene of activity when Hayter Territory Manager, Barry Halls delivered six Hayter Pedestrian Greensmowers.

Course Manager, Steve Burn, commented that his team had chosen the machines after evaluating them, and, being used to

pedestrian machines were satisfied that the Hayter machines would meet the criteria.

Fota Island is a traditional golf course with many challenging features, and is maintained to the highest standards all year round. Being host to many prestigious championships the need for the right machine is critical and sup-

plying dealers, Pat Geaney/John O'Flynn are confident that the Hayter Greensmowers will provide the desired finish for quality golfing conditions.

Pat Geaney, of Geaney O'Neill, located in Glanmire Co Cork will provide service back-up. Being local to the club was obviously an important factor to Fota island.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Scotland's new Regional Administrator is former policeman Peter Boyd.



Peter (50) served in the Strathclyde Police and the City of Glasgow Police for 30 years working latterly in the Administration Department while this year he has worked part time for the PGA Scottish Region as a Starter and Tournament Controller.

No mean golfer, he has competed in the Scottish Amateur Championship and currently plays off a handicap of 3. He is a member of both Fereneze and Moffat golf clubs, being a past Captain and Greens Convener of the former and a Club Champion of the latter. He is also a keen gardener.

He lives in Newton Mearns, near Glasgow with his wife, Eleanor, and they have two daughters, Lesley and Karen.

"I'm excited about my new role. It is so different from what I've done before but involves one of my great passions. I've really looking forward to getting to know the BIGGA members in Scotland," said Peter.

Peter takes over from Elliott Small who, along with Edna, has done such a wonderful job as Scottish Regional Administrator over the years.

The set of employed part-time Regional Administrators is now complete with Peter, in Scotland, Douglas Bell, in the Northern Region; Peter Larter, in the Midlands; Paula Humphries, in the South West and South Wales and Derek Farrington, in the South East.

Four more courses are acquired by Americans

American Golf (UK) Ltd has expanded its operations in the UK, adding a further four golf courses to its existing portfolio of five and expanding its territory to cover an area from Portsmouth in the South to Nottingham in the Midlands.

American Golf is the largest golf course operator in the world with the head office in Santa Monica, Los Angeles and employing over 14,000 people worldwide. Geary Leathers is Managing Director of the UK subsidiary supported by Laurence Pithie who, as a Director of Maintenance, is responsible for the development and maintenance of its nine courses.

"Historically American Golf have purchased Jacobsen equipment and we have continued this association because the Jacobsen product range features quality equipment that meet our stringent requirements for course maintenance. This together with their excellent after sales service, and their commitment to product quality ensure that we have the best possible packages to help provide quality playing facilities at all of our courses, said Laurence.

American Golf has agreed a provisional list of equipment including SV Workhorse Utility Trucks, Top Dressers, Bunker Rakes, HR5 1 11 Rotary Mowers,

Greensking V and Tri King Mowers in a £150,000 package. They currently operate a fleet of E-Z-GO golf carts from leading hire specialists W.G Search Group.

David Withers, recently-appointed National Accounts Manager for Jacobsen, said, "We are obviously delighted to have secured this order from the largest golf course operator in the world. Globally American Golf has 270 courses and our range of equipment plays an inherent part in its maintenance systems. As an expanding organisation we look forward to a long and mutually beneficial association between our two companies."

Visitors get chance to see Huxleys machines in action

Visitors to Huxleys' fifth annual machinery demonstration held at Alesford GC were treated to a display of professional equipment suitable for maintaining a wide variety of grass and turf surfaces.

More than 100 visitors from golf clubs, local authorities, contract organisations, sports clubs, colleges, parks and estates attended the event which featured many established products from the Huxley range as well as a number of machines making their first public working appearance. Accompanied by a commentary,

machines were paraded in front of visitors before carrying out two or three working passes. At the end there was an opportunity for visiting greenkeepers, to try out the equipment for themselves.

One machine which attracted close attention was the new Huxley Greenstar greens mower which was making its public working debut at the event. The Greenstar has the distinction of being the only British-built ride-on greens mower on the market, developed with considerable input from working greenkeepers.





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Fairy rings are widespread due to weather

One feature of the '97 season has been the increase in fairy ring activity that has been reported on both fine and coarse turf throughout the UK. This increase seems to be across the range of different types of fairy ring and not just certain ones. For example on golf greens the traditional type one rings caused by *Marasmius oryzae* have been equally prevalent as the superficial fairy rings or thatch fungi as they are sometimes known.

According to Dr Neil Baldwin, Technical Service Manager for Service Chemicals the reason that fairy rings are so widespread this year lies with the weather.

"The ring of toadstools produced by the fairy ring is the fruiting bodies which liberate spores into the air so the fungus can reproduce and move to new areas. To prevent it from doing this at the wrong time the fungus produces chemical inhibitors known as stalling substances

which stop the production of toadstools," explained Dr Baldwin.

"The weather this year has been characterised by dry and wet spells with most areas getting some heavy downpours. These are essentially the signal for fairy rings to produce its toadstools, which have been so evident this year.

"In many cases the active fairy ring is also causing a good deal of water repellency in the soil which may be causing damage to the turf. Wetting agents can break this water repellency and thus help in fairy ring control," said Dr Baldwin.

"The use of a full programme of wetting agents may have been furthest away from your thoughts with the very changeable summer but if you have continued to use wetting agents in a programmed manner then this will have helped to keep your turf in a healthy condition better able to withstand a dry or wet autumn," he added.

Seminar date set

The South West and South Wales Regional Seminar in partnership with Rigby Taylor will again be held at Cannington College on November 26.

The programme includes papers by Cameron McMillan on "Golf Course Construction"; Golf Professional John Stirling on "The Course is only as Good as the Greenkeeper"; Jack McMillan on "The Importance of Course Maintenance"; Andrew Lawrence on "BIGGA Insurance and How it Works for You"; Rod Baker of Amazon on "The Importance of Working with the Environment and How You Can Win a Prestigious Award" and Mick Blasdale, of Time/System UK Ltd on "Making the Best Use of Your Time". There will also be papers from student greenkeepers.

Anyone wishing to book the seminar - members £15 non-members £22 - should contact Regional Administrator Paula Humphries, Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, Crediton, Devon EX17 6DF Tel: 01363 82777.



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Jim Simnett, who undertook the assessment for QMS Quality Management Systems Limited, paid particular tribute to "the investment in people and training that enables Complete Weed Control (North Midlands) to give an efficient service to their customers.

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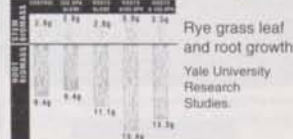


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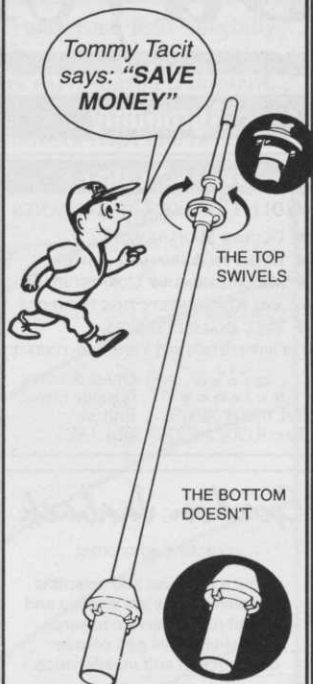
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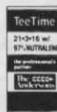
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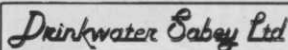
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Job Shop

Course Manager with over 28 years experience seeks new and challenging position in U.K. or Europe.

Wide ranging experience from Construction to 'Growing in' of new courses. U.S.G.A. specification greens. Installation of Automatic Watering Systems. General Golf Course Maintenance.

I have worked in Europe previously and would relish the opportunity to return.

Box No. JS/75/97, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2 NF

Golf Course Construction/Manager/Designer having built and managed courses in England and Wales, seeks position in construction/refurbishment in U.K. or abroad.

Over 12 years experience as Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, plus installation of irrigation systems and maintenance of all golf equipment. Extremely hard-working and professional, with an eye for detail and perfection.

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Will you soon qualify?

Are you living abroad but looking to move to the UK?

Job Shop

Call Amanda or Jenny on
01347 838581

for details of
Greenkeeper International's
Job Shop feature.

31 year old fully qualified First Assistant Greenkeeper. Eight years experience, three years in construction, one year bringing the course into play and four years greenkeeping on a prestigious 45 hole Parkland course. I currently hold NVQ level 1, 2 and 3, PA1 and PA1a certificate and have attended two BIGGA regional courses.

I enjoy all aspects of turf management and I am seeking a challenging position as a Deputy Head Greenkeeper within the UK or Europe.

Box No. JS/76/97, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2 NF

Job Shop

Job Shop is a new service provided by Greenkeeper International which will give greenkeepers:

★ the opportunity to let potential employers know about them for only £19.95

★ looking for new opportunities, a change of location, promotion, or perhaps a move back into greenkeeping

Don't forget to include details of qualifications, experience and perhaps award wins. You can fit approximately 50 words into your advertisement.

Just send your details with a cheque for £19.95 made payable to BIGGA, to Job Shop, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF

For only £19.95 you get a space this size in the Job Shop section to tell clubs about yourself. The cost includes the use of a confidential box number.



Scarcroft Golf Club

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Scarcroft is a well-established, high quality course set in wooded parkland, eight miles north of Leeds, renowned for its excellent greens and attractive presentation.

We are seeking an experienced Head Greenkeeper, qualified to level 4. Knowledge of turf management, modern machinery and irrigation systems is essential, as is the ability to lead a team by example.

An excellent salary package will be offered to the successful applicant in recognition of the importance of this position.

Please apply in writing, with full CV, to:

**Secretary/Manager
Scarcroft Golf Club
Syke Lane
Scarcroft
Leeds LS14 3BQ**

Gosforth Golf Club

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of golf course management.

Salary by negotiation.

Applications in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary, Gosforth Golf Club, Broadway East,
Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5ER**

Golf Centres Group Limited

have the following vacancies

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

(Midlands)

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

(Midlands and South)

Applications must have experience and possess the following qualifications: NVQ I & II & PA1/PA2

Please send C.V. to:

**Mr D Kelly, Golf Centres Group Limited, Widney Manor Golf Club,
Saintbury Drive, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3SZ**

Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Club

invite applications for the position of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The 18 hole private course was founded in 1894 and lies within the ancient grounds of The Dulwich Estate.

Minimum qualifications required are:

- ◆ Greenkeeping Phase I & II ◆ Spraying Certificate plus full driving licence.
- Experience in the use of modern machinery and maintenance of automatic irrigation systems is required.

Salary will be based on BIGGA rates. No accommodation available.

Applications in writing with CV to:

**The Secretary, Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Club, Grange Lane,
College Road, Dulwich SE21 7LH**

Boughton Golf Club

require a

QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

to join their young and charismatic team on this new Kent course.

Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of modern greenkeeping and have a thorough knowledge of machine maintenance.

Also holding Phase I and Phase II greenkeeping qualifications along with PA1 and PA2 Spraying Certificates.

Apply in confidence with full CV to:

**Head Greenkeeper, Boughton Golf Club, Brickfield Lane,
Boughton, Faversham, Kent MK 13 9AJ**

The RAC Country Club

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the above vacancy from suitably experienced and qualified persons to Level/Phase 2 with appropriate spraying certificates.

We have 2 x 18 hole courses with the second course being professionally extended and developed. A new greenkeeper's complex is about to be built. Remuneration by wage and bonus with a non contributory pension scheme. Meals on duty. (No accommodation)

Application forms from:

**The Estate Office, The RAC Country Club,
Woodcote Park, Epsom, Surrey KT18 7EW
Tel: 01372 273091 (Office hours only)**

Hellidon Lakes Hotel & Golf Club

require a

MECHANIC

Applicants must be suitably qualified to maintain the golf course's machinery. Grinding experience would be an advantage.

Competitive package and good workshop facilities are available.

Apply to:

**Head Greenkeeper
Hellidon Lakes Hotel & Country Club
Hellidon, Nr Daventry, Northants, NN11 6LN**



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You will act as Year Tutor on HNC and ND Turf courses, teaching all aspects of turfculture from NVQ 1 up to HND level, some general horticulture, and co-ordinating and organising short specialist courses.

For further details please contact the
Director of Administration at the address below.

Closing date 15 September 1997.

REASEHEATH COLLEGE
Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF
Tel: (01270) 625131. Fax: (01270) 625665

St Andrews Links Trust

We are looking for two Greenkeepers to work for a three year period, along with our existing staff, to prepare the Old Course for the Millennium Open. The duties will comprise mainly of construction work with experience in bunker revetment essential although other greenkeeping duties may apply.

Salary based on Trust's pay structure of Grade 2 Greenkeeper.

Start date 1 November 1997 until 31 October 2000.

If you are interested, forward a full CV to:

Brian Collin, Personnel Supervisor,
Pilmour Cottage, St Andrews KY16 9SF

Closing date for applications: 26 September 1997

Stowmarket Golf Club

require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Previous experience and qualifications essential.

Minimum Level 2 NVQ PA1 & 2

Apply in writing enclosing a full CV to:

The Secretary, Stowmarket Golf Club, Lower Road,
Onehouse, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 3DA



LANHYDROCK Golf Club

Applications are invited for the positions of

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

and

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Situated in the centre of Cornwall, Lanhydrock is a successful, well-presented course with modern machinery.

The successful applicants will possess the relevant experience and qualifications for the positions.

Both posts will provide an ideal opportunity for ambitious and dedicated greenkeepers to enhance their careers.

Lanhydrock Golf Club offers a continuous staff improvement programme.

Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to:

The General Manager, Lanhydrock Golf Club Ltd,
Lostwithiel Road, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 5AQ.

Tel: 01208 73600

Iford Golf Club

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for this post which will become available late 1997/early 1998

The primary responsibilities of this position are as follows:

- Maintenance of the golf course to a consistent and high standard
- Management and development of all greenkeeping staff
- Administration of project and maintenance programmes
- Input and control regarding course financial budgets.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate:

- A good working knowledge of modern golf course management practices and techniques, including the appropriate use of, and basic servicing of turf maintenance machinery
- A recognised qualification in the appropriate field of horticulture and greenkeeping, as well as a positive approach to further training and professional enhancement
- The ability to play golf and to empathise with the requirements of a diversified playing membership.

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Accommodation may be available.

Concise CV and hand written letter of application in the first instance to:

The Secretary/Manager, Iford Golf Club,
291 Wanstead Park Road, Iford IG1 3TR

Closing date for applications Wednesday 1st October 1997

Ganton: a fitting venue for the Hayter Challenge Final



It is unlikely that any finer venue could have been chosen for the final of the 1997 Hayter Challenge than Ganton, near Scarborough.

As a golf course there is hardly a major event, outside of an Open Championship, that it has not hosted and the final Hayter Challenge finds itself on Ganton's roll of honour alongside other such significant events as the Ryder Cup in 1949, the 1975 Dunlop Masters and '81 PGA Championship. Top amateur events include Men's Home Internationals; English Amateur; British Amateur (three times); the British Ladies and Vagliano Trophy while the Curtis Cup will be played there in 2004. All are major events and the Hayter Challenge finds itself in exalted company.

As you would expect Ganton was chosen for a reason. That reason being that it is a magnificent golf course and certainly deserving of its placing near the top of any British, or even, world ranking.

A mighty 6,720 yards off the back pegs there are seven par-4s over 400 yards long and a grand total of 111 bunkers many of which can comfortably house golfers standing to their full height.

One of the finest holes is the 4th on what is regarded as a memorable front nine. At 406 yards it is a tough task if only the distance is taken into account but with a second shot which is required to negotiate a valley to a plateau green well armed with bunkers it provides even more food for thought.

Ganton is riddled with history. Harry Vardon was professional during the time when he was perhaps the best player in the world, winning Open Championships on both sides of the Atlantic.

Ben Hogan, still recovering from his near fatal car accident, was the non-playing Captain of the US Ryder Cup team in '49. That team contained another legendary figure – Sam Snead. The Great Britain and Ireland team which narrowly lost 7-5 included

Open Champions Fred Daly and Max Faulkner as well as Dai Rees and was Captained by Charles Whitcombe.

Another former Ryder Cup Captain Bernard Gallacher won the Dunlop Masters at Ganton while Nick Faldo clinched his third PGA Championship in four years over the course in 1981.

Emma Duggelby, of the BIGGA staff, also competed over the course for Great Britain and Ireland against the Continent of Europe in the 1995 Vagliano Trophy.

The man charged with looking after the historic piece of North Yorkshire is Dave Spurden who, on this occasion, is combining his efforts at producing the course in its best condition with representing the Northern Region in Category 2. Whether an additional handicap to cover his local knowledge has been considered is not known!

At the time of going to press the competitors from across the Irish Sea had not yet been selected.

TEAMS

Scotland

Cat 1. 1. D. Leith S. Taylor 3. D. Wilson Cat 2. 1. A. Wilson. J. Johnston, A. Torrance Cat 3. G. Shearer 2. S. Carmichael. D. Nelson

South West and South Wales

Cat 1. R. Daly, L. Millar, C. Bland. Cat 2. A. Knight, 2. P. Wentworth, M. Porrish Cat 3. A. James, J. Cooper, A. Rideout.

Midland

Cat 1. M. Hughes, A. Cheese, A. Duncan. Cat 2. J. Chesson, A. Bindley, D. Jones. Cat 3. J. Hatton, M. Bindley, M. Jones.

South East

Cat 1. A. Sheehan, N. Gilham D. Murdoch Cat 2. I. Sutcliffe R. Malt, J. Selwood; Cat 3. M. Mison, T. Hindmarch, B. Jackson.

Northern

Cat 1. P. Pearce, D. Norton, R. Lewis; Cat 2. M. Coultas, J. Waite, D. Spurden Cat 3. P. Neve, R. Smith and E. Rowlands.

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