

# 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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## TURF MAINTENANCE EXHIBITION 1997

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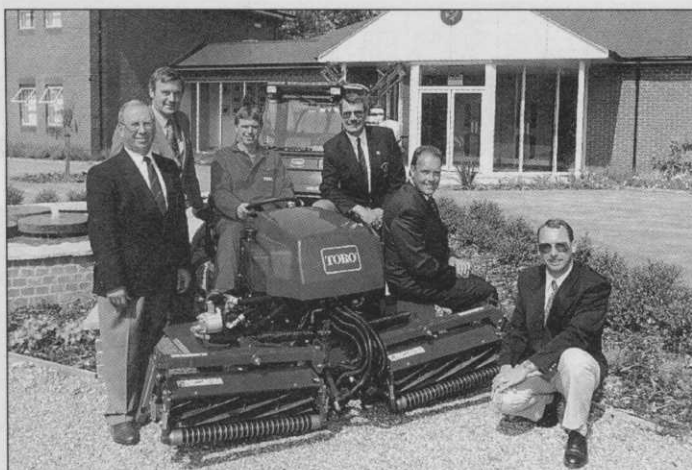
Due to the great demand for space, the fair now occupies Ireland's most prestigious exhibition hall, the Main Hall of the RDS, Dublin.

Essential for greenkeepers, groundsmen, county councils and corporations or indeed anyone responsible for the upkeep of large grass areas.

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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.

The company specialises in microbial soil inoculants developed to enhance turfgrass quality.

### (mis)adventures of Gordon the Greenkeeper



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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.





# 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.



## Quality is rewarded

Complete Weed Control (North Midlands) has been awarded the BS5750/ISO 9000 certificate.

Said a delighted Alun Davies, pictured above: "We have always been proud of the service we offer our clients. Now with the award of BS 5750/ISO 9000, this has been confirmed by outside experts, who are used to judging service on a daily basis in a wide variety of trades and industries."

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.

# Course tired, listless, feeling worn out?



Golf course turf is continually under pressure, constantly suffers from stress and is regularly subject to an amazing range of injuries deliberately inflicted. Is it any wonder that sometimes it looks a little off colour!

To alleviate many of these problems, and assist turf recovery, Toro irrigation systems have been specifically designed for the individual needs of the course. To ensure these systems are designed and installed to the highest standards, a regional network of specialist dealers has been appointed to provide a quality and affordable service.

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