

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club.

Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



Name: Spencer Haines

Club: Wokefield Park GC, Near Reading

Position: Deputy Head/First Assistant

Age: 26

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

Nine years.

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

Bringing into play a new golf course (An education in itself)

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

Cutting aprons

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Picking stones from bunkers

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?

Bricklayer

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

Lindsay Anderson, Course Manager, Bridgemoor Park GC, for his constant encouragement.

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?

Improvements to Greenkeepers' facilities and storage areas.

8. What are your hobbies?

Cricket, golf and fishing.

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Up to date information and good reading.

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?

Hopefully retired and living off my lottery winnings!

A sharp solution from Multi-Core

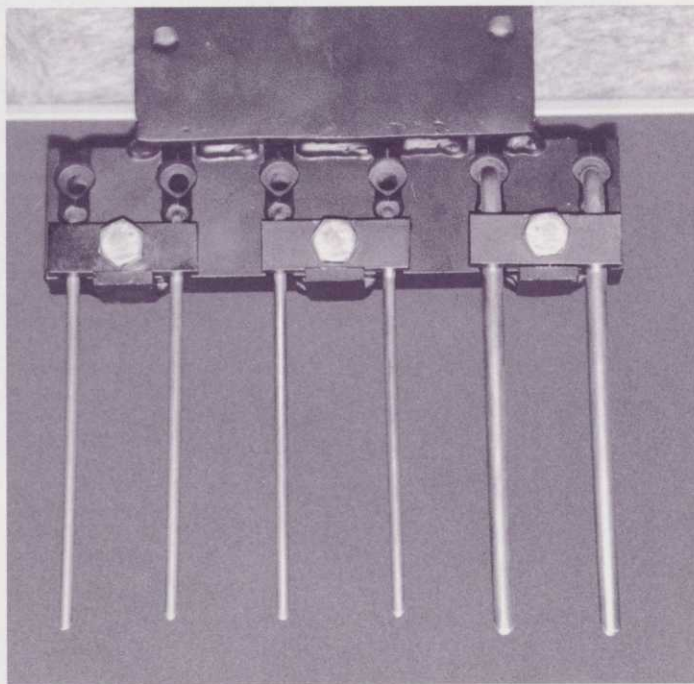
Two new super-thin needle tines have been added to the range suitable for use with Multi-Core's MC 10 and MC 15 tractor-mounted turf aerators.

Developed in conjunction with John Coleman, Course Manager at Abbeydale GC, in Sheffield, the specialist solid tines are designed for use on fine turf areas which reduce regular aeration without interrupting normal sports or leisure activities.

Measuring 5mm and 8mm in diameter, the two new tines are capable of aerating at depths of up to 125mm (5in) with virtually no surface marking. This has been achieved through a combination of the thin tine design and the working action of the Multi-core aerator which keeps the tines vertical as they enter and leave the ground, irrespective of the tractor's forward movement.

"The new tines will appeal to Course Managers, Greenkeepers and Groundsmen who wish to aerate regularly during the growing season without causing any disruption to play," says Multi-Core's Ian Waddington.

"In receptive ground, it should be possible to go straight in with the 5mm needle tines. Tougher conditions may require initial treatment with the 8mm version."



Mounted in special holders, the tines come in sets of six which are spaced 40mm apart across the width of the machine. There are 24 tines on the Multi-Core MC 10 aerator and 36 tines on the MC 20 aerator, which have maximum workrates of 4,050 sq m (1 acre)

per hour and 6,075 sq m (1.5 acres) per hour respectively. If the tractor is driven at a suitable forward speed to produce a square tine pattern (40mm x 40mm), the aerator will create 625 holes per sq metre.

For further information Tel: 01937 843281

Grass at risk from high temperatures

With temperatures in mid-February 10° above the average for the time of year combining with an unseasonably warm January and early February, growers are being warned to monitor their grassland with care by Geoff Taylor, Technical Officer at Johnsons Seeds.

"Temperatures of 16-17°C are being reached and the climate at the moment is more like April than February, and this could have very serious implications for grassland production in 1998," said Geoff.

"There are many factors that are affected, from nitrogen uptake to diseases, pests and weed infestation. None can be looked at in isolation and the scenario could be described as a cascade effect, all triggered by the recent above average temperatures."

One of the primary concerns for anyone who has applied fertiliser is that temperatures suddenly fall. There are two side effects of this.

"Negative environmental impact is a very real threat as rain could occur, leading to leaching. Alternatively, the ground tempera-

ture may drop, meaning the plant is no longer able to utilise the nitrogen and it is a wasted application and costly mistake," explained Geoff.

Changes in plant physiology, which is greatly affected by temperature, could also make the grass vulnerable, should a cold snap occur. The cell division and expansion that takes place under favourable conditions means that recuperative potential is severely curtailed, should temperatures fall to freezing, the larger cells will freeze causing irreparable damage to the individual grass stems.

"Equally, rapid growth, without regular mowing could mean that, when cutting does take place, the plant loses a large proportion of its nutrients which are stored in the stem base. The outcome of this is that the plant finds it hard to recover following cutting, again leading to susceptibility. A regular mowing regime is essential and should take climatic conditions into account."

If the sward is left damaged and vulnerable following rapid growth

and then sub optimal weather, disease outbreaks pose a significant threat, particularly fusarium, red thread and pythium, all of which should be checked for.

"Leatherjackets, and other pests look like being a potential problem this March, so again, regular testing and monitoring is essential, with an option of chemical control.

"The grass is also highly susceptible to weed infestation. This is especially crucial to look out for as many weeds and annual weed grasses are more aggressive than the perennial varieties sold in grass mixtures and, in a very short space of time, could have a very negative effect on sward performance," said Geoff.

"With forecasts indicating that temperatures will soon return to normal for the time of year, there are many factors to consider for any grower wanting to make use of early grass growth, but minimising long-term damage to the sward," he concluded.