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Letters to the editor are welcome on any topic related to the practice or pursuit of greenkeeping.

Write to the editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firls Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL. Letters should be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for brevity, clarity and good taste.

Letters

Regarding coring, the greens at Ham Manor are about 500m² and are what would be regarded as average size. The Ryan GA30 we use is a remarkably fast and efficient tool for hollow coring and, when coupled with a Cushman Harvester, we can (and indeed do) core and clear 18 greens in an eight hour day.

GEORGE BARR Course Manager, Ham Manor Golf Club

■ May I convey my sincere thanks to all those at Aldwark Manor who were involved in the recent TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper awards. Our Association representatives and the Toro and PGA personnel all made us feel most welcome. May I wish the winner and runners-up the very best for their future in greenkeeping and express the hope that we shall all meet again at other BIGGA events very soon. I shall remember the weekend for a very long time.

Mark Ellis Woburn Golf and Country Club, Bedfordshire

■ With BIGGA offering an ever increasing variety of official uniform dress, do you think it would be a good idea to provide official BIGGA overalls? A smart range would do much to improve the professional image we try so hard to create.

PETER LACEY Pennard Golf Club, South Wales

Moves are indeed afoot to make BIGGA neckties and blazers obligatory wear at all official or invited functions, such as the Kubota Challenge and the Ransomes International Tournament, and indeed such a 'uniform' greatly improves one's professional image. At work the choice is perhaps one of greater individuality, though there is certainly merit in a smarter, uniform turn-out.

■ Whilst I normally have the greatest respect for Jon Allbutt's opinions, I was disappointed by his negative comments (October issue) on S.P.I.s (spray pattern indicators).

Here was an opportunity for an authority in his field to welcome with enthusiasm a valuable tool which enables greenkeepers to be more aware of their responsibilities and the need for more accurate and controllable spray applications.

The letter asked for more balance, yet balance assumes some form of equality and I see nothing equal about towing a set of chains behind a spray boom or the spitting of foam blobs to mark a spray boom width when compared to the simple task of adding colour to an existing spray solution.

Regarding his questions on the use of S.P.I.s and the Control of Pesticides regulations, these products fall outside the scope of this Act as they exert no effect on the pesticides activity, being purely visual. Pesticide manufacturers are themselves enthusiastic supporters of this concept.

What I cannot understand is Jon Allbutt's refusal to acknowledge the value of S.P.I.s in identifying faults, eg. blocked nozzles on the job, relying instead on The Code Of Practice. Of course greenkeepers should read this excellent manual and follow The Code, but surely Jon must recognise that not everything is predictable and it is usually 'Murphy's Law' – anything that can go wrong will go wrong – that operates in the real world. If a nozzle becomes blocked it is usually impossible to identify without the addition of an S.P.I. and this results in a repeat application.

One positive aspect of his letter was his observation that some spray colourants sold in the UK can have a higher hazard classification than the pesticide with which they are mixed. Industrial acid blue 9 dye formulations adapted from the textile industry are used, whilst Blazon is a non-ionic polymeric colourant and has a non-toxic and non-hazardous classification.

So come on Jon, show an open mind to one of an ever decreasing number of products specially developed for greenkeepers. Remember, the status quo is a very safe state to be in but does nothing to aid progress.

RICHARD FRY Basildon, Essex

Richard Fry, the author of the article to which Jon Allbutt referred, is a Marketing Consultant, perhaps best known to greenkeepers as the head of Rhone Poulenc's (formerly May & Baker Ltd) Environmental Products Division in the early 1980s and the organiser of the National Turf Care Workshop seminars.

■ Back home again after yet another foray to Florida in my quest for the elusive work permit, my first move is to catch up on all that's been happening in the world of greenkeeping. Congratulations! Greenkeeper International continues to grow in stature and quality and is far and away the most eagerly looked for magazine in this household. Though it is hard to single out any particular feature or series for special praise, I always turn first to the brilliant cartoons of "Badleigh Dunne", whose characters from both the clubhouse and work place succeed in capturing the very essence of greenkeeping in such a delightful manner – and so true to life! Long may he continue. Then it's on to 'Flying Divots', the S E Regional news and stories of golfing prowess, made all the more interesting because I've often witnessed these happenings.

This brings me to a point regarding "the ladies". I believe it is very important for more ladies to give support and encouragement wherever possible. This in turn provides a splendid social outlet, one where the whole thing can be great fun through visiting wonderful places and meeting interesting people. I also gain much from technical features, as this gives me a better understanding of the skills required of our menfolk.

LINDA EXLEY
Northwood, Middx.

Linda echoes the opinion of many readers, all of whom say how much they enjoy the Grinkeeper cartoons. "Badleigh Dunne" is, in fact, John Moran, an ex-greenkeeper turned commercial cartoonist, whose work also appears regularly in national magazines and newspapers.

■ It is always worrying when those with little practical or technical expertise get involved in very important matters such as how to comply with the Control of Pesticides Regulations, and in particular the Code of Practice. In order to fully comply with the Regulations, the operator of a pesticide applicator must show that he/she is using a 'safe system' to accurately apply the pesticide to the target, and only the target. Whereas marker dyes will show the operator where he has been, correctly aligned bout markers quite clearly show him where he is going! Thus it can be seen there is a role for both marker dyes and bout markers and sometimes they may well be used in combination to good effect. Ground conditions vary so much that having options is very wise, and all who are involved in this area, be it selling, advising or using, must be responsible and professional in their approach to protecting the environment.

JON ALLBUTT Biggin Hill, Kent

■ I have now read and re-read Mr Jim Arthur's article entitled 'The Quick and The Dead', which appeared in your November issue. On behalf of our Tournament Committee and senior colleagues I write to advise you that the Tour are appalled at his ill-informed references towards our efforts to assist greenkeepers involved with Tour events. Indeed, we believe that elements of Mr Arthur's comments are potentially damaging to the Tour and look to your magazine to reproduce this reply.

I question Mr Arthur's current knowledge of principles or methods that are now employed on the PGA European Tour, as the consultancy relationship the Tour had with him ended several years ago. It should be pointed out that the Tour look to putting greens; 1) as being true as possible, free from bumps and 'snaking'; 2) having a consistent resilience for bounce and grip, ie. a poorly struck shot should not hold the putting green; 3) having as fast a speed of putting surface as possible taking account of slopes and grass species and; 4) having consistency on all 18 greens, practice putting green and chipping greens.

I will, however, reiterate that the sound principle of aeration and sensible levels of water and fertilisation for putting greens preached by Mr Arthur still hold true today. Our approach in recent years has been one of gentle persuasion to build up a good working relationship with host greenkeepers. In the last three years we have organised two one-week seminars to enable all greenkeepers and managers of the Tour venues to meet and exchange ideas.

We feel these exchanges can only be good for the game, believing that no one person can honestly claim to have total knowledge.

In our experience of running professional golf tournaments, which even Mr Arthur might concede is considerable, we have found that the wish of everyone concerned at a Tour venue is to achieve perfection in terms of presentation for their tournament week, and if we are asked to provide practical help, we will continue to do so.

It is quite wrong to suggest that the Tour have advocated prolonged 'shaving' of greens to achieve speed alone. Indeed, all the methods mentioned by Mr Arthur – including rolling – have been used to good effect and certainly in taking the long term health of the Tour golf courses into consideration. Mr Arthur seems to suggest that the Tour have no care or consideration for the venue when the final putt of the tournament is holed. I regard this as so contemptuous that it does not even require further comment!

It seems that the inclusion of Tour representatives on the R&A's Joint Golf Course Committee doesn't meet with Mr Arthur's approval.

Our wish, and we believe it is also that of the R&A, is that with all parties 'pooling' ideas constructive ideas may be forthcoming.

Please suggest to Mr Arthur that many if not all readers of your magazine would dearly love to read constructive ideas from a man who was, for so long, the agronomist. I am sure that he can pass on a great deal of knowledge, rather than embarking on yet another attempt to discredit other organisations or individuals.

J N PARAMOR Director of Tour Operations, PGA European Tour
GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL December 1991 11

Breaking

Winter play on greens – a topic never to be brought up in polite conversation. But just what is the answer to this perennial problem? James T Snow, National Director, USGA Green Section, considers a few of the alternatives

It is common knowledge that three topics are simply too controversial and should never be brought up at social functions: politics, religion, and winter play on greens. Not familiar with the last? If not, then you apparently haven't spent much time at golf courses during late autumn and early winter.

Few subjects raise such an emotional response from greenkeepers and golfers alike. Golfers can become irate at actions restricting their access to regular greens during late autumn, winter and early spring, while greenkeepers are just as unyielding in their view that play should be kept off the greens at those times.

Who's right?

As with most topics of this nature, qualifications have to be tacked on to any firm answer. It is safe to say, however, that winter play can only harm the greens and in many instances it has a significant negative impact on the health and playability of the turf during the following golf season.

Repercussions of winter play

It is not hard to understand why many golfers are sometimes sceptical about claims concerning the negative effects of winter play, because to them the turf on greens that have been played throughout the winter usually appears the same as the turf on greens that have been closed. The effects of winter traffic, however, need not be obvious and dramatic to have significant and long-lasting repercussions.

Direct wear injury – Thinning of the turf due to direct wear injury is an obvious and important result of winter traffic. Unlike during the growing season, when the turf is able to regenerate new leaves and stems to replace injured tissue daily, winter weather completely halts turf growth; the grass is continually thinned throughout the winter in direct proportion to the amount of traffic. This thinning of the turf canopy can and often does encourage the establishment of such weeds as *Poa annua*, crabgrass, goosegrass, moss, algae, pearlwort, spurge and other weed pests during the spring and summer. True enough, weeds can indeed be a problem on greens that are not subjected to winter play, but winter traffic causes them to be just that much more abundant and difficult to control.

Soil compaction – Soil compaction is a more subtle and perhaps more important consequence of winter traffic. Because of the cold winter temperatures and the lack of active turf growth, the loss of excess soil moisture through evaporation and transpiration is greatly reduced. In addition, frozen sub-surface soils may completely block the movement of excess moisture through the soil profile. During the summer a very heavy rainfall often creates soil conditions that warrant closing the course for a day or two until the excess moisture is eliminated by way of evaporation, transpiration and downward percolation through the soil

Pictured right, top: an intelligent, well prepared temporary green is no punishment.

Below, left: the blotched effect of winter play shows up early...

...and is exacerbated the following spring! (Centre).

Picture lower right: poor drainage and air circulation. Likely cause? Heavy compaction through playing on wet or thawing greens.

profile. Because these moisture losses are often non-functional during the winter, saturated soil conditions can persist for weeks or longer. Yet the golfers who can appreciate the need to close the course during the summer are completely unsympathetic to the same conditions during the winter.

The effects of soil compaction on the health and playability of the turf are insidious at any time, but because wet soils are especially prone to compaction, the likelihood of traffic causing the collapse of good soil structure is of constant concern during the winter. As soil particles are compacted and pushed closer and closer together, the pore space that facilitates drainage and root growth during the summer is gradually lost. As the season finally commences golfers often complain that these compacted greens are hard. From an agronomic stand-point, turf begins the season in a weakened state predisposed to a host of summer problems. In addition to the potential for weed encroachment, the turf on greens played during winter tends to wilt more readily during hot weather and often is more susceptible to a wide array of primary and secondary disease organisms.

Effects on playability – With the loss of turf density from direct wear injury and the loss of turf vigour caused by soil compaction, greens played during winter tend to be hard, slow and bumpy, and they are slower to develop during the spring compared to greens that are not subjected to winter traffic. Footprinting is often a problem and golfers tend to complain about the lack of trueness even after several topdressings in the spring. Finally, the effects of compaction on the health of the turf can last to a certain extent for much of the season, making it difficult or impossible to keep greens as closely cut and intensively groomed as some golfers may desire.

Many winter golfers have heard these arguments before and have dismissed them as being the ravings of overprotective greenkeepers and turfgrass scientists. A favourite response is: "I pay plenty to play golf at this Club and I'm going to use the regular greens during the winter. That's why we pay the greenkeeper – to fix up the greens in time for spring. Besides, the Let-'Em-Play-Anytime course down the street lets them play through the winter and they don't lose any grass during the summer. Anyway, we only have a few groups that play much during the winter. How much damage can we do?"

Factors to consider

On the surface, these comments seem quite valid; after all, everything is a matter of degree. But many factors should be taken into account in developing a logical policy on winter play.

Anticipated traffic – If a single round were played on the course during the winter most would agree that the potential for serious damage would be nil. Same for ten rounds? How about 100, 500 or 1,000? If the weather is mild and there is little snow, how many more rounds will it add? Where do you draw the line?

Soil type – Winter golfers argue that sand-based greens drain well and don't compact, making them very suitable for winter play at any time. While it is true that sand-based greens don't suffer from compaction to the same extent that older soil-based greens might, it is also true that direct-wear injury is likely to be more severe on sand greens. Turf density can be greatly compromised and weed encroachment

a TABOO



can be a real problem. Obviously, courses with older soil-based greens are especially vulnerable to both types of winter injury.

Specific weather conditions – Though traffic on dormant turf will indeed cause some injury, the weather and soil conditions at the time of play will dictate the type and extent of the damage. Traffic on dry, unfrozen soil will cause the least damage, but this condition is rare during the winter. Frozen soil can cause significant wear injury but little soil compaction. Play on wet, unfrozen soil can result in significant

soil compaction but less wear injury. Play on a thawing soil (wet on the surface, frozen below) can result in severe soil compaction and wear injury and should be avoided. Finally, frosted turf is extremely susceptible to direct injury and play should never be allowed.

Grass species – Do you have fine bent/fescue greens and want to keep them? Then don't allow winter play. Thinned turf and compacted soil is just what *Poa annua* is looking for in the spring.

Cultural maintenance programmes – Winter golfers argue

'Temporary greens can be est

that a good head greenkeeper should be able to fix any damage done during winter by aerifying, topdressing, overseeding, fertilising and irrigating during the early spring. If weed encroachment is a problem, then he should apply herbicides to kill the weeds and pre-emergent herbicides to prevent crabgrass and goosegrass from developing. However, a) it would be a rare case where intensive spring work would completely compensate for the wear injury and soil compaction resulting from winter play, b) chemicals applied to control crabgrass and other weeds have a negative effect on the root growth and the overall health of the turf during the summer, c) golfers despise the intensive aerification and topdressing required during the early spring, since most of them return after a winter lay-off and find their greens ripped up and in poor playing condition for weeks or more, and d) all of the work to renovate the greens takes more money for labour and materials and comes at the expense of other spring course preparation activities.

History of winter injury – The effects of winter play can exacerbate the injury from other types of winter problems, including desiccation, winter diseases and low-temperature kill (ice damage). Winter play should therefore be avoided if the course regularly suffers from other forms of winter injury.

Previous weed problems – Courses that have previously experienced and are concerned about weed problems such as crabgrass, spurge, moss, algae and *Poa annua* would do themselves a favour by avoiding winter play on the regular greens.

Recent stress problems – Winter play is best not allowed on greens that have experienced any turf loss or extreme weakness during the previous year or years caused by heat stress, secondary disease problems such as anthracnose or summer patch, nematodes or other summer stress problems. Greens like these probably would suffer even greater prob-

lems if they were burdened with the vigor-inhibiting effects of winter play.

Trees – Greens close to large trees that suffer from shade, air circulation or tree root competition problems should not be forced to endure the complicating effects of winter play. Compared to turf growing in clear areas, greens in locations like these usually respond very slowly in the spring and tend to be weak during the summer. Many greens on older, mature courses can be grouped in this category.

Standards for play – One of the most important questions to ask in contemplating whether or not to use regular greens in winter concerns what the golfers want from the greens during the regular season. If they want top-quality turf from spring to autumn, involving close, frequent cutting, double cutting, frequent verticutting, lean fertilisation, minimal irrigation or other stress-inducing practices, then it is best to avoid winter play. If the golfers don't mind higher cutting heights, slower speeds and greater inconsistency then winter golf was made for them. Some bias in that statement? Perhaps, but too many golfers want to trample their dormant greens in winter and then enjoy US Open conditions from April through November. There are still some things that money can't buy.

Some alternatives

Given that this article won't end the use of regular greens during winter on all courses, a look at some of the alternatives might prove useful in establishing a winter policy.

Use temporary greens. Many courses avoid winter injury by establishing temporary greens on the fairway approach to the existing greens. Often these areas are aerified and topdressed several times during the autumn and the cutting height is lowered to provide a reasonable putting surface for the winter. Sure, it's more fun to hit to regular greens but isn't it worth sacrificing a little bit during the winter to keep



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Established on existing fairways'

the greens in good condition for spring, summer and autumn? The best policy is to close the greens when growth ceases and open them in spring only when growth resumes and the soil has dried enough to resist compaction.

Design a winter course. This should be especially appealing to the addicts who simply can't get enough. Many Clubs play their course backwards, going from green to tee using the tee as a target or establishing a temporary green at the tee end of the fairway. Others use their imagination and design holes in a cross-country style, crossing roughs and water hazards that might rarely be seen or appreciated when golfers play the regular course. Temporary greens can be established on existing fairways or roughs, near fairway bunkers, water hazards or groupings of trees. The possibilities are limitless.

Establish temporary greens, but use them only when conditions are not appropriate for using the regular greens. This is a bad policy because conditions can go from fair to terrible in just a few hours. For example, greens that are frozen in the morning can thaw as temperatures rise during the day. If play is allowed on the regular greens in the morning, at what point should you switch to temporary greens? Who will decide? Will golfers already on the course be notified of the change? Obviously, the logistics of this policy are difficult and the likelihood of damage to greens is great.

Use regular greens during the winter but close the course on days when the potential for damage is great. This policy has the same flaws as the one previous. In some ways it's even worse, because the days when the greens should be closed, when temperatures rise above freezing and the putting surfaces become thawed, are the same days that most winter golfers want to be on the course. Greenkeepers can come under great pressure from Club officials to keep

the course open, despite their misgivings, and sometimes they are simply overruled.

Play the greens throughout the winter, regardless of conditions. Because the alternatives require difficult decisions and complicated logistics, many courses opt for this worst-choice policy. For the reasons we've outlined, these courses are just asking for problems.

Close the course for the winter. From the stand-point of having the greens, tees and fairways in the best possible condition for spring, this is certainly the best policy. There is no doubt that winter play on the tees and fairways can thin the turf and compact the soil just as it can on greens. However, golfers don't putt on tees and fairways during the summer and don't mind some cultivation and overseeding of these areas during the spring. Nevertheless, many courses establish temporary greens for the winter, or sacrifice small portions of the regular tees for winter use if play is expected to be moderate or heavy. If the Club decides to keep the course open, whether or not regular greens are used, golfers should be asked to wear shoes without spikes or cleats whenever possible and carts should be restricted to paths - if they are allowed at all.

Winter play can do an inordinate amount of damage to the health and playability of the greens in relation to the number of rounds. Every Club considering winter play should question whether or not it is worth the risk of damaging the greens and affecting their playability for a significant period of the regular season by allowing a relatively small percentage of the Club's members to use them all the time. In the view of most head greenkeepers, turf grass scientists and agronomists, it is not. Unfortunately, even the considered opinion of the experts is unlikely to separate winter play from politics and religion as a topic of controversy among golfers.

● This article first appeared in the USGA Green Section Record in November 1987 to nationwide acclaim. It is reproduced here with due acknowledgement and thanks to James Snow, whose wise words demand repeating. Certain minor text changes have been made to adapt US terminology to a European readership, eg. 'fall' has been changed to 'autumn' and 'golf course superintendent' to 'greenkeeper'.

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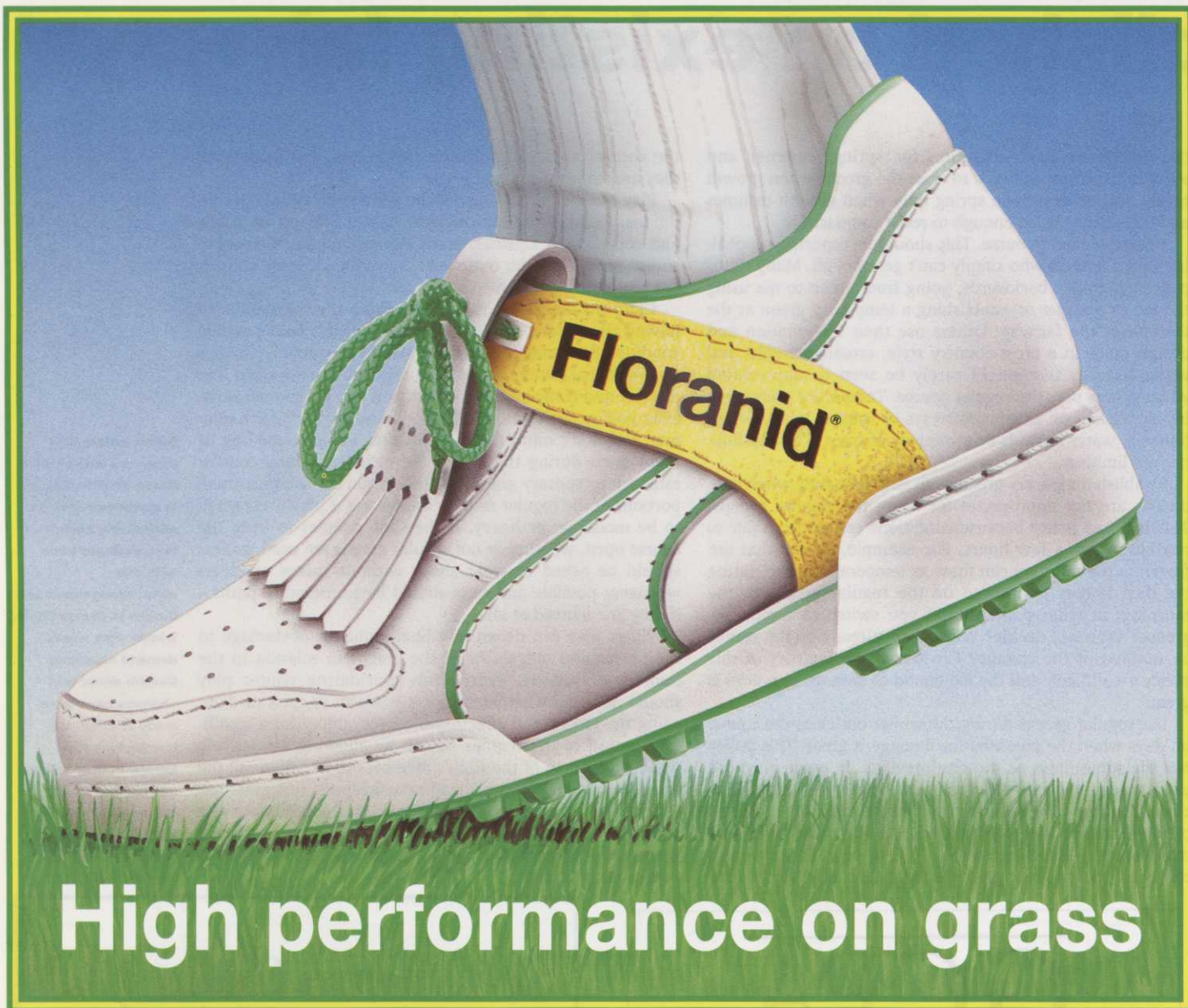
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by DAVID WHITE

Readers of this magazine will be well aware of my enthusiasm for the course design excellence of Harry Shapland Colt, the golf course architect of genius who left a lasting legacy of perfection on every course he created. The player who is jaded by dull routine, or exasperated by the weird, monster creations of many of the latter-day pro-cum architects, has only to seek out a Colt course in order to re-discover the proper meaning of golfing joy and its many delightful examinations.



Consider the attractions of the wonderful Colt courses in Britain such as Beaconsfield, Betchworth Park, Blackmoor, Calcot Park, Churston, Denham, Edgbaston, Ham Manor, Longniddry, Moor Park, Northampton County, Princes (with Guy Campbell), Rye, St Georges Hill, Stoke Poges, Sunningdale New, Tandrige and Wentworth, the delicious St Cloud in Paris and the glorious Pine Valley in the USA, where his hugely effective influence resulted in the greatest course creation of all time, and you will instantly appreciate why Colt is still held to this day as the consummate course artist of all time.

Already reviewed in these pages in August, I make no apology for bringing the book *Colt & Co., Golf Course Architects*, by Fred Hawtree to your attention again, simply because in my view it is a work of merit that will add greatly to the greenkeepers understanding and appreciation of the way the great man operated: his ideas, dreams and design concepts.

My views on Colt's brilliance are endorsed by almost every modern day architect, with this further exposure encouraged by the knowledge that the publishers, Cambuc Archive, are to make available a special **BIGGA members only** offer over the winter of 1991/2 (ends March 31st 1992), reducing the price of the book to £21 inclusive of post and packing, representing a saving of £6. The book is a numbered limited edition of just 1,000 copies, and if present trends in golf book collecting continue, is likely to become a highly prized collectors item before too long. The offer made is strictly on a first come first served basis. I ended my original review by urging every reader to buy the book. I still do!

Colt & Co., Golf Course Architects, by Fred Hawtree, (214pp hardback), published by Cambuc Archive. Readers should send a cheque made out to BIGGA for £21. Orders received before December 15th will be posted in time for Christmas.

Congratulations are due to NTC and GNAAC for a much expanded and revised 'Amenity Code', officially titled: *The New Revised Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides In Amenity and Industrial Areas*. The very difficult job of knitting the COSHH regulations into the text, as they apply to the use of pesticides, has been achieved without making the Code more complicated and difficult to read.



The improved layout makes it possible to quickly find and look at individual sections without plodding through the text, clear guidance being the rule of thumb. One such example is the guidance given to the problem of when certification is required by operators who use pesticides, another the very important consideration when using pesticides as to what other legislation might be involved, particularly as it

relates to possible pollution of the environment arising from misuse. The Code deals with this very well, placing information where it is relevant to the operation.

The guidance on storage, disposal, the selection and use of personal protective clothing and the planning of the operation well ahead of the day of spraying, are very well covered, and of particular value is the guidance on who should be consulted to ensure that particular operations – such as disposals – do not constitute a breach of other legislation.

I am at a loss to understand why the 'Protective Clothing' chart used in the Agricultural Code for 'Permitted Non-Label Uses' is reproduced here. The term 'Protective Clothing' is now referred to as Personal Protective equipment, and the idea of using Approved products for non label uses in Amenity Horticulture makes me shudder!

Sadly the guidance on calibration is confusing and not in line with the standard system taught on pesticide courses. It is correct as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough.

I would have thought that the BCPC guide on spray quality and its importance in minimising spray drift would be very helpful in Part 9 of the Code, for it is something that is being emphasised on training courses and NPTC Examiners are obliged to ask test candidates questions on spray quality.

Overall the Code has been very well revised and is now an invaluable and essential reference work for all involved in the use of pesticides – order your copy now! JON ALLBUTT

Copies of *Code of Practice for the use of Approved Pesticides in Amenity and Industrial Areas* (80pp soft cover) are available from The Secretary, NTC, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, BD16 1HZ. £12 including postage.

The recent STRI publication, David Lawson's *Fertilisers for Turf*, is one that will find considerable appeal amongst greenkeepers, though some of the more learned sectors ('learned' being editorial jargon for 'over my head') contain chemical formulae written perhaps more to please the technical laboratory boffin than the practitioner. That stated, the chapters on sources of mineral nutrients for turf, fertiliser programmes (including timing), and an eminently understandable chapter on soil pH and turf growth, make this a worthwhile and practical working manual for all within the amenity turf industry. Copies of *Fertilisers for Turf* (47pp soft cover), published by the STRI, are available from The Secretary, STRI, Bingley, W Yorks BD16 1AU, at £4.50 including postage.

Conservationists are often vociferous in their condemnation of new golf course developments, never more vehemently than when crumbling country mansions or 'stately homes' with adjacent parkland are the subject of a developers attention. This writer is all for preserving our heritage, but must express horror at the almost total damnatory attitude expressed in a report for The Georgian Group – *In The Rough?* – which puts all such development – often nothing more than sensitive rescue plans to save otherwise decrepit houses and overgrown and neglected parkland from oblivion – as the work of The Devil incarnate.

How much happier we would be if the antagonists could also see our point of view through their tinted spectacles of prejudice, exercising some restraint in their carte blanche dismissals and accepting the better compromise of seeing such lovely places survive and prosper. In the knowledge that it's wise to know thine enemy, *In The Rough?* (40pp soft cover) will prove invaluable to those in the business of rescuing such properties. £3 plus postage from The Georgian Group, 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY.

Perhaps the greatest gift available to man is a sense of humour. There's no question about it, some are blessed with 'the sense' in abundance, whilst others amble turgidly through life with rarely a smile, failing to see anything but doom and gloom.

I like to believe that most greenkeepers are of the gifted majority, for in their work they are exposed to more than average doses of pompous hypocrisy, with an ability to see 'the funny side' often their one salvation. If you doubt me, ask yourself how many other professionals have upwards of 500 bosses, all of whom know more about their work than they do?

How fortunate we British are to have so many grand cartoonists, many of whom specialise in sporting absurdities and including the handful who capture the funny side of greenkeeping. One such is John Hart, whose *Hart of The Green*, a collection of cartoons based on characters that are the figment of John's fertile imagination, is guaranteed to bring a chuckle to greenkeepers – because it is all about greenkeepers and the absurdly comic happenings witnessed in their everyday tasks. The sketches are never mocking or hurtful, though often tongue in cheek, and draw on the escapades of the Headgreenkeeper (the one with the tie), Hamish and Harry, a YOP trainee called Harvey and the inevitable Chairman of Green, who is described as being 'loved by his mother' and who delivers requests through a powerful index finger and a bark! Above all they project the conflict between traditional views and new technology, attitudes toward members, green committees and pro's and offer instant identification with most of the situations. I'm sure you'll see at least one fantasy character you know – though not on your own golf course, naturally!

Hart of The Green, Humour for Real Golfers, (96pp soft covers) is published at £5.95 and is available from W H Smiths or direct from Thrivelar, 1 Eldon Square, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 7JG. Add 75p postage.

GREENKEEPERS

TRAINING COMMITTEE

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Lancashire College
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Preston
Lancs
(0995) 40611
Contact
Martyn Jones

**Teagasc National
Botanic Gardens**
Glasnevin, Dublin 9,
Ireland.
Tel: (0103531) 371 636
Contact Pat Suttle

Welsh College
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Contact
Graham Wright

Oaklands College
St. Albans,
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(0727) 50651
Contact Ian Merrick

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(0278) 652226
Contact Nick Rigden

Elmwood College
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(0334) 52781
Contact Carol Borthwick

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Ecclesmachan, Broxburn,
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(0506) 854387
Contact Quentin Allardice

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(0273) 890454
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There's still
time to pre-register - complete
the reply-paid card opposite Page 36

BTME

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Viscount Whitelaw will open exhibition



Wednesday morning, January 22nd, brings the official opening by the Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw, President of BIGGA, of a wondrous display of products and services, aimed exclusively at our industry and presented by a larger number of exhibitors than ever before. Many exhibitors have hinted that BTME will be their launching pad for introducing new products and services to such an

exclusively greenkeeper orientated audience, and with such a large and varied display accessible under cover and on a single floor, visitors can be assured of evaluating the very latest equipment.

Quality speaker

An unmistakable air of excitement is erupting from those associated with the greenkeeping industry's greatest annual event, the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar Programme, to be held in Harrogate during January 20th-24th 1992. As the day draws near a large number of registrations have flooded into the Association's headquarters at Aldwark Manor, ensuring a spirited pool of participants for the biggest and most ambitious workshop, seminar and exhibition programme ever staged by the Association.

Looking at the schedule of events, one cannot fail to be impressed by both the substance and the quality of speakers chosen and the fascinating subjects they will present to audiences eager for learned information.

The educational seminar programme brings together speakers who will not just educate but also stimulate debate within the halls of Harrogate. Four workshops take place on the Monday and Tuesday.

Among the speakers are:

Graham Phillips:
Keynote speeches will help delegates handle green committees



■ **Dr Norman W Hummel**, Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science at Cornell University, currently on leave of absence to work for the USGA Green Section on a project relating to USGA Specifications, and on methods for testing construction mixes. Dr Hummel has operated a laboratory at Cornell for testing construction mixes for some years and has worked closely with architects, contractors and superintendents on sand and peat selection. In his Educational Workshop, which he will present with Stanley Zontek, various options for constructing golf course greens will be covered, including the USGA Specifications for greens