

# Drainage: a vital role to play

An awareness of the increased demand for improved standards of sportsturf surfaces is one that rings especially true for golf courses. Players rightly expect better surfaces as standards of play improve. Increasingly these expectations grow higher and golfers want facilities year round, not just in the summer months. For financial reasons golf course owners also want to increase the intensity of use and extend the season and it is not surprising that much of the £100 million spent each year on maintaining Britain's courses is devoted to the improvement of playing conditions.

Against this background drainage obviously has a vital role to play, for efficient drainage is an essential in maintaining a good playing surface.

Loss of use due to waterlogging or turf damage can result in a games backlog, dissatisfied players and even serious financial losses, whereas an efficient drainage scheme will eliminate waterlogging, reduce compaction, allow easier maintenance and more flexible management of valuable resources. This in turn will result in improved soil structure, fewer weeds, better sward and more economical use of fertilisers.

The Land Drainage Contractors Association (LDCA) recognises the need to promote and maintain high standards in drainage and regards as equally important that professional design and expert installation are essentials to successful drainage schemes.

## LDCA SPORTSTURF DRAINAGE SECTION

The specialised nature and requirements of golf course drainage and the need to use experienced contractors with the necessary special equipment caused the LDCA to form a Sportsturf Drainage Section some 3 years ago. Membership of the Section identifies contractors who are experienced in sportsturf work, employ experienced staff, operate appropriate equipment and use BSI materials installed to the high standards laid down in the Association's 'Guidelines for Sportsturf Drainage Installation'.

These guidelines have been compiled by the LDCA to assist those involved in specifying, designing, installing and maintaining drainage works for amenity use.

Members of the Section undertake to supply and use materials to the recommended standards and to maintain the standards of workmanship contained in the Guidelines.

The LDCA is a trade association whose members include drainage contractors, manufacturers and suppliers of drainage machinery, pipes and other products.

In March the LDCA Sportsturf Drainage Section is holding a seminar at Ascot Racecourse to present aspects of design, machinery and materials for sportsturf drainage with accounts of costs and benefits from user case studies.

Attendance by invitation, together with details of

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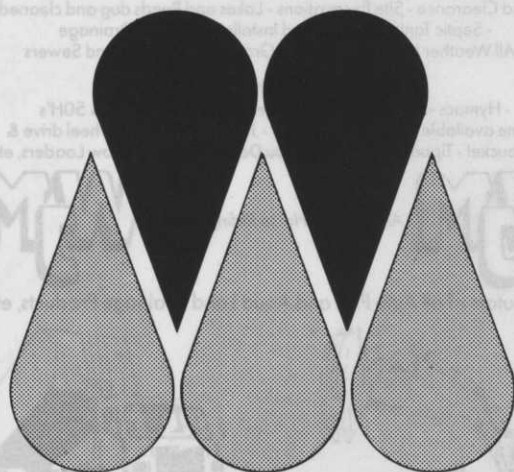
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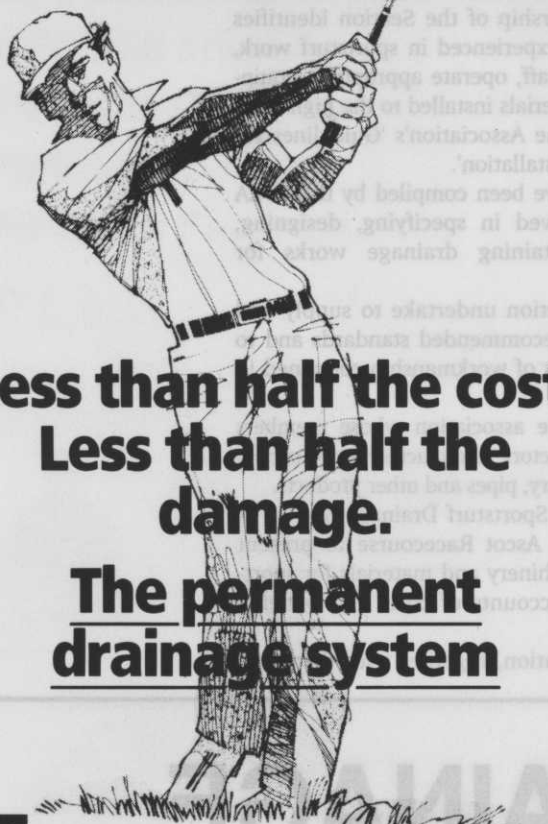
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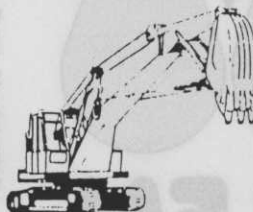
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the Association, may be obtained from: Land Drainage Contractors Association, N.A.C., Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, Warwicks. CV8 2LG.  
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#### M J ABBOTT LTD

Michael Abbott, himself an expert in this field with over 20 years experience, has gathered a team of trained personnel to undertake planning, design and construction of sportsturf drainage schemes, together with experts in the use of laser-controlled Hoes trenching machines. Their wide-ranging services include drainage installation at construction stage or in existing playing conditions, utilising trenchers with automatic collection of spoils.

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Founded in 1970, Medhurst's make a speciality of sportsturf drainage for golf courses, carrying out works for local authorities and the private sector. Their Plant Hire division has both large and mini excavators available and they are distributors of Auto Plas and Aqualand drainage products. Most recently they completed the drainage and earth moving work at the new nine hole course situated on 50 acres at Addlestone, nr Chertsey, for Activity Enterprises; and anticipate further activity on land drainage for two new courses proposed in the Surrey area. As mem-

bers of LDCA they proudly claim a complete service covering not only golf course work but also the installation of septic tanks, ground works, roads, sewers and all-weather horse arenas.

### MEIKLEM LAND DRAINAGE

Meiklem have a proven record in specialist drainage spanning more than 24 years. M.D., John Meiklem, is aware of no simple answer to drainage problems and recognises that each project needs individual assessment if the most efficient and cost-effective solution is to be implemented. Recently, Meiklem's acted as main contractors for improvements on the New and Jubilee Courses at St Andrews.

A drainage system designed to lower the water table by some 2 metres was installed, with a 5 metre deep pump chamber, 2 submersible pumps and over 2000 metres of graded piping to carry over 3/4 million gallons of water per day to an existing reservoir. This water may then be used for irrigation or pumped to sea through existing pipes and outfall. The work was done with both courses still in play.

The Company is also acting as main contractor for the under drainage scheme on the new St Andrews Strathyrum course, where 90 acres of the course is networked with a deep drainage system through a sand base 2 metres thick. The piping used had to be filter wrapped to prevent sand blockage.

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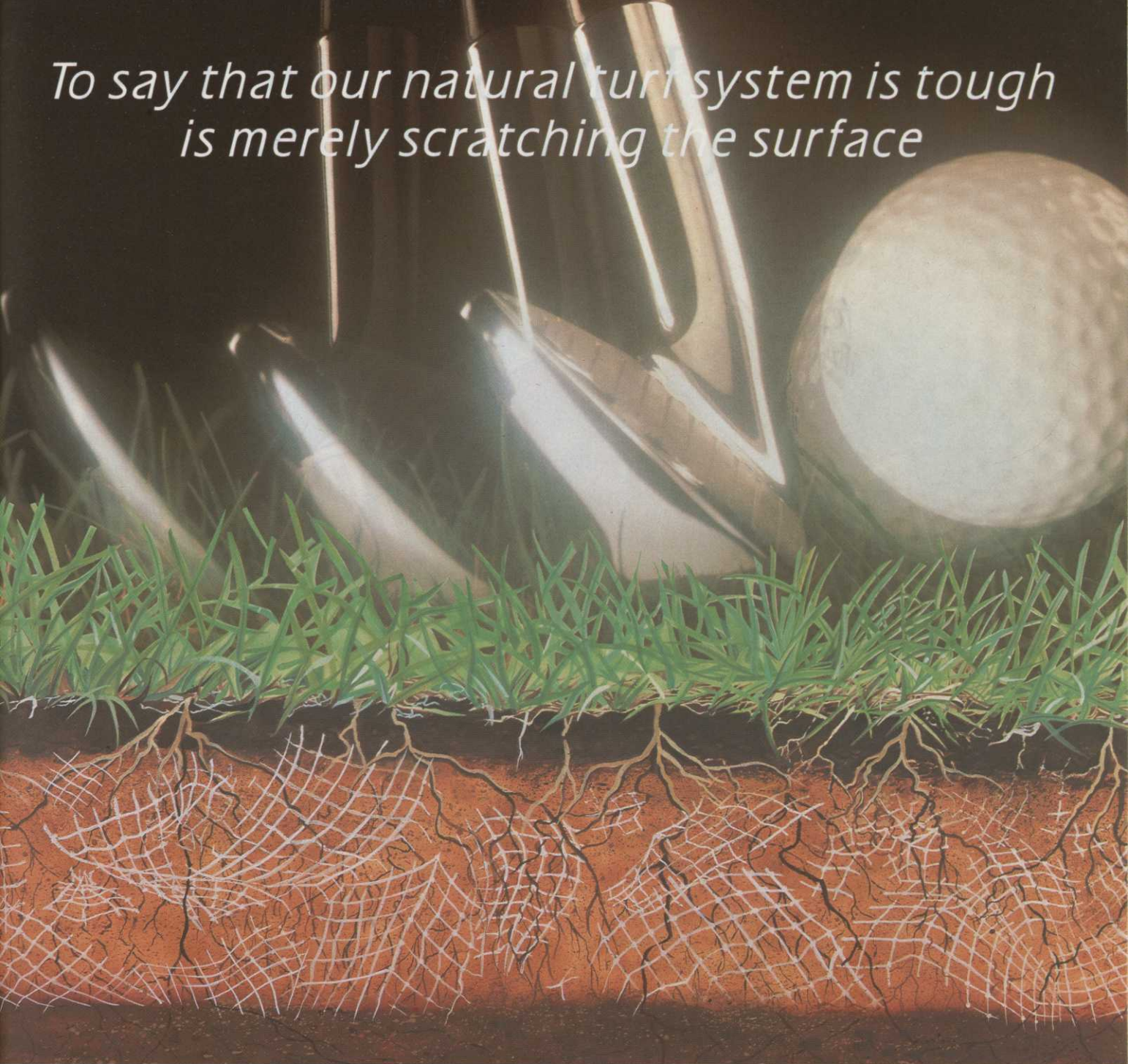


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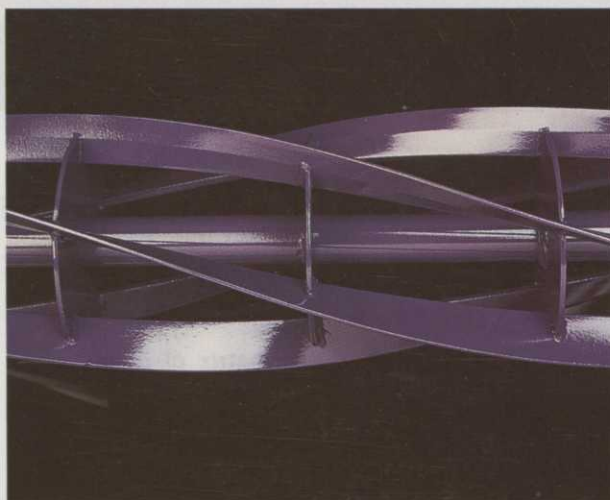
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## Praise for 'the man with a mission'

The making of golf history has ensured that the name of Park will forever be remembered, Old Willie Park being the first ever winner of The Open Championship in 1860, and again in 1863, 1866 and 1875. His son Willie Park Jnr. was no mean golfer either, winning The Open in 1887 and 1889 before becoming the first in a long and distinguished line of golf course architects, producing such masterpieces as Sunningdale Old, West Hill and Huntercombe.

Eddie Park, pictured, was not, to my knowledge, descended from Old Willie. There is no doubt however that he is deserving of equal praise and recognition for his great contribution to a lesser known and far less feted part of the golf scene – the good management of the golf course.

There can be few greenkeepers who have not heard the name Eddie Park, though perhaps younger ones will be less aware of the huge service this man did for our industry and for the wisdom he expounded throughout his lifetime.

Eddie, who died just under two years ago, was considered by all who knew him as one of the country's leading experts on greenkeeping and course maintenance,



**REAL GOLF**  
– the collected articles of Eddie and Nicholas Park – (hardback, 168 pages with many colour illustrations) is published by Quick & Sons. It may be obtained, at £19.00 post inclusive, from: Nancie Park, Hardknott, Lindrick Road, Woodsetts, Nr WORKSOP, Notts, S81 8AY.

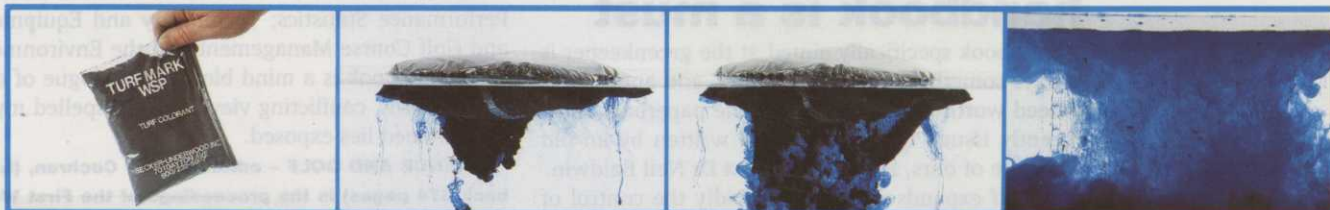
an expertise culled from enthusiasm gained over a lifetime of golfing and gained, not as one might imagine through greenkeeping or as an agronomist, but as one for whom course maintenance was a hobby.

Eddie Park was actually a dental surgeon, though early exposure at St Bees school in Cumberland gave him an everlasting passion for golf and his first chance to become actively involved when, at the age of 16, he looked after the maintenance of the school's small course.

The bug had hit, and thereafter Eddie Park became a man with a mission, the betterment of golf conditions in Great Britain. A talented student and a compulsive reader, his knowledge grew and his eloquent words widely respected, for he was no paper tiger, rather the quintessential practitioner.

Throughout his life he was a member of four clubs, latterly associated with Lindrick Golf Club, of which he was Captain in 1975. He was also a prolific writer on the subject of course maintenance and improvement and it is for this reason we fete him here.

Much, indeed most, of Eddie's writing was in the form of magazine articles and he was widely published in Golf Monthly and Greenkeeper. Many greenkeepers were wise enough to keep copies of his articles, together with the equally important writings of his son Nicholas, and to this day will often produce a



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photocopied fragment in order to put across a particular point to a new chairman of green.

But magazines are by their very nature disposable and easily lost, spoiled or mislaid. Now, through the good grace and infinite good sense of Mrs Nancie Park, the complete collection of her husband's articles – including some hitherto unpublished pieces, are available in book form under the beguiling title of PURE GOLF.

And what a brilliant book it is, crammed to capacity with informed comment and properly researched data that should – indeed must – be required reading for anyone involved in the preparation or management of a golf course.

This reviewer is in no doubt that the book will quickly become a standard work of reference for the greenkeeping profession, especially those set on a turfgrass management course at a BIGGA approved college. That it might be obligatory reading for EVERY club member who serves on a green committee, will, I believe, be the devout New Year wish of every thinking greenkeeper. If committee men choose to ignore it, and miss the fundamental importance of good husbandry that it preaches, it will be at their peril.

## Pests and diseases handbook is a must

A new book specifically aimed at the greenkeeper is always something that we applaud, and applause is indeed worthy for the concise little paperback most recently issued by the STRI and written by an old favourite of ours, Plant Pathologist Dr Neil Baldwin.

As golf expands even more rapidly the control of pests and diseases plays an ever more important role in fine turfgrass care and we are well aware that demand for guidance is continuous.

Thus the writer has concentrated his information specifically at the pests and diseases which occur on cool season turfgrasses – essentially the UK and western Europe – and applies his practical skill in identifying both symptoms and treatment of the bacteria and viruses that are able to cause such serious damage to turf in the UK.

The range of pest problems, considered minor when compared to some that are experienced in areas other than western Europe, are largely confined to exploring and seeking solutions to earthworm casting and a few insect species such as leatherjackets, millipedes, frit fly and wire-worms.

Essentially a practical guide, this is no dry – as dust tome for the scientist or boffin, rather an informative and well illustrated practitioner's manual which the greenkeeper will turn to again and again for guidance when identifying a problem, or for simple reassurance that he is on the correct path to eradication.

This is the third completely revised edition of the booklet, much expanded to incorporate new information gleaned from recent research.

**TURFGRASS PESTS AND DISEASES – By Dr Neil**

**Baldwin (72 pages including 32 colour photographs) is published by The Sports Turf Research Institute, BINGLEY, West Yorkshire, BD16 1AU. £5.50 post inclusive.**

## How to settle those 19th hole arguments

The first World Scientific Congress of Golf was held in July at St Andrews, bringing together many of the great practitioners and researchers in an attempt to bridge the gap from both directions. It has become clear that scientific information about golf is increasing, whilst at the same time players and their coaches (and indeed golf greenkeepers) are being confronted with problems where science can help to provide a solution.

I am not a scientist, nor do I have a particularly scientific background, but I found the technical matter and corresponding data gathered within the articles published of huge interest. Quite apart from the sheer fun of discovery there is pleasure in actually knowing something; rather than just thinking you know, and a few hours spent in study will arm the reader with material to settle any nineteenth – hole argument (and indeed many of the clap-trap claims made by equipment manufacturers).

Sub-divided into four sections: Human Factors; Performance Statistics; Technology and Equipment; and Golf Course Management and the Environment, the whole book is a mind blowing catalogue of new found truths, conflicting viewpoints, dispelled myths and damned lies exposed.

**SCIENCE AND GOLF – edited by A J Cochran, (hardback 374 pages) is the proceedings of the First World Congress of Golf Published by E .& F. N. Spon. £28.50.**

## History brought to life at Royal Liverpool

The Royal Liverpool Golf Club has been the venue for The Open and other major championships from its infancy. It is steeped in history and has produced many distinguished players.

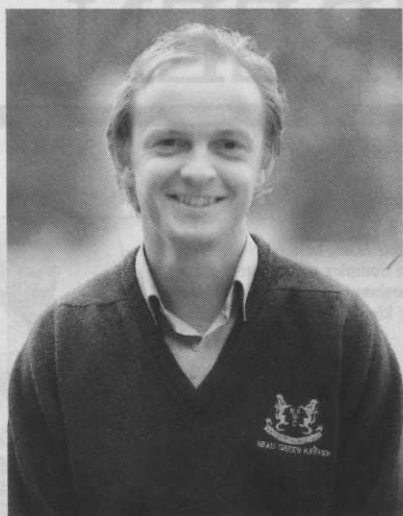
Many truly great writers have written enthusiastically about the links. This is the life of those links and the golfers who have played over it.

The early history is brought to life by Bernard Darwin and Guy Farrar, with fascinating Open accounts woven by the winners themselves. These include Harold Hilton, Sandy Herd, J H Taylor, Walter Hagen, Bobby Jones and Fred Daly.

But this anthology is not just about great events. The Royal Liverpool Club features equally strongly and in time to come this book may well be regarded as the finest anthology published about a Club and its golf course.

**GOLF AT HOYLAKE – edited by John Behrand and John Graham, (hardback 171 pages) is published by Grant Books, Victoria Square, Droitwich, WR9 8DE at £22 post inclusive.**

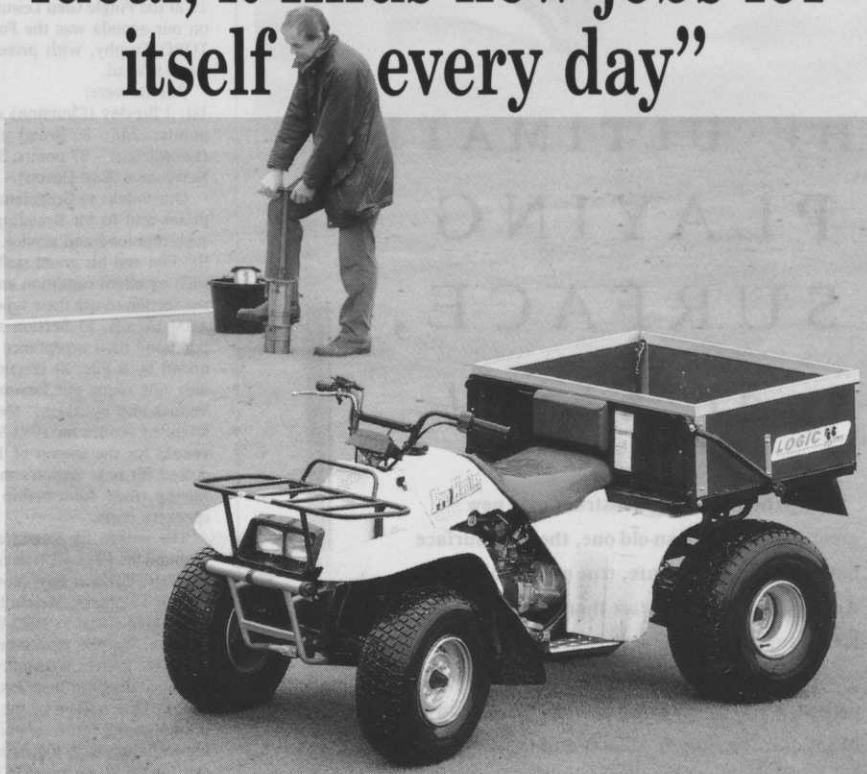




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# AROUND THE GREEN

## DEVON AND CORNWALL

Over 60 members attended our AGM, held on November 13 at the Pingle Glen Leisure Complex near Exeter. First on our agenda was the Foursomes Competition for the TORO Trophy, with prizes kindly donated by Greenlands SW Ltd.

Results were:

1st: J Breyley (Churston) and N Pring (Padbrook) - 39 points; 2nd: K Broad (Fingle Glen) and M Pike (Elfordleigh) - 37 points; 3rd: G Child (Churston) and P Newcombe (East Devon) - 36 points.

Our thanks to Greenlands SW Ltd for the donation of prizes and to Mr Breathing and his staff for providing such fine food and service. A special thanks must go to Bill Pile and his green staff for presenting the course in such excellent condition and to Fingle Glen for allowing the section to use their superb facilities.

AGM Details: 1) Section accounts: These were circulated and their acceptance proposed by J Mitchell, seconded by B Pile. 2) Election of Regional Officer: With only one name put forward, Jeff Mills was elected. 3) Venues and Speakers: Members were informed of the intended venues for 1991-92 and were asked to propose venues for the season of 1992-93. Speakers were discussed for next season's meetings and the possibility of raising trade sponsorship to help cover some of the speakers' costs.

The season for Devon and Cornwall runs from October through April and our programme for 1991-92 is as follows:

October: Carlyon Bay; November: Bude - AGM; December: Okehampton; February: St Enedoc - M Jones; March: Bigbury; April: Launceston - Guest Day.

Looking ahead to 1992-93 our programme is:

October: Warren; November: China Fleet - AGM; December: Okehampton; February: Per-ranporth; March: Woodbury; April: Launceston - Guest Day

Concluding our business, the Chairman read aloud a letter from our Regional Administrator. This, backed by the R & A relates to training and pay of greenkeepers, thus ensuring the sound future of golf courses in this country. If any member is experiencing trouble with their Club regarding this matter, the letter can be sent to their Club by contacting Gordon Child, Archways, Churston Ferrers, Nr Brixham, Devon. Tel: 0803 844056.

Our Christmas meeting, returning again to Oakhampton Golf Club, was attended by 85 members and guests, with members playing a Greensome Stableford for the P J Flogg Trophy. We are grateful to the Club for use of their facilities and to Richard Wisdom and his staff for a course in excellent condition. Winners were N Pring and R Hall, scoring a brilliant 25 on the back nine. Following a superb Christmas Lunch Patrick Flegg of P J Flegg Ltd presented the prizes to: 1) N Pring (Padbrook) and R Hall (Padbrook) 48 points; 2) D Parr (Truro) and K Kellow (Falmouth) 41 points; 3) R Whyman (Bude) and B Ridgeway (Fingle Glen) 40 points.

Our entertainer was the very funny David Jade, who was presented with an Association tie. Thanks to generous donations, we held two Christmas raffles, the first being for the Avon Crop and Monro Hampers. These were presented by Rod Feltham and Mike Berriman to winners N Stonelake and R Hall.

RICHARD WHYMAN

## NORTHERN

A glorious day brought out 30 or more members to our annual Christmas golf day at South Leeds Golf Club. Nearly everyone was a prizewinner of some sort and I hope everyone enjoyed the day. After a hearty meal many people stayed on for the section AGM, during which some new faces were voted on the Committee. I hope the newcomers will gain wisdom from the old hands still serving and put their knowledge to good use.

The new Committee is:

President: W Mountain; Chairman: P Taylor; Vice Chairman: B Carr; Secretary/Treasurer: B Lupton; Committee:

Oxley, M Lealman, D Cockburn, A Gamble, C Garnett, G Hope, T Jarvis and E Paley

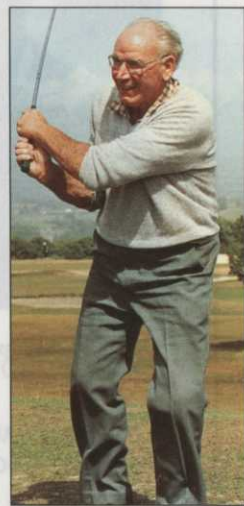
Committee man Graham Hope has the champagne on ice with much to celebrate. First his marriage to Diane and now a new job, moving from Moor Allerton to be head man at South Leeds. Last, but not least, I understand that the patter of tiny feet is expected in the not too distant future.

Golf is now finished until Spring and our only chance to meet together is at Winter lectures. What a pity more people do not support both their section and our speakers on these occasions. Our lecture in November unfortunately clashed with a football match on TV and despite being a video recording age, only 12 people, which included trade or retired members, could be bothered to turn up. It is very disappointing for all concerned that these events are not better supported, as a great deal of work goes into organising them on YOUR BEHALF. Please, in future, do try to get along to these events, if only to enjoy a chinwag and a pint. Bring along your assistant or even a Club Committee man.

Some dates to note are:

Wednesday, February 13th, 2.00 pm at West Bowling Golf Club, Bradford. Eddie Stead will talk to us on four wheel drive tractors. A provisional booking for March 20th is that of EFG Halifax and Iseki, both of whom will talk to us on their product ranges. I do sincerely hope to see more faces this year and also look forward to seeing many of our members at BTME in Harrogate during the week commencing January 21.

BOB LUPTON



John Breyley - Churston Golf Club. One of the Toro foursomes winners.

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