

Normal turf (right) compared to dry patch. Note darker colour due to moisture and deep rooting in normal core and dryness, crumbling structure and poor rooting in dry patch core

wetting agent was Teepol, a mild detergent which aided water penetration by reducing surface tension. The use of Teepol was replaced by Synperonic NDB which also worked primarily by reducing surface tension as illustrated opposite.

Thus, if a wetting agent is used a smaller contact angle of the droplet on the turf surface is formed and consequently the applied water spreads over a greater surface area thereby wetting more turf. It is likely that most of the new wetting agents listed above also have this effect on surface tension to a greater or lesser degree. This effect on surface tension will enable water to rewet turf affected by dry patch and thus alleviate the symptoms which may be

evident. However, it is only by residual effects that the wetting agent may have in the soil, when it has penetrated the turf surface that the water-repellent tendency of dry patch areas may be overcome. Several wetting agents have been tested in this respect. Wetta-soil has been researched in Australia and New Zealand and has shown to be residual in the turf, as it binds to organic materials and will withstand successive wetting and drying cycles. Aqua-Gro has been similarly tested in the USA and is similarly absorbed onto soil particles. Turfex has been tested at STRI and, once it has rapidly entered the soil profile, it may bind to organic materials responsible for the dry patch condition. During subsequent irrigation the water-attractive condition created will be maintained. At present it is unclear whether the surface tension effect or the soil absorption effect is the predominant mode of action of wetting agents when applied to golf greens. Research at STRI is currently attempting to identify the primary cause of dry patch in the UK. If water-repellent substances of fungal origin identified as in similar studies in the USA, Australia and New Zealand, then soil absorption is likely to be important. However, initial results from STRI research have indicated that dry patch in certain instances may be caused by physical factors such as high spots, compaction due to foot traffic or thatch, in which case increased water infiltration through a reduction in surface tension is likely to be of primary importance.

Possible adverse effects of wetting agents application

The use of Teepol has now long been discontinued. This anionic material (anionic means its molecules have a strong negative electrical charge) was implicated as having long-term adverse effects on soil structure. Modern wetting agents are non-ionic (ie no electrical charge), do not affect soil structure and may therefore be used. It is of concern that many individual detergents and cleaning fluids are currently being offered to greenkeepers for use on their greens. Their use is ill advised and is not to be recommended under any circumstances.

Wetting agent application programmes

Research at STRI and elsewhere has been combined with greenkeeper experience to develop a series of recommendations for wetting agent application. Broadly, these recommendations may be summarised below:

- (1) If dry patch is a persistent problem, wetting agent applications should commence at the beginning of the growing season (say March/April) when the turf is still generally moist and dry patch is often not apparent. Whatever product is chosen it is essential to treat at this early season stage.
- (2) Wetting agents are most effective when combined with aeration using slit, solid or chisel tines to aid turf surface penetration.
- (3) Subsequent wetting agent application will then largely depend on how severe dry patch has been in previous years and prevalent weather conditions. On a typical golf course with moderate to severe dry patch, routine applications April - October at 4-6 week intervals, but more frequent in periods of drought, may be appropriate if combined with spot treating (see below).
- (4) As dry patch is often extremely localised on golf greens then spot treatment of isolated dry patches by hand is often the most effective method of wetting agent application. A solution of wetting agent may be applied using a watering can and the solution forced into the turf surface using a hose with a rose attachment. Alternatively hose-end dilutions are now available for use with Hydro-wet and Aqua-Gro which have seen widespread usage as they facilitate rapid and efficient spot treatments to be made.
- (5) With all wetting agent applications it is essential to water in the treatment immediately after application to prevent the possibility of scorch developing. This is most easily achieved by a short period of automatic irrigation or applying them during rainfall.

TURFEX

is a concentrated wetting and penetrating agent specially formulated in Britain for the turfgrass industry. It helps water affected by dry patch or soil compaction. It is highly cost effective and is easy and safe to use.

- **Concentrated - extremely cost effective**
- **Increases rate of water penetration through the thatch layer**
- **Readily absorbed onto soil particles**
- **Build-up effectiveness from repeated applications (can double rate of infiltration to root area)**
- **Safe on both fine and coarse turf**
- **Easy to mix, even in cold water**
- **No foaming problems**
- **Helps penetration of water in compacted areas**
- **Reduces run-off on sloping ground**
- **Promotes healthy root development in turf**
- **Saves time when hand watering**
- **Reduces the requirement for switching**

WATER GETS TO THE ROOTS OF THE TURF

SERVICE CHEMICALS

SERVICE CHEMICALS plc
 Horticultural Division
 Lanchester Way, Royal Oak Estate,
 Daventry, Northants NN11 5PH
 Telephone: Daventry (0327) 704444



AD REF 304

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

DEVON AND CORNWALL

As is usual in these section missives, it falls upon the scribe to offer thanks to the head greenkeeper of the club at which our meetings are held. This normally takes the form of congratulatory applause for the condition of the course and the splendid putting surfaces prepared for our pleasure and delight. Thus I must congratulate Mike Pike for what we all secretly know was his splendid effort at Elford Leigh Golf and Country Club on January 30th. It was only a covering of 'that white stuff' which prevented us from actually seeing the fruits of his labours, and our proposed Devon v Cornwall games from continuing, as the snow gathering golf ball got bigger and bigger and bigger ...

At the January meeting we were entertained by a lecturer from Cannington College who presented a seminar of the City and Guilds Phase III Management Course. This included a thoroughly enlightening 'generating a team performance' presentation.

It was, I promise you, guaranteed to generate enthusiasm for the City and Guilds Course and you could do worse that investigate the possibilities of entering such a worthwhile educational path.

Our day was sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery, Stanley West, AvonCrop, PJ Flegg, Monro, Greenlands, Fisons and LSF Groundcare, to whom we offer sincere thanks.

A few dates / memory joggers are: March 14th - East Devon Golf Club (ISEKI Qualifier), April 10th - Launceston Golf Club (Guest day) and May 1st - Westurf.

I hope to see you at them all.

RICHARD WHYMAN

EAST OF ENGLAND

In bringing our 1990 calendar to a close it would be remiss of me not to report on our last two competitions.

The Lamb Trophy was held at Middleton Golf Club, Kings Lynn, where winner David Salisbury played well to nett a creditable 69. Hard on David's heels with gross 75's were Charlie Macdonald and Richard Owens, all representing excellent play on this tricky new course.

On to Ely City for the Rigby Taylor Trophy. Our winner on this tight and very green course was Daniel Wells from Burghley Park. Daniel is a new BIGGA member and has just joined the ranks of greenkeeping. In second place was Gerry Healey from Girton Golf Club, Cambridge.

Our final fixture was a visit to the new Belton Woods Golf and Leisure complex, with its 45 golf holes and 150 bedroom hotel.

This was our best turn-out so far with 40 or more members and a green chairman, all eager to see this new and exciting project on the edge of Grantham.

We were shown around the course by head greenkeeper Paul Gale and his assistant Chris Squires, both of whom gave us an enlightening insight into the problems that can arise when taking over from the architects and contractors. Our grateful thanks to you gentlemen.

From here we moved to Belton Park Golf Club where our AGM was held and here again we were encouraged by fine member support. Our Chairman, Graeme Patrick, highlighted our year's past activities and thanked especially our sponsors for their support, together with those past captains and committees from the many Golf Clubs who have welcomed us so warmly - giving us courtesy of their respective courses.

COLIN SWINGLER

SURREY

There is precious little news coming to me at the moment, and I can't include that which I don't have! In this issue, therefore, I'll tell you a little about the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate, which I was fortunate enough to attend in January. I spent the first two days at the James Beard Education Workshop and learnt not only about turfgrass science, but also how far we have to go to reach American standards in research and development. This isn't a jibe at STRI, more an acknowledgement of the funding of sportsturf research in the USA. I also looked at the machine and accessory stands in the exhibition halls, all of which seemed pretty busy, and was impressed with some of the new equipment coming onto the market. These would have our forefathers thinking we have an easy time of it and though this obviously isn't true, the advances in technology have certainly improved our chances of keeping pace with the pressures placed upon us at our place of work these days.

Next I attended a lecture given by the dynamic Bobbie Gee. Bobbie is an American lady who lectures on Personal Image and Presentation and demonstrates how such an image can give a desired result. Most of what she said was pure common sense and made me wonder why I hadn't thought of it myself! Her main message was 'think how you want others to perceive you, then set about creating and setting standards by which this can be achieved'. This is so true for the greenkeeping profession that her words should be hung in a prominent place in every workshop in the land.

Surrey's own Clive Osgood gave an excellent presentation on

MULTI-BAYS with DURANET '4'



"the toughest net in golf"

- Galvanised steel framework
- Baffle aprons ○ Stable in wind
- Completely safe

Only **£453** per bay + VAT (min. 2 bays)

GOLF AIDS OF READING

Unit B1, Gt. Knollys Street, Reading RG1 7HN. Telephone: 0734 591664 or 0836 240509

'The Preparation and Fine Tuning of Walton Heath For Major Events', such as the Ryder Cup, European Open etc. Having witnessed the hassle and damage sustained it's a wonder any of the chaps who have major events on their courses have any hair left!

Harrogate also saw the launch of our new magazine - 'Greenkeeper International' - which is excellent and which thankfully is now our own publication. David White has returned as editor and doesn't live too far from us so maybe, if he can tear himself away from his word processor, we'll see him at a Surrey event or two throughout the year. (You can be sure of it - Ed).

All in all Harrogate was an excellent week thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. I would like to congratulate all those involved in organising the event - an arduous task no doubt - but one achieved very successfully.

Finally, if you have contributions for the magazine please call me on 025 125 4287.

PHIL BALDOCK

NORTH WEST

I have just returned from an excellent day spent at BTME in Harrogate and must express my pleasure at being able to walk comfortably around well staged displays of machinery on carpeted floors. What a change from facing the elements, up to your knees in mud in a semi-ploughed field! Members of the trade were all so helpful in answering enquiries and how nice it was to be able to arrange machinery demonstrations at our own convenience. May I take this opportunity to congratulate the organisers on the professional manner in which the whole exhibition was staged and I can only hope the attendance figures did the exhibition justice.

Howard McAddey, the North-West Treasurer for many years, has now taken on the role of Northern Regional Administrator and will relinquish his treasury post to Brian Moss at the February committee meeting. Howard has done sterling work for the section since he joined the committee some 13 years ago and we thank him and wish him well in this new post.

My 'hot' news line for magazine items is 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

MID ANGLIA

Our first lecture of 1991 began with a well attended presentation given by Mark Hunt of Sierra UK Ltd. Although not present myself I am reliably informed by chairman John Wells that the whole affair was very well received. Mr Hunt's talk was most informative and we thank him and Sierra for everything - including the delicious refreshments! I need hardly add how indebted we are to Beadlow Manor for once again allowing us to use their clubhouse and facilities.

Forthcoming events: March 20th, Beadlow Manor at 2.00 pm, a lecture by a representative of Lodgeway Tractors on 'Tractor Tyres, Selection and Maintenance'. April 17th is the 27 hole ISEKI qualifying event at Northampton County Golf Club. The fee is £16.50 and entries should be sent to Ken Bunting by April 1st. We will be running the Fourball Matchplay competition again this year, with entries again to Ken Bunting by April 17th. Ken's phone number is 044 284 3359, or in his absence you may call me on 0272 835984.

A reminder of this year's Mid Anglia Section officers:

Chairman: John Wells
Vice-Chairman: Paul Lockett
Secretary: Geoff Smith
Match Secretary: Ken Bunting
Treasurer: Les Wakerall

Paul Lockett and Geoff Smith will be regional representatives.

Finally, any member who has topical news or views, and would like them included in this column, please let me have them - preferably in writing - by the 15th of the month.

GEOFF SMITH

MIDLANDS

Edgbaston Golf Club was the venue for our recent AGM, which was attended by 22 members. Many interesting points were discussed and a good meeting was enjoyed by all. Those elected to office were:

President: Reg Pugh
Chairman: Alan Kite
Vice-Chairman: Mike Hughes

AROUND THE GREEN

Secretary: Dean Cleaver

Treasurer: Peter Richmond

Committee: Steve Wood and Peter Woodward

January saw the retirement after 28 years of W Pye, Head Greenkeeper, Lillishall Golf Club. He had been a member of our Association for over 20 years and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

February 13th gave us a rare opportunity to meet David Golding, BIGGA's Education Officer, when he attended Walsall Golf Club to address us on the progress made by the Association. As you might imagine, this was an ideal opportunity for us to quiz him and numerous questions were fired at him, which he answered in his humorous and affable manner. Thank you David.

March 11th will see Mark Hunt, from Sierra UK Ltd, lecture on the use of slow release fertilisers and their application on a variety of different golf course areas. This will be held at Telford Golf and Country Club.

DEAN CLEAVER

WEST SCOTLAND

The section held their Annual Dinner at Sloans in Glasgow recently, with special thanks reserved specially for our two stalwart guest speakers, both of whom were called upon at short notice. These were Douglas McClaren of the Scottish Golf Union and John Watson. If we reserve thanks for the above named speakers we feel that Alistair Connell deserved a medal, for he chaired the whole highly successful evening with a mere half-hour's warning before we sat down to eat!

The section AGM was held courtesy of Renfrew Golf Club and it was pleasing to see a rise in attendance when comparing previous figures. The section has suffered the loss of three prominent committee members over the past year and this curtailed the organising of certain events. Now it is felt that with our new structure and the election of our new committee things will almost certainly begin again in earnest in the West Section.

Cecil George, the Section Chairman and Course Manager at Lenzie Golf Club, has kindly offered the services of his Club at Lenzie on April 25th and will also use Lenzie as the location for the ISEKI Qualifier. Do please try and make these a success and make the turn-out a bumper one.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone the very best for the coming golf season and offer personal congratulations to Stuart Taylor on his appointment as Course Manager to the Glasgow Golf Club.

Cecil has written especially to inform us about the ROBERT BELL MORRISON MCKILLOP MEMORIAL TROPHY, which was presented recently to the West section by Bob's daughter, Iris Cannon. This fine silver trophy is to be played for at our Autumn Tournament each year and was won for the first time by Ian Wilson of Vale of Leven Golf Club. In accepting the trophy in memory of Bob Mckillop, Cecil recalled what a fine and good friend and fellow Bob had been. He was a member of the Scottish Greenkeepers Association from the First World War and showed great interest in the new Association right up until his death at the age of 97. In thanking Iris for her generosity, Cecil assured her that her father's memory will forever be perpetuated wherever greenkeepers gather.

GORDON KERR



Ian Wilson, winner of the Robert McKillop Memorial Trophy

● Around the Green continues overleaf

AROUND THE GREEN

pensions, planning etc. Nairn Golf Club have only recently completed the building of a new £700,000 clubhouse and are scheduled to stage the Vagliano Trophy, the bi-annual game between the Ladies of Great Britain and Europe, later this year.

GORDON MOIR

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Two events worthy of reporting are those held at Frilford Heath, the first being the Rigby Taylor Fourball Matchplay, which was won by Simon Edwards and Murray Long. In second place were Ray Clarke and Bob Woodward with Dave Childs and Nick Allen a deserving third. Also at Frilford, the Annual Turkey Trot was won by Philip Plater, whose 81 - 10 gave him a 71 best nett for the CMW Trophy and a turkey. The best gross score was John Teixeira's 78, which rewarded him with the John Deere Cup. Longest drive for the Toro prize - everyone's ambition is to drive a country mile - was recorded by Simon Robinson and the award given by County Mowers for nearest to the pin was taken by John Bevan. For these fine days we thank Rigby Taylor and especially Roger Bowles for his hard work in making the Matchplay so enjoyable, and on both occasions our heartfelt thanks to David Heads and Jaques Kaynhams, Head Greenkeeper and Secretary respectively at Frilford Heath, for doing what they both do best - produce good playing conditions and splendid clubhouse facilities. Thanks also to our sponsors: John Deere, Toro, CMW, County Mowers, Sta-Brite, Gem Fertilisers, Rigby Taylor, Maxwell Hart - and my apologies if I've missed any!

It would be remiss not to acknowledge the fine job that Ray Clark and Bob Woodward have done in producing the newsletter and to thank also our retiring Chairman, Bill Patterson, for all his sterling work.

Members should have fixtures lists, but as a reminder our first golf event, The Spring Tournament over 36 holes, will be at Goring and Streetley on May 22nd. In April a list of committee members will be published together with a full programme of events for 1991. Let's make this a year of growth and prosperity, where support is seen to come from all section members.

NORMAN FENWICK

NORTH SCOTLAND

A programme of events for 1991 is still in the final stages of preparation, with a couple of events still awaiting confirmation and, hopefully, the announcement of sponsorship. Other plans include the probability of a half-day conference in Aberdeen and another in Inverness, both in conjunction with the Scottish Agricultural College, sometime in mid March. The subject will be Grass Identification under Working Conditions. When dates are confirmed details will appear in the local press.

Again with the Scottish Agricultural College we hope to hold one or two spraying courses at the end of 1991. Those interested in attending should contact me and I will arrange venues and times. Of great importance in these matters is a firm commitment, so please give this your best shot.

Our Spring Outing will be at Nairn West Golf Club on May 16th. As our guest at Nairn we shall have Howard Evans, pensions adviser to BIGGA, who will give a short talk and be available for personal discussions on such things as life assurance,

SHEFFIELD

Our AGM in December was preceded by an interesting talk given by Mark Hunt from Sierra, together with a slide presentation. This was followed by the election of officers, in which

A K Arnold remains as Section President and Ron Graham takes on the new post as Chairman, replacing Barry Lax who has retired from this position. Barry has spent the last 20 years on the section committee, eight of which have been spent as secretary and the past two as chairman. This fine record cannot go by without recording our thanks for all of Barry's hard work. Other officers re-elected were Tony Renshaw (Secretary), Barry Heaney (Competition Secretary), Derek Neve, Paul Unwin and Eric Palmer. New officers elected were John Lax and myself.

The committee has decided to scrap the idea of petrol subsidy for members travelling together in a shared car to Harrogate, this replaced in favour of hiring a coach to Peterborough for the IOG Show in September. Twenty five people will be the minimum to make this viable so please indicate your interest at an early date.

The 1990 Christmas competition, which was cancelled, is unlikely to be re-scheduled and therefore those who paid at Sicklingholme will have payment carried over toward the Spring Tournament; the date of which is still to be confirmed. Dates for your diary are July 17th, Annual Tournament at Brough Golf Club. Finally, belated congratulations to John Lax, from all friends in the Sheffield section, on becoming the 1990 ISEKI Champion.

IAN COLLETT

EAST SCOTLAND

Good news announced is that the Willie Wood Memorial Tournament will be sponsored. Gillies and Henderson, known to us all, have taken over the Jacobsen Sales Department for the East and have kindly offered to sponsor this popular tournament by way of prize donations each year. Our thanks go to Harry Bond and Allan Ronaldson for this kind gesture.

Lest you may have missed it - the next meeting on schedule is the visit to the Whisky Bond on March 20th - cheers!

The Spring Outing and ISEKI Qualifier will be at Baberton Golf Club on April 9th. Entry forms will be sent in good time.

We were sorry to hear that Jimmy Neilson was injured in a car accident in late November though can report that he is doing fine and is now back in action. The same cannot be said of his car, and we know that Jimmy will miss the old steed - which he worshipped. There are some who believe that Jimmy kept it because it knew it's own way home - and he had no time to train another!

We should be aware that subs were due on Jan 1st, so if you haven't paid, DO IT NOW. The first list of 'paid-up' members will soon be in my hands and only those marked paid will receive invites to golf outings etc.

WILLIE BLAIR

● Around the Green continues on Page 60

GOLF COURSE SIGNS



Designed to your own specification. Strongly manufactured. Maintenance free, chip resistant, club motif if required.

Choice of colours

Ring now and just let us know what you need



A C & M Birch Ltd
Golf Signs
Unit GH1, Platts Lane,
Burscough, Lancs. L40 7TE

Telephone: Alan Birch 0704 896177/892997

Refresh your members

- ★ Easily installed
- ★ Minimal maintenance



- ★ Vandal resistant
- ★ Durable

Your members can now enjoy a refreshing drink of water no matter how far they are from the club house with one of the new inexpensive drinking fountains from **MAESTRO**.



MAESTRO WATER COOLERS LTD
6/8 Powerscroft Road
Footscray
Kent DA14 5NH

Tel: 081 302 4035
Fax: 081 302 8933

**SEND NOW FOR
YOUR FREE
CATALOGUE!**

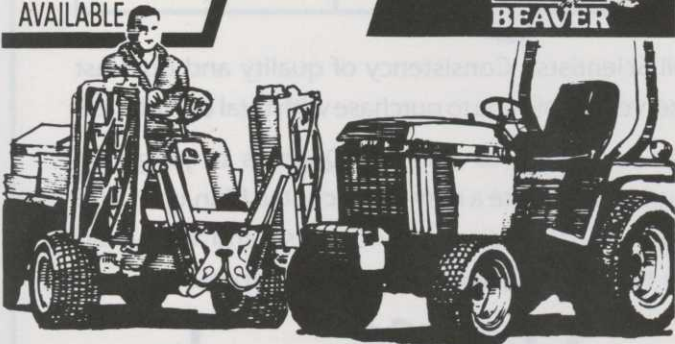
AD
REF
306

The COMPLETE Groundcare PACKAGE

- ▶▶ only from Scotland's N°1 Groundcare Specialists
- ▶ Top quality products
- ▶ Top quality service
- ▶ Superior parts backup



USED EQUIPMENT
ALWAYS
AVAILABLE



PowerShift
The Groundcare Specialists

West Henderson's Wynd Dundee DD1 5BY 0382 24152 Fax 0382 202119

AD
REF
121

CLIPPINGS



LEAVES



LITTER

*Clean up in a big way
with the versatile
BROUWER VAC*

Westland
PROFESSIONAL

For sales, service and next day parts delivery
Dutton, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4LL
Tel: (0928) 719336 Fax: (0928) 710329

AD
REF
170

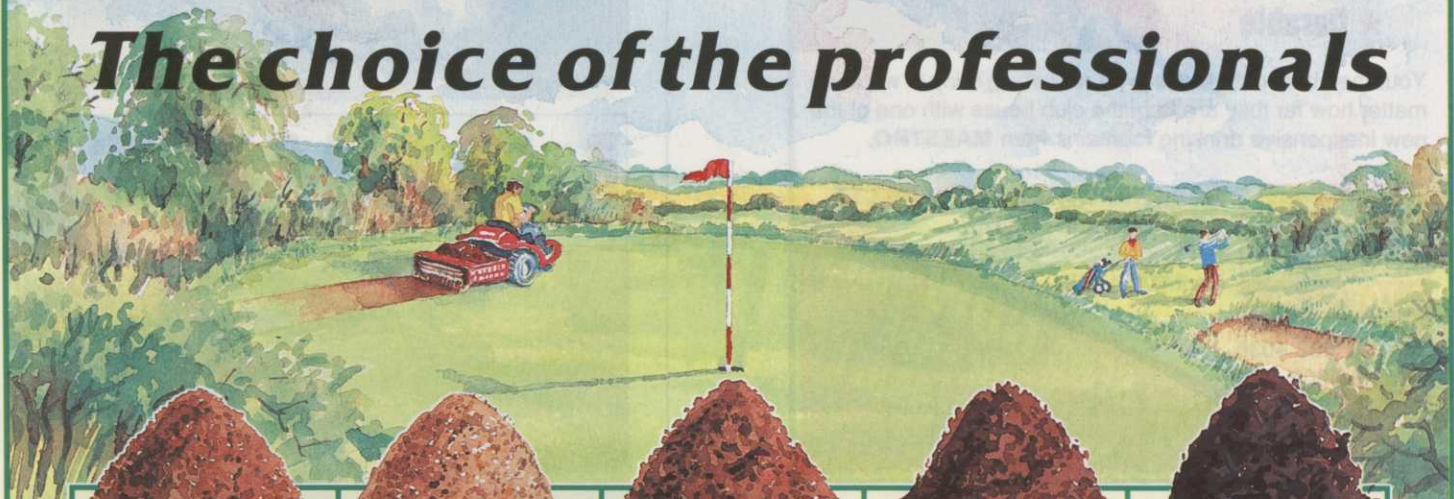
Britain's
No.1
For Service
and Quality

RUFFORD.

NOW THE

COMPLETE RANGE.

The choice of the professionals



TOP-DRESSINGS

No.1 Medium/Fine Dressing from our famous Nucks Wood Quarry
No.2 Medium/Fine Dressing from our Warrington Quarry
No.3 A Coarser Grade Dressing from our Warrington Quarry



SANDS

Free draining lime free sands for Top Dressings, Bunkers, Drainage and Winter Sports pitches.
Sand suitable for USGA putting green construction.



ROOT ZONE MIX

Can meet USGA Specification, standard and individual mixes available for construction/reconstruction of Golf Greens and Tees. Consistency of Materials and unique delivery service guaranteed.



SCREENED SOIL

Screened and shredded, this soil is ideal for all Construction, Divoting and Maintenance work. It is of Quarry origin and has guaranteed consistent quality.



SEDGE PEAT

Mixed with No.1, No.2, or No.3 Top-Dressings (at no extra cost) will aid moisture retention during dry summer months especially for Links Courses. Also available on its own or as a tree planting compost.

NATURALLY ORGANIC

The success of keeping your Golf Course or Sports Ground in top condition depends on you among other things buying top quality products.

All Rufford Products are produced from our own Quarries with no need to import Sands or Soils. All have been approved by leading agronomists and

Soil Scientists. Consistency of quality and our vast reserves enable you to purchase with total confidence.

You are invited to visit our Quarries to judge for yourselves. Quite a number of course Managers and Agronomists have already done so and we would like to think they were just a little impressed.

All enquiries:-

(0925) 232476

Acton Grange Quarry, Birchwood lane, Moore, Warrington, WA4 6XE

Also at: Nucks Wood Quarry, Wiggins Lane, Rufford, Nr Southport, Lancashire, L40 1UJ. **Head Office: 061-747 4333**

Rufford

TOP-DRESS SUPPLIES

Ring us or your nearest distributor for immediate attention.

TRADE TOPICS

■ Westurf '91 – or to give it its full and more correct title WESTURF Turfcare Trade Exhibition – looks set to create new records on May 1st with larger numbers of local traders and internationally known manufacturers booking increased space at this 'county fair' favourite, organised so enthusiastically and so well by the South West and Wales Region of BIGGA, under the inspired direction of Gordon Child.



Gordon Child

Gordon seems to have got the equation absolutely right, for whilst costs are well within acceptable bounds for the trade to exhibit professionally and painlessly, the visiting greenkeeper will find the freedom of inspection enhanced by the delightful surroundings of Long Ashton Golf Club, a spot just a few minutes away from the motorway and easy to find. Parking is free and very easy and the whole thing promises to be a great day out.

Some space IS still available and a call NOW to Gordon will confirm. His number is 0803 844056.



Fast turf laying: Big Roll

■ Yorkshire's Inturf Limited are co-operating with Surrey based Lawn Tech Limited in the development of a revolutionary BIG ROLL turf laying system.

The key to the system's success lies in a semi-automatic turf laying machine – the first of its kind in the world – which has been designed and patented by Lawn Tech specifically to handle giant turf rolls measuring up to 30 square yards per roll. The machine is capable of laying large areas of turf very fast – one man can lay up to 500 sq. yards in an hour.

■ The ever increasing capability of the SISIS Varicore to provide alternative means of aerating all types of sportsturf surfaces has been broadened further by the recent addition to the range of tines available for this model. SISIS have introduced a 5" slitting tine for maintenance aeration to supplement the 5" hollow and solid tines already widely used.

This means that the operator can select a required depth down to 5%" rather than the maximum of 4" previously possible.

■ The AQUACELL irrigation system, literally a polypropylene blanket of individual calls which allows water to penetrate on dry areas by over 30 times that possible using conventional methods, is proving to be a great boon in promoting seed germination and protecting a treated worn area from unwelcome traffic. Conceived, designed and developed by a greenkeeper for greenkeepers, the system – which from a distance looks rather like a kingsize airbed – makes claim to use less water and increase the efficiency and economy of wetting agents, together with minimum evaporation loss and water run-off. Highly recommended before aeration, this simple though ingenious idea is producing results that are most impressive indeed.

**Fred Hawtree, in
reminiscent mood when
recalling a lecture
delivered by him some
years ago, insists that
those same lessons
stand good today and
offers wise counsel to
those involved in golf
course design and
construction in 1991**



Straight from the Hawtree's mouth

Those of you who were fortunate enough to attend the Northern Section's one-day conference on conservation in 1978 will doubtless recall one paper in particular. No need to remind you who gave it but it may be sensible to repeat some of its forecasts.

"There are certainly a number of projects which are initiated by a group of enthusiasts who want the best of what they can afford and, provided they engage a competent designer, they will get it. Most of the economics the designer makes will be due to conservation factors because the less he disturbs, the less he is spending. Then there are farmers and landowners who see a golf club as alternative income. Here also, I think we are relatively safe because there will not be a lot of money to splash about and a competent golf course architect will produce a plan which will ensure that the golf course provides all the tradi-

tional requirements without requiring an astronomical budget.

The real danger comes from the financial groups, the long-term investors, the big developers, the hotel builders, the diversifiers. Very naturally they wish to make sure that their venture is successful. They only know one way of doing this – engage a big name to sign the plans, whether or not he has prepared them himself.

All good stuff, I modestly suggest. And there is more. *“The big name player has spent most of his life on the practice ground and has probably not had much time to study the finer points of landscaping. He imposes an overall requirement on his underlings that every hole should be memorable, the total length 7,000 yards plus, there must be lakes at every hole, at least ten acres of sand, and all green surfaces should roll like the ocean”. After clinching the job, “He will appear twice more to provide an opportunity for the golfing press to be briefed on progress and the vast sums that are being spent.*

That is all very well in a big country but it is not right for us. The number of so-called prestige developments that we can take is strictly limited”.

It gets better and better.

In the case of the Loch Lomond development, I believe, the last big name visit was early in October when 15 holes were constructed. The Press were flown there in a chartered aeroplane. Two months later the whole shebang, still with 15 holes, was up for sale.

‘The big name player has spent most of his life on the practice ground and has probably not had much time to study the finer points of landscaping’

(Thanks to John Hopkins in the Sunday Times for this information.)

The same source also mentioned the problems of the East Sussex “National”. By the way how many Nationals can you have? The Belfry is described on sign-posts in the immediate district as “National Golf Centre”. But at Uckfield, the scheme was only budgeted for £32.5 million instead of yon bonny bank’s £52 million. So there is no clubhouse yet.

Well, let us all hope it will come right in the end for both of them. What bothers me is the knock-on effect. If potential developers get the wrong idea, resistance to new courses will grow, and waiting lists will stay waiting just when they should be disappearing.

“Planning authorities will become suspicious of new golf courses if they have seen or heard how others have turned landscape inside out...”

“The community spirit on which many golf courses thrive will disappear. Nobody will be able to afford to play on them because the constructional costs and maintenance costs on top with upwards of 40 green staff can only lead to prohibitive fees”.

That is why it is heartening to see the English Golf Union setting up an advisory section on development. There’s nobody better than an amateur golfer to explain the attractions of golf and a golf course – even a simple one. The next move has got to be a classical revival. Fortunately this is also the economic route to success.

“Conservation is here to stay and its proponents



THE LATEST THINKING IN GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

The kind that gives you a championship calibre golf course within the limitations of your budget. CDC’s unrivalled package means expertise at each stage of design, construction and maintenance. That’s why we’re the fastest growing golf course constructors around. So call us for our brochure or talk to us about your new project today.



CDC GROUP PLC, Chapel Works, Waldringfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4PT
Tel: Waldringfield 791/2/3/4

A member of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors

will not get any quieter as population, money and other pollutants increase. Both golf courses architects and greenkeepers had better listen to these strident voices and have an answer ready. The answer for architects is certainly not standing the whole site on its head. A traditional golf course will fit into the natural pattern and suit both site and golfer best of all. The bizarre productions of recent years come from the need for publicity, instant fame, and instant fortune. They also make them impossible to maintain except in a bizarre, immaculate artificial fashion, the sort of style which public parks used to demonstrate but, happily, do so no longer".

It has all been said before, especially in these pages. Let us hope it will not be necessary to say it three times.

Landscaping, drainage and construction
- company profiles

Maxel Golf

Maxel Golf understand only too well the difficulties of achieving mutually satisfying planning permission between client and local authority, having successfully completed months of detailed negotiations with the Yorkshire Dales National Parks in order to achieve permission for the first ever Dales golf course in the village of Sedburgh.

This beautiful valley is owned by the farming Handleys and Wilsons who, with diversification in mind, are

'The bizarre productions of recent years come from the need for publicity, instant fame, and fortune. They also make them impossible to maintain'

about to embark upon a project which will test everyone involved in caring for the natural environment.

Terry Redding, M.D. of Maxel Golf, felt specialist help was required and has invited David Bellamy Associates and their team of environmental experts to work with Maxel on the formulation of 'green' codes of practice for clients.

S A Lacey Ltd

Building a lake on your golf course? From initial advice on suitability of terrain, S A Lacey Ltd undertakes all aspects of design and construction of lakes. "Our aim is to create a feature that will blend into the surrounding landscape to enhance any course's desirability", affirms Simon Lacey.

Professional consultancy on recommended liners, boreholes, bank edging, weirs, sluices, monks, valves, etc as well as the supply of additional extras such as bridges, fountains and water plants are all part of an increasingly popular service.

Alteration of existing lakes is most recently exemplified on a North London course and the construction of three new lakes with puddled clay liners is currently in progress at Brands Hatch in Kent.

OCM Associates Ltd

Seasoned European tour player and former Jersey Open Champion John Morgan has turned his hand to golf course construction.

The ex-Royal Liverpool pro has become a director of OCM Associates Ltd, a Dumfries-based company, and

GOLF COURSE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.

Services include:

- Business Plans,
- Course Designs,
- Liaison with Statutory Authorities,
- Ecological Assessment,
- Construction Management,

MRMSANDOW LTD.

31, Cathedral Rd,
Cardiff. CF19HB.

Tel:0222 223284 Fax:0222 223374

AD REF 303

AGRIPOWER LTD
SPORTSTURF

SPORTSFIELD CONSTRUCTION
IN

GRASS OR SYNTHETICS

DRAINAGE - SANDBANDING

VERTIDRAIN HIRE

STONE PICKING

CULTIVATIONS

MACHINERY HIRE

Head Office: 02406 6776
Midlands/North: 0543 250010

AD REF 262



Tour player, John Morgan, who has joined OCM Associates as their design consultant

will work as their design consultant.

Morgan is already involved in projects to build courses in Dumfries and Scarborough and has plans to move further afield.

The new challenge will not involve Morgan moving from his West Kirby, Liverpool home but it will affect his playing schedule. "I'll be playing on the European tour again but I will limit my appearances as course construction work develops", he says.

Agripower Limited Sportsturf

Based in both Buckinghamshire and Staffordshire, Agripower are able to offer a comprehensive nationwide service in the construction, drainage and maintenance of Golf Courses. In addition, they are now able to offer well boring for water supply and drainage soakaways. As members of the

LDCA Sportsturf Section, their customers have the reassurance and backing provided by the Association for quality workmanship. The Company's comprehensive range of specialist equipment, from bulk earth moving machines to stone pickers, enable them to offer a complete service from construction through to final cultivation, green construction and irrigation installation.

MRM Sandow Limited

MRM Sandow Limited are currently working on numerous projects throughout the UK; these being

taken from concept through all stages of planning, design, contract administration and project management. Their Resident Ecologist fully assesses all sites and full consideration is taken of the findings so that a scheme is developed that is beneficial to both the golfer and the environment.

The Company blends modern CAD techniques with individual design to produce developments complying with the brief and within budget. In short, the company has the expertise and experience to carry out all types of projects.

For further information contact Richard Hird on 0222 223284.

Macro Services

Macro Services have established an excellent reputation over a number of years. The company commenced operation in 1983, concentrating on hard and soft landscaping. However, it wasn't long before Pete Maddocks, the driving force behind Macro Services, and more than 20 years a golfer, moved into golf course construction work. It all started with the extending and rebuilding of a tee. Many more tees and greens construction followed, as well as extensive drainage work. As a result of the attention to detail paid to the work and the very personal service, recommendations followed, particularly by Romsey GC and recently major repair work was undertaken at Hockley GC... very successfully! Macro Services are noted for their 'value for money' approach. Get in touch with Pete Maddocks to find out why.

MAXEL golf

"THE COMPLETE SERVICE IN GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION"

CONSULT US WITHOUT OBLIGATION



Maxel Construction and Management Services Ltd.
Manor Cottage, 1 Front Street, Whickham,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 4HF.
Tel: (091) 496 0312. Fax: (091) 496 0084