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Education

**Seminar
success**



■ The recent Elmwood College Greenkeeping Conference, which followed on from two days of specialist seminars, proved so popular that further one day seminars are planned for the future. The conference was chaired by Elliott Small, pictured, the BIGGA Scottish Regional Administrator, who skillfully guided the speakers and audience through an enjoyable day. It was announced during the week-end that Elmwood will be offering a new one year full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping.

■ Myerscough (Lancashire College of Agriculture) is holding a two day event on May 14th/15th which will specialise exclusively in golf course construction and maintenance. The underlying theme will be to invite manufacturers of construction and maintenance equipment to use the College golf course to demonstrate, not only to clients, but to the many greenkeepers and recreation managers who are expected to attend. As an added feature, the College is also organising seminars relating to current developments in this specialist field. The event is being held at the Myerscough centre of the College, which is situated on the A6, 5 miles from junction 32 on the M6. All those interested in golf course construction- or in sportsturf generally- are welcome to attend. Entry is free, from 10.30am to 4.00pm each day.

■ Highly successful - that was the opinion of 19 greenkeepers who attended Elmwood's supervisory course for practicing or prospective head greenkeepers and course managers. This intensive course covered a variety of topics including Time Management; Budgeting & Accounts; Health & Safety; COSHH; Public Speaking and Computers- including an introduction to the TRIMS Ground Management Software Package. Highlights of the course were the interview sessions where each greenkeeper was 'subjected' to the ordeal of facing a panel of well-known people from the industry for 20-30 minutes. One such session was video recorded to allow further feedback to take place. The course was over subscribed, so another is scheduled for November.



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Book now for Management Courses

Following the success of previous in-house Management Courses over the past two years, five more one week courses are scheduled for the coming autumn, all such courses specifically programmed to attract greenkeepers who may not have received further education or greenkeeper training.

The magnificent Aldwark Manor will accommodate over one hundred greenkeepers during the five courses and for those who have not yet visited HQ, will provide the ideal opportunity to luxuriate at a four star hotel with five days of education.

Those members who have attended either first or second year courses will again have an opportunity to attend, with week five specially created for them. It is anticipated that all five courses will be in heavy demand and members are requested to note specific week numbers and course content before completing the pre-paid booking card to be found facing Page 4 of this issue.

The costs for 1991 are again subsidised by generous support from Kubota (UK) Ltd and The Greenkeepers Training Committee.

YEAR 1

Week 1 : 28 October – 1 November inc.

Week 2 : 4 November – 8 November inc.

Course content to include: Time Management; Introduction to Computers; Communication Skills; Problems associated with the Management of Tees, Greens; Fairways, Bunkers & Surrounds, Health & Safety, Turf Diseases; Conservation; and Grasses for the Golf Course.

YEAR 2

Priority will be given to those having attended the YEAR 1 Course in 1989 or 1990.

Week 3 : 11 November – 15 November inc.

Week 4 : 18 November – 22 November inc.

Course content to include: Presentations to a Committee (verbal and written); Preparing a CV; Report Writing; Interviewing; Public Speaking; FEPA/COSHH; Spraying; Health & Safety; Turf Nutrition.

YEAR 3

Priority will be given to those who have attended the YEAR 1 and YEAR 2 Courses.

Week 5: 25 November – 29 November inc.

Course content to include: Discipline Amongst Staff; Preparing for Job Interviews; Irrigation; Tee & Green Construction; Preparing & Implementing a Course Maintenance Plan.

Lecturers for all courses will be drawn from GTC Approved Greenkeeper Colleges, The STRI and Private Training Organisations. All courses begin noon Monday and close noon Friday. Costs are inclusive of all meals and accommodation.

COST PER WEEK: £225 + VAT = £264.38. Please make cheques payable to BIGGA.

Early booking is strongly recommended – select chosen week and complete pre-paid card facing Page 4.

DAVID WHITE reports on the third BIGGA National Education Conference, York 1991

Greenkeeping issues in a walled city

The Romans came to York in AD 71, an occupation that lasted for 340 years. The greenkeepers came, specifically occupying York's Langwith College, nearly 2000 later when about 170 people from around the globe gathered for the most ambitious conference yet staged by BIGGA, made possible through the generous support of Lindum Turf & Associates.

No less than 17 papers were presented, a remarkable feat demanding total adherence to schedule and made possible only by the firm rein taken by Chairman, Gordon Child. Educational opportunities were abundant, and following George Malcolm's introduction, America's Dr Roy Goss began with The Influence of Soils and Management Practices on Anaerobic Rootzones. That Roy is an entertaining fellow is well known, though as one in favour of pure sand for green construction, indeed vehemently stating that he cannot recommend other than pure sand, Roy entered what may be thought of in the UK as a 'minefield' of conflicting views. It is perhaps worth noting that such controversy does much to generate a healthy exchange of ideas, which this conference certainly achieved, both on and off the platform.

This report must restrict itself, by the nature of space afforded, to an overview of the proceedings. Thus it may not seem too remiss to skip lightly over that which was no light matter at all – namely the splendid papers presented by College Lecturer, Dr Richard Gibbs; Agronomist, David Stansfield; and Golf Course Architect, Martin Hawtree; for their recorded presentations may well form the basis for future individual articles within our pages. Rounding off day one, let me just mention Larry Gilhuly, Director Western Region, USGA Green Section, and his hugely entertaining The Good, The Bad and The Ugly of Golf Course Management. Larry, in his USGA role, carries out a function not dissimilar to that of STRI agronomists and his presentation, spiced with the wildest slide show imaginable, took delegates on a tour of those golf course horrors in the USA that all too often looked just like home and perhaps a shade too close for comfort.

Greenkeepers are well known for their temperance and it was therefore no surprise to learn that delegates had all retired early to bed, the better to be bright-eyed for eight lectures on Saturday! Dr Bill Adams began with a timely discussion on the Thatch problem, followed by Joe Paulin, whose Greenkeeping from Indiana to Ireland to Gleneagles demonstrated how good management techniques can cross not only regions of the U.S.A., but whole continents. It was all bonny stuff and made us glad this Yank had joined our ranks. George Shiels, Vice Principal of Merrist Wood College, suggested his talk might best be regarded as a commercial break, continuing in his jocular way to expound on how Merrist Wood was breaking new ground

Sweeping new changes in greenkeeper training and financing were welcomed at BIGGA's National Education Conference when the R. & A. announced disbandment of the G.T.C. in favour of a new Joint Golf Course Committee. Our Association is to have a much greater say in all future programming

with a PGA endorsed educational course – aimed at low handicap golfers and pro's – regarded in some greenkeeping circles as controversial. He made it sound innocent enough, though I personally found it strange that he parried so many questions from other colleges, with a 'four aces to the chest, musn't tell you too much, you're the opposition', style of reply. One would hope that an educational break-through, if that is what the Merrist Wood course represents, might be shared; rather than guarded in this protectionist fashion.

Geoff Hodson, as many of you know, is the mastermind behind Lindum Turf. It therefore came as no surprise that he had masterminded the nifty little four man presentation, titled: The Golf Course-from Conception to Completion. A whistle-stop tour in just 70 minutes, it was quite stunning. The amiable Steve Cadenelli, GCSAA President for 1991, talked of the role the greenkeeper / superintendent plays and in listening one was struck not so much by high contrasts but by the many similarities revealed. If State-side greenkeeper status appears different it might be because we in Britain have the unique habit of not selling ourselves too well. Shades of Bobby Gee, one might say.

Freddie Ten Hage is a name familiar with many, and as Holland's greenkeeping ambassador and most enthusiastic BIGGA member he entertained us in fine style, describing his native golfing country in a fashion that was both humorous and informative. As a historian I'm often puzzled that so few Dutchmen have emerged onto the world golf scene, for golf, or kolf (the short game) and kolf (the long game) as titled in Holland, originated in the low countries.

Everyone anticipated something special when Nick Park, Chairman of the R.&A./ Unions Sub Committee, chaired a panel on The Way Forward Document & Subsequent Developments. We were not disappointed. First revelation was that a new JOINT GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE – a five man panel from the home unions and the R. & A. – had been established to co-ordinate the raising of funds for both technical matters and training and recruitment. In both areas BIGGA was visualised as playing a crucial role, with the Technical Sector envisaged as fulfilling a similar role to that of the USGA Green Section, both the STRI and BIGGA being solidly represented.

Turning to training, the proposal was that the Golf Unions, the R. & A., BIGGA and those representing the educational bodies should form a panel of experts and, once needs had been established and budgets prepared, refer back to the Joint Golf Course Committee. In turn, the JGCS would ensure suitably realistic levies were collected through the unions, with still further revenue added by R. & A. donations.

(Continued overleaf)

(from previous page)

Summarising, Nick Park impressed upon us three key factors which would bring about change for the better: First, the new structure would ensure total continuity and thus override or outweigh any individual whims or personalities. Second, that greenkeepers (BIGGA) will play a much bigger part in deciding how (much larger) sums of money might be spent. Finally, that this was a genuine partnership between Unions, Clubs and the Association.

Asked if professional golfers might have a part to play, Secretary of the EGU, Keith Wright, suggested that there was no place for them in this endeavour, "indeed", he continued, "the sooner we convince Clubs that greenkeeping is an art and a profession the better it will be for all concerned". A murmur of approval rumbled through the halls.

One might imagine this session a hard act to follow, but with an up-to-the-minute topic like Greenkeeping in the year 2010 – Who are we training and for what? Dr Hugh Nunn took the day to a splendid close, all present being given plenty upon which to cogitate.

Saturday night was given to merriment, with a fine banquet set before us in the historic Merchant Adventurers Hall, followed by the riotously funny act of Barry Williams, which proved to be an inspired choice in sealing the high mood of the evening.

With a somewhat subdued audience, following Saturday's excesses, Larry Gilhuly judged the mood perfectly with It's a matter of Quality, for although specifically informative it had just the right seasoning of humour to bring sparkle back into weary souls. Two young masters of their craft followed, Ken Siems first; demonstrating both visually and vocally that bent grasses (and other innovative features) at East Sussex National were no myth, with Peter Jones following in fine style to tell us (again with splendid pictures) how at Collingtree Park he had mastered the pure sand greens and Penncross conundrum. Both left us on a 'high', which remained to the end, Dr Roy Goss winding-up by discussing alternatives to our old 'friend' *Poa annua*.

Leaving York, we are heartened by the good news from Nick Park, inspired by the good vibes that such conferences instil within us and gladdened that old friendships have been renewed and new ones created. We shall be back for more!

A learning experience

David Norton, the TORO Greenkeeper of the Year, recently spent two months in America as part of his winners award. These are his observations...

Airports can be chaotic enough in themselves and I had seen quite enough organised chaos on both sides of the Atlantic, with my journey taking over 20 hours from Beverly to the University of Massachusetts. Just when I felt the worst was over along came a sting in the tail. That sting was the 15 minute ride on Boston's underground, though without taking you on a similar ride I cannot begin to explain its nastiness. Suffice to say that in the whole eight weeks away it was the lowspot of my tour, and I count myself lucky to have arrived with luggage intact. When I finally reached the campus it was dark; below freezing; snowing; and the dormitory was locked!

I was soon inducted into American ways and began the seven-week, eleven subject, course in fine spirits. These included turfgrass management; golf course architecture; turfgrass diseases; entomology; irrigation; physiology; personnel management; calculations; soils and fertilisers; trees and shrubs; and the equipment shop, with students being tested by exam or practical project, sometimes both.

There was never a dull moment, for the excellent course material was both informative and practically based and though classroom days were long – 8am to 5.30 pm – the time flew past. Some of the material was familiar from my days at Askham Bryan, with the presentation made doubly fascinating by its 'Americanisation'. For example, our meadow grass is known as Kentucky Blue Grass (which sounds much nicer) and came to light when latin names were used in the classroom. My fascination grew when talk turned to American warm season grasses – so different from those few varieties we have here in Britain – and the management practices necessary for their survival.

The essential ingredient in any learning experience is, in my opinion, the dialogue that comes after school. My unfounded though long-held views on America and the Americans were soon changed through such conversations and I now feel that no big gap exists in the capability of 'them' as opposed to 'us'. What is clear, however, is that education is a high priority, high profile subject, and this we must emulate at every opportunity if we are to gain the same professional recognition enjoyed by our American cousins.

Did I tell you about the war? It broke out whilst I was there, giving me an exposure to American news coverage that was truly mind-blasting. Twenty-four hour TV coverage on four channels, newspapers crammed to capacity and in Amhurst itself the sight of demos and peace protesters marching on the streets. This climaxed on George Washington's Birthday when a peace protester incinerated himself on the village green. Thankfully a cease-fire was called before I flew home.

This was no "all work and no play" trip and I lived it up in Las Vegas at the GCSAA show. I had been psyched by fellow US students into believing the show would be enormous and indeed it was quite big, though not as big as they would have it. It was good though, with many excellent short, sharp and snappy 20 minutes lectures and a chance to see the Hydrojet, both on show and later in action in California. Suddenly familiar faces appear at the BIGGA stand, Neil Thomas, Debbie Savage and Ivor



The Tamarisk Course, southern California

Scoones, and a chance to meet ICI Premier Greenkeeper Award winner, Anthony Davies, who had also won a trip to the show. Likewise familiarity at the TORO exhibit where Graham and Dave presided and where I was invited to participate in still more merriment – this time at TORO's reception party.

On campus I had met folks from Sun City; Pebble Beach; Butler National; Pinehurst and Pole Creek, to name but a few of the famous courses represented, whilst at the show I was privileged to meet and talk with many other important and influential people in the golf industry. Truly a learning experience.

Las Vegas itself will long live in my memory, with its gambling tables and over-the-top extravaganza style. Could you really believe it, I even saw white snow tigers guarding the entrance to the Mirage Hotel!

Returning to school, a final grand dinner (coinciding with celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the turf school) was shared with lecturers and students, before we all received our certificates at a passing-out parade. I had learned so much, mixed with so many fine people and was reluctant to move on, but California – in the shape of TORO's Irrigation Plant at Riverside – beckoned.

So to the final week, with a conducted tour of the plant proving most interesting and hugely informative. A real 'home cookin' meal of delicious taste and proportion with Bill and Carol Theole was followed by a trip with Bill to the desert. Palm Springs is where TORO have a desert outlet and from this base we visited several eye-popping courses and talked with green maintenance staff. The courses at PGA West, La Quinta and Tamarisk especially impressed me and it was at Tamarisk that I saw my first ever *Poa trivialis* greens, which in both Britain and America we were taught were 'no go'. Seeing was definitely believing! Funny thing, they were suffering the effects of a 5 year drought, though on the day I visited it rained more than it had in two whole years – typical!

One day to go, with the morning spent at Riverside in mind-blowing discussion with Jon Williams on irrigation systems past, present and future. I do hope he achieves all that he is aiming for. Indeed, on reflection, I'm sure he will. Now the end is looming, though I could happily stay on for several more weeks in California, and I am sorry to leave. The airport newsstand offers an English newspaper for £5.50 and I begin to feel drawn homeward bound. Calculations now reveal that I've covered 20,000 miles, being transported through Boston's subway nightmare to the tables of Vegas and the beaches of California. A great and rewarding experience which I shall never forget. There are too many people to thank individually, but to everyone concerned – the organisers, TORO as sponsors and all Americans who made me feel so welcome – thank you all. May all future winners enjoy equal pleasure and delight and, perhaps most important of all, gain true and lasting benefit from the learning which such a trip affords.

Part Two

After spending considerable time and expense in making a planning application, it will eventually seem worthwhile after the agonising wait is over and consent is granted. Sometimes, however, the case may arise when a District Council will only allow development to go ahead after a number of specific criteria have been satisfied, the requirements normally coming in the shape of a Section 52 Agreement. The developer must satisfy these demands as soon as the information is available, which may pertain to such matters as site access, or further more detailed landscaping plans. In any case, all relevant information must be submitted to the District Council, to help them visualise the extent of the proposals.

From this point, it is effectively possible to begin construction works on site if the design has been finalised and a contractor appointed. It is, however, more often the case that detailed design work must still be prepared. The plans submitted to the District Council will invariably have shown the overall design layout of the golf course and therefore it will be possible to use the Routing Plan for the major design work.

The Routing Plan alone will be insufficient in providing the detailed information necessary for construction of the course as it will only show a relationship between greens, tees and fairways, as opposed to finished levels of the proposed features. It will therefore be necessary to produce construction drawings for greens, tees, fairways and all other features on site, such as lakes and moundings.

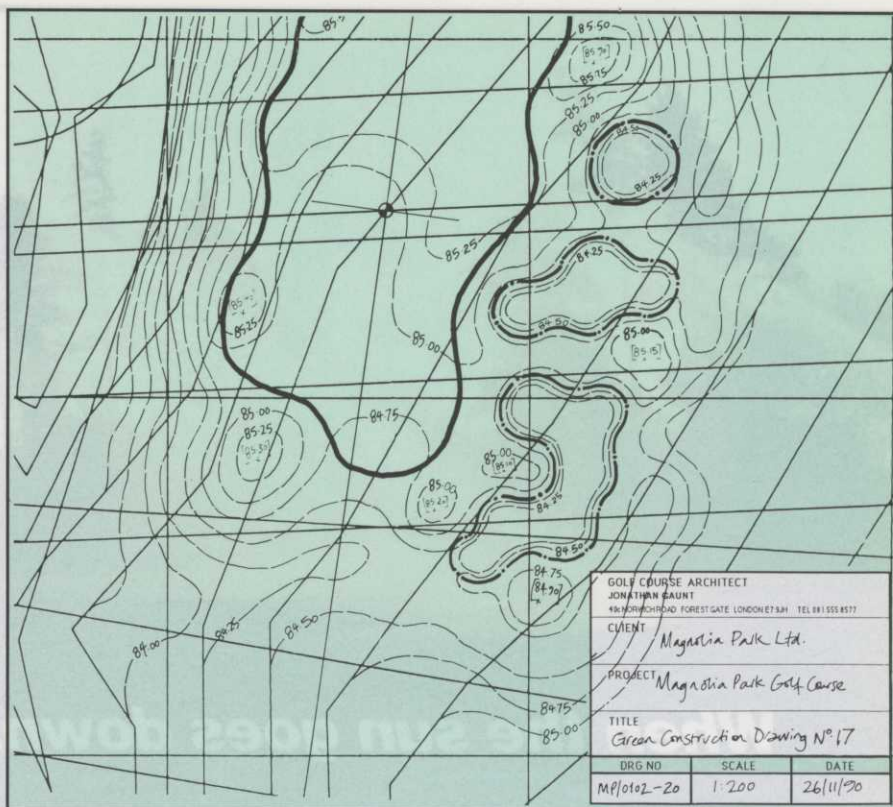
To prepare these, a thorough topographical and site survey will need to have been carried out, showing all existing contours and other interesting features such as hedgerows, lakes, streams, marshland, public footpaths, mature trees and woodlands, badger setts, sites of special scientific interest, and any conservation areas that may exist.

The routing plan will have taken these important factors into consideration, as will all detailed construction drawings. Each construction drawing will show the area where a proposed feature is to be located and indicate, by showing proposed contours in relation to those existing, how much earth movement will be necessary to create a feature. The scale of the drawing will be sufficiently large in order that accurate measurements may be taken off in setting out the design on site.

Each green, tee and fairway drawing will provide the contractor with an accurate means of pricing the construction, however these drawings should only be read in conjunction with a specification and accompanying Bills of Quantities.

Once a contractor has been chosen, by competitive tender or by negotiation – (usually based on the cheapest quote, though sometimes uncertainty about the lowest bidders ability to complete the contract before going broke may see the second lowest accepted) – it is his responsibility to provide both architect and client with a construction programme and timetable, indicating the period necessary to build the golf course and including an agreed completion date. Sometimes a contractor can suffer major set-backs due to inclement weather or with differing soils, which can make it very difficult to estimate just how the contract is due to progress. The construction programme, therefore, is produced purely as a guide-line.

The contractor must also provide the architect with samples of soil, peat, sand and seed mixes for approval and analysis prior to any orders being made. Once a design is finalised the contractor is responsible for the accurate setting out of the design on site, which is checked and approved by the architect before construction proceeds. The architect must also ensure the golf course is being built according to specification and that correct materials are used. He will normally visit the site once or twice a month to supervise construction and certify completed work. The contractor will provide sample stockpiles of materials on



Planning APPROVED

site, which must be available for random testing should the architect feel such tests are necessary.

During the construction the contractor will submit to the client a valuation related to works completed. This is normally at the end of each two or four week period. It is the architects responsibility to then issue a certificate which confirms that the contractors calculations are true and correct. The client will employ a Clerk of Works throughout to oversee the works, however, the architect will act as an unbiased judge should complications or disagreements arise between either party. Once the architect has signed a certificate the client will release payment to the contractor.

As the contract progresses, meetings will be set up on site by the architect, involving both contractor, client and himself and established to ensure progress is satisfactory and the contractor is keeping to construction schedules.

There are many imponderables, but if the contractor has adhered to specifications, drawings and his programme and there have been no major difficulties, the golf course will be finished on time, enabling the architect to grant the contractor a Certificate of Completion. This is only issued when both architect and client are fully satisfied and will, as a normal course of action, include a defects correction clause. This clause is a negotiable factor and is dependant upon individual client wishes, however it usually extends for twelve months after completion. If any part of the golf course fails in this time, the responsibility lies with the contractor to return to site and make good those faults.

Once construction works have been completed the course should be left to establish and mature for 18-24 months – dependant upon the construction specification – and it is during this period that course grooming will play a vital role and a maintenance contract will be established.

● Next month – A golf course without players – maintenance is the key to success before opening day.

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A growing exhibition for a growth industry... the Landscape Industries '91 show, at the National Agricultural Centre, promises a wealth of technical and educational information

The Landscape Industries event is proving to be an important focal point for this growth industry. Now in its fourth year, it has established itself as the major exhibition, growing by 30% every year since its inception. Over 240 companies and organisations, covering all aspects of this diverse industry, chose to exhibit at Landscape Industries '90 including 13 colleges and 29 technical and educational displays. Landscape Industries differs from the other events by its concept. It is put together not just as a trade fair, but as a valuable source of technical and educational information. The benefit of Landscape Industries is for the whole industry, funds are ploughed back into research, education, training and development.

The exhibition is also intended to contribute to a more integrated approach to the development of landscaping and the environment, and has the long term aim of bringing together those who manage land with those who have the technology and skills to create and adapt the landscape to reflect the changing needs of the community.

The landscape industry is a growth sector and landscap-

ing issues in their broadest sense are assuming greater significance in all aspects of life.

Landscape Industries '91 provides the ideal business forum for everyone with an interest in this diverse but specialist industry.

The event has the sound backing of the three key organisations: RASE (Royal Agricultural Society of England), BALI (British Association of Landscape Industries) and ILAM (Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management), together with the committed support of such organisations as the National Turf Grass Council, the Association of Playing Fields and Leisure Managers, the ABT and many others. By working together, these organisations provide a partnership with the sole purpose of developing an event which will help to stimulate the growth of the landscape and leisure industries.

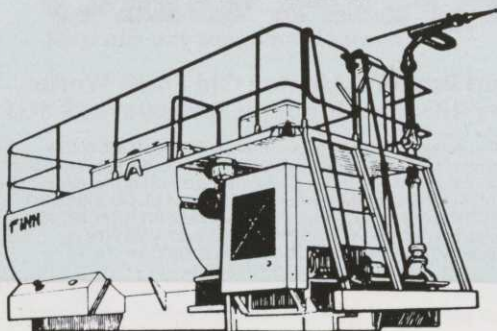
Companies and visitors alike can meet in a vibrant business forum within an effective market place to develop and exploit existing and new opportunities.

Landscape Industries offers the unique combination of a

Pictured: a Bobcat on the Golf Course

● Continued on Page 29

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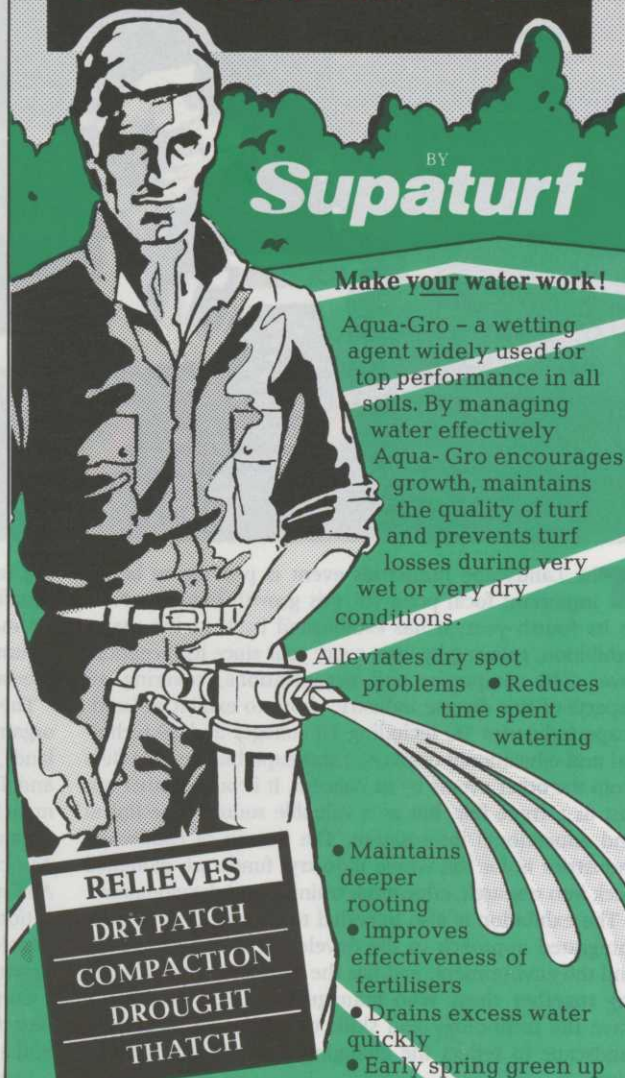
Send for a catalogue for more details of Grade A Amenity Seeds from British Seed Houses Ltd., Bewsey Industrial Estate, Pitt Street, Warrington, Cheshire WA5 5LE. Or telephone (0925) 54411.



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AQUA-GRO WETTING AGENT



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Aqua-Gro – a wetting agent widely used for top performance in all soils. By managing water effectively Aqua-Gro encourages growth, maintains the quality of turf and prevents turf losses during very wet or very dry conditions.

- Alleviates dry spot problems
- Reduces time spent watering

**RELIEVES
DRY PATCH
COMPACTION
DROUGHT
THATCH**

- Maintains deeper rooting
- Improves effectiveness of fertilisers
- Drains excess water quickly
- Early spring green up

Aqua-Gro Liquid – for applying with sprayers
Aqua-Gro Spreadable – for applying through a spreader
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AD
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'The industry has come of age'

● From Page 27

quality indoor presentation of static stands together with outdoor working demonstrations. With all the leading commercial companies presenting the latest technology, equipment and services, Landscape Industries is a show providing the visitor with the most comprehensive range of exhibits covering all aspects of landscape and leisure.

The event aims to attract the key decision makers within local authorities, landscape architects, county councils, specifiers, designers, contractors, and golf greenkeepers and provides the opportunity for companies to meet with their customers and prospective customers.

Last year over 7000 visitors took the opportunity to see the static exhibits, working demonstrations and technical features on this compact, accessible site.

Visitors will be able to see the established mix of trade stands and technical and education displays alongside working demonstrations, all designed to communicate new developments and technology and encourage further growth of the industry as a whole.

There will be products and services covering:

- Interior and exterior landscaping.
- Machinery and equipment.
- Grass seeds, turf, nursery stock and chemicals.
- Fencing and paving.
- Forestry, amenity and leisure exhibits.
- Financial, design, advisory and consultancy services.

Special features include:

- Informative seminar programme covering quality assurance, contract monitoring and alternatives to peat.
- BALI pentathlon.
- ATB/BALI Training In Action demonstrates the type of training available by means of various working projects
- Demonstration of tree climbing and equipment by the Arboricultural Association.
- Safe handling with forklift trucks demonstration.
- Teach-in by the National Turfgrass Council on reinforcement materials and turf quality.

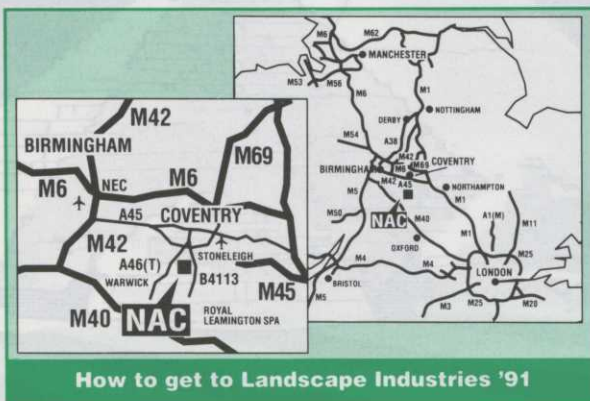
Landscape Industries '91 is expected to attract the usual professional audience including landscape architects, local authorities, contractors, engineers, specifiers and designers....in fact, representatives of the whole cross-section of this diverse industry.


Bill Hickey, Chief Executive of BALI feels, "For the first time all those concerned with the landscape business have an exhibition of their own, where they can meet to concentrate on all issues necessary to discuss and develop matters of common interest and exert a measure of control over the future of their industry... Landscape Industries is


more than a trade show, it is a statement that the landscape industry has come of age and is capable of standing on its own feet".

The event takes place on 5th and 6th June 1991 at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire and is open from 9.30am to 5pm on both days. Admission is free.

● Run-down of some of the exhibitors: Pages 31 and 32.







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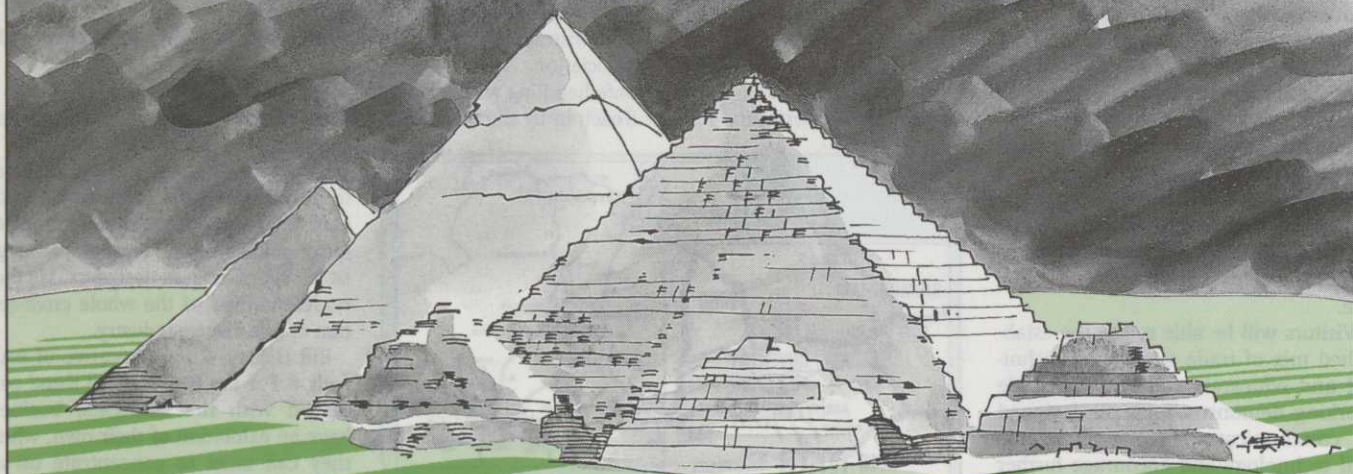
Real mechanical manpower with exceptional workload versatility is what Bobcat compact construction equipment offers. Skid steer loaders, excavators and trenchers. Comprehensive range of easy to fit attachments provide economic working solutions to general landscaping works—excavating, grading, backhoeing, trenching, digging, post holing, tree transplanting, raking. And more.

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