

**Gordon Bennington** suggests some useful tips to take your watering system into winter

# Winter water shutdown

**T**he summer has gone, the irrigation system no longer needed. Will you forget it? Probably, but you shouldn't! The system has cost valuable Club funds to install and maintain and is a vital management tool every year, dry or not so dry.

If we ignore the system now, the Club will inevitably spend more on maintenance next year. If the system is properly wintered down and checked through, such action will limit future expenditure on maintenance and it will be there waiting, fully operational when we need it next spring!

What work should we, as responsible greenkeepers, arrange to be done now and throughout the winter to ensure we start next season with a fully operational and satisfactory scheme?

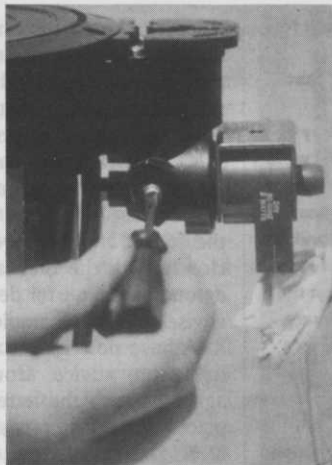
Storage facility, controller and control cable, pipeline, solenoids and sprinklers – all require attention; and the main points to look for are as follows:

**Storage:** If your storage is an above ground galvanised, fibreglass or polyethylene type, close off the water supply whilst making sure to drain the supply line back to a position where it will not freeze, or ensure it has been adequately lagged. Unless the tank is used as a fire fighting water supply, drain it and take the opportunity of removing any silt or debris which may have accumulated. Check the liner and waterproof seams and joints for condition. If they are in anyway suspect, make arrangements to have them attended to.

If your water supply is a river or lake, make sure you remove the suction pipe from the water. This will prevent it from freezing, possibly even being washed away, and will reduce deterioration to the suction pipe itself.

**Pump station:** Check that the pumphouse is safe and vandalproof for the winter. Mindless persons can often cause more damage than the worst frost or lightning strike. All types of pumps used in golf course irrigation need draining down if there is the slightest risk of frost. Pump castings do not tolerate water being frozen within them and can possibly crack.

Pumps and motors should be checked for performance and wear and the greenkeeper should request an annual check from his irrigation equipment supplier. Do this now rather than later, when every other client will be looking for urgent attention.



**A typical solenoid coil which could eventually break down pulling too much current**

Did the pump seem to be working as it should? Have any of your staff mentioned a drop-off in pump performance? If so, mention this to the pump engineer, as it could help him to locate the particular problem more quickly. Always isolate the electricity to the pumps, open all valves and give them a turn from time to time during the winter.

**Controllers:** We often forget these essential devices. First, should we switch the controller off? Some manufacturers would prefer to leave the controllers powered to ensure there is no long-term damage due to condensation etc., even if the pumphouse is heated. It may help to remove any fuses fitted to the course wiring to minimise any possible lightning damage due to winter storms. If the pumphouse itself needs attention in order to prevent rainwater finding its way to the controller and the electrics in general – do something about it now.

**On course electric cable:** Have the course low voltage electrics checked out by your supplier for current leakage when he carries out any other work during the winter, unless your system provides you with a status report.

**Pipelines:** One of the jobs we know we need to do, know we should do and often leave too late, is to open the drain valves and release the water from the pipeline system. Let as much water out as possible, then close the valves to approximately 1/4" (6mm) opening. This will prevent our rodent friends from using the drained pipe as a winter home – a favourite place for many.

Make a note of the points across the course where you have noticed

leaks during the season and plan to do something about them now, not later when the lines are drained down. If you have any doubt that the pipeline is not fully drained in places where it may be exposed, ensure it is properly lagged against frost damage.

**Solenoid valves and sprinklers:** If you had operational problems during the season with solenoids or sprinklers, arrange to resolve them now. Diaphragms in solenoids will eventually fatigue and require replacing, coils and coil pins can wear, with coils drawing too much current and coil pin not seating correctly. Have the coils checked by your supplier at the same time as he is checking the course wiring as this can often be a single operation.

Sprinkler seals may have become worn and be leaking. Remove the sprinkler inserts and replace the seals, checking the springs at the same time, whilst cleaning the trash filters and checking the nozzles for excessive wear. Make sure the pop-up drain holes are clear.

**Hoses:** If you use auxiliary hand

watering or sprinkler feed hoses, remember that they also should be drained out, coiled up and placed in a dry, preferably dark, location. You may need one during the winter and when you do it could be full of ice, hidden under grass and knotted up into the bargain.

**In summary:** Do not forget the system. Do the checks *now* and plan the repairs and maintenance through the winter. If you are planning improvements, talk to your suppliers immediately and negotiate your plans early. If you choose not to assess the state of your irrigation system as suggested, be sure to add a significant increase to your maintenance budget for 1992. You will certainly need it!

● The author, Gordon Bennington, is General Manager of the Rainbird Division of Wright Rain Limited.

● Readers should note that a two day BIGGA education workshop on irrigation will be presented at The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, on January 20th and 21st 1992, presented by Robin Hume of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association.

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# Flying Divots

An appreciation of what is not always appreciated

## At the root of the problem

■ **Amusing perhaps**, but there was a serious side to the tale retold regarding a contractor hollow coring greens. The Club secretary wandered out to watch, picked up a couple of the 5" cores and remarked: 'my, what wonderful root growth we have here'... the cores being 5" of solid thatch! 'I didn't have the courage to tell him the truth', said the contractor, 'he's a pompous man with long-held prejudiced opinions and doesn't take kindly to having them dented with reality!'

■ **Just a load of hot air...** that's all it takes to get airborne; and so with great trepidation, both Billy Martin and your editor gathered at Wildwood recently for his winning flight after the launching of the RFE Turf Machinery Ltd golf ball shaped hot-air balloon. Sadly the weather turned sour and the launch was postponed, so we'll have to wait to report on the exploits of 'those magnificent men in their flying machines'. In the meantime, I can report that Wildwood is shaping up magnificently (with a fabulous opening hole) and that our old friend and course consultant, Jack McMillan, is generous in his praise for its magnitude and progress, with play scheduled to begin in 1993.

■ **Following the ultra-critical** and in many ways thoroughly justified comments made on the condition of the greens at Royal Birkdale, the stage whisper going the rounds is that the Club asked a 'second opinion' from none other than Arnold Palmer (or his American agronomist) to advise on possible remedial action, the too simple answer opined being 're-build to USGA spec! Whilst appreciating that action is necessary - nay essential - one cannot help

■ **I was amused to read in 'The Independent' that China have announced they invented golf - well, the remotely similar 10th century game of chiuwan - and now go one better by claiming, on the 500th anniversary eve of Columbus's first landing, to have discovered America! Next month, they discover the wheel, followed by the lawn mower and the internal combustion engine!**

question the thinking behind appointing an American, great player though he may be, to comment on conditions that are essentially British in terms of turf species, lovely sandy ground conditions and climate. Further, such action must be seen as a snub for the STRI, who have worked closely with the Club and whose agronomists have for decades been appointed by the R&A to advise on such Championship courses. I also learn that the R&A have now issued an edict advising that any Club *not* following advice from the Championship appointed agronomist to the letter will be in danger of losing their place on the Championship roster.

■ **Night-time golf** came to Aldwark Manor, demonstrated for the first time in the north to an invited audience, who saw the chemically illuminated golf balls struck, with various plastic covered lights of a similar nature used to aid the golfers sight.

Initially the reaction was 'well, it's been a bit of fun', but greenkeepers are reported far from happy with this import from America. The reason? We have 12 or more hours of golf during summer and everyone knows the problems of overplaying and compaction. Added to this is the problem of footprinting on delicate and perhaps frosted greens and, of course, divot replacement. Overall impression? A bit gimmicky and not for the serious golfer.



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## An atmosphere to grip the heart

**A**lmost one month on from the Ryder Cup and I'm still being quizzed by all who caught a fleeting glimpse of me on TV, squatting within feet of poor Bernhard and in direct line of that single breaking putt that slid silently right...

Was it that difficult? I imagine only the immortal Bobby Jones may have known such intense pressure in eventually winning the Impregnable Quadrilateral (The Amateur and Open Championships of both Great Britain and the USA in one glorious year – 1930). Please believe me, Bernhard Langer, having played so courageously down the stretch, was our hero.

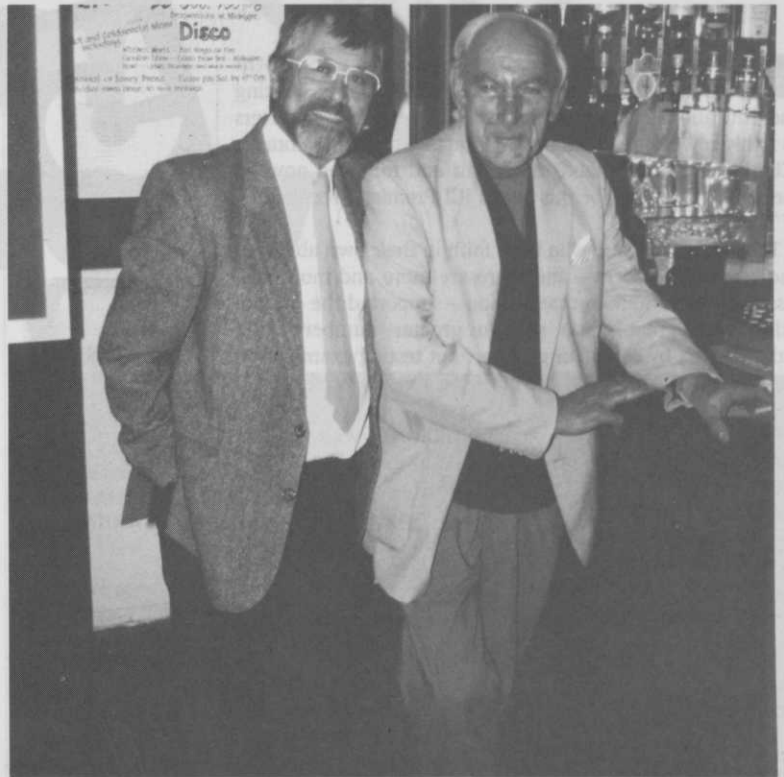
I am an emotional man, known to weep at weddings and much stirred by patriotic fervour. As a mere onlooker I could taste that pressure, easily cut it with a blunt knife, feel it tingling in every limb, for this was golf played for the glory of nations in a steaming pressure cooker. That alone is what made The Ocean a difficult course and one can only vaguely imagine how both teams agonised.

Millions of words have been written and spoken about The Ocean, though somewhat less about it being too tough; and it has been an interesting exercise to listen to those who saw the matches on TV, for almost to a man they criticise a course that I did not see. Perhaps tour professionals have become too accustomed to thrashing a driver 250 or more yards down every manicured fairway and playing short pitch shots to holding greens. Perhaps they have been spoiled by over simplicity. The Ocean that I witnessed gave nothing to such cavalier play, rather it demanded the utmost care of the finest players in the world – in every department of their armoury and including a resurrection of the ground game.

No doubt the cameras foreshortened and distorted, no doubt the commentators spoke of unkind bump or run, faster than average green speeds, fiendish pin placements and acres of sand reminiscent of a Pine Valley dropped by the shore, not to mention the niggling wee scraps of gamesmanship that were almost inevitable; but these were nothing compared to the choking band of steel round the chest atmosphere that grips the heart, a pressure prevailing from the very first tee shot to that last agonisingly cruel putt. This was what I saw at The Ocean and I left each day in awe and admiration of those who had battled upon its acres, whilst applauding Pete Dye's breathtaking and cleverly conceived jewel hugging Carolina's shores.

Great courses are not made overnight – certainly not great links courses – and ultimately the place taken by The Ocean will not be decided by golf writers or TV commentators. Rather it will come from those golfers competing for five bucks a hole from the very playable white tees at 6245 yards or red at 5327, who play it once and come back again and again for more – a blessed and beguiling touch of Scotland in South Carolina, with the added measure of sunshine.

Walking the course each day, sucking in the atmosphere and delighting in seeing so many European supporters (who, incidentally, demonstrated patriotic pride without a hint of malice and matched the good humoured Americans shot for shot and cheer for cheer), my eyes lit up when I finally found The Belfry Course Manager, Derek Ganning, B.E.M., amongst the hordes, pleased to see him looking so relaxed and making good professional use of his time in observing all the little niceties and nuances that Kiawah Island offered. I was surprised, however, to discover that far from being an invited and honoured guest, Derek had taken time from his holiday allowance and paid his own flight, car rental and hotel costs in order to attend. Lest it may have escaped the attention of the organising powers on this side



Called to the bar...  
David White, left, with  
ex-Ryder Cup player  
Sam King

of 'the pond', Derek is the man on whose shoulders the ultimate success of the next Ryder Cup course depends!

And as the Ryder Cup matches again return to The Belfry in 1993, Derek will of course be prepared and no doubt eager to match the best that America could produce – a magnificent feast of a course which in my view is a tough act to follow – and our European players will have had time to perhaps ease the hurt they must feel at this moment. In the same vein, America should savour their triumph now and remember how tough this victory was to achieve.

Returning to these shores and sharing in my own way the burden of Europe's defeat, I was instantly cheered to meet up at long last with a man I have long admired, ex-Ryder Cup player, Sam King, now in his 81st year, as sharp as ever and possessed of a biting wit that holds one spellbound. With total recall of events that took place over 50 years ago (he was the only British player to win in the Ryder Cup of '47, beating Herman Keiser by 4 and 3), and happy to reminisce over his many Open Championships, in which he holds something of a record by never winning whilst finishing in the top ten no less than nine times, I asked him what he thought of the drama recently unfolded at Kiawah. 'It was the most exciting ever', he replied, 'and I enjoyed it far more because it was played on an exacting course with a testing breeze. The Ocean, in my opinion, was just perfect for match play. No doubt when they play at The Belfry in two years they'll be putting for birdies and eagles on every hole, but I personally like to witness 'The Ultimate Matchplay' on totally demanding courses, those where a player must think about every shot and fabricate quite a few. I'd like to see it played there again and again'.

The wisdom of age and experience was never more profound, this from a man who won the princely sum of just £40 for third place in The Open at St Andrews in 1939; and who, one sensed, would have loved to play once again for his country at Kiawah, heart pounding and all.

DAVID WHITE

# And then there were

# 5

The strength of guidance and support given to BIGGA members by ICI Professional Products – in both sporting and educational programmes – must be seen in all quarters as richly rewarding, demonstrated first by the truly fantastic ICI sponsored National Tournament and followed now by the quality of entry for this year's ICI Premier Greenkeeper of The Year awards.

Those greenkeepers who have faith in their own ability to rise beyond the norm – and there are more and more professionals who think in that fashion – supported the competition with great gusto and in greater numbers than hitherto, first by completing a short but testing examination paper and following this with an essay on a pertinent greenkeeping subject.

A natural process of elimination followed, with the five chosen finalists having been inspected by experts from both BIGGA and ICI at their place of work – on the field of action, so to speak – before finally reaching the nerve wracking final hurdle. This will be an interview to be held next month before a select panel of judges at Aldwark Manor, BIGGA's national headquarters.

Quite apart from the natural kudos gained in just reaching the final stretch, one proud greenkeeper will be chosen as ICI Premier Greenkeeper and join the BIGGA trip to the GCSAA Exhibition and Conference in America's New Orleans, in February 1992. The runner-up will receive a weekend for two in the 'Big City', with tickets for a major golf tournament and a West End show, with third place taking a relaxing weekend for two at Aldwark Manor, including golf and theatre tickets. All wonderful prizes.

## THE CANDIDATES

### RICHARD BARKER

Richard is a most popular and highly visible figure at all BIGGA functions, being Chairman of the East Midlands section, a regular trophy winner at both BIGGA and Leicester County golf events and a staunch supporter of greenkeeper education. Above all, he's a supporter with a solid background, having attended both Askham Bryan College and Elmwood College for Management and Supervisory studies – finishing up Top Student at Elmwood.

He's 27, still single, and is head greenkeeper at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, a delightful parkland course on 150 acres with four green staff, where he's held the post for nearly four years. Quite apart from the day to day running of Kirby Muxloe, Richard has been involved in constructing three new Hawtree designed holes and has thoroughly enjoyed this exposure to another side of his career progression. He's a world traveller, taking note of the best that other countries have to offer and successfully attempting to integrate such techniques into his own course in his efforts to keep all of his members happy all of the time!

### LAURENCE PITHIE

It's difficult to know where to start with Laurence, for his profile is on an all time high following his election as the first ever Master Greenkeeper this year. He was winner of the National Greenkeeper and Groundsman of The Year in '83 and '87, regional winner in '88 and holds the Course Managers Gold Diploma. He's a speaker at seminars and conferences, a student of foreign languages, and the compiler of a slide library on golf course management, culled from his many journeys to courses around the world.

Laurence, born in 1952, began as an apprentice in his native Scotland at Bruntsfield Links before moving to Mortonhall as deputy head greenkeeper, whilst following the time honoured pattern of college education at Elmwood. This was followed in '73 by a move to head greenkeeper status at Sandiway in Cheshire. His current courses, 36 holes of downland delight on a limestone plateau at Minchinhampton, have been his great challenge since 1981 and it is here that he lives with his family.



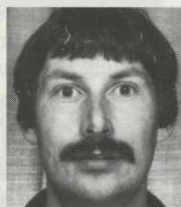
RICHARD  
BARKER



LAURENCE  
PITHIE



TIMOTHY  
McCREADIE



DAVID  
WHITAKER



ARNE van  
AMERONGEN

Not content with nurturing 36 holes at Minchinhampton, he acts as a consultant for two other Clubs, plays to a handicap of 8, writes articles and has the ambition to write a full length book on course management from a practical viewpoint.

### TIMOTHY McCREADIE

Tim is yet another of those greenkeepers who link fine play in the field of golfing competition – he's a grand player and was once a qualified member of the PGA – with the skills and determination to maintain absolutely first rate playing conditions on his own course. Recently at Hesketh, a qualifying course for Open Championship entry, he's been a head greenkeeper for some nine years at both Hesketh and Stourbridge, both truly bonny and challenging courses of high repute. Having worked on a variety of different courses, links, heathland and parkland, he is well versed in such diverse activities as major drainage installations and thatch eradication.

Unlike others with an eye for the glittering prize of professional golf, 37 year old Tim made the wise decision to study for his chosen career at the Reaseheath College, with the highlight coming when he was elected Top Student in his final Phase III year.

Now his sights are set on moving to a new development – one where top class specifications are written in stone and strictly followed to the letter – in order that he may combine his course maintenance skills with the empathy he has for nature conservancy and wild flower preservation. Tim lives with his family in the golfing mecca of Southport, where he collects books on greenkeeping design and maintenance.

### DAVID WHITAKER

Ask 30 year old David Whitaker what his premier aim is and he will almost certainly wax lyrical on the subject of improving greenkeeper status, a subject on which he holds very firm views. He's of the opinion that this will come quicker than many believe, based on his premise that better research, education, and personal representation at both national and Club committee level is now regarded in many circles in a much more enlightened manner.

Perhaps this thinking is in line with his present position, that of course manager at the high profile and much discussed Wisley course, a new 27 hole Robert Trent Jones Jnr. design in the Surrey stockbroker belt, seeded throughout with the 'Penn' cultivar range. He's been at Wisley almost since the first sod was turned and has the huge task of 'growing-in' and subsequent maintenance of both course and grounds – a demanding responsibility.

Seemingly with a penchant for 'Penn' range grasses, David was previously responsible for an equally demanding task in Switzerland at the Pete Dye designed Golf Du Domaine Imperial, whilst also acting as a consultant to the prestigious Geneva Golf Club, all heady stuff. If all this suggests that his skills lie only with American style activities; not so, for over ten years of solid and dependable greenkeeping work in the north of England at both Baildon and Rawdon stamp him as a sound all-rounder with skills in every department.

### ARNE van AMERONGEN

With a name like Arne (as in Arnie's Army) you could hardly be surprised that this likeable young Dutchman eventually took to greenkeeping as a career, though his first sporting love is Judo and he is a past champion of the crack Dutch Marine force. What is surprising is that one hailing from the cradle of golf should work in Germany and be college trained in Britain. Arne is head greenkeeper with the British Army Golf Club in Sennelager where he trains other staff, especially on the intricacies of a computerised irrigation system. From early beginnings, training under Englishman Bill Garner, Arne moved around whilst working on both heathland and parkland courses and became involved with building both tees and greens from scratch. He's a model student under Dennis Mortram at Reaseheath in Cheshire and is well forward toward completing his Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management examinations. One of the new European breed, he is a strong contender for the TORO/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper award this year and is setting his long term goals high. One idea in his mind is that he may become a course designer and act as a consultant, with an emphasis on machinery, maintenance, budgets and irrigation.

**'The future of our great profession is within the grasp of all these young men with a mission...'**

•TORO/PGA EUROPEAN TOUR•

*Student*  
**GREENKEEPER  
OF THE  
YEAR**

# Stars of tomorrow

**E**lmwood College, in Scotland's golfing heartland of Fife, is noted for excellence both as a place of learning and in producing greenkeeping professionals, men who then go forward to the giddy heights of management at top sporting venues. A classic example may be seen within the PGA European Tour itself, with their Director of Agronomy, Bruce Jamieson, an outstanding Elmwood 'old boy'.

Now the college can lay claim to yet another rising star, 23 year old Brian Story, who is the newly acclaimed Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

From a top class field of 13 selected students – hand picked as representing the very best by their respective Approved Training College tutors – Brian is the man chosen amongst his peers to represent BIGGA during the coming year, the award being a breathtaking tour of campaign that will leave him in no uncertain mind as to the wisdom of choosing greenkeeping as a career.

Consider these glittering prizes: six weeks at the Winter School for Turf Grass Managers held at the University of Massachusetts, a week at the Toro Irrigation and Technical Design Complex at Riverside; California, a further visit to the Toro Mower Division Headquarters at Minneapolis, together with practical tours of local golf and country clubs. Brian's learning curve on the American side of the Atlantic will finally end with a week-long visit to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Trade Fair in the hugely exciting city of New Orleans.

If all this isn't enough to make Brian's mind whirl, consider also the meteoric rise he has made in just a few short years at Silloth on Solway, his home course. Having made the decision to progress to the top via the education route, Brian achieved all his Greenkeeping Management learning modules with comparative ease and moved forward to take further Supervisory modules through Elmwood's highly praised Distant Learning Course.

Impressive noises in the lecture room (Brian's a regular award winner at Elmwood prize presentations) suggested equally impressive noises in the Club committee room and on the strength of his rapid learning curve, coupled with solid practical experience over several years, Brian has most recently been promoted to Working Course Manager at Silloth on Solway GC. That Silloth is a highly progressive Club with an equally progressive course manager is further endorsed by the Club's wise decision to disband their green committee in favour of a one to one discourse between Brian and the green chairman/convenor – all highly creditable.

Now Brian, a practical golf-playing greenkeeper with a touch of genius around the course, (handicap two and a 'capped' Cumbrian County player) is set on achieving Master Greenkeeper status and will attend management courses at BIGGA headquarters at every given opportunity, this in his quest for additional credits to add to his already impressive 159 total.



Though the Toro company are principal sponsors of this prestigious award, for the past two years they have been joined by the PGA European Tour, who as co-sponsors have lent substance to the winning circle by taking two runners-up as part of their own support team to selected professional tournaments. This year the lucky twosome were Scotland's Alan Morgan (nominated by Oatridge College) and Leeds' own John Waite (nominated by Askham Bryan College), and these fortunate students will soon be receiving a call to arms from the Tour's Director of Agronomy, Bruce Jamieson. What Alan and John can anticipate is two of the most exciting weeks of their lives, working whilst learning at the sharp end of the most exhilarating sector of professional golf – The European Tour – with added opportunities to meet golf's par busting super-stars. It will be a learning experience they will never forget.

In speaking to the assembled finalists, Peter Roberts, General Manager, Toro Irrigation UK Ltd, suggested that the future of our great profession was within the grasp of all those young men with a mission – the education seekers – and that they were the stars of tomorrow. Summarising in his speech, Michael Williams, Golf Correspondent of The Daily Telegraph, opined that all greenkeepers should play golf and that golf clubs would be wise to encourage such activity. Finally he drew sound applause by stating that in the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of The Year awards there were no losers – everyone being a winner by just taking part.

**Prize guys:**  
**Toro/PGA European  
Tour Student  
Greenkeeper of the  
Year Brian Story,  
centre, flanked by  
runners-up John  
Waite, left and Alan  
Morgan**

# Canadians maintain Fulford's reputation for tense finishes

# SO CLOSE!

## JOHN HUNTER reports on the seventh Ransomes International Greenkeepers and Superintendents Golf Tournament

**F**ulford Golf Club in York has seen some great players over the years, as the stars of the PGA European Tour have competed in the Benson & Hedges Open and Murphy's tournaments since 1971.

There have been some tense and exciting finishes as the likes of Nick Faldo, Tony Jacklin, Lee Trevino, Tom Weiskopf and Ian Woosnam, to name only a handful, have tested their skills against the course.

Fulford maintained its reputation for down to the wire, moment of truth finishes in the seventh Ransomes International Greenkeepers and Superintendents Golf Tournament, when Canada snatched victory by one point from the United States with England third, two further points away.

What a day and what a finish. Many pundits felt that United States were in with a favourite's chance of wresting the trophy for the first time, after near misses previously.

And the Americans had smiles on their faces when they went into lunch after the morning round with a one-point lead over Canada with England and Germany tied in third place, three points adrift.

That lead came after a superb finish in the morning by the American team of Ed Walsh, Roger Null and Frank Maxwell, who gathered a marvellous 14 points from the last four holes.

They had four at the 15th, three at the 16th, two at the famous 17th (the Bernhard Langer hole where the German player had to climb the huge ash tree alongside the green during the Benson & Hedges International Open in '81, after his iron shot lodged in the fork of the tree) and finally five points at the par five final hole.

Here Walsh, an 11 handicap player from Ridgewood, who had a birdie three at the 5th, put his second shot inches from the pin to tap in his third and accomplish a rare gross eagle, nett albatross.

The Canadians, twice winners of the competition – at Ipswich in 1982 and St Andrews in 1985 – had looked as though they were heading for the lead, until the tremendous spur by the Americans.

The Canadian team of Tom Charters, a six handicap player from Weston, Bob Heron, nine handicap from Beacon Hall, Doug Meyer, five handicap from Cedarbrook and Robbie Robinson, five handicap from Hidden Lake, ably led by team manager Ken Olsvik in addition to wives and supporters, were not at all downhearted about the sudden turn of events and to prove the point gave away a few lapel badges with the Canadian maple leaf to people in the clubhouse over lunch.

England's team of Mike Hughes, five handicap from Edgbaston, David Wood, eleven handicap from Holtye and Mark Diment, fifteen from Knighton Heath backed up by team manager Ivor Scoones, who was National Chairman of BIGGA in 1990, were well placed at this stage.

Hughes had played exceptionally well with 14 points going out and 14 coming back as well. Diment scored 9 on the outward nine holes and 5 coming back. Remarkably, Wood didn't score at all, although that was often because one of his colleagues obtained the necessary points before it was his turn to putt.

There were some hard-luck stories too at this stage. Scotland, who won at Woodbridge three years ago and were keen to retain their title, had no luck at all in the morning.

Elliott Small, head greenkeeper at Tulliallan and an eight handicap player, said "We had no gross birdies and no one-



Smiles from the winning Canadian team of Heron, Olsvik (Manager), Meyer, Charters and Robinson

point or four-point holes. They were all twos and threes, which is very unusual. We seemed to be seeing borrows which weren't there and lipped a lot of holes".

At the other end of the field, Austria, who had three of the longest handicap players with marks of 25, 26 and 27, did very well to obtain 34 points when remembering that under the rules of the competition, all players had to play off a maximum of ten.

Norway also did well, considering they had earlier worries, being involved in a crash at Harwich shortly after disembarking and having to hire another car to bring them to York.

And so to the afternoon when conditions were again perfect – in stark contrast to high winds the day before and the day after the tournament. Could the United States hold on to their lead with Canada and England breathing down their necks?

It was neck and neck all the way as Frank Maxwell, who had the best round of the day, a one over par 73 in the afternoon, leading the American's challenge with 18 points, Null gathering 12 and Walsh, superb in the morning with 24 points, managing only 11 in his second round.

But the gritty Canadians were not to be denied their hat-trick as they gained 43 afternoon points to edge home by just one point from the Americans (46 and 41), as everyone held their breath.

England improved their score by one point in the afternoon (42 and 43) while Northern Ireland, The Republic of Ireland (who had father and son Jim and Frank Byrne in their ranks); Scotland and Wales all, coincidentally, finishing on identical 78 point marks.

A wonderful end to a wonderful day for the greenkeepers from a record 15 countries who competed, three more than the previous best.

As Robert Dodsworth, Ransomes Group Chief Executive, said at the closing banquet later: "The comradeship of the greenkeepers has been of the highest order and we are very proud to be associated with it by sponsoring the event".

Kevin Miller, captain of the host Club, told the assembly: "If you would like to come back in three years time I am sure we will be delighted to have you".

Greenkeepers from the 15 countries, who gave Mark Menell, head greenkeeper of Fulford a standing ovation as a mark of tribute to the work of himself and his staff, will certainly be looking forward to the next time, wherever the event is played in 1994, none more than Canada's Bob Heron, who has played in five of the seven events so far, missing only 1973 and 1979.

### Final positions

Canada 88 points,  
United States 87,  
England 85,  
Denmark 84,  
Germany 82,  
Holland 82,  
Sweden 80,  
Norway 80,  
Northern Ireland  
78, Republic of  
Ireland 78,  
Scotland 78,  
Wales 78, Finland  
74, Austria 67,  
Belgium 64.

The Greenkeepers' finest hour – a record breaking 8-0 victory over their opponents in the prestigious Kubota Golf Challenge. Report and pictures by DAVID WHITE

**M**ake no mistake about it, the Kubota Golf Challenge is a very important event indeed, the very essence of matchplay at the highest level and the ultimate culmination of a season of hardened competitive campaigning by golfing greenkeepers – a melting pot where the cream rises...

The Kubota Golf Challenge – originated in 1983 as a series of matches between selected national teams from The Golf Club Secretaries and our own Association – has developed and grown in stature and importance with the inclusion of teams culled variously from The Golf Writers Association, The Stewards Association, The English Golf Union and, for the first time, a team from The Golf Foundation. In its nine year history the handsome Japanese porcelain Kubota Trophy has been won three times by The Secretaries and an astounding six times by The Greenkeepers, though never in its history by a more convincing margin than in this latest test of man against man.

You may be sure that our sights were set on erasing the bitter taste of a mere third in the 1990 event, our 1991 eight man team comprised Richard Barker, Barry Holt, Graeme MacDonald, Stephen Sullivan, Michael Hughes, Don Major, Mark Diment and Philip Wentworth; all of whom earned selection by winning their respective classes in our National Tournament.

Such is the competitive spirit prevailing in our ranks that the team were all in full battle order for some essential last minute fine-tuning at The Belfry, notwithstanding a fulsome force eight blowing with wind-chill factor to match. Full marks especially to Steve Sullivan, who had driven 400 miles overnight from his Perthshire home to represent his profession, such enthusiasm rewarded by two great wins, both at five and four!

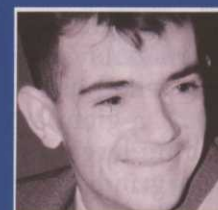
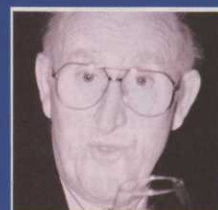
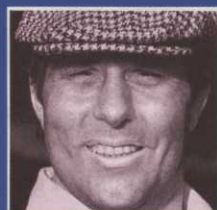
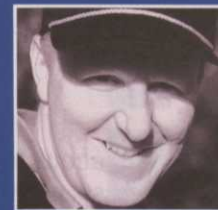
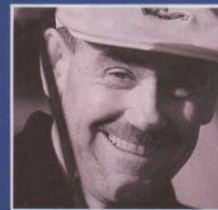
Meeting the current Kubota Trophy holders in the semi finals, our team held solid against a hand-picked group of single figure secretaries and succeeded in trouncing them, with a resounding five to two mark in our favour, one game being halved. Our two losses, which might well have gone the other way, both came at the 18th, first from a heart-stopping double break putt of twenty five feet from the magic wand of secretary Barry Vernon in taking Mike Hughes by one, the other being a ding-dong battle which went the full distance between the irascible and difficult to beat Vic Wood, secretary at Sandiways, and our old friend Don Major. No matter; for as a team we were in the final, in overdrive, and firing on all eight cylinders!

Not to be denied the gales again, we were lucky that 'the big blow' wasn't also matched with the rains currently dumping over the rest of the country, and thus we wrapped-up well against the chill of the day. Our finalist opponents were the English Golf Union, with first blood going to our stalwart of several previous Kubota finals, Richard Barker, who took scratchman and ex International Les Walker for a smooth three and two victory. The tails were up and the blood pumping as Barry Holt defeated Roy Lawford by three and one, fairly zinging as Graeme MacDonald annihilated Dick Bates by eight and six and over the moon when Stephen Sullivan crushed Malcolm Unsworth by five and four. Half way home and no defeats!

A further great breakthrough came as Mike Hughes defeated Jack Humphries by three and two, followed minutes later with Don Major conjuring all his many golfing tal-



# CHAMPIONS



ents to slip a two hole victory against Cyril Rose. Then, glory be, we had Mark Diment, having a no quarter given head to head with Ken Johnson and fairly romped home whilst revelling in his five and four victory. In most events the anchor man has a tough task, but this was not the case with 'our' Phil Wentworth, who put the lid on a perfect series with a dogs licence victory (7 & 6) over Norman Bradford. Eight matches played, eight matches won and honour restored!

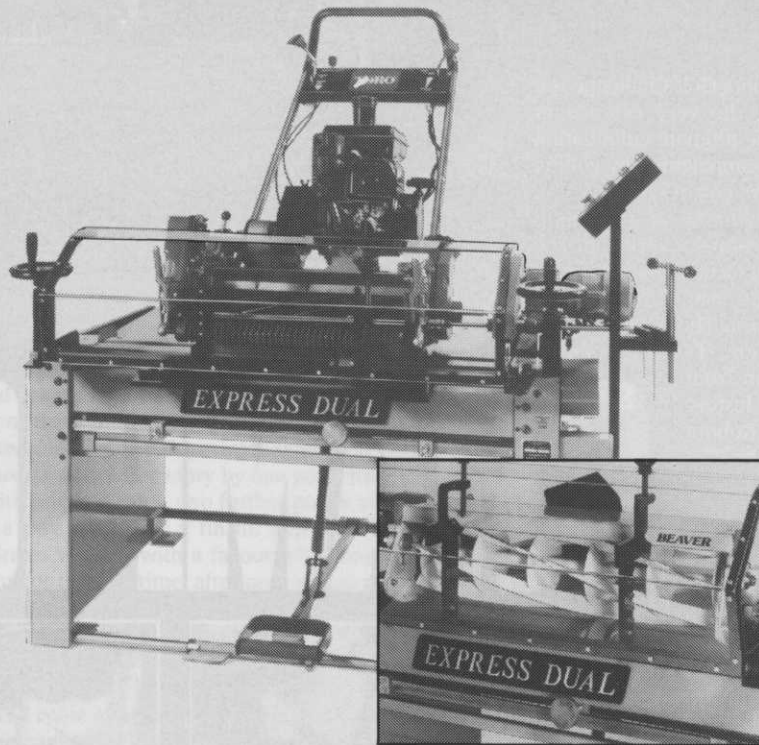
Symptomatic of both the severity and importance of these bloody battles, one must give much more than lip service to the wise choice of The Belfry itself, especially the Brabazon course with its famous nail-biting finish over the lake and its testing sixth, a narrow enough landing area sandwiched between water – which in a force eight is an examination paper of the toughest nature. The Brabazon is now so far removed from the bitch teeny bopper she once was, having blossomed into serene and gorgeous womanhood, and quite properly drew unquestioned praise from all who came in their attempt to conquer her – an outstanding example of dedication and skill by Derek Ganning and his management team. Come 1993 and the Ryder Cup, it is comforting to know that our man Derek will be ready and set to deliver the goods.

At the award ceremony given that evening, Brian Hurtley, Vice President and Director, Kubota (UK) Ltd., praised the spirit of good fellowship that prevailed, delighted in welcoming the new kids on the block – the Golf Foundation – and marvelled at the sheer skill and consistency of our glorious greenkeeping team. It was our finest hour.

**From top left:**  
Richard Barker,  
Barry Holt, Graeme  
MacDonald,  
Stephen Sullivan.  
**Second row, from  
left:** Michael  
Hughes, Don Major,  
Mark Diment and  
Philip Wentworth

**Results:**  
The Greenkeepers  
defeated the  
English Golf Union  
by eight matches to  
nil. In third place  
were The  
Secretaries, who  
defeated the Golf  
Foundation by five  
matches to two,  
with one match  
halved.

# Yesterday's skills ... ... tomorrow's technology

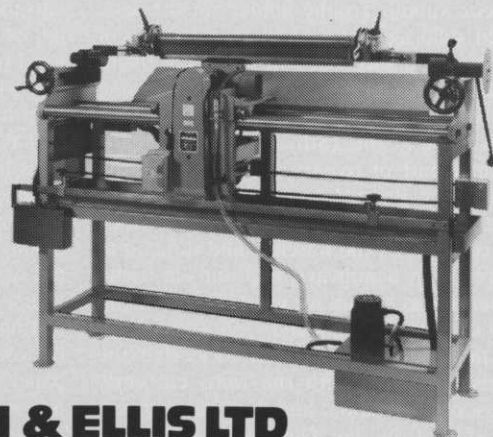


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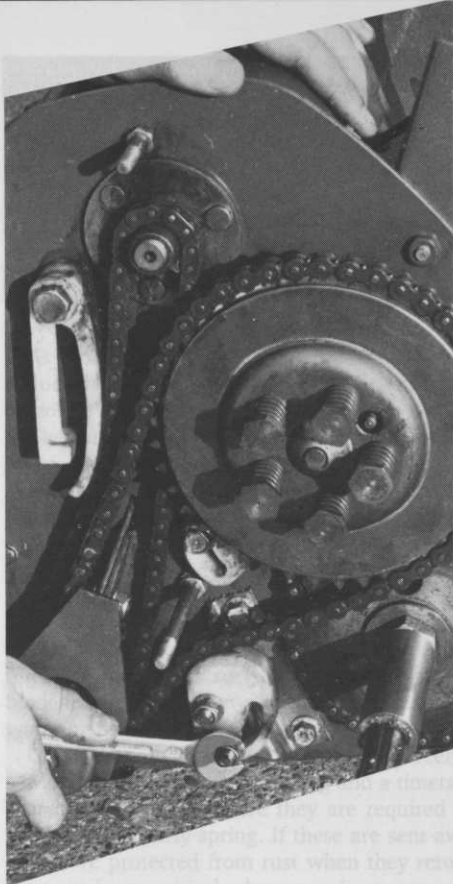
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# Fixing it

How preventative care now will pay dividends later. By **Hugh Tilley**

**T**he best reason for winter servicing is that you won't have time in the spring! But of course there are other serious reasons for looking closely at all of your machinery before you get into winter proper. One of the most important is that it gives you time to present a case (to green chairman or secretary) and obtain quotes where replacement or major overhaul is needed – and (hopefully) time to select and order. For machinery which is required throughout the winter a thorough service should maximise reliability. For machinery which will not be needed until the next growing season, maintenance should be aimed at conditioning the equipment so that it can be put back to work in spring with minimum delay or stoppages.

This autumn and winter work usually includes a number of different elements and priorities, such as cleaning and inspection, routine servicing, preventative maintenance, repair and overhaul, and storage.

## **Cleaning and inspection**

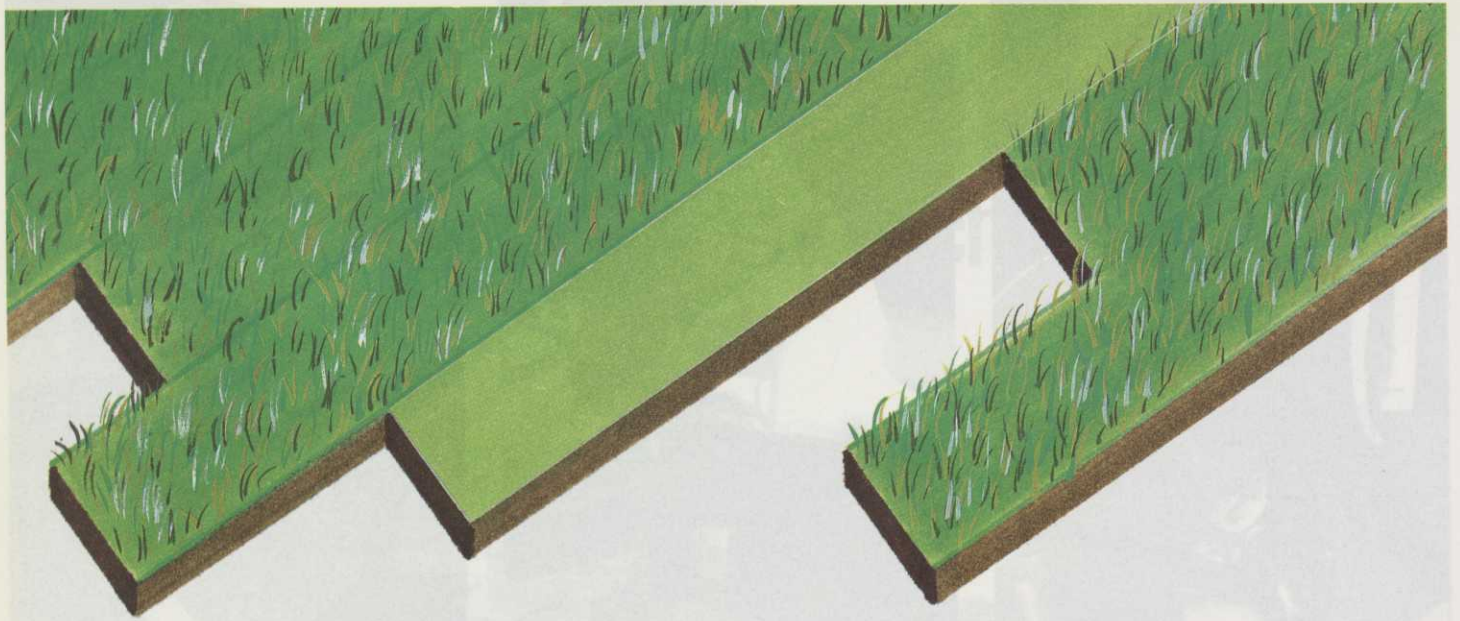
A thorough clean must be first priority and ideally this should be carried out with eyes open and a notepad in hand (or chalk on wall etc.) so that 'work to do' can be written down – lest you forget. Start cleaning by removing the bulk of caked-on grass, mud and the like with a knife, scraper or

stiff brush – a putty knife or masonry paintbrush are ideal. Remove guards and clean behind them, cut away any long grass or string left around shafts, empty bins, lockers and any recesses in the cab. Having done the 'rough' it is usually easier to complete the clean with a hose or pressure washer. Oily deposits are best removed with hot detergent or a special cleaner such as Gunk – obtainable from motor accessory shops. Note any oil leaks before washing for later repair.

## **Routine servicing**

If you need to change oils, drain while still hot as this gives fastest draining with minimum sediment left behind. Fresh oil will provide the best protection when full strength inhibitors are included and the engine should be run briefly to circulate these mineral properties. Check all oils not just for level but also for contamination, particularly with water, for water in fuel or hydraulic oil can have expensive consequences. Fill diesel tanks to the brim, for this really does minimise condensation in the tank. Make sure that you have winter grade diesel fuel – it has an anti-waxing additive to prevent freezing.

Petrol engines will probably need new plugs – but make sure that you fit the right length and gap. Check or replace leads; for cracked insulation – often unseen – causes



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system, fully enclosed canopy that reduces noise and dust levels to a minimum and safety cut out devices that allow the operator to leave the machine whilst on automatic operation with absolute confidence.

For a demonstration and further details contact:- Linda Bottomley

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