

WORMS

In the 1960s, when the writer first became involved in golf course agronomy work, worm control was no problem whatsoever. Where worm casting was a problem, the routine solution was to apply either lead arsenate or chlordane – the former usually effectively controlling worms for five to ten years, the latter often solving the problem for up to five years, its persistency depending largely on soil type. Very effective wormkillers – long term in their action – were therefore freely available and widely used. The fly in the ointment as far as this complacent situation was concerned was, of course, the question of health and environmental damage. Persistent worm poisons such as those mentioned above are unfortunately toxic to greenkeepers, golfers – indeed most of God's creatures – and ecological and welfare considerations have hence led to a ban in recent years.

Lead arsenate was banned years ago and chlordane usage is now severely restricted – the ban on the latter chemical becoming total at the end of 1992. In a more environmentally conscious age this is all to the good, but it does raise the question of how troublesome worm casting can be controlled on the course in the absence of the more effective chemical methods.

Short-term control can of course still be achieved using less dangerous methods, ie. Sevin (also called Carbaryl) or thiophanate-methyl/Gamma HCH mixes, but these are short term in their action compared to the traditional toxins mentioned previously. Even these may be under threat from even tighter pesticide regulation (there is a total ban on worm control already in effect in some EEC countries), so it is quite possible in the future that we will have to rely on cultural methods to keep golf course worm populations down to acceptable levels.

Some background knowledge can be useful in order to understand such an approach more fully. There are about 25 species of earthworm which may be active in turfgrass in the UK. Only three species, however, produce surface casts and it is the casts alone which are objected to as far as course management is concerned. There may be up to 1 million earthworms per hectare of sportsturf and these have a very significant effect on the soil ecosystem and play an important role in the decomposition process and in modifying soil structure. Apart from the surface casting habit of a restricted number of species, earthworms are beneficial. Their tunnels alleviate soil compaction and provide beneficial aeration. Worms also secrete mucus to stabilise their burrow linings, thus aggregating soil particles and improving structure. Indeed, it is true to say that where earthworm populations have been eliminated by chemical means, it is more necessary to carry out mechanical aeration to compensate for the lack of earthworm activity.

The eating habits of earthworms are also beneficial to turfgrass in that they eat living and dead plant material and also small soil fauna. Hence they are significant in breaking down thatch and fibre and by breaking up organic matter they make soil nutrients available for plant growth. Indeed, it is only their indigestible waste material ejected on the surface as a cast which is a disadvantage in the golf course situation.

We object to casts because they are unsightly, because they interfere with the run of the ball on the green and



because they cause muddy conditions – sealing the surface and thus reducing surface drainage. These objections do not of course apply to earthworm species which live in the turf but do not cast on the surface – if we have to use chemicals at all then ideally these should kill casting species and leave the harmless non-casting species unaffected. Chemicals like lead arsenate, chlordane and Carbaryl probably kill all earthworm species, whilst evidence is mixed regarding the selectivity of other possible chemical wormkiller.

Earthworms are not active during frosty weather, when they burrow more deeply, or during drought when they similarly become dormant. It is in mild moist weather, usually during spring and autumn, that they are most active, although effective irrigation does also increase their activity. Sandy links courses are not as prone to infestation as heavy soil parkland courses – earthworms preferring moisture retentive soils where there is a higher percentage of organic matter.

Since worms feed readily on thatch they can be discouraged by eliminating sub-surface thatch layers, which are an undesirable feature on most sports turf surfaces from other points of view as well. It is also true that allowing clippings to fly encourages earthworms as these provide them with a constant source of nutriment – gang mowing is the equivalent of a fast-food joint in earthworm terms! From this point of view it would be an advantage to box off clippings from all playing surfaces on a golf course, though whether this is a practical possibility is another matter entirely. However, boxing off clippings should be the rule on greens and tees and excessively organic top dressings (again providing worms with a food supply) should be avoided.

Fortunately worms do not like acidic conditions, probably because soil acids irritate sensitive skins. This is most useful as far as fine turf cultivation is concerned as acidic → 33

'Apart from the surface casting habit of a restricted number of species, earthworms are beneficial. Their tunnels alleviate soil compaction and provide beneficial aeration'

**BIGGA
and
BETTER
OFFERS**



Supplied
complete
with
**BIGGA
LOGO**
attached

Keep
dry when it's wet in our special

RAINSUITS

Supplied by top manufacturers ProQuip

Comfortable, practical and stylish – that's the all-weather Neptune II rainsuit specially designed for greenkeepers and guaranteed to keep you dry. Now BIGGA have teamed up with manufacturers ProQuip to bring you these weatherproof jacket and trouser sets at an unbelievable low price. They're available in Navy/Silver or Navy/Jade with different styles for men and women. And because of a cancelled export order, orders for women's rainsuits will be supplied with an extra pair of trousers – absolutely free! These quality workwear garments are fully guaranteed for a year.

All rainsuits are supplied complete with BIGGA logo
– as seen on national TV at Royal Birkdale during The Open.

LIMITED OFFER - ORDER TODAY

HIGHEST quality for the
LOWEST price you'll find!

£74.95
Inc. P+P
Men's style

Colours: Navy/
Silver, Navy/Jade. All
trousers are Navy.
Sizes: Men's: S (38"/
40"); M (42"/44");
L (44"/46"); XL (46"/
48"); XXL (48"/50")
Women's: 10, 12,
14, 16, 18.

£69.95
Inc. P+P
Women's style

**- includes extra
pair of trousers
absolutely FREE**

TO ORDER Simply complete
the Order Form
card in this issue and post in an envelope,
enclosing a cheque made payable to BIGGA.
Prices include VAT, postage and packing.

Just where is all our WATER?



They're telling us the water problems won't go away, the water companies and the NRA now fearing that much of our fair land could face yet another year – the fourth – of water shortages (and resulting restrictions) following yet another exceptionally dry spell over the past two months.

Let's you think this is no concern of yours, consider the facts: ground water levels are extremely low in places and still diminishing. Six and a half million households are affected by hosepipe bans, East Anglian farmers banned from using irrigation sprays.

Worst still, the rainfall for August in England and Wales was only 32% of the average when taken long-term and according to the Met. Office the rainfall for the first 19 days of September was a miserable 1% of this long-term average.

It doesn't need me to tell the greenkeeper that a short-term lack of water doesn't pose a great threat, nor a threat of shortage. What this latest spell does, however, is create the nail in the coffin after something approaching four years of below average rainfall, which first began as long ago as winter 1988.

We all remember the summer of '89, though no doubt many wish they could forget it, and the spark of hope that the winter of '89 brought when slightly more than average rain fell, followed by the all-time dry spell that stretched throughout all of last year.

Follow this with the dry year so far (forget the wee wet spell of June, it barely touched the surface and did no more than give the *Poa annua* a quick fix) and we have a long, patchy drought which now affects most if not all of the south and east of England, though Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were much less affected. The main sufferers clearly are the south-east and East Anglia, already reeling from hosepipe bans and tougher restrictions set to be imposed.

Gardeners and car wash freaks were hit by hosepipe bans, which reduced the demand somewhat, though underlying short-fall remains a serious problem. River flows are said to be only about 50% of the annual average, reservoir levels in the south west and a large chunk of Wessex are decidedly sickly and in the Southern, Anglian and Thames Water Authority areas the ground water levels are falling and approaching all-time record lows.

In the severe drought of '76 the levels recorded in Kent aquifers were then at an all-time low, though this year's levels have surpassed even those and are giving great cause for concern over recharge.

In pure layman terms, the NRA authorities are saying that if and when the rains come it will be several weeks – or months – before the water gets to a point of actually percolating into the aquifers and being stored, the dry spell creating such dry hard pan surfaces that millions of gallons will be simply soaked up by the rain.

Writing this on September 18th, the forecast for most of England reads doom laden for the greenkeeper – continuing dry!

DAVID WHITE

WORMS

31 → soil conditions also favour the desirable bent and fescue grasses. By maintaining the correct degree of soil acidity we can therefore kill two birds with one stone as far as this is concerned.

Modifying soil acidity levels is indeed one of the most hopeful lines of approach as far as limiting future worm populations is concerned. In future situations where casting is causing problems and where effective chemicals are prohibited, there remains the possibility that we can discourage worms to an acceptable degree by enhancing soil acidity. Of course this process can be carried too far – if we reduced the soil pH to 3.0, for example, then there would be virtually no natural earthworm activity.

Unfortunately, even the fine turfgrasses would then tend to suffer from such a heavy degree of acidity and the resultant turf would be weak, prone to moss invasion and witness the appearance of bare patches. A compromise could be reached, however, where sufficient acidity was present to have a markedly discouraging effect on the worm whilst at the same time allowing sufficient grass growth. At the present time one tends to see more worm activity on parkland fairways than elsewhere and it should certainly be possible

'Effective chemicals may well be banned but we may be able to keep worm populations down to acceptable levels'

to treat such fairways with acidic materials without detriment to the playing quality – indeed it is perfectly possible that playing quality could be enhanced by such treatments. The chemical which most readily springs to mind in

the context of soil acidity is sulphate of iron and this chemical is already playing a not insignificant role in reducing earthworm populations on golf greens. In the future, if chemical toxins are banned, sulphate of iron may be increasingly used for worm discouragement purposes, even on fairways. A rather more drastic treatment of a similar kind would be to use sulphur itself and such treatment is already occasionally carried out where fairway soils are too alkaline. It should however be stressed that sulphur requires careful handling: a trial plot involving applications of several rates per square metre must be laid down on an individual fairway and the effects assessed over a 12 month period before definite recommendations can be made on a more widescale use of the chemical.

In summary, earthworm control is more difficult now than in the past, due to the increasingly responsible attitude taken by public opinion towards environmental matters. Effective chemicals may well be banned but there is every possibility that we may be able to keep worm populations down to acceptable levels by other means which are not ecologically unacceptable.

■ Roger Evans BSc is an Advisory Agronomist with The Sports Turf Research Institute.

Taking STOCK

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GREEN

Part 6

A major requirement for a chairman of green is detailed knowledge of the machinery and tools owned by the Club and subsequently used on the course. Having discussed this matter with other green chairmen, it seems that it is handled in several different ways.

Some have little knowledge of machinery and rely entirely on the greenkeeper. Most others realise that the knowledge must be shared. Whilst the greenkeeper and chairman of green have a direct responsibility for each item the secretary also requires detailed cost information to arrange for effective and adequate insurance cover.

A proven method of bringing all relevant information together is to produce a two part register. Part One for plant and equipment and Part Two for tools. When complete the register can become an integral part of the Club records and an essential for annual stocktaking.

Plant and equipment

First an individual form is required for each item. To record the relevant details, columns will need to include type of machine, manufacturer, model, serial number, year of purchase, cost when new, replacement value, condition, purpose of use, date and originator. Whilst some details may be taken from the manufacturers supplied data the original cost may require a visit to the office archives. Replacement values may also be a little more difficult to obtain and will almost certainly require help from a local supplier who is aware of current prices.

Selected information for each item can be progressed to a second or master list which will allow the value columns to be totalled. This second list can best be prepared by sorting individual forms according to type of machine, eg: tractor, PTO driven, tractor mounted, ride-on, pedestrian, carried and ride-in.

Tools

For tools a single alphabetical list is sufficient and should include column headings for quantity, type of tool and replacement value.

A greenkeeper directly involved in the project will have an excellent opportunity to discuss the merits of each item as it is recorded, an example being at my own Club when we found one machine that was almost medieval, another without safety guards and several tools – including a ladder – which were dangerous and needed replacing.

A usual response to the completed project is

one of surprise at the amount of capital invested, the age of some machines and particularly the replacement value. It can prove to be an ideal aid for those required to make recommendations for machine replacement.

Soon after completing the register we suffered a break-in. Together with several hand tools we lost a pedestrian scarifying machine.

The investigating officer was most impressed when we produced our register enabling us to supply details of the machine. However his eyes glazed over when we tried to describe the machine to him, especially as he was concerned that during investigations he may see the machine but not recognise it from our description. At that moment we realised that our register was incomplete and a photograph would have saved a thousand words.

As a result of our loss and acting upon the recommendations of the investigating officer we received a later visit from the crime prevention officer. He warned that if we were thought of as being a 'soft touch' thieves would likely return with a shopping list. He went on to advise that our machines were highly desirable and would be easily disposed of by crooks. He suggested that we:

- Paint the name of the Club on each machine.
- Mark the handle of each tool with the same paint.
- Fit security grills to all windows.
- Install a floodlight with infra-red sensor to illuminate the area in case thieves made a repeat visit.
- Extend the clubhouse burglar alarm to include the workshops and vehicle storage sheds.
- Ensure that workshops are locked when unattended.
- Display notices to would-be thieves that every item was colour-coded and that all buildings were protected with sophisticated burglar alarms.

Our experience has served to remind us that we cannot scrimp on security and that the opportunity for both impulsive and premeditated theft must be reduced to a minimum. If this means the installation of expensive security systems, then so be it. Unfortunately it will most likely result in an increased membership subscription and/or reduction in the annual machinery replacement fund.

■ Readers may care to know that whilst a computer package cannot yet physically paint tools and equipment in the manner described, the TRIMS programme, specifically designed for greenkeepers, is available to record all the essential data outlined above.

The pipe system on the golf course needs to be on a par with perfect golfing conditions.



Warszavsky Freilich Dover

When it comes to keeping your golf course in peak condition, the last thing you need is for the pipe system to let you down.

A leak could have disastrous results.

That's why smart golf course operators are moving to (polyethylene pipes and) Plasson's corrosion free and watertight fittings, the most effective solution

for connecting polyethylene pipes. Install polyethylene pipes with trouble-free Plasson fittings and forget permanently about unwelcome surprises.

Plasson Compression Fittings
A perfect golfing record for over a quarter of a century.



 **PLASSON**[®]

AD
REF
337

Plasson UK Ltd. Unit 3, Prime Bldgs., Daux Rd., Billingshurst RH14 9SJ, Tel. 0403-782782, Fax. 0403-785060.

AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions



NORTH SCOTLAND

The section enjoyed a grand day at Peterhead GC on September 5th, thanks to the generosity of the Club council and their captain, Mr Ken Bennions, who kindly presented the prizes. The course was in excellent condition and a credit to Hugh McLatchie and his staff. Additionally, Peterhead was actually warm (well, almost!) for the first time this year and this was reflected in excellent scores. From the host Club Kevin Peace won the scratch prize with a level par score of 70, whilst in class one George Paterson scored 72-2=70. Class two

was won by Bob Hardie of Strathpeffer with a 76-7=69 and in the third class Wilson Morrison won the McLean Cup for best nett score, a highly creditable 63 off a handicap of 21. Allan Grant of Fraserburgh won the Vets with a nett 71, also retaining the M&M Products Trophy for the best nett score in the Veteran Section over both Spring and Autumn meetings. Barrie Cameron was best apprentice with a nett 69, whilst Alan Eastell of Barclay, Ross and Hutchison won the Trade Shield. The nett 67 of Kevin Peace (pictured left), added to his 74 from the Spring Outing enabled him to win the Meldrum Memorial Shield by one shot from Wilson Morrison.

Following prize presentation, Ken Bennions, Captain of Peterhead GC., made the draw for our lottery. Those lucky enough to have drawn a player in the World Matchplay Championship will be notified before the Match begins so that they may watch the progress with added interest.

On that score, the committee are most grateful to all members who sold tickets, thus making the event our most successful yet.

This year our AGM will be held at Letham Grange on November 26th, the tee having been reserved from 11am to 12.50. This will allow 48 players to compete and will be on a first come, first served basis. Letters with full details will be sent prior to the event.

As most of you know, I have left Fraserburgh GC to take up the post of Head Greenkeeper, The Eden Course, St Andrews. Although I shall remain a member of the North Scotland section it is my intention to stand down as secretary at the AGM and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the help given to me during my term of office.

GORDON MOIR

SURREY

On a glorious afternoon at Sunningdale GC we were lucky enough to play our annual McMillan Tankard over the Old Course, an honour not afforded to many.

The first prize went to D Worsfold who came in with 39 points – that off a single figure handicap! Second was 'that man' Yorston again, who scored 35, with Ken Harding also on 35 taking third after a count-back. The trade prize was won by M Luker of Parkers with 30 points.

I must thank everyone who helped make the fixture a success, particularly Ron Jobson, who as always acted as starter before returning to help with the preparation of food etc. Also to Bernard Wall who helped with the unglamorous task of clearing up afterwards. Finally, thanks to the Sunningdale Artisans Captain, Bob Reynolds, who manned the bar for us.

Our trade friends again did us proud with raffle prizes, for which we are most grateful. Please show your appreciation of their support, for without their help our events would lack that certain something.

Finally, please don't forget the seminar at Merrist Wood on November 6th, tickets being available from either committee members or myself (telephone 025 125 4287.) Any news item will always be welcomed, so this is a 'phone number to remember.

PHIL BALDOCK

KENT

Even though you should all be receiving a newsletter shortly, I can give you a few dates for your diaries. As last year, the Turkey Trot will be held at Ashford on December 12th commencing at 11am, followed in the evening by our AGM.

The 1992 Spring Tournament will be held at Darenth Valley on May 6th with the Autumn Tournament planned for Mid Kent with a provisional date of October 13th pencilled in. For those with a 1993 diary, Langley Park will see our Autumn Tournament on September 15th and we are making overtures to Royal Cinque Ports to host the Spring Tournament.

It is now a fact of life, with demand as it is, that those booking meetings and society events must of necessity look far into the future. May I also add that as we tend to rely on the goodwill of our hosts in requesting courtesy of the course for golf – paying only for food and prizes – our choice has to be made with considerable tact and the full cooperation of the Club concerned. We do not have, or wish to have, a free hand to pick the supposed top courses in the county at the drop of a hat. I am sure that the likes of Royal St Georges would feel that a regular imposition both rude and arrogant on our part. We must also remember that with our 30 or so members playing a course for the day we are keeping a similar number of paying customers off and it could be argued that we are depriving our hosts of a potential income of around £1200+ for the day. All the more reason to treat our hosts with the utmost courtesy and respect.

Even though our Summer Meeting was abandoned there have still been some good golfing performances to report. First, congratulations to Willie McConville on a fine winning performance in the Sta-Brite day at Mid Kent. In the Iseki Regional final and moving to the final stage were Alan Sheppard with a 3rd place and gross 76 in category one, together with Phil Hurst, winner with a nett 71 in category three. Due to further misunderstandings at this regional stage and other incidents, it has been decided the region will adopt the existing R&A handicap system. Please → 36

AROUND THE GREEN

The pipe system

35 → remember that according to rule 6-2b players MUST play off their lowest allotted handicap or risk disqualification.

Also highlighted at a regional level and noted in Roger Glazier's letter (August) was the inexcusable and fraudulent practice of loaning or hiring BIGGA membership cards to golfing friends to enable them to play courses with courtesy.

This practice is not tolerated in any area and Clubs and secretaries have been encouraged to double check the identity of card holders. Any offenders will be dealt with in the severest fashion.

At all times we must respect the rules and etiquette of our Association and golf itself.

As I started in a forward planning manner this may be a good time to remind you that next year we will be hosting the BIGGA/ICI National Tournament at Littlestone and in 1993 The Open returns to Royal St Georges – so start practicing that bunker raking now!

PAUL COPSEY

NORTHERN

Summer draws slowly to a close with time to think about the pleasures of raking leaves or pushing hollow tine cores into rows.

But before that consider our Invitation Day, which was held on a boiling hot day at York Strensall GC., perhaps, dare I suggest it, too hot for our members and guests. The course was in lovely order though and thanks must go to Chris Martin and his staff.

Also a special thanks to our friends at Yorkshire Mowers, especially Tony Dodson, who gathered together a superb prize table and to the host Club for their hospitality and the kind words of encouragement for BIGGA, delivered by the green chairman in his speech. His words may have been forthcoming as a result of his winning the premier prize – along with his head greenkeeper Chris Martin!

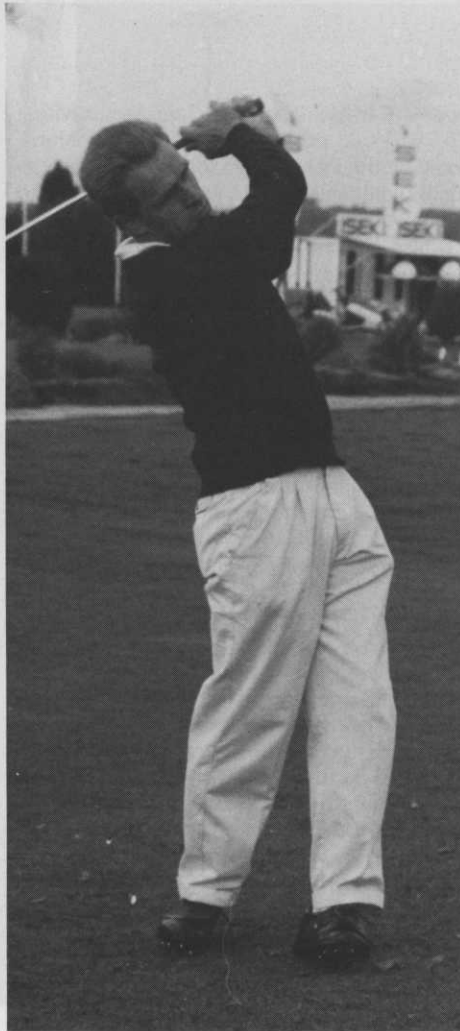
I write this before the Roses Match so cannot with certainty announce that we have again retained the Trophy!

On a more serious note I must report that long-standing member and employee of Bradford GC., Ralph Smith, has been ill recently. I'm sure all his many friends will join with me in wishing him a speedy return to good health and the hope that he will soon be back in action. His very able assistant, David Thackray, has been doing an admirable job in deputising for Ralph, a task made more difficult in this, the Club's centenary year.

The structure of election of officers has been reviewed by the present committee and will work as follows: nominations for President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee must be submitted to the Secretary ONE MONTH prior to the AGM in December.

Members present at the AGM will then vote for a committee of eight from nominations received. The Chairman will then be elected from within the new committee.

BOB LUPTON



SUSSEX

As August drew to a close 20 or so stalwart golfers gathered at Eastbourne Downs GC to battle in the last of the Sussex Summer meetings, competing for handsome crystal donated by sponsors Maxwell Hart Ltd. Perhaps the first observation must be how disappointing it is for both organisers and sponsors that only a handful of members – and these almost always the same faces – attend these heavily subsidised events, this from a section boasting a membership of 100+. The loss is shared not only by the section itself, whose honorary workers often despair at such apathy, but certainly by those who choose not to support such events, missing the opportunity to enjoy both good golf and a worthwhile exchange of ideas and opinions.

The event itself was a grand opportunity for Les Shrubbs (pictured), better known nationally as the Iseki winner of 1989, to reassert his mark on the Sussex opposition and his score of 35 points was just sufficient for him to take first place (his first win in 1990) from Eastbourne Downs head greenkeeper Les Teague, who demonstrated local knowledge on such 'mountain goat' country, where ball placement is paramount. Third, and

enjoying a welcome break from the arduous task of bringing in the new and as yet unplayed West Hove course, was the solid and dependable left-hander, Roland Hughes. Following a sturdy meal and some light-hearted 'joshing' of Les Teague (whisper 'rubber tee-mat' in his ear and you'll understand what I mean) the event closed with all present vowing to meet again for the Christmas Turkey Trot.

DAVID WHITE

SOUTH COAST

Although I was unable to take part in the Summer Tournament, Joe Burdett has kindly supplied the following notes: Summer Meeting – Brockenhurst Manor GC. A record field of 64 came to Brockenhurst Manor for the Summer Tournament, this year sponsored by T Parker & Sons Ltd and Roffey Brothers Ltd with additional prizes supplied by Vitax and New Forest Garden Machinery.

The course had been manicured to a very high degree by Ed McCabe and was appreciated by all who played. After a wonderful meal supplied by Mike and Anne Palmer, the captain of the host Club – Don Clarke – presented the prizes with Mike Luker of Parkers presenting the PARKER SHIELD to the winning pair.

RESULTS: THE PARKER SHIELD, Chris Sturgess (Andover) and Bill Sturgess (Brockenhurst Manor) 43 points. Runners Up, Phil Ryder and Warwick Everett (The Army) 42 points. Third, Joe Newman and Bob Woodward (Downshire) 41 points. Fourth, Brian Newcombe and Derrick Todd (Woodcote Park) 41 points. Fifth, Terry Patchin and Diana Bryon (Hockley) 39 points.

The section's first Winter Lecture will be on Wednesday November 13th at Alresford GC at 8pm. Our speaker is the Alresford PGA Professional, Malcolm Scott. Malcolm will be giving an illustrated talk on enlarging an existing course from 12 to 18 holes, an exercise currently undertaken with Malcolm, head greenkeeper Mark Scott, and the green staff all involved in the detailed planning, design and construction for this private members Club. The construction of additional holes at any existing course can cause problems and many of you will have been involved in similar exercises. Malcolm's talk will be an opportunity to learn how one Club have carried out this challenge.

Please support this meeting with your attendance, you will not be disappointed.

Further meetings arranged are as follows: Wednesday Dec. 4th: Section AGM/Christmas Dinner 4pm at Royal Winchester GC. Wednesday Jan 15th: Peter Jefford on Top Dressings 2pm at Came Down GC. Wednesday Jan 5th: David White – editor of our magazine – on The Masters + Magazine Open Forum 7pm Alresford GC. Wednesday March 5th: Ken Barber, East Sussex National on Golf Course Maintenance 7pm Alresford GC.

BOB DENNIS

NORTH WEST

It started in 1455 and the history books state that it finished in 1485 at the 'Battle of Bosworth Field'. What was it? The Battle of the Roses! Those crusty historians should now be rewriting history, for the battle continues to this day – on an annual basis.

The battle – on a much more friendly basis

- is held between the North West section (Lancs) and the Northern section (Yorks), with this year the battle taking place at Crosland Heath GC on August 22nd. A nicer battlefield could not be chosen, for head greenkeeper Philip Haigh and his staff produced a course second to none, with not a blade of grass out of place and putting surfaces that were in perfect condition - a veritable gem with surprises at every hole and well worth a visit.

The result was a halved match, after a cliff hanging final game produced a result on the 18th green. Our thanks to Crosland Heath GC for their hospitality and to Patissons for their valuable sponsorship, coupled with good wishes to the Northern section, who must have the luckiest golfing team in the whole Association.

The last of our golfing events took place in early September, results being: Greenkeepers v Stewards, a win for us of 6 to 1 with one halved match. Pressure of work and other reasons prevented the NW mustering a full team, but fortunately 3 members of the host Club - Birchwood GC - became 'honorary' greenkeepers for the day. Birchwood was in sparkling condition and proved once again to be a great test of golf. The Autumn Tournament was played at the magnificent Shrigley Hall GC, Brian Moss and his team having given the course some extra treatment and producing a touch of magic coupled with tough conditions that were reflected in the course favouring those with handicap strokes to spare.

RESULTS: Aggregate Trophy: John Pearson. Best Gross: Dave Berry. Vets: Bert Cross. Best nett: Trevor Davies. Others: (all nett) 2nd: Ernie Stewart, 3rd: John Pearson. 4th: Peter Cross. 5th: Neil Woolfrey. 6th Frank Platt.

This year's AGM will take place on Thursday October 24th at Bury GC starting at 7pm. Peter Jefford, Managing Director of Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd will open the evening with a talk on the use of top dressings, followed by the AGM. Please make every effort to attend, bringing those ideas for winter lectures with you.

BERT CROSS

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON.

Greetings greenkeepers and a big 'thank-you' to those who turned out for our games night at Wexham Park GC. An enjoyable evening was had by all and our congratulations to Geoff Butler of Ellesborough GC who was victor in the pool competition. Unfortunately for Geoff he beat his head greenkeeper Dave Childs in the final, thus not only winning the sweep money but a free ticket to rake bunkers for the next month!

The darts board was monopolised by the Temple GC contingent for most of the night, the final including a titanic struggle between Martin and Serena Gunn and won with a bullseye from Martin to finish the deciding leg. In skittles the dominating force came from Ellesborough and Whiteleaf and one is left questioning what dietary wonders go into their meals - a high proportion of raw meat, I don't doubt? The section thanks Roy Kates for organisation and Wexham Park for provision of excellent facilities.

Congratulations to Barry Holt of Burford GC on winning the BIGGA/ICI National Tournament. In winning both the premier award

AROUND THE GREEN

and several other trophies this leaves him in a predicament, for as section handicap secretary he may need to look at his own handicap (rule 19 and all that) and we will look with interest at the end result.

A few reminders now on golfing matters, first that our Autumn Tournament is scheduled for November 5th at The Berkshire (look out for fireworks) and an unmissable opportunity to play one of our premier courses. If you have not yet received a form contact Bob Woodward on 0628 664512. Next is the Turkey Trot, combined this year with our AGM, to be held at Frilford Heath in mid December. I hope to see a similar good turnout as last year and details will be sent in mid November, so no panic necessary yet!

Last but not least, the match against BB&O Club secretaries is scheduled for the end of October and there may be need of late replacements - if interested call Dave Childs on 0296 624068.

In finalising this epistle I'm happy to report a healthy 30% growth in membership for 1991 and hope that many more of you will join in our programme of events.

RAY CLARK

MID ANGLIA

There is little news to report this month so I will use the opportunity to broadcast dates for upcoming meetings: October 30th, Autumn Tournament - Woburn G & CC. November 20th, Regional Seminar - Morton Morell College, Warwickshire. November 27th, 2pm at Beadlow Manor Hotel G&CC, a lecture on Top Dressing Materials by Peter Jefford of Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd. This will be followed by the section AGM. December 5th, Christmas Texas Scramble at South Bedfordshire GC.

GEOFF SMITH

EAST SCOTLAND

Another season is almost at an end with many sharing my view that it is good to see the back of it! The season started with a dry spring and cold easterly winds, followed by a very wet summer and finishing with one of the driest August's on record. This of course did nothing to deter the golfers, who were out in their usual force.

The section had a good year with all events being well attended. The golf outings to Babberton and Haddington were over-subscribed but this was good to see. The first Committee Match for the Holt Trophy was a great success, being sponsored by Frew & Co. and our next event will be the Autumn Tournament at

Peebles GC followed by the W.Woods memorial on October 3rd at Swanston. The grand match East Scotland V North West is also in October - sponsored by Stewart & Co. at Goswick. The highlight of the year - The AGM and the Annual Dance will both be held in November, so there are still a number of events left for you to attend. May I also remind you that dance tickets are already on sale and moving fast. With a limit of 100 you are urged to reserve places now and avoid disappointment.

Two of our senior members are retiring soon: Jimmy Paton from Turnhouse and George Stavert from Peebles. The section wishes them well and a long and happy retirement and though this news will reach you in October, they will both have received a presentation from the section.

The committee have spent a great deal of time organising this year's winter lectures and it is hoped that their time and effort will be rewarded by good attendances.

Graham Wood, Dunbar GC, will be the East Scotland representative at the Ransomes International at Fulford GC in early October and we send to both him and the Scottish team our sincere good wishes.

It has been noted that a slight fall in membership has taken place over the year. Some of this is due to the movement of greenkeepers to other areas, the rest almost certainly due to non payment of subscriptions. I feel this section can do a lot better, for there is no doubt that BIGGA is working, so may I encourage you all to urge fellow workers to join the cause. There are undoubted advantages to be gained from membership and, like any professional association, more can be achieved with greater numbers.

Congratulations to all at Peebles on their progression from municipal to private status, which can only be beneficial to the green staff. Other Clubs soon to be privatised are Lauder, The Glen and Haddington. ➔ 46



Classified

For Sale

Hydromain 20D, PAS,
Full CAB, Excellent
condition,
recent full service

£2250 +VAT

Tel: 0394 450459

Kubota B8200 4wd
tractor with loader and
back hoe.

165 hours only.

Turf tyres.
Hydrostatic
transmission.

£7950 ono.

Tel: 0568 81 8926

Kubota L4150 Hydra-Shuttle 4WD
with BF900-SL front loader. Trailer
hitch.

Beaver 508 Hydraulic gangs.

Ransomes 180 floating heads + lift kit.
Ransomes Bobcat 48inch rotary (new
petrol engine)

Ransomes Trial Gangs, Sports and
Magnas.

Weeks 5 ton Tipping Trailer with
extension sides.

Toro 217 Rotary - re-built engine.
Toro 350D with cab.

Turfo Sod Cutter - as new.
SISIS Soil Shredder, screen and
elevator.

Fieldsend Trucks Ltd.
Contact Richard Cole

Tel: 0625 584571

Wanted

WANTED
Motorised Bunker
Rake

Toro Sandpro, Ransomes
Super Rake or similar

Tel: 0532 676000

Golf Course Machinery

LODGEWAY
TURFCARE

Specialists in:
Low Pressure Conversion Kits
Iseki Compact Tractors
Iseki Greencare Equipment
Lesco Greens Mowers
Lesco Gang Mowers
Allen Products
Zetor 50 HP Fairway Tractors.
Tyre and wheel advice given on course
(no obligation)
Modify your tractor for fairway duties

Lodgeway Tractor Co. Ltd.
Chicksands, Shefford, Beds SG17 5QB
Contact: Chris Rook (0462) 816122
After hours: (0767) 40626 • Mobile: (0860) 898747
Fax: (0462) 850852

Top Soil



Green Woods
of the South
of England

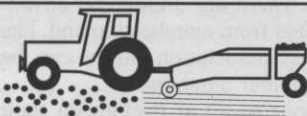
Established over 23 years

- Top Soil
- Screened Loams
- Construction Mixes
- Sands
- Horticultural Composts
- 24 Hours Delivery

Tel: 081 546 3960

Fax: 081 547 1923

Stone Picking



DO YOU HAVE STONE
AND DEBRIS TO REMOVE?

We have the equipment and experience to
undertake all stone picking and associated
landscape works.

All areas.

Contact PAUL JAMES

Tel: (0734) 320539

Fax: (0734) 320705

Workshop Equipment



HYDRAULIC WORK BENCHES

From the compact "Junior" to the 2.2m x 1m

decked "Groundsman", R+R have a

hydraulic bench to raise the

standard of your
working
conditions.



0480 411146



Groundsman
from
£659

Junior
£399

WORKING HARD NEEDN'T BE HARD WORK!

R+R (UK) Ltd., Blackstone Road, Stukeley Meadows Industrial Estate,
Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 6EF

Machinery Hire

CONSTRUCTION
MACHINERY

and fully experienced
operators for hire.
UNBEATABLE RATES
on JCB and POCLAIN
Tel: 0734 773038
0831 392440

PURDYS
Grass Machinery

Retford
Vertidrain
Hollowcorer
Top Dresser
Verticut
Compact Digger Loader
Compact Tractors
Compact Rotors
Fairway Mowers
Overseeder
SALES **SPARES**
HIRE **REPAIRS**
Phone: (077770) 4275
Fax: (077770) 5737

TURF MACHINERY
HIRE

Consult the specialists for:
Vertidrain, Overseeding,
Topdressing, Hollowtining and
Core Collection.

Fairway/Sportsground
Verticutting Machinery for hire

Phone Woking
(0483) 764467

Construction

ROYDIXON

Golf Course Construction
is...

A fully equipped and experienced
team for hire or contract offering:

- 24 hour working schedule
if required
- highest standards of
workmanship
- UK and Europe

Tel: (0434) 673521 • Fax: 606601

Turf Dressings

Marygrove
THE BEST
TOP DRESSING

WITH OPTIONAL SEAWEED ADDITIVES

Plus Bark, Fen and Meadow Loams, Silica Sands,
Peat, Fertilisers, Manures and Grass Seed Mixtures

Manor Farm, Abbotsley, Cambs PE19 4UW

Call Carol:

Tel: (07677) 296

Fax: (07677) 7901

Grass Cutting Equipment



ROTARY MOWERS

- ★ Versatility, simplicity and safety
- ★ Advanced construction
- ★ Cutting widths 1200, 1500, 1800 & 2350 mm
- ★ Tough and compact
- ★ Four extra large wheels ensure precision cut ranging from 25mm to 10mm

For further details tel: F.A.R.M. Ltd.

Evesham (0386) 765770/442082 Fax (0386) 765183

Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF REDBRIDGE

Directorate of Technical Services

**Adaptation and extension of existing irrigation system
at Hainault Forest Golf Club.**

Suitably qualified and experienced contractors are invited to tender for the
design, adaptation and extension of an existing irrigation system installed in
1974 by Watermaton Ltd.

Tenders must:

- i) Be completely familiar with Watermaton Ltd irrigation equipment.
- ii) Provide the names and addresses of at least two referees who can supply
evidence of the successful completion of two contracts involving this
equipment.

All works shall be completed and ready for operation by 30th March 1992.
The anticipated cost of the works is £30,000.

Evidence of item (ii) must be submitted with a written application for tender
documents to:

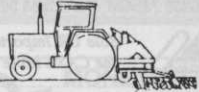
**The Director of Technical Services, PO Box 2, Town Hall, 128-142 High
Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1DD, quoting ref: FCL/SKC/EMS/AS**

Buyers' Guide

The most cost-effective way of reaching readers of Greenkeeper International. Simply ring 03473 581/2 and ask about an alphabetical category listing: the cost starts from the equivalent of under £21 per month.

Aeration

AERATION & DRAINAGE SERVICES



For Hire: Hydrojet, Verti-Drains and Turf Conditioners, etc.
Contact: Paul or Lesley Wright, Aeration & Drainage Services, 20 Westminster Close, Eastbourne, Sussex BN22 0LQ. Tel: (0323) 506725 Mobile: (0860) 838241

Aerators

AERATORS

Problems with dirty water or algae bloom? Let Otterbine clean-up your lakes and ponds.

The world leader in water quality management.

Available from leading irrigation companies. Full details from:

Golf Course Services, 6 Stuart Road, Market Harborough LE16 9PQ. Tel: 0858 463153 Fax: 0858 410085

Arboriculture



All sizes of tree moving machines available for hire. Most machines equipped with flotation tyres. Also massive stocks of Nursery Grown Trees in all sizes.

Contact:

RUSKINS TREE MOVING LTD
 Wolves Farm, Wyatts Green, Brentwood, Essex CM15 0QE
 Tel: 0277 353436
 Fax: 0277 353916
 Mobile: 0831 174 704

MARTIN BROMAGE TREE MOVING

- Tree Planting
- Tree Surgery
- Tree Stump Removal

Nationwide Service

Coopers Hill, Gloucester GL3 4SB
 Tel: (0452) 862110
 Mobile: (0831) 577777

LARGE TREES

FOR INSTANT MATURITY!

Supplied and planted nationwide from our extensive nursery stocks exceeding 200 varieties and species. Also our Tree Spades on 4 x 4 Tractors transplant trees on site economically.

CIVIC TREE CARE LTD.

102 High Street, Tring, Herts. HP23 4AF
 Telephone 044282 5401
 and 081 950 4491
 FAX 0442 890275
 Call us for stock list and advice.



TREE STUMP REMOVAL

Small amount of ground disturbance plus complete
TREE SURGERY SERVICE
 Fully insured.
BJ Landscapes
 Tel: Aldershot (0252) 26055

Artificial Grass

UNIVERSAL MATERIALS CO. LTD. The Golf Mat Specialists

UNIMAT AstroTurf

Also Easy Picker.
Ball Harvesters and Washer
 5/7 High Street,
 Dorchester-on-Thames,
 Oxfordshire OX9 8HH
 Tel: (0865) 341580.
 Fax: (0865) 341575

TEETECTOR TEE MATS

The mat with the guarantee
 Unique heavy duty golf range and municipal mats.
 25mm hand finished woven pile.
 .20mm shock pad.
 Professional galvanised and painted frame. Any size, any shape. Double sided.
 Free Demo unit available.
 Trade welcome. Putting surface.

Contact:

Evergreens UK

2 Extons Units
 Market Overton
 Oakham,
 Leics LE15 7PP
 Tel: (0572) 838208
 Fax: (0572) 838261



Bark

NATURAL ALTERNATIVE TO PEAT

Bark for Mulching, Walk Chips or Woodfibre for those woodland tracks and walkways between green and tee. Biomulch for large scale economic ground cover. Playbark for adventure playgrounds. Soil conditioners, top dressings and loam are all available. Telephone 0666 502711 or write for free colour brochures.

MELCOURT INDUSTRIES LTD

Tetbury, Glos GL8 8JG
 Tel: 0666 502711
 Fax: 0666 504398

Buildings



Storage for all your greenkeeping equipment.
Elwell Buildings Ltd
 021 553 5723

Compaction

THE PROBLEM . . . COMPACTION
THE SOLUTION . . . TWOSE 3 OR 7 LEG TURF CONDITIONER

Nationwide hire from

PROFESSIONAL GRASS CARE

Ring now for more information on our specialist hire equipment
 Tel: (0507) 600989
 Fax: (0507) 609009



Construction



contractors

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

include
 FEASIBILITY
 PLANNING PROGRESSION
 DESIGN SPECIFICATION
 CONSTRUCTION
 DRIVING RANGES
 GOLF COURSE DRAINAGE
High Street, Cranleigh, Surrey
 Tel. (0483) 274800



Golf Build (UK) Ltd

GOLF COURSE AND DRIVING RANGE CONSTRUCTION

Sedlescombe, East Sussex
 TN33 0SD
 Tel: (0424) 870888
 Fax: (0424) 870855

S. E. DAVIS & SON LTD

—Specialists in mixing USGA spec sand/peat Root Zone mixes.

Plant Hire available with drivers experienced in Golf Course Construction.

—Multi-belt Powerscreen with shreader available.

Please contact:

ANDY DAVIS
 (0527) 893343/892716
 Mobile 0831 268547

Specialists in

SPORTSFIELD and GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

Conservation & Leisure Ltd

Chapel Farm, By-Pass Road,
 Igham, Sevenoaks,
 Kent TN15 9AF
 Tel: 0732 455244
 Fax: 0732 350351

R. A. SLEATH & SON

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION AND DRAINAGE

Specialising in Golf Greens

Work undertaken for many leading

Golf Course Architects

Distance no object

Contact: Geoffrey R. Sleath

Tel: Rotherham (0709)

862109 or 862075

Course Accessories

Pattison

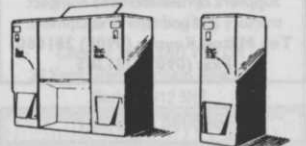
Manufacturers and suppliers of course and driving range equipment.

Pattison & Co. Ltd
 342 Selbourne Road, Luton,
 Beds LU4 8NU
 Tel: (0582) 597262
 Fax: (0582) 505241



collectors baskets balls markers mats tees

5000-38000 CAPACITY BALL DISPENSERS



AUTOMATIC WASH-LOAD SYSTEMS



Manufactured in the UK by
HERITAGE FAIRWAY LIMITED
 Marine Terrace Mews, Brighton
 Tel: 0273 602637/676073
 Fax: 0273 571621



NORTH WEST REGION - MOBILE VAN SALES
 MAIN AGENT for TACIT course equipment -
 Buckner Irrigation - plus wide range of accessories
 Request a call today: LYMM CHESHIRE WA13 9SA
 Tel: 083 182 6468

TACIT

Looking for quality Golf Course Equipment?
 Look for Tacit
 48 Hillmorton Road, Rugby, CV22 5AD
 Tel: (0788) 568818

Drainage

AGRIPOWER (MIDLANDS) LTD.

Construction
 Drainage
 Stone Picking
 Verti-Draining

Tel: 0543 250010
 Fax: 0543 416340



White Horse Contractors Limited

CONSTRUCTION
 DRAINAGE
 VERTIDRAINING

Tel: (0865) 736272

Fertilizers

NEW Sierrablen™ Turfmix
 Controlled Release Fertilizer
 offers the complete turf feed
 for the entire season.

First ever to offer controlled release NPK
 and immediately available Nitrogen,
 Phosphate and Iron.

Sierra UK Ltd

61 Loughborough Road
 West Bridgford, Nottingham NGF2 7LA
 Tel: (0602) 455100. Fax: (0602) 455311

Golf Course Equipment

ADVANCED TURF MACHINERY

Suppliers of new and used compact
 tractors and golf course equipment.
 Tel: Milton Keynes (0908) 281660
 Fax: (0908) 281305

Grass Cutting Equipment

Reconditioned Golf Course Machinery!

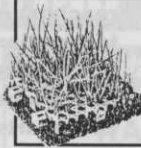
FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY
 OR EXPORT. PHONE FOR
 CURRENT CATALOGUE NOW

ENGINEERING COMPANY (0532) 676000
 OR DIALING FROM ABROAD
 + 44 532 676000



GREENSWARD

Grass Reinforcement



TECNOTILE

The flexible grass rein-
 forcing surface available
 in sheets of 10 sq. feet
 Tel: 071 639 2846
 Fax: 071 639 2618

Grass Seed Mixtures

Mommersteeg

Grass Seed Mixtures
 • For sports turf, amenity
 and land reclamation use

Station Road, Finedon, Wellingborough,
 Northamptonshire NN9 5NT
 Telephone: Wellingborough (0933) 680891
 Telex: 311234
 Fax: (0933) 682022

MEMBERS OF A.G.M.A.
 MEMBERS OF B.A.L.L.
 MEMBERS OF B.G.C.C.

Grinding Machines

MOWER GRINDING MACHINES



ERIC HUNTER GRINDERS LTD
 Hobson Industrial Estate,
 Burnopfield,
 Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 6EB
 Tel: (0207) 70316.
 Fax: (0207) 70312

Irrigation

MIDLAND IRRIGATION

2 Fairdene Way, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 5JS.
 Tel: 021 358 1246
 All leading irrigation equipment installed and serviced.
 Service contracts available.
 Contact Mark Ganning on above number
 or 0860 270866

TORO

-IRRISERVE- IRRIGATION ENGINEERS

Installation, Sales and Service
 North West of England, covering
 Lancashire and Cumbria
 Contact: Paul Rimmer
 Tel: (0772) 613995
 Irriserve, 78 Liverpool Old Road, Much
 Hoole, nr. Preston, Lancs PR4 4QA

T. & G. TURF IRRIGATION SERVICES

8 Whitcliffe Grove, Ripon,
 North Yorkshire HG4 2JW
 Tel: (0765) 2941 (0423) 864963
 Full member of B.T.L.I.A.

Watermation

Manufacturers, designers
 and installers of
**AUTOMATIC
 IRRIGATION**
 for 21 YEARS
 Tongham Road, Aldershot,
 Hants GU12 4LL
 Tel: 0252 336838
 Fax: 0252 336808

TORO

PAR 4

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Installation Sales & Service
 North & North East of England
 Contact: E. B. & L. Simms
 Tel: (0765) 602175. Fax: (0765) 603488
 Par 4, Unit 18, Camphill Close, Dallamires
 Lane, Ripon, N. Yorks HG4 1TT

BRITISH OVERHEAD IRRIGATION LTD.

• Manufacture Equipment •
 • Design and Install Systems •
 The Green, Upper Halliford,
 Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 8RY
 Tel. (0932) 788301. Fax. (0932) 780437



BELL TURF & IRRIGATION SERVICES

East Midlands Area
 Installation, Sales and
 Service
 Everton, Doncaster, DN10 5DR
 Tel: (0777) 817410

Wright Rain

RAIN BIRD

The unbeatable partnership
 in golf course irrigation
 RINGWOOD, HANTS, BH24 1PA
 Tel: (0425) 472251
 Fax: (0425) 472258

PRIME WATERMEN LTD

Wangford, Beccles,
 Suffolk NR34 8AX
 Tel: 050 278 481
 Fax: 050 278 729

Weathermatic Distributor

FLANDERBLADE LTD

Specialists in golf course irrigation
 20 Whiteacre, Littlehampton,
 West Sussex BN17 7JA
 Tel: (0903) 724545
 Full member of B.T.L.I.A.

For all aspects of Golf Course

- Irrigation
- Installation
- Service
- Extensions/
Improvements
- Pumping
systems
- Advisory services



ILS, 34, Station Road,
 Nassington,
 Peterborough PE8 6QB.
 Tel: (0780) 782375

L.S. Systems



for
 ★ Water Storage Tanks ★
 ★ - Spraylances + Couplings ★
 ★ Dosmatic - Simple Fertilizer Dosing ★
 ★ Cooper Pegler Knapsack Sprayers ★
 ★ Pumps ★
 - If it's water, contact Darren
 at 188 Blackgate Lane,
 Tarleton, Preston, Lancashire
 on - 0772 815080
 Fax - 0772 815417



STRANCO

Water Quality Control

pH and chlorine control and dosing systems for
 your irrigation water, for improved turf quality.
 Nationwide installation and commissioning
 service, and advice.
 Contact Brian Sykes
 STRANCO LTD
 Commercial Road, Eastbourne,
 East Sussex. Tel: (0323) 646163

Mole Ploughs

L. D. BOURGEIN OXFORD LTD.

South Hinksey, Oxford OX1 5AZ
 Tel: 0865 735420 Fax: 0865 326155



Sole UK Importers of
 the CASE Mole Plow

Mower Spares

MOWER ACCESSORIES LTD

Manufacturers of high
 quality lawnmower
 blades and cylinders.
 Suppliers of spares and
 accessories.

65 Farnett Street
 Sheffield S4

Tel: 0742 765825
 Fax: 0742 765855

Pumps

GRUNDFOS PUMPS

FOR SPORTS & RECREATIONAL
 TURF IRRIGATION, BOOSTING
 AND WATER SUPPLY

Contact our sales offices today for
 full information on the Grundfos range

SOUTH: (0525) 850000
 NORTH: (0925) 813300

GRUNDFOS

GRUNDFOS PUMPS LTD GROVEBURY ROAD,
 LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDS, LU7 8IL

Railway Sleepers

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

Top quality for bunkers, bridges,
 etc. Prompt nationwide delivery.

Tel: (0483) 720455

J. HARVEY SERVICES
 Downside Goods Yard
 Guildford Road, Woking,
 Surrey GU22 7QE

Sand/Silica Sand



ECC QUARRIES

Complete range of dried graded
 silica sands for all purposes.

Contact John Deavin at
 39 Hockliffe Street,
 Leighton Buzzard,
 Bedfordshire LU7 8HB.
 Tel: (0525) 372201.
 Fax: (0525) 851572.
 Telex: 825868