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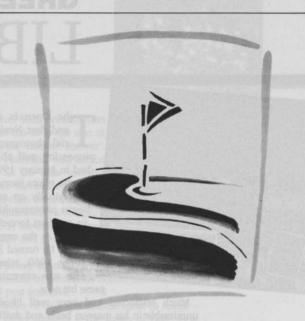
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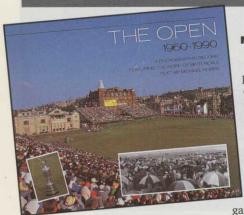
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GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL September 1991 31

# GREENKEEPERS



he Open is something special and Bert Neale was a very special photographer. Bert, a truly pioneering golf photographer, sadly died in January 1990 before he could see this photo journal take shape.

Originally an athlete himself, he began photographing athletics when an accident forced him to stop competing. At the suggestion of a sports editor he turned his lens on golf in about 1950, when hardly anyone else was covering it, making the game his own.

Much respected and very well liked by the players, unmissable in his maroon beret and duffle coat, Bert was a unique character and he produced a range of outstanding photographic work. A founder member of the Professional Sports Photographers Association, set up in 1972, he was also the first photographer to be made an honorary member of the Association of Golf Writers. The book, a record featuring Bert's essential golfing photography is spiced with clever text by Michael Hobbs.

The Open 1960 -1990 - 200pp hardbound - is published by Pipkin Press at £16.95.

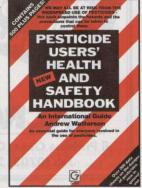
here is growing evidence to suggest that we all may be at risk from the widespread use of pesticides. Studies have linked pesticides with health problems that include leukaemia and other cancers, with regular users such as those in farming or the golf course maintenance industry at special risk and in need of special guidance. Yet pesticides continue to be used widely - sometimes seemingly indiscriminately – both in commercial applications and at home.

Information often scattered in many different and inaccessible sources can now be found in one volume, written by Andrew Watterson, who is entirely independent of the agrochemical industry and who has investigated the regulatory controls over pesticides and the availability of pesticide health and safety information for ten years.

Drawing on international sources, this comprehensive work of reference brings together for the first time a wealth of key research findings on the health and safety hazards posed by pesticides. Covering toxicity, practical pesticide application, protective clothing and the long term effect of chemicals, it puts forward some sensible alternatives to widespread pesticide use.

More than 200 data sheets outline the potential dangers of specific pesticides now in general use and whilst not an exhaustive medical, chemical or technical guide to the hazards of pesticides, it does fill in some of the basic gaps in information on the dangers and ensures that research which is often hidden away in technical libraries reaches a wider audi-

The book will allow users and consumers to make up



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their own minds about the various assessments of pesticides hazards made by governments, international agencies and non-industrial scientists.

Not only an essential health and safety handbook for everyone involved in regular handling, it is of particular relevance to those whose task it is to ensure that safe use is carried out at all times.

Pesticide Users' Health and Safety Handbook, by Andrew Watterson - 504pp hardback - is published by Gower Technical at £45.

comprehensive manual on the use of wild flowers in amenity grassland has been published by Johnsons Seeds of Boston. Written and edited by Geoff Taylor, after years of careful research and practical study, it is set fair to become the definitive publication in this field.

The British Wild Flower Manual, illustrated throughout with line drawings, caters specifically for the professional seed specifier, landscape designer or those for whom a practical knowledge of the subject will bring rewards in creating an improved and more attractive environment - golf courses, for example.

The first part of the Manual sets out ground rules on wild flowers, provides advice and recommendations on mixtures and their use and offers a 10 point action plan. But by far the largest part, listing over 80 questions on wild flowers with detailed answers, covers the design, creation, management and subsequent maintenance of flowery amenity grassland.

Questions and answers are split into 20 different sections dealing, for example, with definitions, planning, soil nutrients, invasions, species, sowing, mixtures and management

- to name but a few. Such presentation allows the reader to dip-in to the text at random to obtain an 'instant answer'. Also included is a check list and action plan which acts as an aide memoir before users commit themselves to mixtures more complex than monocultures.

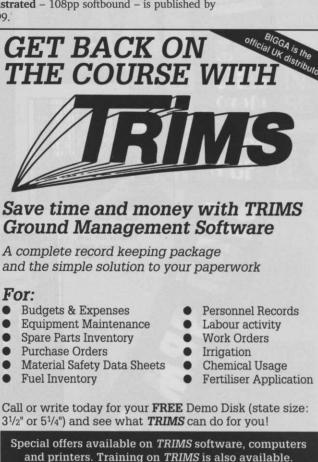
The Manual concludes with a comparison of costs between flowing grasslands and conventional amenity grass swards and a useful bibliography for further

The British Wild Flower Manual, by Geoff Taylor - 40pp softbound - is published by Johnsons Seeds, Boston, Lincs. PE21 8AD at £2.50 post inclusive

ach year the Rules of Golf Committee meet to revise -♠ and in some cases simplify – the Rules of Golf. Few I would argue that golf rules are often too complicated, certainly if one is to believe the huge amount of time and temper expounded at any weekend medal post mortem. The rules are meant to be obeyed, but how, they ask in unison, can we interpret and really understand them... therein lies the sixty four thousand dollar problem! The book, 'Golf Rules Illustrated', issued as an official publication of the R&A, faces that problem and cleverly takes the reader through many of the more common gaffs - obstructions, O.B., water hazards, loose impediments, casual water, lost balls, unplayable lies - giving a visual answer to these and many other problems. Quite simply, every golfer should have a copy in his bag.

Golf Rules Illustrated - 108pp softbound - is published by Hamlyn at £6.99.





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Stephen Goode in action and collecting his prizes from ICI Professional Products' David Siddon, and from Ransomes' Sue Royle





Right - Trevor Davies: winner of Pattisson Trophy for low nett over 36 holes Below - Gerald Bruce presented with Techturf runner-up award by Gordon Rolfe



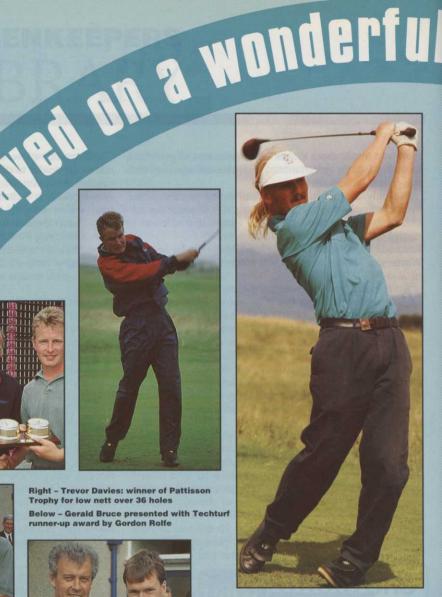


Steve Sullivan winner of Toro Trophy for low gross over 36 holes





Mike Heath presents head greenkeeper of Royal St David's – Roger Kerry – with Vitax Putting Trophy





Mark Smith: winner of Fisons Bowl, low nett 18

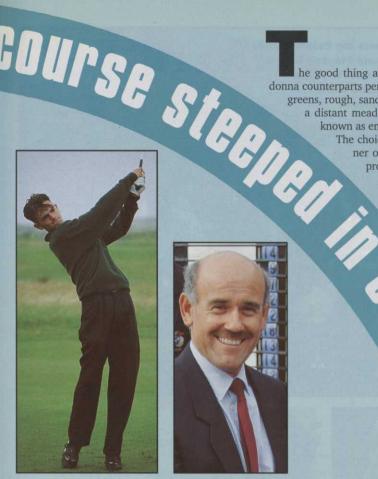
he good thing about professionals - greenkeeping variety - is that unlike their prima donna counterparts performing in that circus known as The Tour, they are prone not to criticise greens, rough, sand texture, weather or the totally disturbing flutter of butterfly wings from a distant meadow. As both players and keepers of the green they have that rare gift known as empathy.

The choice of Royal St David's at Harlech, a gem of a course located in that corner of North Wales known for its mountain grandeur and stunning scenery, proved inspirational for BIGGA's National Tournament and provided head greenkeeper Roger Kerry the opportunity to show competitors what real links golf was all about.

> Roger had declared his course plan earlier: to provide a fair test of golf with no trickery and so it was, with never an adverse comment, or indeed cause for such. His course presentation, viewed panoramically from the high balcony of St David's Hotel, was a portrait to behold, with clever use of mower swathes both on fairways and greens all directed at just the right angle to catch the direct line of our vision.

Players were chomping on the bit to get to the links for Sunday practice, each later declaring their own particular game plan. Without exception, thinking golfers opined the course to be one where accuracy of tee shot was all, for just as the fairways were in fine fettle and the greens tempting and offering just the right amount of pace, so was the rough certainly rough enough!

The first day and nerves seemed on knife edge, aggravated a mite by an unwelcome invasion of wind and rain and the necessity for full waterproof regalia. It was tough for everyone with both late and early birds declaring they had the worst of the weather, though posted scores (recorded here in nett form) suggested that some had it mastered, others clearly baffled. Notable leaders on this difficult day were Mark Smith and Don Major on 69. Steve - 36



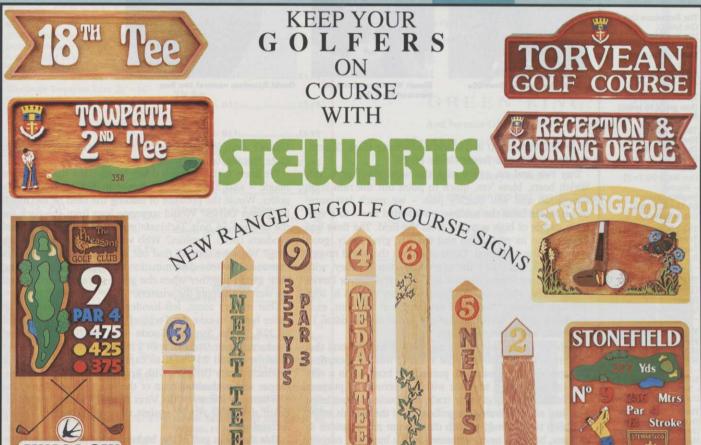
**Mark Diment: winner of ICI** Professional Products Trophy (Junior Division) over 54 holes

HOTELS



Barry Holt: winner of the Techturf Trophy for low gross 54 holes

Report and photographs by DAVID WHITE



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## **BIGGA** National Tournament

#### RESULTS

Nearest the hole: Monday – Ian Holoran Tues – David Spurden Weds – Gerald Bruce

Longest Drive: Monday – David Wood Tuesday – Jason Moody Weds – Jason Moody

The Fison's Bowl – Played on Monday: Mark Smith – 74-5=69 First Don Major – 76-7=69 Second Stephen Goode – 83-12=71 Third

Low gross: Steve Sullivan – 74

The Maxwell Hart Cup – Played on Tuesday: Simon Woolley – 77-8=69 First Trevor Davies – 89-18=71 Second Mark Ellis – 93-22=71Third

Low gross 18 holes: Barry Holt – 76

Over 55s (36 holes) Don Major – 148 nett

The Vitax Putting Trophy: Roger Kerry – First Jimmy Richardson – Second

The Pattisson Trophy (36 holes) Handicaps 15-28 inc. Trevor Davies - 142 nett - First Mark Ellis - 145 nett - Second

The Ransomes Cup (36 holes) Handicaps scratch-14 inc. Stephen Goode

- 142 nett - First Michael Hughes - 145 nett - Second

The Toro Trophy (low gross 36 holes) Steve Sullivan – 153

The William Hargreaves (SISIS) Cup – Final day: Barry Holt 74-4=70 – First Don Major 78-7=71 – Second Stephen Goode 84-12=72 – Third (on countback)

The Jubilee Team Trophy Roger Willars, Richard Barker, Stephen Goode – East Midlands

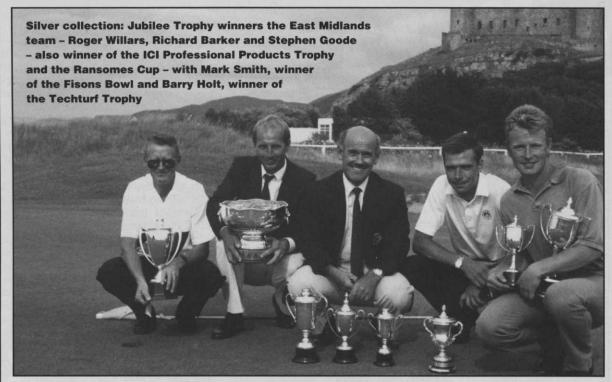
The Techturf Trophy (54 holes gross) Barry Holt 228 – First Gerald Bruce 229 – Second

The ICI Professional Products Trophy (54 holes nett Senior) Stephen Goode 216 – First Michael Hughes 217

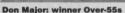
– Second Don Major 219 – Third The ICI Professional

Products Trophy (54 holes nett Junior) Mark Diment 219 – First Mark Ellis 221 – Second Trevor Davies 227 – Third

Special Prize (54 holes nett) Trade ex greenkeeper: Terry Anderson 219









Simon Woolley: winner of Maxwell Hart Cup



**David Spurden: nearest the flag** 

35 → Sullivan on 70 and a trio comprising Mark Diment, Stephen Goode and Trevor Davies on 71.

Day two and on again with the waterproof garb, our Welsh hosts, bless 'em, quick to point out the rain is an aberration and will quickly pass – we much less sure! Scores again from the sublime – a talented few – to a veritable gaggle of high numbers from the field. The links was living up to its reputation and did not 'give' easily, good scores having to earned. Come sundown the board reveals just one 69, posted by the talented Simon Woolley, with three 71s from Mark Ellis, Gordon Payne and Trevor Davies (again). The post mortem suggested many players in with middling 70 scores were still very much in the hunt, each day being played both cumulatively and as an individual 18 hole total, and spirits were high.

High spirits are the order at any BIGGA banquet and that held at St David's Hotel in the evening was no exception. Our sponsors and hosts, ICI, pushed the boat out in a way that left us gasping, together with a generosity of purpose that included many of their trade and business associates, who had all contributed magnificently to the awards table. I've been to hundreds of such dinner cum presentations in my time, but have never witnessed such a huge and magnificent trophy profusion as that of the Association and its generous donors. The festivities were spiced with short, humorous speeches and the presentation of an award to Roger Kerry for his wonderful course presentation, before being crowned to perfection by the full might of the Cor

Godre'r Aran Welsh Male Voice Choir, the night ending, quite literally, on a very high note indeed!

We knew it the moment dawn broke – the day was pure magic – and hope sprung eternal in the heart of every golfer. Would the pressure of leading the field be too much for Trevor Davies? Would someone leap from the pack for the coveted 54 hole Techturf (gross) and ICI Professional Products (nett) Trophies? Who would be crowned Putting King? We were soon to find out as time and again players demonstrated true determination and 'stickability', holding their games together when the going got tough and at last we were acclaiming the winners.

That mighty atom, left-hander Barry Holt, excelled as never before to take the Techturf Trophy with a gross total of 228, whilst Stephen Goode won the ICI Professional Products Senior Division with 216 nett. Mark Diment, ever reliable, scored 219 nett to capture the ICI Professional Products Junior Division, with Royal St David's head green-keeper and undoubted man of the week, Roger Kerry, the cliff-hanging winner of the Vitax Putting Trophy, a suddendeath sixth hole victory against the ever exuberant Jimmy Richardson.

This then was golf of the highest order played on a wonderful course steeped in character. To the Club and especially the green staff, our gratitude and congratulations, to ICI Professional Products, our generous sponsors, three hearty cheers. Finally, to all competitors – the winners, the losers, the might-have-made-its and if-onlys... well played!



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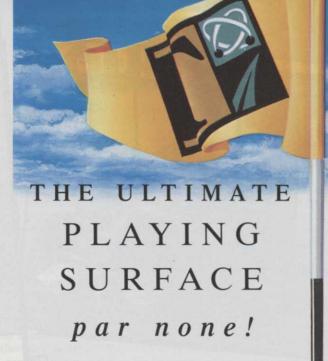
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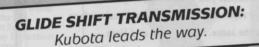
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he object of a course review is to provide accurate information to aid decision making by the management committee. As in any business, those elected or appointed to manage have a responsibility to allocate both financial and human resources. That is to say, how the money will be spent and what work will be done.

A comprehensive course review will allow for a defensible statement of proposed course changes by the management committee and should act as an insurance against pressures for ad-hoc changes by the persuasive and vociferous few.

Pressures to install additional course features are a regular problem for the committee and generally come from members who have admired a particular feature on another course. Their next step is to discuss the idea with their playing partners to decide which hole should receive the benefits of their considerations. Soon they are convinced that their proposal would result in greater visual enjoyment and also improve the playing quality of their selected hole.

At this stage they are likely to canvass support from fellow members who, wishing for a non-controversial life, readily agree. With this additional backing they approach selected committee members and ask for their idea to be presented to the management committee.

What they often fail to consider is: would the suggested feature suit the style of their own course and how would it affect the playing difficulty of the selected hole? However, even if rejected, there is still danger that it may be resurrected in early autumn when a winter programme of work is being prepared. It is at this very moment that the benefit of a course review will allow ill-considered suggestions to be discounted.

A comprehensive course review is definitely not a one man job, for if one person were to investigate all the selected features the first report would be out of date before the last was complete. It will not be the product of a walk around the course, nor will it be the product of a single project. Because of the number of course features involved it is the bringing together of several individual projects.

When the concept has been agreed the management committee will select a project coordinator. He will need to be a 'Mr Fix It' who

BAR STAFF

# Reviewing the course

Part 5

has extensive knowledge of members' abilities and interests, together with an ability to match talents to individual projects.

Recruitment of suitable labour should not be difficult, as there are growing numbers of members who have taken early retirement. Many will have skills which they would be happy to use for both the benefit of the Club and for their own personal satisfaction.

Together with the project co-ordinator, the management committee will select which course improvements are to be included in the review. Whilst each feature is important in its own right, it is prudent to consider each one individually before allocating priorities. To emphasise this point, consider if it would be prudent to change the playing difficulty of a hole without considering the effect on Stroke Index?

Even though the emphasis of the review will change according to the type of course, most will almost certainly include hole indices and such basic features as greens, tees, bunkers, irrigation and drainage.

At about this time the project co-ordinator

will be preparing for individual projects by collecting information from office archives. During the search it will become apparent how little detailed knowledge is available, for most courses are older than the oldest member and few will have a full set of up-to-date drawings of the golf course and its features.

It is prudent at this stage of the review to take advice from

BAR STAFF

those best suited to give it - such as the STRI and a telephone call or discussion with the agronomist during his annual visit will reap rich rewards. He will be able to suggest suitable reading from their own extensive list of publications and supplement discussions with some of their own excellent advisory leaflets.

■ Mr Lidwell's comments regarding course reviews are no doubt well-meaning, but he makes no mention of involving the most important man of all one who knows the course better than all others the head greenkeeper. Further, such 'alterations' often change the essential character of a course to such an extent that the course ceases to represent the intentions and ideas of the original architect. Before embarking on any major course alterations it is, in my opinion, wise to reflect long and hard on the thinking behind the architect's original concept. If the alteration proposed is major surgery, an architect sympathetic to the original architect's plans should, of necessity, be commissioned. Too many Club golfers fancy themselves as golf course architects, with their mistakes and 'follies' glaringly apparent on courses throughout the land - Editor.

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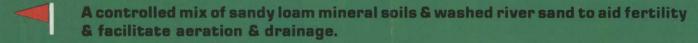
BAR STAFF

BAR STAFF During the season, the clubhouse-bar can suffer from Bar compaction: \*\*
Increased traffic, increased thirst, increased compaction. Despite a symbiotic relationship between green staff & bar staff ( the latter are often seen on the course), green staff suffer when member compaction sets in. We, at the well-known tennink chem-labs have developed a vermicide called 'Smellimegadeth', which whilst fulfilling its agricultural lask, can also help prevent this apalling condition. In the above diagram, we see a green whether the constraints to the Bar in the route-zone, dense member layer prevents him from penetrating to the Bar layer. In the 2nd picture he returns treated with 'Smellimepadeth,' we note there is already a losening of the compacted member layer as our greenkeeper continues to penetrate. By the 3rd picture, the greenkeeper has reached the bar layer and the member-layer resistance has attenuated. Picture 4 shows ideal bar situation. We recommend treatment at 1 greenkeeper to 3 feet of bar. Next month we deal with that perplexing perennial pest-the fair-way hacker Hiroshima" flame -wands shows a novel solution! \* common on all courses

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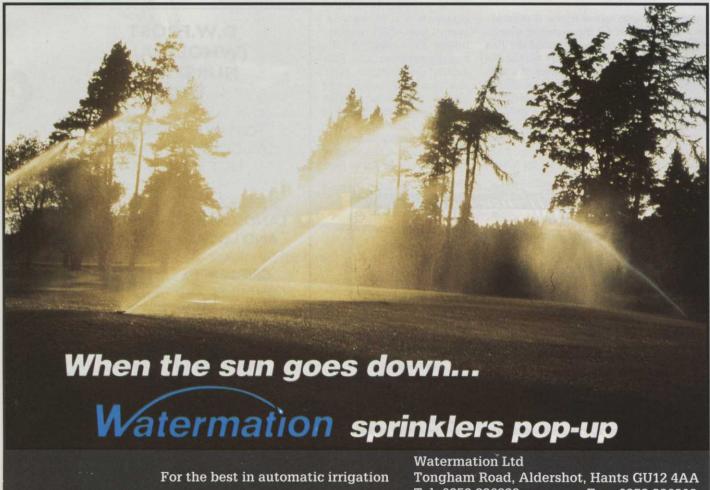
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