



Straight talking from JIM ARTHUR

Probably, no, *indisputably*, the worst problem that can face anyone in charge of any established golf course is how to improve dominantly annual meadow grass greens (*Poa annua*) and survive to tell the tale, let alone produce results.

All too often the failure of such a programme, with the resultant trauma all round and loss of reputation if not job, has led some who have tried and failed to claim that the task is impossible and "we have to learn to live with annual meadow grass". The experience of others belies this.

In theory, since we know that the natural grass cover of any ecological system is determined by its management as much as by its environment, all one has to do is identify the cause of *Poa annua* dominance, reverse the management practices that changed the grass for the worse, and 'hey presto' – more desirable, hard wearing, fine textured species will replace that ubiquitous weed grass, dominance of which is the source of 90% of our greenkeeping problems but which like the poor (pardon the pun!) will always be with us!

Since we know that *Poa annua* responds to high fertiliser treatment and specifically to high phosphates; over-watering and under aeration, more austere management with low levels of nitrogen-only fertilisers; controlled and limited irrigation and deep frequent aeration should bring about the desired result. That's the theory. Practice is something else!

Only where there has been a relatively short period of bad or misguided management and there has been a past history of dominance by either bent (*Agrostis tenuis*) or fine fescue (*Festuca rubra*), or a mix of both, is this programme likely to restore the original more desirable grasses. But all too often the abuses have been perpetrated with gay abandon for many many years, whether this has been a famous links or the local course.

If in such cases we then institute a maintenance programme specifically designed to discourage *Poa annua*, what happens? The weed grass goes – its speed of departure depending on the enthusiasm with which austere (ie. traditional) greenkeeping is implemented – but without the positive steps all we get is bare ground. Then, as is natural, there is disillusionment at all levels and a return to the bad old systems – especially as all too often this is what today's new golfers want – 'nice and green' holding greens and plenty of grass under the ball on fairways – the latter effectively ensuring that no-one can stay on firm greens, which in turn results in demands for more feed and more water. It is hard to credit, but I have had several personal reports of courses where the greens have responded to management and become faster and firmer and of Club captains and their like demanding that a collar be created round the green "mown at 1" in height to stop balls rolling off the putting surface". Words fail me! They might with equal logic demand low chicken wire fences on the perimeter of the putting surface. Balls trapped hard up and against either 'wall' are naturally unplayable – doubtless leading to demands for a free lift and drop!

Since some programmes have been successful in changing the grass type on the greens, what is the secret?

The first and most important thing is education of *the members*, through the normal channels. Explanations as to the benefits which will derive from tolerance of a relatively short if traumatic interim period may induce tolerance if not understanding, especially if the events are not as bad as their forecast paints! To achieve this understanding we *must* have continuity of management as well as enthusiastic acceptance of the desired aims. Sadly today, this is probably the hardest aim to achieve, involving as it does replacement

How to control POA and live to tell the tale

of conventional annually changing green committees by a *permanent* and properly structured management body working to a defined course management policy document.

Few things have cost head greenkeepers (particularly younger and/or less cautious ones), more loss of sleep, of reputation and even of jobs, than a campaign against annual meadow grass dominance impatiently implemented without prior warning and agreement. If for no other reason, consultation, explanation and consideration for the golfing calendar will avoid all three problems. Historic research and investigation is needed: If the root zone is impeded or there has been a past history of gross overfeeding over many years, it may be easier to accept that we have to continue to live with this wretched weed grass, producing tolerable conditions for only half the year at best. Nevertheless, backed by a convincing Club management, understanding members, and with greenkeeping skills akin to riding a bicycle over Niagara on a tight wire, superb and permanent transi-

tions have been achieved. Almost in every case the common factor is *continuity of management*. I know of none where the green committee changes all the time. We must eliminate the channel of promotion to captaincy that is so often believed to be through a stint on the green committee.

I know of many courses, – built cheaply in the 1960s boom, or even in the earlier one of the 1920s, on heavy soils with no stone carpets under the greens and with heavy 'unimproved' clay root-zone levels – where annual meadow grass has been almost totally replaced by *Agrostis tenuis*, but it has not been done overnight – nor without problems.

If our management kills annual meadow grass and local conditions are inimical to the establishment of perennial fine-textured grasses, an austere greenkeeping programme will inevitably leave at best a thin open turf – a condition know as 'Arthrititis'. One answer is to overseed in late summer or early autumn, introducing 'chitted' seed in damp top dressing into closely spaced shallow hollow tine fork holes. Heavy seed rates are counter productive – they cause excessive competition and damping off. Here again, long term forward planning is vital to achieve a sensible compromise between the golfing calendar and the optimum seeding period which would otherwise clash. Late seeding (ie. October) is a waste of time and money.

We must use the most *vigorous* strains of bent and fescue available – even using Highland (*A. castellana*) instead of eg. Egmont (*A. tenuis*).

There is no argument about the methods which have so successfully restored erstwhile old fashioned greens, sadly deteriorated as annual meadow grass took over once there was money available with which to make mistakes. One reason why our older courses had such good greens thirty or forty years ago was that there was no money to spend on fertilisers and as a result no money was needed to control disease. It is fully admitted that conditions then were not as manicured as on today's well presented courses, but the worst that happened was a plague of leatherjackets or *temporary* browning of the greens in particular and the course in general in a prolonged drought – but it soon greened over again with the first fall of rain.

Bad construction, poor drainage, bad materials, the use of the wrong grasses and bad management techniques in the past 25 years all led to invasion of annual meadow grass; and as it periodically suffered from disease, traffic and win-

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ter wear, remedial measures which were unwise or based on panic reactions ensured its rapid dominance.

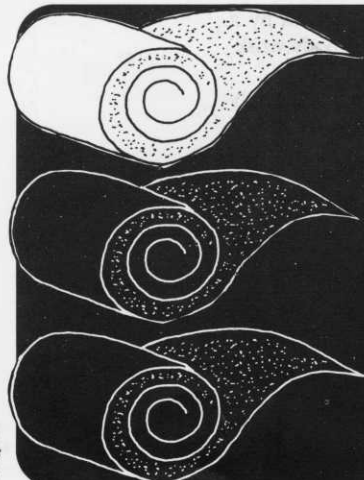
Incidentally, I was depressed to hear a comment the other day that perhaps the Penncross and allied bents have not been given a fair trial. They were first misguidedly used in Britain over 20 years ago, following the enthusiastic recommendation of those who played on superb bent putting surfaces in summer on American courses that were closed all winter – or indeed where there was no winter at all. Very little if any survived the first year or so, with annual meadow grass eagerly filling the gap. How much longer do we need to give house room to these alien grasses, excellent where there is either no winter or no winter golf, but useless where we play under winter conditions as well as demanding high budgets and high manpower to keep the species in trim?

I do not accept observations or criticism from those whose experience relates only to the States or where their courses are under snow for months on end. All I ask is that we learn from the expensively acquired experience of others who have trod the same path before us and that we do not repeat the same old costly mistakes. These same mistakes with Penncross etc. have been made in New Zealand and in the States as well as in Europe (outside the Mediterranean area), with well documented evidence to prove it.

What then is the message? Simply to plan ahead – even a year ahead – and spend the time between plan and execution in educating the members of the advantages to them in terms of better winter playing conditions, if they will only tolerate some inconvenience and less than perfect playing surfaces for fairly limited short periods over a span of two to three years. A successful programme hinges on everyone concerned (well, almost everyone, as this is a far from perfect world) being in agreement about the aims and understanding the repercussions of the methods.

Bull at a gate methods, with vociferous and uninformed members baying for the greenkeepers blood, will always end in tears. Your first task – and the hardest – must be to bring the members with you – enlisting the aid of agronomists or Golfing Union officials with evening discussions and constant reminders. This may take more than one year, but be patient – and if there is clearly no support, move on.

Why? Because there is no future for greenkeepers without recognition by their Club management of their professional status.



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TRADE TOPICS



■ Kubota (UK) Ltd, specialist suppliers of compact tractors and ride-on mowers, has launched a stylish new collection of corporate clothing for their UK dealership network. The new range, which includes ski jacket, car coat, sweatshirt, polo shirt and coveralls has been designed for wear during demo's, at shows, in the workshop or in dealer premises as well as for leisure time. The collection colours are an eye-catching combination of navy, white and Kubota blue with piping and stripes in matching colours.

■ The Inturf Group have announced that their southern turf nursery (Inturf South Ltd.) located at Mildenhall, Suffolk is to close within a few months. In the meantime, the company will be looking for possible new sites throughout the south and east of the country.

Problems with soil type, location and organisational difficulties have led to this decision after three years of operations as one of the group's regional production units. Mr C Hayselden, the director responsible for running the nursery, has resigned and has set up his own business in the locality.

Plans to run the unit down were made a year ago and to compensate for any shortfall in production, two other Inturf nurseries at York and Grantham have had large increases in acreage to ensure continuity of supply. Details: 0759 304101.

■ Maxwell Hart Ltd is launching the US product, PERK Soil Treatment, in 1992, a non-toxic liquid chemical designed to reduce soil compaction and improve soil drainage and aeration. When applied, PERK goes to work deep into the soil, breaking down the strong bonding processes that are found when clay is present or when the ground is subject to heavy traffic. PERK loosens the soil and improves the soil's ability to percolate water, resulting in more uniform root growth and improved nutrient uptake to the plant. Details: 0734 785655.

■ AF Trenchers Ltd, have a new address: Edgworth Road, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 6TG. Tel: 0787 311811, Fax: 0787 310888. To date, AFT have manufactured and sold over 2,000 trenchers in their 25 years experience and now look forward to producing the next 2,000 at their new location. Details: 0787 311811.

■ Boral Lytag have recently developed Lytag sand, the dry density of which is around 780kg per square metre compared to 1,300-1,400kg per square metre for normal weight sand. The grading is almost single sized with 90% falling within the sieves 1.25mm and 2.36mm. The most common use for Lytag would be in narrow drainage trenches (up to 20mm) where its free flowing characteristics allow for easy installation. The small particle size means that the trench could be filled to the top, with overspill unlikely to damage gang mowers. It is available in bags or bulk. Details: 0889 58446.

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NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Royal Agricultural College,
Cirencester, 27-29 March 1992

For the fourth consecutive year, BIGGA's National Education Conference this spring will feature a programme of international speakers. The event is to be sponsored, once again, by **Lindum Turf** and Associates. Some of the speakers and their topics are:

Tom Cook: Maintaining Pure Bentgrass Greens - Is It Possible in Cool Temperate Climates?

Neil Baldwin: Green Pest and Disease Control.

Derek Green: Dry Patch.

Tor Senstadt: Greenkeeping in Norway.

Patrick O'Brien: Bentgrass Management in the South Eastern USA.

Jon Allbutt: Using Chemicals on the Golf Course and Complying with the Law.

William R Roberts: The Development of Education Programmes for the Greenkeeping Profession.

Carol Borthwick: Where do we go from Here?

Laurence Pithie: Golf Course Development - a Greenkeeper's Viewpoint.

Barry Cooper: Golf Course Drainage - Before and After Construction.

Jonathan Gaunt: Project Management - how does it compare to normal Golf Course Construction Contracts?

Jim Arthur: Sound Traditional Greenkeeping Practices versus Gimmicks

Gordon Jaaback: Limitations in Rootzone Design.

Bernard Findlay: Can you Build a Seaside Links or is that Nature's Job?

For a copy of the Conference Programme, call BIGGA HQ on 03473 581/2 or fax 03473 8864



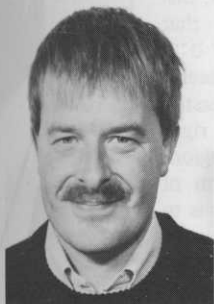
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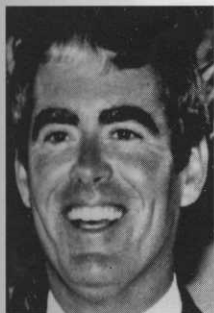
Members and golf Club officials will have received a copy of our 1992 National Education Conference programme and this will probably have whetted the appetite for attending the Cirencester event in March. Interest and participation in the conference has grown substantially since the first conference was held at Queens College, Cambridge in 1989, and now the fourth conference promises another rewarding experience, learning both from within the lecture room and in subsequent conversation and discussion. In both this issue of *Greenkeeper International* and in March, we profile some of the key speakers. If you have not already done so, reserve a place now by sending your booking form to Samantha Flint at HQ.

We look forward to seeing you in Cirencester.



Neil Baldwin graduated from Liverpool Polytechnic in 1985 with a first class honours degree in Applied Biology and a PhD research degree in Plant Pathology. After brief appointments with ADAS and the Scottish Agricultural College, Neil joined the STRI in 1986 to undertake research, advisory and consultancy activities in turfgrass diseases. Over the past six years he has published over 25 scientific papers and 39 general

articles on this subject. His current research interests are the dry patch condition of golf greens and the development of integrated pest and disease management practices for golf courses. Neil will be speaking on "Green Pest and Disease Control".



Patrick O'Brien is Director of the South Eastern Region, USGA Green Section, having held this position for some five years and visited Clubs in the region since 1985. His responsibilities include turfgrass advisory service visits, as well as writing articles for publication in the USGA Green Section Record. In addition, he speaks at conferences on both state and national levels.

A native of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, Pat graduated from Marietta College in Ohio with a Bachelor's degree in Biology in 1976, earning his Masters degree in Agronomy from West Virginia University in 1979.

Joining the USGA staff in May 1989 in the Mid-Atlantic region, Pat is a member of the American Society of Agronomy and of Beta Beta Beta, a biological honour society. A former semi-professional baseball player for the Morgantown Cardinals in West Virginia during 1976-78, he also participates in basketball and bowling during the winter months. He is an avid golfer with a handicap of eleven. Pat's two presentations will be 'Bent Grass Management in the South Eastern USA', and 'The Ten Best All-Time Tips of the USGA Green Section Staff'.



Tom Cook is a native of Washington, growing up in the eastern part of the state and working on golf courses whilst going through school and college. His degrees come from Washington State University and the University of Rhode Island, with work experience commencing with two years as a research associate at Washington State (alongside Dr Roy Goss) and currently with Oregon

State University, where he is Associate Professor. Tom is married with an eleven year old son and his interests include gardening, golf and photography. Professionally he has worked increasingly on weed control, golf turf culture and sportsfield maintenance programmes and his primary responsibilities at Oregon State University involve teaching undergraduates and handling turf extension statewide. Tom will present two papers - 'Maintaining bent grass greens: is it possible in cool temperate climates?' and 'Characteristics and performance of sand based tees and greens in the Pacific North West of the USA'.



Carol Borthwick, currently Senior Lecturer in Greenkeeping at Elmwood College; where she has worked for almost ten years, will present an intriguing address entitled 'Where do we go from here?'. She moved into greenkeeper education in 1986 before being appointed to her present position in April 1990. Carol has a diploma in Horticulture from the West of Scotland Agricultural College and holds the IOG's Intermediate Diploma in Horticulture, having previously gained the National Technical Certificate. At present she is undertaking an HNC in Management.

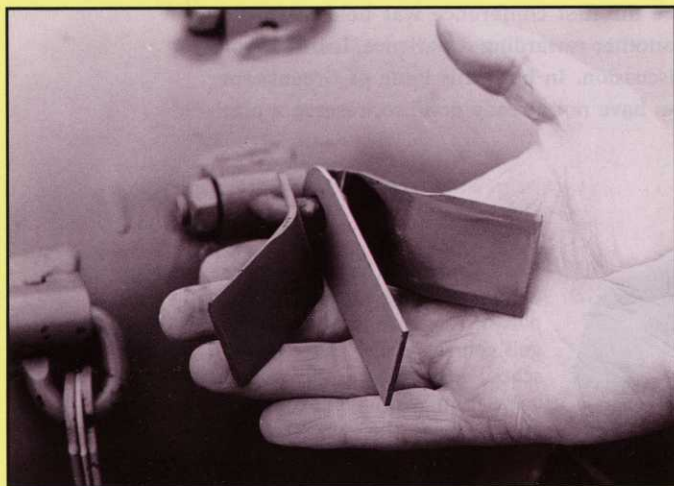
Carol is a keen six handicap golfer, hovering on making the Perth and Kinross County Golf Team. Only the fact that she commits herself fully to her career and greenkeeping education keeps from this honour, but as she herself says "I love my job and am what you might call a workaholic".



● For a copy of the National Education Conference programme and booking form, contact BIGGA HQ on 03473 581/2

■ In recessionary times it is no mean feat to boast business expansion and profitability, but PAR 4 Irrigation Ltd, owned by Eddie and Linda Simms, can do just that. The past two years have seen an increase in turnover of 185% and continued confidence in the business will see PAR 4 extend their present premises, at Ripon, in March. At present PAR 4 are handling over 140 annual service contracts and it is rare that any new customer fails to take advantage of this offer post-warranty. It is Eddie's opinion that whilst contracts may slow down, his service department can continue to expand.

Contractually, PAR 4 are just completing large projects with SC3000 control at Hillesborough GC and Middlesborough Municipal GC, and, perhaps most important for the Association, PAR 4 are also responsible for the installation at BIGGA HQ at Aldwark Manor of a fully automatic system with SC3000, which will be ready by spring. Details: 0765 602175.



■ Amazone Groundcare has developed a new narrow profile scarifing blade (pictured above) for its Groundkeeper range of flail type grass cutting and collection equipment. The blades are 2mm wide, instead of the standard width of 3mm. The narrower profile has been found to achieve a better cutting action in trials, with increased trash clearance and minimal damage to existing sward. Priced at £1.35 each, the blades are reversible and have the same 'quick attach-no tools' design as the wider scarifing blades and standard Amazone mowing flails. Details: 0579 51155.

■ Agriland, the manufacturer of established foliar feeds Agrimaster and Agricrop, is launching three new liquid fertilisers for the '92 market. The first has a ratio of 20-0-0, the nitrogen being present in a fast-acting form and designed for use on all types of soil and sand based constructions where adequate reserves of phosphate and potash are present, and will give good colour without forcing excessive top growth.

The second product has an NPK ratio of 15-0-10, an ideal N to K ratio for most turf situations where an adequate supply of potash is available in the soil.

Finally, the third is a balanced formulation for use on sand or light sandy soil constructions, where high water infiltration rates can cause leaching. The product contains NPK in the ideal ratio of 10-2.5-7.5, plus calcium 3% and boron 0.1%.

Dr Paul Wilson, Agriland's Associate Research Director, told Greenkeeper International, "The calcium and boron work together to build stronger cell walls in the grass plant and thus enhance resistance to fungal diseases. Many acidic soils may be deficient in calcium and this product supplies the necessary corrective without raising the soil pH". Details: 0202 532291.

■ Gordon Bennington, long time General Manager, Wright Rain Rainbird Division, has left the company after 22 years and has formed his own irrigation company, GB Irrigation Ltd. With such wide experience there is little doubt that Gordon and G.B. Irrigation Ltd. will enjoy a high profile. Details: 0425 473329 (Ringwood) or 0909 473999 (Worksop).

The importance of looking the

Believe it or not, the 1st of January 1992 marked five years from the inception of the Association and, perhaps unknown to many members, activated an important segment of the Association's Constitution. Paragraph 17 reads that 'After five years from the inception of the Association, each full member shall be required, when attending a formal national occasion, to dress in tie and jacket of the Association and to follow the guidelines on shoes, slacks and shirt'.

Recently within the Board of Management, concern has been expressed in relation to the substantial number of members who appear at BIGGA events and cannot as such be recognised as members – no tie, no jacket, no sweater, no shirt – not even a lapel badge identifying with BIGGA. Within the context of the constitutional obligations placed on members since 1st January, discussion ensued on how best to ensure that members now meet their obligations.

New greenkeeper members on enrolling receive an Association tie as part of their membership package and this is clearly a step in the right direction. There is increasing evidence of regions and sections awarding prizes in the form of BIGGA merchandise at golf events and this is to be welcomed. One way or another, after five years there seems little excuse for any member not being in possession of a BIGGA tie and wearing it on all appropriate occasions. Not only does it look smart but it projects a professional image and demonstrates the individual member's pride in belonging to the Association. Whilst the Board of Management has high expectations in respect of members wearing the Association tie, there is an appreciation that the jacket can represent a substantial financial commitment for many members. That having been said, a good number of members do now own a jacket and many favourable comments are forthcoming when our members are seen in jackets and ties on formal occasions – they have contributed much to enhancing the greenkeeper's image and to his achieving professional recognition. Given the cost, the Board of Management will take a flexible view generally on the wearing of the jacket whilst at all times encouraging members to invest in one. A BIGGA badge added to an existing blazer remains a cheaper and practical option. Regions and sections are being actively encouraged to support the purchase of jackets – utilising region/section funds and implementing an instalment repayment system. If you are interested in possible purchase through this means, contact your section secretary.

It must be said that from now on there will be occasions when the wearing of a jacket and tie will be compulsory, particularly when representing the Association nationally – the annual Kubota Golf Challenge comes to mind as a good example. In any team event, like the recent Ransomes International Tournament, again there would be an



'It is not just financial but also a way to advance the Association's professional status of and those within the

your profession in the best possible light

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expectation that those honoured with representing their country would be dressed in BIGGA jacket and tie and here particularly one would look to regions/sections to assist those members so honoured who were in genuine need of support. At other major events like the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition, the National Conference, National Tournament and Iseki Golf Tournament, the Board will be looking for increasing evidence of conformity with the Constitution whilst accepting that there will not be an overnight transformation. Draconian measures are not called for, but throughout the structure of the Association persuasive voices will be heard – if you doubt the benefits of appearing in official BIGGA uniform then speak to any member who has made the commitment and you will soon be convinced that it is for you. It is not merely a financial commitment, but also a commitment to advancing your own Association as a professional body and thereby enhancing the status of greenkeeping and those who work within the profession.

Whilst on the subject of BIGGA uniform, I will take the opportunity to clear up a few points where there seems to be some confusion! First, whilst there are alternative ties which can be worn, the official BIGGA tie is the navy one with the central motif. Whilst the other ties may be worn at members' discretion, at all 'official' BIGGA functions, the navy tie should normally be worn.

It had been the intention of the Board of Management to introduce an 'official' sweater and shirt, jade being the planned colour. However, it transpired that the supplying company is accustomed to changing colour shades each year which, of course, renders any exercise to introduce an official sweater/shirt valueless. However, there will be occasions/events when regions and sections wish to standardise sweaters and shirts. To this end I would suggest that an order is placed (in whatever colour) a minimum of eight weeks before the event to guarantee supply.

For financial and logistical reasons, even were it deemed desirable, the Association is not able to hold large quantities of stock to enable immediate supply in all cases following the placing of orders. Some items will be in stock but members should be aware when placing orders that there could well be a delay in delivery of between 6-8 weeks. Despatch is immediate upon receipt of stock.

Members are asked for payment when placing an order as we need to know that the order is committed. However, it is important to note that cheques are not banked until the order is available and posted.

The Association now has a reasonably comprehensive selection of merchandise but is always ready to consider new options. If you have any ideas please let headquarters know and we will see what can be done.

Finally during 1992 please consider your own need to be looking the part.

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B O O K S

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Age of the trolley

Judging by their inexorable proliferation on the golf course, this is indeed 'the age' of the golf trolley, especially the sleek, electrically powered model. The procession of golfers following in the wake of their occasionally self-willed machines up and down our fairways has perhaps eased the burden of carrying clubs, but what are the implications of using trolleys in terms of depreciating course conditions?

Their primary drawback can be related to the constant attrition of the same 'paths', notably around the playing areas of greens and tees. Without restrictions being enforced the most economical routes are always adopted and at the extreme this can culminate in the golfer navigating a precipitous path between putting surface and adjacent green-side bunkers! The inevitable consequences of the same route being exploited through entry and exit are worn turf surfaces and compacted soils where the weight of golf traffic has been focussed. In contrast, golfers who prefer to carry their clubs can circumvent obstacles with

greater ease and traverse the putting surfaces, thus adopting a much wider range of traffic routes. Furthermore, the restrictions placed on golf trolleys can reduce the pace of throughput, notably when the ball strays from the straight and narrow into rough! This is a source of frustration for the golfer, the cumulative effects of which may impinge on the potential playing levels which can practically be supported by the golf course.

The pressures imposed by golf trolleys are particularly acute during the late autumn and winter months, when the decline is aggravated by the lack of natural turf recovery and the vulnerability of wet soils to compaction forces. The rigidity of traffic flow patterns around tees and green sites, enforced by the use of trolleys, is often reflected by distinct, heavily worn arcs or muddy streaks in the following Spring which are slow to make a satisfactory recovery. The advent of wide-wheeled trolleys has eased the pressure to a degree, but the emergence of heavier electrically driven trolleys has increased the 'scouring' effect on the turf –

notably under wet surface conditions.

An appropriate course of action should be formulated in accordance with individual site conditions, with the following factors taken into consideration:

- The drainage potential of the course.
- Course layout and design, eg. compact or expansive, flat or undulating.
- The aspect of the course, ie. exposed or protected.
- The prevailing ground and weather conditions.
- The intensity of play and its distribution throughout the year.

Undoubtedly, the temporary suspension in the use of golf trolleys will, in most instances, have a marked influence on the viability and quality of the turf surfaces. Enforcing a local rule that clubs **MUST** be carried will help to break the pattern and spread the load of golf traffic more evenly. The majority of golfers should be sufficiently fit to carry a golf bag without significantly diminishing their enjoyment of the game. Indeed, a golfer armed with, say, eight clubs and a lightweight bag may appreciate a different perspective of the course with no significant increase in exertion! There may (very exceptionally) be mitigating circumstances on the grounds of ill-health, but doctor's certificates must be warily scrutinised to ensure the rule is not abused.

A ban on trolleys will prove most effective through the winter months when the surfaces are most vulnerable, although this needs to be tailored to each site's requirements. The ban should encompass both pulled and powered trolleys, as this will prove simpler and less divisive.

Where good channels of communication are established and the cooperation of all golfers is assured, then temporary suspensions – in accordance with prevailing ground and weather conditions – may just

be a workable compromise. However, this strategy is usually less effective due to the difficulties of decision making, monitoring and enforcement within the usual structure of course management.

The use of trolleys is inextricably linked with the need for adequate traffic control directives. These can take several forms, including ropes, hoops and white lines; backed up by clear, strategically placed signs. Through these means, vulnerable areas can be protected and different traffic routes brought into use. The designation of 'trolley parks' may serve a similar purpose and dictate an alternative route from fairway to green and green to next tee. To realise the potential of these devices requires that good channels of communication be established at all levels within the Club so that strategies can be agreed and objectives clearly defined prior to implementation.

Development of separate, 'alternative' tees, mainly for Winter play – but possibly pressed into use during the summer if required – can have a profound influence on patterns of traffic flow. Where there is sufficient scope for the strategic placement of these tees, the golfers will be forced to take alternate routes to those adopted during the summer. This will ease the pressures on the turf surfaces, provide a valuable period of recuperation and enable the benefits of remedial procedures to be realised. Furthermore, the introduction of purpose-built trolley traffic paths may be warranted in certain situations, eg. alongside tees, but they must satisfy golfing, management and aesthetic criteria.

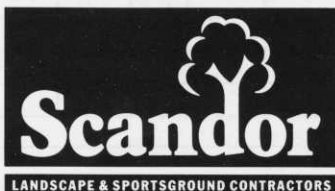
The above measures should not be regarded as a substitute for a trolley ban, but rather as being complementary with the objective of countering the increased pressures on our golf courses and maintaining optimum playing conditions year round!

● The author, Jonathan Tucker, is the STRI's Advisory Agronomist.

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SCOTTISH REGION CONFERENCE

on March 10th, 1992
at Langside College, Glasgow
9am to 4pm

Speakers include Danny Godfrey, Ben Simpson, Wentworth's Chris Kennedy and Turnberry's George Brown. Neil Thomas will address the conference on the progress of BIGGA in the 1990s. Cost including morning coffee and lunch: £14 BIGGA members, £16 non-members.

More details from Elliott Small, Tel: 0259 31445

Gardner, bloom and blossom

AN EXCITING new era started in the autumn for Oaklands College: the old Hertfordshire College of Agriculture merged with two F.E. colleges - De Havilland College and City College - to form a new and enlarged college to be known as Oaklands College, which incidentally is the name it has been colloquially known by for over sixty years. With over 1,000 staff and 5,500 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) students, the future is certainly exciting. The senior management team consists of the Principal, Mr Keith Gardner, two associate Principals, Dr Norman Bloomer and Richard Blossom and three Faculty Heads. The new Head of the School of Agriculture is Roger Thomas, previously Head of Machinery at the old Hertfordshire College of Agriculture.

Plans have been approved to develop a 'golf academy' at the college, this giving even better practical facilities for greenkeepers whilst also providing a place for professionals to bring their pupils for coaching.

As part of on-going development the college has introduced a one year full time course in Golf Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management.

New course for Cannington

EXCITEMENT is bubbling from the very pores of staff and pupils at Somerset's Cannington College, first with the welcome news that a Higher National Diploma (HND) in Golf Greenkeeping with European Studies has been developed and will commence in September 1992, coupled with the revelation that a new resource, a full length nine hole golf course, is to be built on college land covering 55 acres, with stunning views overlooking the Quantock Hills and within sight of the Bristol Channel. The course, designed by Martin Hawtree to specifications by Jim Arthur, will be constructed as a 'working' golf course that will receive the wear and tear of normal play (it is intended the course shall be open to the paying public) that will enable student greenkeepers to experience real life working conditions and prob-

lems, thus enabling them to successfully manage their own golf courses in the future. In addition, arborists, tree surgeons and would-be landscapers will lend their weight to the enterprise, one that is worthy of high acclaim for this nationally known seat of academic and practical learning. The college is seeking support from manufacturing industries associated with greenkeeping in the development of the course, which will also include a tuition area and ample practice facilities.

Kenneth beats his disability



KENNETH Henderson, 24, an East Kilbride greenkeeper, has completed his three year block release SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping at Elmwood.

This achievement is no mean feat, for Kenneth, pictured above, can neither hear or speak. This was recognised by SCOTVEC when he was awarded the "Greenkeeper of The Year" award for Land Based Industries at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Kenneth was assisted in his course by Mrs Ann Dick of the Fife Regional Council Adult Support Unit, who helped him enormously during his times at college.

East Kilbride are obviously pleased with Kenneth's achievement, particularly Stuart Taylor (his then head greenkeeper and now at Glasgow, Killermont), who helped him as much as possible with his college work.



TWO female greenkeepers have started their training at Elmwood, enrolled on a Greenkeeping Block Release of three years, the girls attending college for seven weeks each year. Caroline Patrick and Tarn Stewart are the first females to enrol for many years, highlighting the point that a career in greenkeeping is no longer an exclusive male bastion. It is hoped many more ladies will follow their example.

Double win for high flyer Tom

TOM Spence has completed the National Diploma in Turf Science and Sportsground Management, at Distinction level, at the Lancashire College of Agriculture - a three year full time course.

Tom was awarded the Institute of Groundsmanship Cup for the top academic student, and the Rufford Topdress Cup for the best student in Management.

Tom, a former Tudhoe Grange pupil, has gained employment as first assistant at Newby Grange GC, Carlisle.

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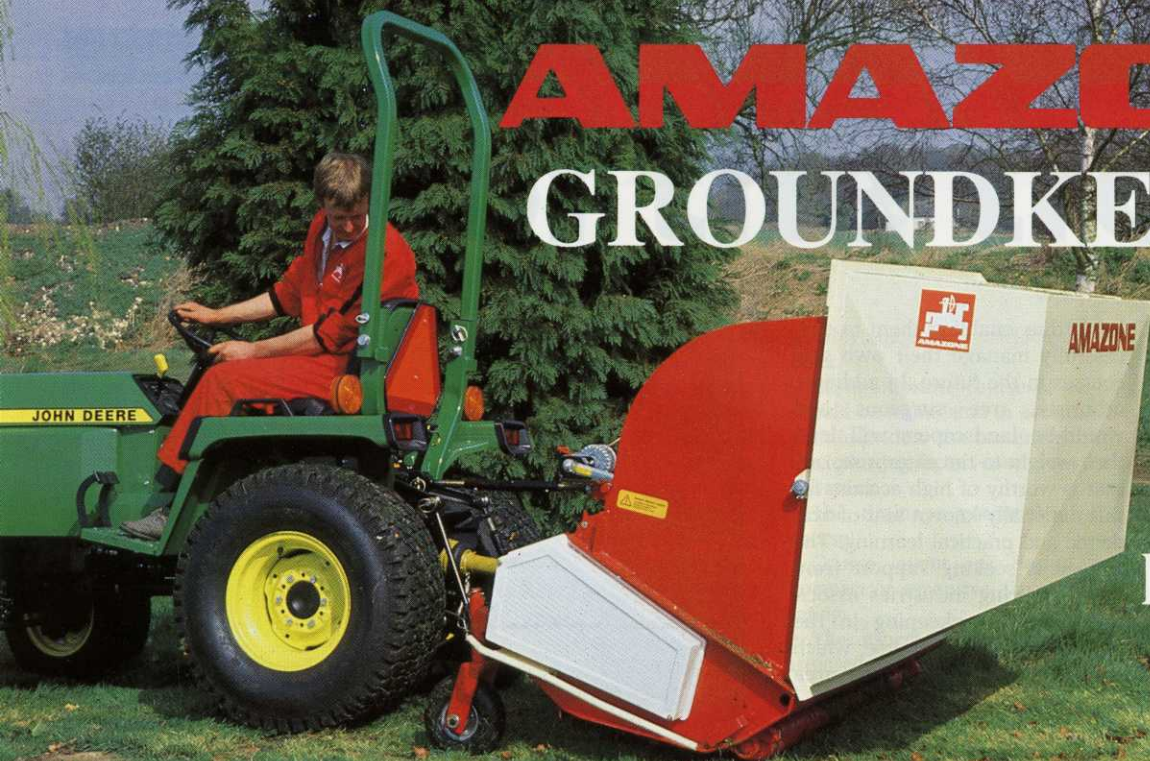
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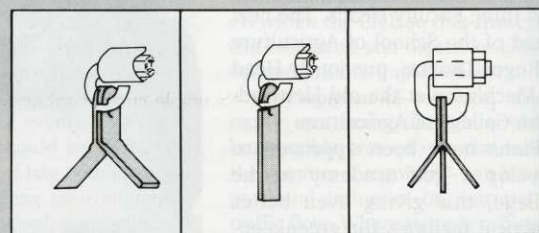
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