



# COPING WITH COMPACTION

**C**ompaction is a major problem on heavily trafficked turf, causing lack of grass vigour and waterlogging. How prone any area is to compaction depends largely upon soil type, with the fine particles found in clay and silt soils more readily aggregated or compacted than sand. Nevertheless, it is possible to get high levels of organic matter which can block even sands. Several meth-

ods of alleviation are available to the greenkeeper, from long term remedies such as incorporating sand into the rootzone through less radical mechanical operations like tining, slitting and scarifying, or operations such as subsoiling or moiling. How radical an operation is needed will depend upon many factors such as soil type and condition, and the depth of the compacted layer. Operations such as sand slitting or gravel banding will also have an effect on compaction.

Compaction problems on a golf course tend to be relatively shallow, which means that alleviation can be undertaken with minimum disruption and effort. Although slitters and tinners were designed to 'aerate' and scarifiers to 'de-thatch' (and these are slightly different objectives from compaction alleviation) such tools can be expected to have an effect on breaking up compaction - to a greater or lesser extent according to design, operation and timing. Some manufacturers claim their scarifiers are able to penetrate into the root zone to 50mm thus (perhaps) removing surface smearing and providing some aeration of the rootzone. The displaced fibrous material requires to be col-

lected and several machines are able to do this at the same time. Slitting also has the effect of root pruning and fine turf slitters with narrow blades minimise surface disturbance, especially when there is a strong and healthy root system. However, minimising disturbance means that they do little to open up the rootzone. Likewise the principle of the tinner is to open up the turf for aeration and drainage rather than to cause disturbance of the soil, nevertheless the core tinner, by providing pathways for topdressing, fertiliser and roots to penetrate actively, assists opening up the soil. While most tinners are carefully designed to stab the soil without tearing it, several, including spoon tinners, can produce some loosening of the soil, - how severe and effective this will be is controlled by the intensity of the operation in terms of tine size and spacing. The removal of cores allows surrounding soil to spread into the vacant space, that is if not immediately replaced by sand or topdressing.

Perhaps the most revolutionary method of aeration to reach the golf scene in recent years is the Toro HydroJect, which uses jets of water at high pressure to punc-

ture the turf and rootzone with minimal surface disruption and no cores, and while it does not break-up compaction directly, simply punching holes through, it will answer the needs for easing compaction. The machine is self-propelled using an 18kW engine which is used (mainly) to drive a high pressure pump, with water being supplied through a hose from a hydrant or tanker. Penetration is normally to about 150mm although by using repeated shots it is possible to penetrate several times deeper. A number of firms are now offering a contract service using the machine.

Arguably the best known and most widely used machine for relieving compaction is the Verti-Drain, a machine able to operate down to depths of 400mm, depending on model and tine fitment. The principle of its action is a levering of the tip of the tine, rather in the way the greenkeeper might operate manually with a fork. Both pedestrian operated and tractor mounted/pto driven models are available, but one constraint may be owning and putting a suitable tractor on greens or tees, as this must have sufficient weight and power and a low enough bottom gear to oper-

## MAIN SUPPLIERS

Bob Andrews Ltd, Lovelace Rd, Bracknell, Berks RG12 4YT.

Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, Weydown Rd, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1DW

Compact Machinery Ltd, Thorpe Willoughby, Selby, N Yorkshire YO8 0SE.

Iseki UK Ltd, Broadway, Bourn, Cambridge CB3 7TL.

Jacobsen/Textron Ltd, Telford Way, Kettering, Northants NN16 8UN.

F W McConnel Ltd, Temeside Works, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1JL.

Modus T Systems Ltd, New Street, Wem, Shropshire SY4 5DT.

H Pattison & Co Ltd, 342 Selbourne Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 8NU.

Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies Ltd, Ransomes Way, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9QG.

Sachs-Dolmar (UK) Ltd, Clare St, Denton, Manchester M34 3LQ.

Sisis Equipment Ltd, Shoreclough Works, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2LZ.

Toro Commercial Products, Station Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambs PE19 1QH

Twose of Tiverton, Lowman Green, Tiverton, Devon EX16 4JT.

# E&S SPORTSGROUND CONTRACTORS

(We've got it off to a tee)

## GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

- Tee Extensions
- Bunker refurbishments
- Green reconstruction/alterations
- Verti-Drain
- Overseeding
- Top-Dressing
- Drainage

Contact: Richard Veitch  
39 Knox Green, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks

**0344 860690**

AD  
REF  
248

# COMPACTION

ate the implement. However as it is not a draft operation the power requirement with the smaller machines is not high, nor is weight required for grip. Timing the operation for maximum effect means working when soil conditions are optimum, i.e. dry and drying – a wet soil may be too 'plastic' to gain full benefit. A worthwhile surface aerifier is the Ransomes TM80, the action of which allows compacted soil to expand into the scooped out 127mm deep holes, leaving the rootzone open and loosened to receive nutrients and improve soil drainage. The TM80 incorporates a fixed axle to ensure that soil is removed by deeper penetration on high areas of undulating ground.

Sorting out soil structure below 400mm is liable to be a major operation, probably involving a drainage system, however limited areas can be deeply aerated using air blast injectors such as the multi-needle Terralift or the single

needle Fuji-Robin Dagger. These machines work by driving needles into the ground before releasing a blast of compressed air which heaves and shatters the surrounding soil. A different approach is that of Sisis with their Powadrill, a compact tractor mounted machine which uses 12 large masonry drills to drill holes at 100mm centres to a depth of 305mm. Most 'agricultural' methods of compaction relief result in a considerable degree of surface disturbance and so may only be acceptable for greens as a last resort, nevertheless they may be valid for fairways and walkways. Such methods mainly comprise the dragging of winged tines through the soil to get a lift and heave effect – with a disc before the leg and a roller after it reducing surface damage. Vibrating the tines, as on Turf Conditioner, Vibramaster and Shattermaster machines, reduces draft and so reduces the danger of tractor

# COMPACTION

You make it – we'll break it!



Turf Aeration all year round – get the New Hydroject working for you! For competitive hire charges etc. contact:  
**PBM PROFESSIONAL TURF CARE**  
26 Peterfield Road, Whitwick, Coalville,  
Leicestershire LE67 5PR  
Tel: 0530 836882  
Don't delay – call right away!

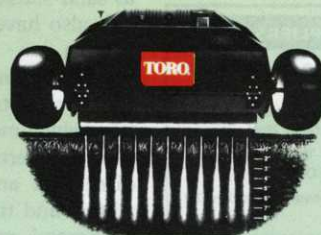
AD  
REF  
215



## Town & Country

SPECIALIST CONTRACTORS IN  
TURF MAINTENANCE

# “What's going on down there?”



## Hydroject™ 3000

Compaction on Greens and Tees etc “in need of aeration”?

Get the new Hydroject working for you all year round!  
Also our Vermeer TS 44 Tree Spade is for hire – transplanting trees on site economically.

Call on Town & Country

For a competitive hire rate, and professional service within the UK and all European countries.

Unit 4, Brainwood Farm, Cooksmill Green, Roxwell, Essex CM1 3SJ  
Tel: (0245) 248402 • Mobile: 0831 634644 • Fax: (0245) 248449

AD  
REF  
358



wheel damage as well as significantly improving the 'shatter' effect. The Shattermaster was first seen in UK at IoG last year. Again such operations are soil condition dependent - dragging them through the soil when it is plastic is most likely to produce a mole channel with smeared sides. How-

ever in very wet conditions it may be valid to operate many of these machines to produce drainage channels, vertical or horizontal, just to get the water away and allow the rootzone soil to dry out so that a compaction relief operation can be carried out.

**HUGH TILLEY**

**The Ransomes TM80 Aerifier. On Page 21: the Sisis Powadrill**

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM BIGGA EDUCATION OFFICER**

## **Certificate of Competence - PA1-2A. Application of Pesticides**

I have received many verbal complaints from members regarding problems associated with the above examination techniques and procedures. If any member has experienced any problems I would appreciate a letter outlining just where this operation can be improved.

The National Proficiency Test Council has acknowledged my concern and before they can investigate individual complaints, documented evidence would be required. With this in mind, whatever your problem please write to me at BIGGA headquarters. The major complaints received are as follows:

- Examiners having scant knowledge regarding fine turfcare.
- Equipment and machinery used in testing which is not familiar to course managers/greenkeepers.
- Chemical labels used in testing are not those which course managers/greenkeepers use in turfcare.

For those who have not yet attempted the examination please either contact your nearest college or book for the next BIGGA course scheduled for 5th-9th October inclusive, which will be held at Aldwark Manor. Jon Allbutt will again undertake training and the North Yorkshire Testing Council will carry out examinations.

**DAVID GOLDING**

## **When your grass is feeling blue...**



**..add a touch of yellow for the perfect green.**

**McCONNEL TURFCARE**

Please send me details of McConnell Turfcare products.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

GI.7.92

**F. W. McConnell Limited**

Temeside Works, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1JL, England.

Telephone: (0584) 873131. Telex 35313. Facsimile: (0584) 876463.



**The Art of Turfcare**  
Machines to suit every palette.



John Philp

## John Philp says:

Head greenkeepers and course managers are encouraged: 'Be a master of your profession' and register for the Master Greenkeeper Certificate Scheme, a seemingly worthy qualification on offer to all head greenkeepers and course managers who are BIGGA members.

I am concerned, however, about the adequacy of the criteria as described for this intended 'standard of excellence'. Although in agreement with the principles of both educational, self advancement and the elevation of the greenkeeping profession in general, I remain sceptical, as I have from its inception, of the ability of the formula per se to accomplish the desired goal: that of being a widely recognised professional status for golf course managers and greenkeeping in general.

One can imagine a large number of greenkeepers achieving the 200 credits applicable to Stage One sooner or later, and no doubt many will also possess the necessary capability to pass the examination – given the syllabus – required for Stage Three. The vital yardstick however, to my mind, has to be involved in Stage Two where we have but scant information. I very much doubt whether a one-day, pre-arranged visit with preparatory guidelines set in advance, to 'ensure that correct management and maintenance practices are being implemented', is sufficient for a realistic assessment to be made. After all, this is the acid test, the only one where whatever knowledge, qualifications or years of experience a man may possess, together with implementation of professional skill in the field can be scrutinised. What real value, other than personal satisfaction or gain, has the fullest knowledge or the highest qualification in any industry unless it is applied correctly to produce an end result of true quality, which only then can merit professional rating. Acquired knowledge and relevant qualifications do not by any means guarantee professional skill!

Planned application of knowledge however, with or without qualification, allied to acute awareness, as well as quite a few other personal skills, mostly gained through experience, certainly can manifest themselves as professional skill with an end result to match!

I would suggest therefore that 3 or 4 non-arranged visits at different times of the year (with no guide-lines), would be a minimum requirement to assess the many and varied 'management practices', as well as special emphasis on areas such as construction and conservation to name but two, if not already on the agenda. One wonders who is going to weed out dubious aspirants in this all important area, so critical under the present formula, in the establishment of a true professional.

Further, I consider Stage Two to be particularly important at the present time as we still have a dearth of good course managers who are not only skilled in the art of greenkeeping but adept in the science of fine turf production, notwithstanding the crop of mainly younger greenkeepers who are 'grasping the nettle' – may their numbers continue to multiply. The mere fact that the single assessment is 'during the season of growth', does tend to impart the feeling that perhaps course preparation and presentation is the main aspect of on-course examination and not, as it should be, botanical composition!

Professional status surely cannot be applied unless quality golfing turf, which by definition dictates that it is largely composed of fine true perennial turf species (i.e. the fine fescue and or bent grasses) is offered, especially on putting surfaces whereby the true potential of a given site is realised or is being effectively managed towards this goal. This represents professionalism, requiring infinitely more skill than the mere, relatively simple, aspect of course presentation.

I well remember from some years back Jim Arthur's poignant

description, when he said, "Greenkeeping is essentially about botany and men". Meticulous preparation and presentation techniques are to no avail if botanical composition is ignored! Yes, we have to present a product – the golf course – to the paying customer, but it has to represent real value, not a wolf in sheep's clothing!

Many players are fooled by higher standards of presentation in evidence on most courses nowadays and often put aside the poor playing surfaces suffered, sometimes for as long as seven months of the year, as soon as summer growth permits meadow grass swards to appear acceptable. Comments passed with genuine intent, such as, 'the greens are coming on nicely now' abound up and down the country at this time, but unfortunately this false flattery more often than not bears no relation to the stark reality of the situation. You can only fool some of the people all of the time, and if the day ever comes when you can't fool any of the people at all a lot of other people are going to be found wanting.

I foresee a real danger of greenkeeping moving into the next millennium with the alarming situation of a succession of candidates in possession of a Master Greenkeeper Certificate yet actively managing, albeit well presented, *Poa annua* dominated turf, although perhaps 'going through the motions' of change to golfing turf but with little real commitment and purpose, probably fuelled by a lack of the required understanding to achieve the correct progression. What a hollow, totally meaningless qualification it would be if my fears materialise and indeed completely contrary to all publications and worthy professional advice from authorities in the game. I hope BIGGA sincerely wish to follow 'the professional way forward' and perhaps the executive director can allay my concern by confirming BIGGA policy with reference to Stage Two and publish at the same time the aspects of management constituting the 'guidelines', together with corresponding rating or 'scoring' and what safeguards, if any, are in place. I presume progression to Stage Three is not possible unless candidates are successful in Stage Two.

In closing, it is my opinion that a British Golf Course Standards publication is overdue, by which courses can be classified and given a rating relative to what they offer the paying customer, and although this may not be a direct responsibility of the Association I do think they should have an active involvement. This may just stir lower rated golf club administrations into much needed action and course investment. Equally essential is an in depth practical and administrative manual relating to golf course management and development  
**J S Philp, Links Superintendent, Carnoustie Golf Links Management Committee, Carnoustie, Angus, Scotland.**

## Neil Thomas says:

I am delighted to respond to John's comments and hopefully allay his concerns particularly with regard to Stage Two of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Progress to Stage Three is not possible until Stage Two has been successfully completed. Stage Two is therefore a very important aspect of the MGC and John's letter presents a timely opportunity for members generally to be made aware of just what is involved.

John touches briefly on Stages One and Three, as the main thrust of his concern relates to Stage Two and I will respond briefly on those stages. Knowledge, qualifications and experience are integral parts of the certification scheme and should not in any way be under-valued. The Association's efforts over the last five years have concentrated on improving the educa-

# In search of a

tion and training available to greenkeepers, particularly through the 'approved colleges'. Today there is much evidence of greater co-operation with the colleges and of improved standards of both theoretical and practical training. The certification scheme from the outset has emphasised the need for education to be ongoing and continuing education was built into the scheme. Experience is another vital ingredient – many of our up and coming young greenkeepers need and will continue to need the wise counsel of these years.

Those points having been made I would agree that acquired knowledge and relevant qualifications do not guarantee professional skill. Certainly not every successful individual will put into practice in later years what he has learnt. Clearly the certification scheme had to ensure that sound use was being made of the knowledge gained and this could only be done at the place of work. The golf course visit is a vital part of the MGC and therefore necessitated very careful planning about how best to carry this out in a fair and meaningful way. Three or four unannounced visits at different times of the year would have presented practical and financial difficulties of some consequence, before considering the Club's reaction to such visits. The Master Greenkeeper working party determined that a planned, well-structured visit would eliminate as far as possible the subjective judgements which are always likely to reduce fairness.

It needs to be understood that the golf course assessors have been trained and are sufficiently experienced to recognise the difference between good preparation and presentation and the fundamental composition of the turf. I would suggest to John that to make composition of the turf the sole method of assessment is to take a very narrow view. The visit is also to determine the ability of the candidate to organise, to plan and to assess progress in the implementation of an agreed programme. It looks at relationships at the place of work and also examines the candidate's abilities as an initiator. Would it not therefore be inherently unfair to mark down or fail a candidate who has *Poa annua* on his greens when it may well be that he inherited a problem and is in any event seeking to reduce it as part of a planned programme?

I am happy to detail criteria applying for Stage Two within the nine relevant sections. Each area of assessment within a section is marked on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 excellent. Each section has a set pass mark. Within each section any area of assessment marked 3 or less is the subject of further consideration to ensure overall fairness to the candidate. The nine sections are as follows:

**SECTION 1 – PRESENTATION OF THE COURSE:** Presentation involves accuracy and tidiness of maintenance, siting, condition and playability of the whole area. It covers greens, tees, fairways, semi-rough, rough, bunkers, surrounds, pathways, furniture, hazards and clubhouse area.

**SECTION 2 – STAFF ORGANISATION:** In staff organisation the assessors should be looking for general attitude to work: from the golfers viewpoint, dress, welfare, accommodation and training programmes on and off site. This will require questions relevant to the adequacy of accommodation for working, dining and the general attitude to safety at work.

**SECTION 3 – ORGANISATION OF SHEDS:** Assessors should be concerned with general tidiness (not daily dirt), compliance with appropriate safety regulations regarding storage of tools and equipment, also the current state of repairs of building.

**SECTION 4 – BUDGET MANAGEMENT:** The wide range of vari-

ation and responsibility should be recognised in this section, but the least to be expected is that the budget has been prepared by the course manager as the basis for management discussion. The important elements are therefore responsibility for the budget within members (committee) limits. Lack of direct involvement with setting or servicing a budget by whatever means should be regarded as a disqualification.

**SECTION 5 – RECORD AND STOCK CONTROL:** In this area it is expected that all records required as a result of legislation are covered adequately. However, other records are necessary for achieving an adequate level of management. Accessibility of records to other staff should be taken into account where appropriate and therefore relevant questions should be asked. Diary, machine maintenance, stock inventory and chemical log are all important elements.

**SECTION 6 – MANAGEMENT PARTICIPATION:** In this area a course manager should play a major role in the decision making process of the club with regards the golf course. It is essential therefore that the relationship to management, the role within the committee and the ability/opportunity to submit reports and support them, are considered. Questions regarding the exact role of the course manager are therefore appropriate.

**SECTION 7 – COURSE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:** In this area the candidate is expected to have recognised potential problems and to have drawn up a programme to correct or rectify them. This may involve a long term maintenance programme or a construction programme. Assessors will be expected to determine the relationship between the course manager's programme and the plans of the Club management committee, as well as the methods used in drawing it up. It is assumed that contractors providing relevant assistance would be brought in as required.

**SECTION 8 – MACHINE AND IRRIGATION:** Assessors should be looking for a planned replacement and maintenance programme. The course manager's influence in this is important. Also the operative condition of equipment should be considered, coupled with questions directed to seeking explanations for what is found.

**SECTION 9 – GOLF:** An ability to play golf is desirable, including a detailed knowledge of the requirements of golfers of varying standards. Questions should be directed towards relevant rules and surface requirements where playing abilities are irrelevant.

As a final comment, may I say how much I welcome John's thought-provoking observations, which remind all concerned of the importance of an ongoing assessment of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate Scheme. As I have said on many occasions, this is not an easy award to obtain – were it to be so the Scheme would be fundamentally flawed and devalued. It is designed to find the 'master' rather than a good course manager. Members can rest assured that BIGGA and the working party will continue to ensure that the Scheme is equitable for its members and the industry as a whole. It remains my belief that the education and training programmes now in place and those being planned, particularly the introduction of HND courses in golf greenkeeping this coming September, coupled with the Master Greenkeeper Certificate Scheme, will accomplish full professional recognition for greenkeeping and a real status for golf course managers in the years ahead.

Neil Thomas, Executive Director, BIGGA.



Neil Thomas

# true 'Master'

# Living the American dream

Nothing could quite prepare me for my journey from Silloth on Solway to the far side of the Atlantic Ocean and my visit to the University of Massachusetts, this as part of my organised Toro tour. After a 21 hour journey which culminated at the Spruce Motel, I was in trepidation for what might be waiting in the weeks ahead but need not have worried, for within minutes of my arrival the telephone rang and I was offered a ride to the university, a touch of hospitality that I discovered was by no means unique – Americans are so very friendly.

The motel room assigned to me was so huge I gladly shared it with Phillip Miller, a superintendent from Indian Lake Hills in Michigan, and I was soon to discover he was something of a film star, having played a 'bit' part in the film *Lethal Weapon II*. Once at the university we were joined by other students for a two-hour induction period, immediately followed by a plunge in at the deep-end as we began the intensive 11 subject course, involving a full range of golf course management skills. These included entomology; diseases; irrigation; machinery maintenance; soils and fertilisers; turf management; trees and shrubs; personnel management; golf course design; physiology and turfgrass calculations.

As one might expect, the course content was first rate, though highly intensive and with much to absorb in a short time. My favourite subject was Irrigation System Design, which proved an eye-opener, as prior to visiting America I had mistakenly thought that irrigation was just a matter of putting in a few pipes with some sprinklers at the end and away we go! Not so, as I soon learned, and I was very impressed at being taught by the man who wrote our learning manual – Professor Pira.

Golf Course Design was another favourite, made doubly interesting by the enthusiasm shown by our lecturer, Brian Silva, and spiced with a wide range of topics that made learning far more interesting than just gleaning facts from books. Brian was most gracious in his willingness to reveal all – not only his successes but also his mistakes in design.

Turfgrass Calculations were fun and more than just a little useful, though it was confusing for me to return to Imperial measurements, and the lecture on Turf Management by Dr Cooper was made fascinating by the inevitable discussions which arose thereafter.

With two weeks remaining, I decided to take the week-end off and visit the GCSAA Show in New Orleans, though on arrival I discovered the show didn't start until the day I was to leave! What was to have been a great experience turned out to be the low-point in my trip, though I now had added time to explore the city. Down by the River Mississippi and the river-walk was nice, with the French Quarter – especially Bourbon Street – having to be seen to be believed.

Following two days of sightseeing it was back to the University of Massachusetts for a



BRIAN STORY,  
Toro Student  
Greenkeeper of the Year,  
reports on his  
experience of two  
months in America as  
part of his  
winner's award – from  
high-powered university  
lectures, to sharing a  
motel room with  
a film star...

further week before travelling to Bermuda to visit a friend, Tim Carr, who had gone there to become a policeman. It was a fun week-end, and he even managed to get me entered in a competition at the exclusive Mid-Ocean course. I also played at Castle Harbour, much impressed by the fantastic weather and temperatures of 65° in mid-February! Leaving Bermuda came as a body shock, as I returned to Massachusetts at -12° for the last week at college.

A grand dinner was a fitting end to our course, enriched by the receipt of our well-earned certificates. This was also time to say goodbye to many good friends and to enjoy two final days of reflection on all that had been achieved at the college – a tinge of sadness at its ending.

Now on to Toro headquarters at Minneapolis, marred by weather that was simply too bad to get us to the assembly plant, though we did enjoy a tour of the prototype/testing areas. I say we, because I was shown around by Barry Beckett, along with Dennis Schmidt, a superintendent at the Sun City Complex in South Africa. After a couple of days 'living it up' in the Embassy Suites Hotel it was onward again, this time for a week at Toro's Irrigation Division HQ at Riverside California. I was met at the airport by Veronica Smith, who showed me to my rental car, experience of which was an eye-opener – not only for the drive on the right problem but the lack of warning before junctions – tough stuff this bumper-to-bumper driving!

The weather was kind once again and I spent my first day sunbathing by the pool.

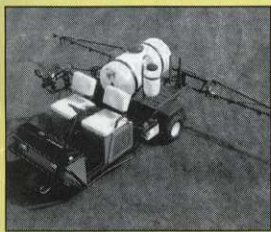
John Skidgle had organised a game of golf at the PGA West course at Palm Springs and we played with the superintendent – who informed me that he had 69 men employed on 36 holes! I am inclined to think that is the main difference in golf course management on the two sides of the Atlantic, with money no problem and superintendents commanding far greater respect than in the UK. The PGA course was fantastic, with views of the snow-capped Californian mountains and 70° of sunshine. I saw Bruce Forsyth outside the clubhouse and said to John Skidgle, 'Look – there's Bruce Forsyth!' His reply – 'Who is he?'

Next day I met Bob Symonds, who showed me around the Toro irrigation plant, followed by a trip with him to Orange County for the weekend. As a seal of excellence I was able to visit Disneyland on the penultimate day, with a splendid Mexican dinner enjoyed with Bob and his wife Amara capping an unbelievable trip. Of course, there had to be one more surprise – a personal limousine from the motel direct to LA Airport, leaving only a 26 hour journey to bring me back to Britain and reality.

There are so many people to thank and the hospitality of everyone in America was of the highest order. In singling out just one, the biggest of thanks must be to my sponsors, Toro, for such excellence – I hope many more greenkeepers will enjoy the benefits this award allows. Finally a big thank you to my Club, Silloth on Solway Golf Club, for granting me eight weeks off during their busy centenary year.

■ Brian Story is the course manager at Silloth on Solway Golf Club in Cumbria.

# TRADE TOPICS



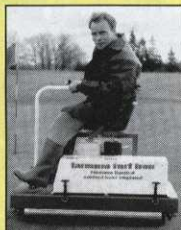
■ Hardi Ltd, already active in the amenity and local authority spraying equipment field, has announced the formation of a new 'Green Care' Division

containing machines and specialist back up support for Hardi sprayers that are appropriate for the amenity market

Examples are the Hardi BL mounted sprayers and the PS demount model, which fits Cushman and similar power units. There are also the well known Hardi knapsack and KS and TR wheelbarrow and power types for use around buildings, parks, etc, and machines designed for pick-up mounting and for use with ATVs.

■ T. Parker & Sons and Roffey Brothers Ltd. have launched the new Parker liquid fertilisers and turf feeds. Parker Turfmaster is a foliar feed and stimulant based on fermented seaweed with good levels of nitrogen, potash and sulphur designed to increase the density of a fine fescue/bent sward and to encourage the breakdown of thatch. Parker liquid fertilisers offer a range of high analysis nutrients for use on lighter soils where leaching of nutrients can cause environmental problems or where pressure of play precludes the application of more traditional fertilisers. Available as liquids in N; NK or NPK, the fertilisers are easy to apply through standard spraying equipment. Tel: (Parkers) 081 337 7791 (Roffey Bros) 0202 537777

■ Watermation have introduced a new tensiometer – the Hydrovisor – which is buried in the ground close to the solenoid operating the sprinkler. It is designed to work along with the TW2 irrigation controller causing the irrigation to 'skip' an area should moisture retention be sufficient at root level. To draw water from the soil plants must use suction. The amount of suction the plant must use is determined by how tightly the water is being held by the soil. As the plant pulls the water from the soil the remaining water adheres to the soil particles with increasing force. As a result, the suction required to remove it also increases. This force is called the soil matric potential (also referred to as soil tension, root stress or soil suc-



■ With growing interest in the Turf Iron, Farmura have appointed three dealers: Ernest Doe & Son in Essex, (0245-380311); Bedfordia in Bedfordshire, (02302-6262) and Aitkens Sportsturf in Scotland, (041-4400033). The appointments are for both golf and bowling machines.

Turf Irons are proving highly successful at increasing green speed, bringing back surfaces following mechanical work and allowing a higher cut, thus reducing stress.

tion) and it provides a direct measurement of water availability to the plant.

Hydrovisor reacts to these changes in the soil matric potential or soil tension, not the percentage of soil moisture. Different soils require different irrigation ranges so Watermation's Hydrovisor is available in three grades to suit various types of soil, ie. sandy soils and containers, normal soil and clay soil. It is the first and only solid state, maintenance free, tensiometer and can to provide water/energy savings levels of up to 60%.

■ Barenbrug UK has produced leaflets to cover its BAR range of grass seed mixtures. The BAR range has been specifically formulated to meet the professional standards required for golf courses, parks, lawns and turf production, chosen from Barenbrug's own wide range of high performance grass varieties, many of which are recommended at, or near, the top of STRI turfgrass lists. A separate leaflet covers each of these areas, giving colourful pictures to identify the end use for the mixtures. The characteristics of each variety within the different BAR grass seed mixtures are clearly explained, showing how these will blend together to form a mixture that suits a particular amenity need. Leaflets are free. Tel: 0359 70766.

■ Jacobsen have appointed Henry H Sheach as their distributor for Scotland. Based at Kirkcaldy in Fife, the company is now responsible for the sales, service and parts support of the complete Jacobsen range of mowers, aeration equipment and turf utility vehicles. Henry Sheach has over 40 years experience of the professional turf market and, apart from the new Jacobsen franchise, already holds dealerships for Agria, Bomford Turner and Scag.

■ Dennis Groundcare have taken on eight new dealers, with coverage extending to Scotland for the first time. They are: Cowies Eastern Tractors Ltd. – Essex, Suffolk, NE London. Mitchells Industries Ltd – Midlands, SW Yorkshire. Leppard Engineering – N Kent, SE London. Turf Equip. – E & W Sussex. Major Owen Ltd – N Wales, Wirral. H Mackintosh Ltd – Tayside. Geo Henderson Ltd – Central Scotland, Edinburgh. Lloyd Ltd – Cumbria, Dumfries and Galloway.

# VERTIDRAIN HIRE

## CALL THE EXPERTS

Call Lisa Pierson  
NOW for immediate  
and autumn vertidrain  
treatments



- RUGBY PITCHES
- BOWLING GREENS
- HOCKEY PITCHES
- CRICKET SQUARES
- CROQUET LAWNS
- FOOTBALL PITCHES
- GOLF FAIRWAYS
- GOLF TEES
- GOLF GREENS



### Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) Limited

GOLF COURSE AND LANDSCAPE SPECIALIST

HOMESTEAD FARM, RINGWOOD ROAD, THREE LEGGED CROSS, WIMBOURNE, DORSET. BH21 6QY

Tel: Verwood (0202) 822372, 824906 & 825979 Fax: (0202) 826447

Member British Association of Golf Course Constructors  
Member Golf Course Builders of America

AD REF 40

# Attending the IOG sports, leisure and amenity exhibition puts the facts and the products at your fingertips...

EAST OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND, PETERBOROUGH



If you're involved in the management, care or maintenance of sports grounds, playing fields, leisure or amenity facilities then there is no better opportunity to see over 400 exhibitors than at the IOG's 47th trade exhibition.

Held at the East of England Showground, Peterborough, the show covers more than 26,000 sq m, including 7,000 sq m of demonstration area, and is the only truly representative show of its kind.

All the latest developments and advances in sports and leisure management will be on display, giving visitors the chance to see more equipment, products and services during a single visit, than by any other means.

Organised by:

The Institute of Groundsmanship, 19-23 Church Street, The Agora, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, MK12 5LG

Telephone: 0908 312511 Fax: 0908 311140

## YOUR BEST OPPORTUNITY TO SEE NEW PRODUCTS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN:

- Advisory services
- Arboriculture
- Agrochemicals
- Buildings
- Composts and fertilisers
- Education
- Engines and motors
- Environmental care and protection
- Excavators
- Fences and paving
- Grasscutting
- Irrigation
- Outdoor furniture
- Plant and machinery
- Plants and shrubs
- Play equipment
- Protective clothing
- Safety and security
- Seeds
- Sports goods
- Surfaces, artificial and safety
- Technical publications and journals
- Waste disposal and much much more



AD  
REF  
365



The Institute  
of Groundsmanship

# GOLF CONSTRUCTION XXIV

In a world of constant change, it's refreshing to know that sometimes things are best left alone. Members of the **British Association of Golf Course Constructors** know just when to leave things unchanged, or when change is required or becomes inevitable, just how to go about it with an eye to detail and a truly professional approach. After all, why change what has become a successful formula established over many years based on the unique and wide ranging experience of our XXIV member companies.

If you're in need of a company with a proven track record of building fine golf courses, contact the **BAGCC:**

**Tim Banks, The Secretary,  
2 Angel Court, Dairy Yard,  
Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7NL  
Tel: (0858) 464346 and 433003. Fax: (0858) 434734**



AD  
REF  
185



# AROUND THE GREEN

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

## SOUTHERN IRELAND

Due to airline re-scheduling, my time at Hermitage Golf Club for the Southern Ireland Iseki competition was very short. However, in the time that I was there the sun shone over the magnificent picturesque course in beautiful condition under the care of head greenkeeper, Jim Byrne. My thanks to Chris Nolan for the taxi ride.

Twenty-nine greenkeepers took part in the competition and the results are as follows:

Category 1- Handicap 0-9 inc.

1st Tony Burke nett 73, 2nd Ian Richie nett 74, 3rd Ollie English nett 74.

Category 2 - Handicap 10-18 inc

1st Joe Flaherty nett 70, 2nd Jim Byrne nett 70, 3rd Tom Bagnal nett 73

Category 3 - Handicap 19-28 inc

1st David Casbourne nett 77, 2nd Chris Nolan nett 80, 3rd Brendan Harmon nett 86.

We all look forward to seeing the team at Coventry Golf Club for the final on 24th September.

DEBBIE SAVAGE

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Unfortunately, (*writes Debbie Savage*) due to fog, Leeds/Bradford Airport was closed and my journey to Lurgan Golf Club was aborted. Luckily David White was also due at Lurgan as part his recent trip to Eire and Northern Ireland so the reporting is up to him as follows:

Like Debbie, my flight was also delayed, though due more to the monster car park known as the M25 than fog! I arrived in Lurgan some hours late and was dismayed on asking directions to be told that a bomb had gone off in Lurgan centre and all traffic was diverted around the town - my informant, bless his devious heart, failed to let on that the bomb had exploded months previously, though it did leave me with heart in mouth for a wee while!

I was not too late to see at least some of the splendid golf being played over a pretty and lush parkland course, thought it was a pity I had no time to acquaint myself with all those who were locked in combat. Looking through the lens of a camera, however, I could pick out the skillful players and was most impressed with the style and performance of Patrick Devine, who shot a mean 74 gross over a tight and demanding track. Those Northern Ireland guys certainly know how to enjoy themselves too, and I was regally plied with Old Bushmills and Guinness!

Thanks to them all for a splendid day. The results are as follows:

Category 1- Handicap 0-9 inc

1st Patrick Devine nett 68, 2nd Michael O'Neill nett 73, 3rd Laurence McCusker nett 73

Category 2 - Handicap 10-18 inc

1st Jonathan Eager nett 68, 2nd Davy Eagar nett 69, 3rd James Kane nett 70



Patrick Devine

Category 3 - Handicap 19-28 inc

1st Raymond McMath nett 71, 2nd Paul McBlane nett 73, 3rd Hugh McLaughlin nett 85.

Like Debbie, I shall look forward to seeing the victors at Coventry GC, which I'm sure all will all enjoy immensely.

DAVID WHITE

## EAST OF ENGLAND

Our first tournament of the season was held in the 'Soak of Peterborough' and a 'wee soak' is what we experienced. However, the weather did not spoil the friendly welcome we received at this municipal course, the first our section has played.

Orton Meadows Municipal course is run on a franchise by professional golfers, Dennis and Roger Filton and maintained by David Walden, the course manager. It was David who welcomed us and I must thank him most sincerely for making all the arrangements.

The Peterborough Machinery Trophy was donated by Alistair Brown, who also joined us for our dinner and presentation. The main prize was given by Jacobsen and many more excellent prizes were received by our many trade friends - some of whom travelled many miles to deliver the prizes - thank you, gentlemen!

Orton Meadows course is built in two very different halves. The long half, which played around a lake, was a real test in the wind and the back nine was one where tee shots had to be well placed to gain advantage. With tees well back - nearly on to the busy A1 - it was not surprising that a local man, Graeme MacDonald, won with a splendid 35 points to beat Gilbert Ogden of Stoke Rochford, with Michael Wood of Thorpe Wood in third place.

I should like to place on record my thanks to BIGGA for making sure the wives who attended the recent conference at Cirencester had a superb time. Three members from our section took their wives along and they are now all looking forward to next year's meeting.

COLIN SWINGLER



## NORTH SCOTLAND

The section's Spring Outing to Montrose GC was a great success, despite the windy weather. The course was in first class order, which would have been reflected in the scores had it not been for the gale force wind blowing, warm though it was. Nevertheless we were well looked after, with 74 members, trade and guests participating, 69 of them playing golf. Our thanks to the catering staff in the Caledonian clubhouse.

The results were: Scratch - 1st R Patterson 79 (b.i.h.) 2nd G Hampton 80. Handicap Class 1 - 1st I A Macleod 79-3=76. 2nd George Mitchell 81-4=77. 3rd A Dempster 83-5=78. Class 2 - 1st B Taylor 85-8=77. 2nd A Strachan 86-7=79. 3rd S McBain 88-9=79. Class 3 - 1st T Simpson 93-20=73. 2nd S Frost 96-20=76. 3rd S Donald 94-17=77. Unofficial and booby shared by K Wood and R Allan. Trade P Allan 78-5=73. Apprentice B Cameron 89-9=80. Veteran A Grant 86-8=78. Guest W Donald 93-6=87. Nearest the pin - R Patterson.

The day rounded off with the usual raffle and the first of our 200 Club draw, the winners being: Jan - £30 C Cumming, 16 Gollanhead Ave. Rose-

markie. Feb - £30 M Hampton, Balghulan Cott. Pitlochry PH16 5QT. March - £40 J Hamilton 15 Crown St. Inverness. April - £100 J Lawson, Letham Grange Farm, Colliston by Arbroath DD11 4RL.

Man on the move is Andy Robertson, who in June moved from Thurso to become first assistant at Sunningdale in Berkshire. We wish him all the best and promise to forward his money if he gets lucky in the 200 Club.

Congratulations to Steven Macintosh, first assistant at Muir of Ord, who won the North District Championships at Elgin by 6 strokes with a one under par total of 137. Fellow greenkeepers who also performed well were Mike Wilson of Kingussie with 145 and George Paterson of Fortrose with 146.

Well done to Steven Frost (Royal Aberdeen) and Derek Anthony (Duff House Royal) on qualifying for the Scottish team in the ISEKI finals to be staged in Coventry in September. Robert Allan Hazelhead is first reserve in class three.

Finally, the winner of a BIGGA blazer in the free members raffle at the Spring Outing was Donny Dingwall from Contin, near Strathpeffer. We hope to run a similar draw at our Autumn Outing.

IAIN MACLEOD

## SOUTH WEST

Summer is here, the sun is shining, birds are singing, golfers are moaning, the greens mower is on the blink and the hosepipe ban is looming. Apart from that everything's fine.

The historic Westonbirt School was the venue for the ever-popular John Ireland Greensomes Competition at the end of May. Urbane thanks to the Westonbirt Bursar, John Watts, for yet again closing the course for the afternoon to allow us to play. All 52 competitors enjoyed the short course, the quality of which was reflected in the low scoring. Interestingly, the competition, which involves a greenkeeper paired with an amateur partner, was won for the second year running by brothers: Division 1 (0-18) Ist. J. & M. Leigh (Henbury G.C.) 75-18=57. 2nd. L. Johnson & R. Hodgson (Saltford G.C.) 81-18= 63. 3rd. C. Tozer & D Rendell (Bridport G.C.) 74-10= 64. Division 2 (19-28) 1st P Baynton & S Wilson (Long Ashton) 86-27=59. 2nd M Gray & P King (Clevedon) 80-19.5=60.5. 3rd A Johnson & R Stubbs (Saltford) 87-23=64. Best front nine- D Neale & W Jones 35. Best back nine - T Roberts & C Middleton 30. Two's - J Cooper & I May. J & M Leigh.

Many thanks to all the staff at Westonbirt for preparing the course, the landlord and his wife at the Old Royal Ship for the excellent meal, and Avoncrop and Roffey Bros. for their donations to our prize table.

Congratulations to Laurence Pithie, our Master Greenkeeper, on his forthcoming move to Candoval Holdings, where he is to become the adviser/agronomist to their some ten projects in the South East. Laurie is to oversee the courses right from the pre-construction stage to the day-to-day maintenance when they are up & running - quite a challenge. We wish him all the best.

Section membership now stands at 150, a far cry from the 56 on the books when BIGGA started in 1987. There is still room for more however, so do make every effort to convince any greenkeeper



TURFTRAK 4-23D



HYDRAULIC 5/7



MOTOR 350D



CUSHMAN TOP DRESSER



T-33D RIDER ROTARY



MOTOR 180D



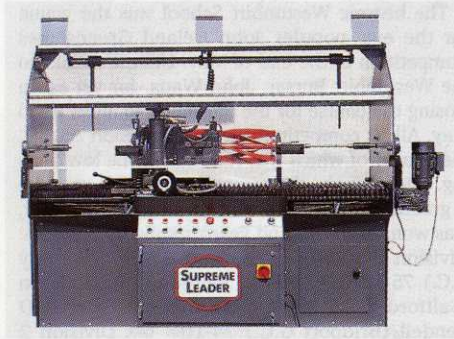
RYAN DGA30-06 AERATOR



GT CLASSIC



TURF SWEEPER



SUPREME GRINDERS



GREENSPRO

220 M28-4WD



RANSOMES - no one offers you a wider range of turf care machinery. We manufacture machinery to match a precise application. That's why it does a better job, more efficiently and more cost effectively. For mowing a fine lawn or cutting a large park there's a RANSOMES machine to fit the task. If you're maintaining fine greens there are aerators, spikers and top dressers too. There's even a range of cylinder grinders to maintain a fine edge. Check out RANSOMES first - you will be amazed how we can meet your needs exactly.

**RANSOMES**

**TOTAL TURF CARE**  
FOR THE PROFESSIONAL



Ransomes Sims & Jefferies Ltd, Ransomes Way, Ipswich IP3 9QG, England. Tel: (0473) 270000 Fax: (0473) 270032