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MAY 1992



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GREENKEEPER

International

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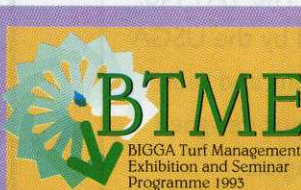
"Over the past year Greenkeeper International has proved to be a popular publication and a very effective magazine concerning response to advertising we placed in it. We will be more than happy to use it even more extensively during 1992."

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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

Launched by Viscount Whitelaw at BTME 1992, the Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 03473 581.

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■ Woodbridge Golf Club, which celebrates its centenary in 1993, is renowned as one of the best golf Clubs in East Anglia with all areas of the golf course having been kept in a top class condition over the decades. This excellent condition is largely due to head greenkeeper Lynn Arbon and his staff. Lynn celebrated 25 years of service with Woodbridge Golf Club and, as our picture shows, was presented with gifts from Ransomes managing director, Eric McCoy, at a recent ceremony.

Woodbridge Golf Club, spiritual home

of the Ransomes International Greenkeepers Tournament, has been a good training ground for greenkeepers from abroad, and Ransomes have on many occasions had good reason to call on Lynn to meet greenkeepers at Woodbridge whilst they were visiting Ransomes plant from places such as Finland, Belgium and as far away as the United States and Japan.

Lynn Arbon is a well known figure at Woodbridge Golf Club, though he tends to keep a low profile and just gets on with the job he knows best. The state of his course is testimony to his expertise.

■ Barenbrug UK has appointed new distributors for its Bar range of amenity grass seed mixtures to cater for increasing demand and to provide high quality seed backed by technical expertise and service.

Avoncrop Amenity Products, Bristol, will cover the South

West; Collier Turf Care of Norwich will supply the East; Aitken Sportsturf of York will look after the North; Aitken (Seedsmen) of Glasgow will distribute through Scotland; and Lindsay Professional Sportsturf of Belfast will cover Northern Ireland.

The Bar range of 15 mixes provides for all professional amenity requirements, with emphasis on golf courses. Barenbrug UK is a subsidiary of Barenbrug Holdings in the Netherlands, one of Europe's largest grass seed companies.

■ Rolawn of York report of theft of their newly laid turf during the night. The new turf is obviously just too tempting. The thefts intrigued the national press, who resorted to such headlines as "Haul in one" (Daily Star) after 200 square yards was stolen from new greens at the Dewsbury and District Golf Course.

Gary Rawlinson, head greenkeeper of Heworth Golf Course was interviewed on local radio and TV after 50 square yards were stolen from his newly laid 5th tee. His new remedy was to spray mark the turf with criss-cross white lines hoping to deter would-be turf strippers. "The course is near a main road and houses, so someone must have watched us laying the turf," he said.

At the Dewsbury course, head greenkeeper, Jeremy Eastwood had just completed renovating the 5th and 6th greens with the new big rolls of turf when night-time thieves struck. They lifted 200 square yards and in the process inflicted thousands of pounds of damage to the rest of the course with their vehicles.



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■ The six BIGGA winners selected to play in the BARENBRUG International Golf Trophy event at Nunspeet in Holland are: Jim Lake, Druids Heath GC, Aldridge. Richard Pride, Thorndon Park GC, Ingrave. Barry Holt, Burford GC, Oxon. Richard Creane, Gosforth Park GC, Newcastle upon Tyne. John Philp, Carnoustie, Angus; and Huw Parry, Bristol & Clifton GC, Bristol. These six players will join fellow European amenity turf specialists in the tournament, plus a Dutch tour which includes a visit to Barenbrug's plant breeding centre. Greenkeeper International will publish a photo report and results in June.



■ Greenkeeper International sends good luck wishes to Sunningdale greenkeeper Robert Brewer, who is away to Canada on an extended trip which will include an attempt to obtain a private pilots licence. No doubt the time will soon come when we shall see 'the flying greenkeeper' aloft.

■ The Institute of Groundsmanship, organisers of the IOG Trade Show, have appointed Gene Price Communications (Tel: 081 866 8254) to handle press and PR for the exhibition. Bookings for stand space and all other matters will continue to be handled by the Exhibition Administrator at the IOG, 19-23 Church St., The Agora, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK12 5LG (Tel: 0908 312511) The official catalogue is published by Adam Publishing Ltd. The event is scheduled for September 8-10th and will again be held at Peterborough.

■ Greenkeeper International was saddened to learn of the recent death of Jack Simpson, a past chairman of the BGGA and a member of the executive committee representing the North East. Jack will be remembered with affection as a fine head greenkeeper who served his Club, Ponteland GC, over 50 loyal years. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his widow and family.



■ Southwood GC, Farnborough, Hampshire, were the lucky winners of the Kubota G1900S ride-on mower, worth over £6000, at the annual Kubota Draw organised by the Golf Founda-

tion - a registered charity established in 1952 to promote and develop the game of golf among young people. A record number of 116 Clubs throughout the UK qualified for the Kubota Draw by each raising £200 or more for the Golf Foundation's annual appeal, which raised over £71000 in 1991.



■ A new consultancy service has been launched by Robert Laycock M.Sc., former technical director of Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd., and previously a researcher at the STRI.

The consultancy, TurfGrass Science, offers a full agronomic service to established golf Clubs as well as to courses which are new or under construction. At a time when consultants are as prolific as new courses, where does TurfGrass Science fit in the market? The answer lies in the name: "There is a real need for a new independent scientifically based agronomic service for golf Clubs. There has been a very positive response from prospective clients," says Laycock. TurfGrass Science is able to give impartial authorita-

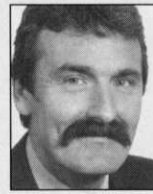
tive advice on all aspects of golf course agronomy. Advisory visits, analyses of soil, sand and plant material are all part of the service, as is the identification of grasses, weeds, pests and diseases.

Laycock has worked with close-mown grass since 1974 and is a Chartered Biologist and a Member of the Institute of Horticulture. Tel: 0759 318680.



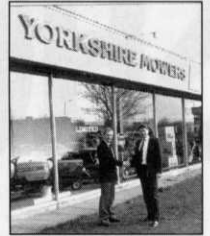
■ Growing Technologies, formerly Rokolene, has announced the appointment of former sales and marketing manager Rob Marriott to the position of commercial director.

■ Chandlers (Farm Equipment) Ltd have been appointed Toro Professional Grass Machinery dealers for Lincolnshire and S. Humberside. Jim Carr has been appointed as Grasscare Manager, Chandlers (Professional Grasscare), the new name under which Chandlers will operate.



■ Irrigation and slurry handling company, Wright Rain Ltd., have announced the appointment of a new managing director. Mike Damen will control the operation of Wright Rain's Sports Turf irrigation business, which is available through four regional branches.

■ Amazone Ground Care - a division of Amazone Ltd - have appointed Richard Tyas as sales demonstrator for the Eastern region. Richard, who lives near Doncaster, was previously with New Holland dealers Platts Harris, involved with their grass care division.



■ Ransomes have appointed Yorkshire Mowers Ltd as sole distributors for their entire range of grass cutting and turf care machinery. Yorkshire Mowers operate from three branches at Hull, Sheffield and Leeds.



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Career-wise, it is probably true for most of us that one person is the guiding influence in deciding our future. That person may be a parent, teacher or friend – or merely a colleague who is in the right place at the right time. More often than not he or she just happens to be around to utter the inspirational words from which ambition is sparked.

It is certainly true of our new national chairman, Roy Kates, who was born in St Mary's Paddington and raised in nearby Hillingdon. Roy lived throughout his childhood and teens next door to a man who was the secretary of Hillingdon Golf Club, a coincidence which could be said to have been his first exposure to golf, no matter how tenuous. As a teenager Roy did most of the things that impecunious 14 year olds are prone to do, including augmenting his pocket money with Saturday jobs. These casual jobs were to influence his life in more ways than one, the dual results being marriage to a girl he had known since early childhood – and a career in green-keeping!

To begin at the beginning, Roy worked weekends as the most humble of extras on the golf course, courtesy of Mr Next-Door Golf Club Secretary, whilst also working for the local dairyman on a busy milk delivery round. It must have occurred to him that early rising and working in God's great outdoors had its good points, and as a bright school pupil the seed of an idea for a career in forestry was beginning to mature. His tutors had other ideas however, and they lobbied hard for him to remain at school and aim for higher honours – 'A' levels and beyond.

The youngster was at the crossroads so to speak and although forestry still gnawed, nothing had been finalised – or indeed even instigated – and with nothing more sinister than a chance conversation with 'Old Bill' in the sheds at Hillingdon, a counter-plot was hatched. The idea was ventured by 'Old Bill' that maybe, just maybe, greenkeeping would offer Roy a splendid career and although he had never considered such work as anything other than his Saturday job, the more he thought about the idea, the more enthusiastic he became. 'Old Bill' had uttered the inspirational suggestion!

Roy didn't believe in doing things by halves, and immediately sought advice on training opportunities from none other than the BGGGA, straight away whizzing off to college to take an IOG course in groundsmanship. At 16 he was an apprentice at Hillingdon, at 17 a rising young lion in his chosen career and at the youthful age of just 19 – with an Intermediate Diploma in Turf Culture tucked under his belt – he became head greenkeeper following the retirement of 'Old Bill'.

Thereafter followed a delightful period as the head man, with Roy making friends with several of the serving officers posted at nearby RAF Uxbridge, who played on his course. One such friend invited Roy to holiday in Germany and again fortune took a hand – with an offer of the job as course manager of the Royal Air Force Germany Golf Club – imagine it, the Boy Wonder was barely 21! Golden opportunities don't come every day and Roy leapt at the chance, the job leading to three happy years in a little piece of Britain tucked in a neutral corner of the Fatherland.

At this point we must back-track to Roy's *other* job, the one at the dairy. Roy had sparked off a



ROY'S THE MAIN MAN

teenage friendship with Tracey, the daughter of his dairy round boss, and although he had known Tracey since early school days, this renewed friendship was to blossom into a full-blooded romance. Tracey had been off to the Antipodes whilst Roy was away in Europe, but we must presume that Cupid's tug was stronger than either the Deutschmark or the Australian dollar, for as Roy returned from Germany, Tracey also returned from Australia and a wedding was soon announced! The second influence meant that Roy's old Saturday job boss was now his father-in-law!

Fresh from Germany, Roy was to spend the next three years at Wyke Green before Lady Luck again took a hand, this time with an advertisement appearing for a 'mature course manager, aged 35-40', for the new pay and play complex at Wexham Park. With tongue in cheek our 26 year old applied and instantly impressed the owner – who offered him the job right away! There was a bonus attraction in that Wexham Park was both a new development and proprietor directed and his new boss knew just how to inspire results. This

came by including a payment-by-results structure – the more green fees, the more Roy's income would increase.

I touched on this unusual reward structure and asked Roy how this affected his thinking with regard to course closures or the instigation of frost green usage. "It completely changed my way of thinking", he said, "I've never believed in pampering the course anyway, it's for people to play on and I can tell you that I've not yet suffered in the spring because play is allowed throughout the winter. I was never in the position where I could go to my boss and say I want the course closed because it's frosty. The way now is that I've changed some of my original ideas and I view pay and play golf in a different and rather special light. With so many people on the course all the time, we have to approach things in a different way anyway. Wexham Park is a purely commercial venture, three courses always on the go every day and indeed every night (with Cyalume light-stick golf!), no matter what".

Wexham Park is not unique, but it is certainly different in being on reclaimed gravel pits. Roy's team have planted 3,000 trees in the past two years and constructed extra holes to make 45 holes in total. The high sand content greens, 100% *Poa annua* in cover species, have stood the test of pay and play conditions and appear more resilient than one might imagine.

Turning to his coming year in office, Roy made the valid point about being backed and supported by his employer and of how vital this was. He further impressed upon me just how important this is for any BIGGA board member who might find himself in a similar position, for without total backing from the incumbent's employer, the job of chairman is rendered impossible. The commitment, he insists, is not just from the individual but rather that of a team effort.

"I'm not from a Wentworth or a Sunningdale", he said, "rather from a Club lower in the pecking order, but with an important part to play in the golf game cycle. I hope that my position at such a tender age might inspire those younger greenkeepers who perhaps think that in order to participate they need to be from a high flying set-up".

Asking Roy about his aspirations for the coming year, he told me that following the well-worn path – further education for his fellow greenkeepers – will again be the 1992 cornerstone for growth. "There's nothing new in wanting a better life and education is opening up those opportunities", he said, continuing, "I'm also drawn to the idea of getting more involved with talking to those who might want to help the cause – prospective Golden Key candidates, for example".

Eleven years of marriage and two daughters – Kimberley and Emma-Jayne are the apples of his eye – finds Roy still as ambitious as ever and he is delighted to have reached another peak by being elevated to 'The Chair'. It is an ambition very much to his liking and he expressed a hope "that I may be as worthy as my illustrious predecessors". Sound sentiments indeed from one of BIGGA's youngest ambassadors. "In 12 months", he concluded, "I hope I can look back with great satisfaction, knowing that the Association is still on the climbing curve and that I may have played a small part in taking us further forward in this crucial year of taking Britain – and that means BIGGA – into Europe."

Pattisson



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Aluminium posts and inset panels have made these colourful new tee plates an attractive addition to the wide range already available, and were well received by the visitors to the Harrogate Exhibition



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Bayco ball washers
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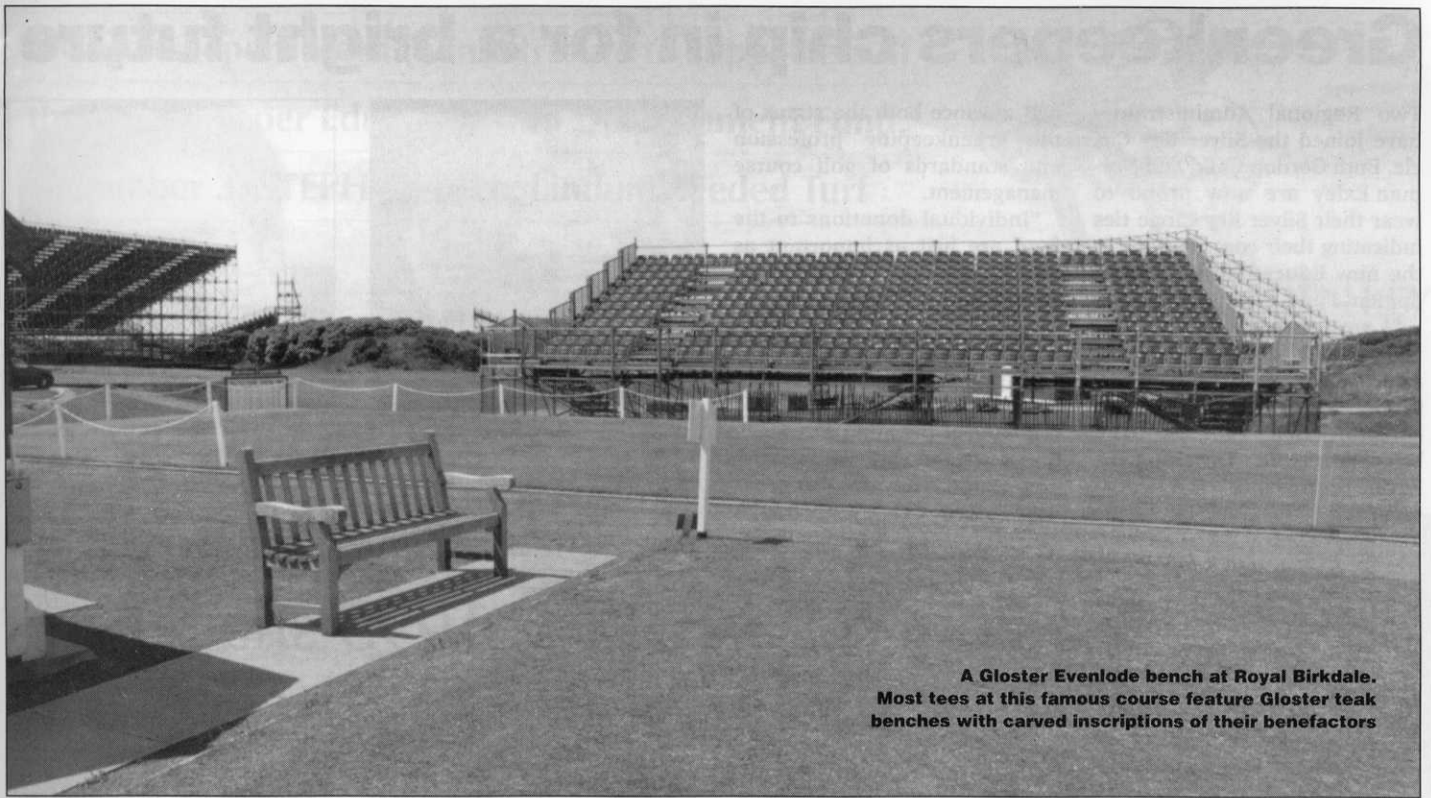
Even if greenkeepers don't actually spend the money, they should be aware of the varied pieces of golf course furniture that's available, in order to offer a valued opinion, points out DAVID WHITE

The average golfer, who will certainly not know his agrostis from his *Poa annua*, is nevertheless an opinionated soul who will judge a golf course, or at least a newly visited golf clubhouse and surrounding practice putting greens and teeing areas, from the first impressions that meet his eyes as he leaves the car park. Thus a poor impression created early in the day will take twice the effort on the course proper in order that the opinion may once more swing in the greenkeeper's favour.

Whilst the head greenkeeper may have no direct control over crazier impulse committee purchases, the clever man will keep a watchful eye on new innovations and ideas and thus be able to

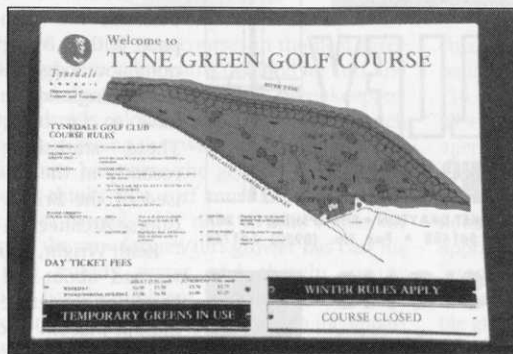
advise his green chairman on what is or isn't worthwhile – for in that way he will have a direct influence on intelligent acquisitions.

Certainly the head greenkeeper will be unable to control the number of those increasingly popular donated memorial benches that are dotted around the course, but wherever possible he should guide the committee into purchasing only teak made furnishings, particularly those made from sustainable plantation stock. There are several companies in the teak furniture business who endorse this environmentally friendly concept, and many of them support BIGGA through using the pages of Greenkeeper International for their advertising.



A Gloster Evenlode bench at Royal Birkdale. Most tees at this famous course feature Gloster teak benches with carved inscriptions of their benefactors

Look sharp



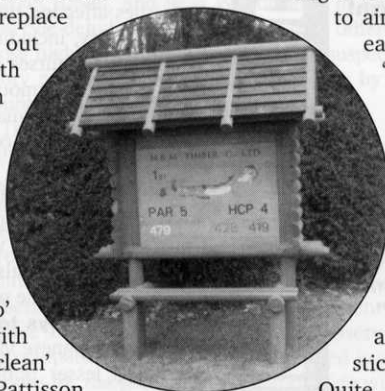
GRP panel signs from Shelley Signs; below, combined bench and sign, from M&M Timber

Turning again to first impressions, whilst some of today's newer golfers are totally unschooled in the art of tidiness and course manners (and I shudder to think what the inside of their houses must look like), it must never be forgotten that litter is less likely to be indiscriminately scattered if receptacles are seen in proliferation around the course – and there are some really handsome designs around that do not intrude upon course aesthetics. Again, look at teak, or at some of the clever cast metal designs, which need no more than a quick wire brush down every five years or so, followed by a quick re-spray.

I make no apology for raising the question of ball washers, if

only to report on vastly improved materials and to praise those Clubs which have had the good sense to replace old, worn out cleaners with more modern and infinitely more practical styles. In particular, I'm much taken with the nifty Canadian 'Bayco' cleaners with their 'twist to clean' action which Pattison & Co are marketing and which, I'm reliably informed, are selling like hot cakes. Around the green, I like Tacit's swivelling

flagpole and appreciate bright, unfaded flags. I also appreciate a bright white cup at which to aim (including the earth rim) and 'Hole-In-White' seems a clever and utterly simple idea. If you want people to know what to do, where to go, or what to expect on any given hole – stick up a sign!



Quite apart from speeding folks up, these bright and attractive signs actually enhance course appearance, though with so many splendid

signs being marketed now it is difficult to highlight just one, or declare a 'best buy'. Signs come in GRP, plastic, natural wood and pressed aluminium and there isn't a maker around who won't design a set of signs especially for your course – they are not necessarily expensive, either.

Finally, crossing a stream or brook can be done in several ways, with the most obvious being the use of railway sleepers – effective no doubt, but not exactly pretty. A touch of real class can be added with the installation of an attractive bridge, and here again the modern manufacturer has made great strides in the past few years. Bridges are rarely stock items and must be properly designed to meet maintenance machinery loading requirements, but the warning here is not to leap at the cheapest quote from the local builder cum timber merchant, rather consider the options available in steel, or the clever Swedish timber designs from Lappsett.

Greenkeepers chip in for a bright future

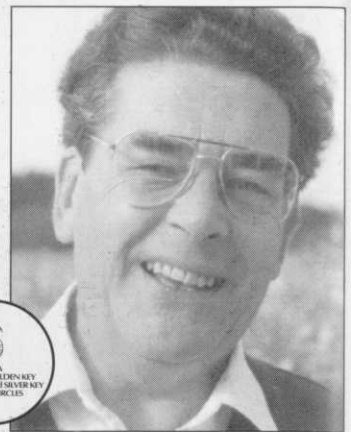
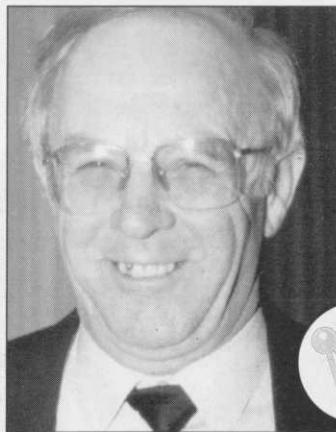
Two Regional Administrators have joined the Silver Key Circle. Both Gordon Child and Norman Exley are now proud to wear their Silver Key Circle ties indicating their contributions to the new Education and Development Fund.

"I am particularly pleased to welcome Gordon and Norman as members of the Silver Key Circle," said BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas. "The Education and Development Fund represents the ideal opportunity for donations, gifts and bequests to be made which

will advance both the status of the greenkeeping profession and standards of golf course management.

"Individual donations to the fund are just as important as those from companies and groups and it is gratifying that our members now wish to contribute to the development of education and training within the profession."

● Details of the Fund and benefits of membership to the Silver and Golden Key Circles from BIGGA HQ, telephone 03473 581/2 or by fax on 03473 8864.



Gordon Child and Norman Exley - new members of the Silver Key Circle

Booking deadline set as BTME 1993 shapes up

Companies exhibiting at this year's successful BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition have until June 1 to confirm the same positions for next year.

New companies and existing exhibitors have expressed keen interest in high profile positions and so a June 1 booking deadline has been set in order that last year's exhibitors occupying the prime sites, can still keep them.

Exhibitions Officer Debbie Savage comments: "With a lot of people waiting for these prime sites, it's only fair that we have this deadline. If companies had a good space this year and they want the same next year, it's imperative they contact me with their booking as soon as possible."

The 1992 BTME was considered throughout the industry as being the best yet. In his welcom-

ing speech, BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw declared that "Greenkeeping has come of age." The Harrogate event attracted thousands of visitors and was held in conjunction with the popular Education Seminar Programme.

The Association believes that since 1989, BTME has established itself as the premier exhibition within the fine turf industries.

Continued development and growth of the event is constantly monitored by BIGGA and the BTME Steering Committee.

Dates for the 1993 BTME are January 20-22. For more information, or a copy of the comprehensive Information Pack, which details all you need to know about prices and stand space, contact Debbie Savage on 03473 581/2 or by fax on 03473 8864.

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an appreciation of what is not always appreciated

The rush to build new golf courses has gathered remarkable pace with 1,890 planning applications now lodged with local authorities in England alone. Of these 735 have so far been given approval. These statistics were revealed recently at the first seminar organised by the British Institute of Golf Course Architects.

Keith Wright, secretary of the EGU, warned about the trend that had "brought the entrepreneur into the market place... and encouraged the opportunist non-expert to enter the field of design, construction and support services".

The seminar, entitled 'The Positive Face of Golf Development' examined key issues affecting the golf development industry, including the number of additional courses that really are needed and the amount of detailed geographical and financial analysis required before a course can be established.

Leading experts in specialised areas of golf development offered frank views on the way the sport must progress and also issued their own warnings on the pitfalls.

Jim Arthur enjoys telling the true story of a Japanese visitor to one of Scotland's lesser publicised golfing gems and on purchasing a green fee. The cost was £60 and the following morning the tourist returned, clutching another £60, declaring the desire to repeat his previous game. 'We

canna tak yer money agin, sir', came the retort, 'yon sixty pounds was for a wee monthly ticket!'

Some weeks ago, writes Paul Worster, I was spraying Spasor Total Kill to eradicate weeds and grass which were threatening to invade a gravel fringe of the putting green at Lilley Brook. Reaching half way round the fringe with the knapsack sprayer I noticed three students deliberately putting off the green into the fringe, and then kicking or throwing the ball back on. I approached the ringleader and asked him to stop, pointing out that any spray residue on the ball was likely to damage the green. This request brought a tirade of sarcasm along the lines of "oh dear, what a tragedy", accompanied by much mirth from his mates.

I was then faced with the choice of either completely losing face, or perhaps aiming a blow to the louts' nose - an awkward situation.

However, in a moment of inspiration I held up my rubber-gloved hands and said, "of course, this particular chemical can cause extreme skin reaction resulting in a bright red rash." At this point the lads' manner changed abruptly, "Oh my God," he screamed, dropping both club and ball as though they were suddenly red hot. He was last seen racing for the showers, leaving his mates, who up until then had been merely tittering, on the ground and helpless with laughter.