



The John Deere 3235 lightweight fairway mower has a 32hp diesel engine and can be equipped with either seven-bladed, 5in reels or eight-bladed, 7in reels. Inset: Powered brush on Allett's Tournament mower now has more coils per inch and uses polyethylene bristles.

CUTTING EDGE



MICHAEL BIRD examines cylinder mower developments

Anyone visiting the IoG Exhibition at Peterborough hoping to compare the merits of triplex-type greens mowers would have been struggling to spend much more than half an hour at the event. With the exception of John Deere, all of the leading manufacturers of such machines had decided to give the show a miss for 1993.

Their reasons ranged from a dislike of the location to the fact that they had little new to exhibit or had better things on which to spend their money. In the first case, at least, the return of the show to Windsor next year should please a number of companies, particularly those hoping for a more international event.

John Deere's managing director, Alec McKee, agreed that the show needed to attract more overseas visitors and the move back to Windsor would help in that respect. "However, we have the situation in the UK where there

are several large events during the year aimed at the grounds maintenance industry," he commented. "All have their slight differences, but they also overlap in many areas. The organisers of each really should get together so that we have just one major show in this country - a truly European event, which could be supported by all companies within the industry."

John Deere's decision to attend Peterborough in 1993 was rewarded by a steady stream of visitors and those on the look out for innovations on the company's stand were not disappointed.

Now available with a diesel engine is the John Deere 2243 greens mower. Introduced "to meet user demand", the machine has a three cylinder 18hp Yanmar engine, rubber mounted in the mower's frame. The engine has been set up to meet Californian emission standards, which are among the toughest in the → 23

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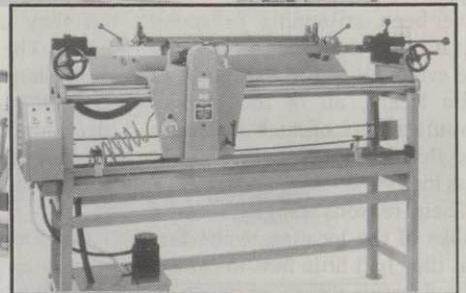
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Suitable for mowing large areas of parkland and sports turf, Ransomes' Commander 3500DX can be equipped with 6, 8 or 11 knife cutting reels



21 → world. The mower has no gearbox. Its transaxle is direct driven from the engine via a two-section hydraulic pump. One section drives the reel motors, the other supplies the steering and cutting units' lift rams. Apart from the 'Diesel' logo, the only visible difference between the petrol and diesel-engined machines is the rear hood which has been raised slightly to accommodate the taller power unit. Available next Spring, the JD 2243 diesel greens mower costs from £12,887.

Two cutting reel options are offered on two new lightweight fairway mowers also launched at the IoG exhibition by John Deere. Labelled the 3215 (25.5hp) and 3235 (32hp), the machines have been designed so that users can select the optimum power output and cutting unit to suit their grass and terrain. The smaller machine is offered only with standard seven-bladed, 5in diameter reels, said to be suitable for any turf type, but particularly the more delicate grasses found in cooler climates. Either the standard units or heavy-duty, eight-bladed, 7in diameter reels, can be specified for the larger JD 3235 fairway mower, the latter being better suited to longer, lusher conditions. Both reel types are 22in wide and feature a patent-applied-for mounting to the rear of the cutting unit. John Deere say that the design maintains a balanced force over the front and rear rollers keeping the cutting unit level and in more solid contact with the turf. Available with

four-wheel drive, fairway groomer and verticut options, the mowers are priced from a little under £21,000.

Although absent from Peterborough, both Toro and Ransomes announced new five-gang ride-on mowers to coincide with the IoG show. The Toro Reelmaster 4500-D is based on the RM 450-D, but

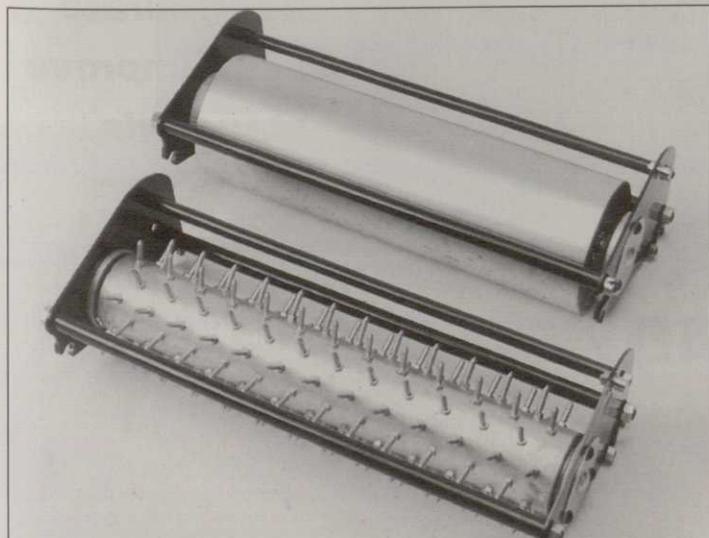
features some important upgrades including a four wheel drive option, a larger capacity engine, a new cooling system and a four post roll-over protection structure, the latter standard on the four-wheel drive mower and optional on two-wheel drive machines. Four-wheel drive is engaged by a switch on the instrument panel and operates in forward mode only. The engine has been changed from the Mitsubishi 4DQ5 (50hp governed down to 40hp) to the latest Mitsubishi 4DQ7, rated at 55hp. This is governed similarly down to 40hp, but the additional power available throughout the speed range will, says Toro, reduce noise levels and help prevent smoking under heavy load. A new water pump, two speed electric cooling fan and larger capacity radiator provide for cooler running, assisted by a new air intake and cooling system, now drawing air from the rear. Available with 5, 7 or 11 bladed reels, the 3.5m (11ft 6in) cut Reelmaster 4500-D costs from £25,725.

Also offering a maximum cut of

3.5m is the new Ransomes Commander 3500DX, a five unit mower suitable for parkland and sports turf. It has full hydrostatic transmission, on-demand four wheel drive and a choice of 6 knife fixed head and 8 or 11 knife floating head cutting unit options. Power comes from a 51hp diesel helping produce a maximum workrate of 3.2ha/hour at 12.5km/hr (8 acres/hr at 7.5mph).

Features designed to improve cutting performance and operator comfort include variable cutting speed reel control, a differential lock, articulating mower wing units for work on slopes, a rubber-mounted operator's platform and fully-enclosed engine compartment. An optional all-weather cab with roll-over protection structure is available for the new Commander 3500DX, which costs from £23,339.

Described as a tees and surrounds mower, the Sabo Roberine C400 from Claymore Grass Machinery offers a number of interesting features which extend its versatility for those looking after a variety of grass conditions and areas. The basic machine resembles a triple greens mower having a rear-mounted 16hp diesel engine, hydrostatic drive, rear wheel power steering and up-front driving position. However, the two front cutting units have hinged rear deflectors which, when raised, allow grass to be discharged direct from the rear of the unit. With the deflectors down, grass can be collected in the normal manner in the optional front grass boxes. On the rear cutting unit, the grass collector fits to the rear of the assembly, removing the need for any deflec-



Latest cassette attachments for the Dennis FT510 mower are a turf roller and a Sorrel surface aerator

CUTTING EDGE

23 ➔ tor. Price of the 1.8m (6ft) cut C400, complete with three-wheel drive, fully-floating 7 bladed reels and de-luxe seat is £12,250. Grassboxes and 5 or 10 bladed reels are optional.

First seen at last year's IoG exhibition, the Green's 20in super-fine pedestrian mower now has a name - Romax. The 10-bladed machine includes a number of detail improvements as a result of testing by selected golf clubs over the past year. Probably the most important is the fitting of an indexing adjuster for bottom blade adjustment, with a quarter turn of the hand wheel giving a thousandth of an inch blade movement. Price of the Green's Romax is from fl,800. Turf combs and transport wheels, yet to be priced, are extra.

Staying with pedestrian mowers, Allett has modified the powered brush on its Tournament 20in greens machine. The fully adjustable brush serves three main purposes: It keeps the front roller free of grass build-up to maintain a consistent height of cut; it brushes the turf, promoting healthy growth; and it helps lift lateral growing and flattened grasses for a complete cut across the full mowing width. Changes to the spiral brush include increasing the number of coils per inch and moving from nylon to polyethylene bristles. The result, according to Roy Allett, is an improved grooming action and extended working life. Price of the Tournament mower is £1,995.

Lloyds of Letchworth is introducing a 24in version of ➔ 27



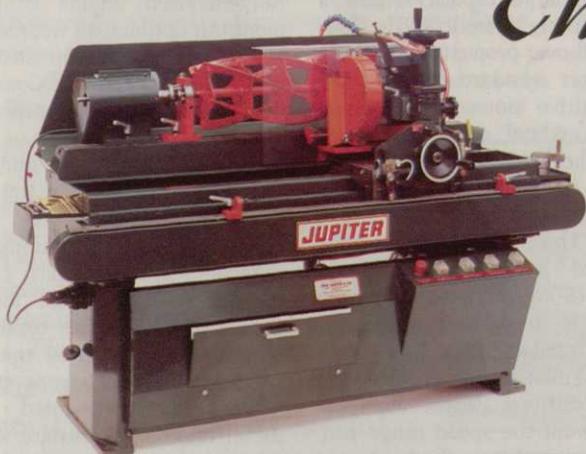
Shortly to be offered with a 10-bladed cylinder, the Masport Olympic 500 combines a 'no-frills' design with an economical purchase price



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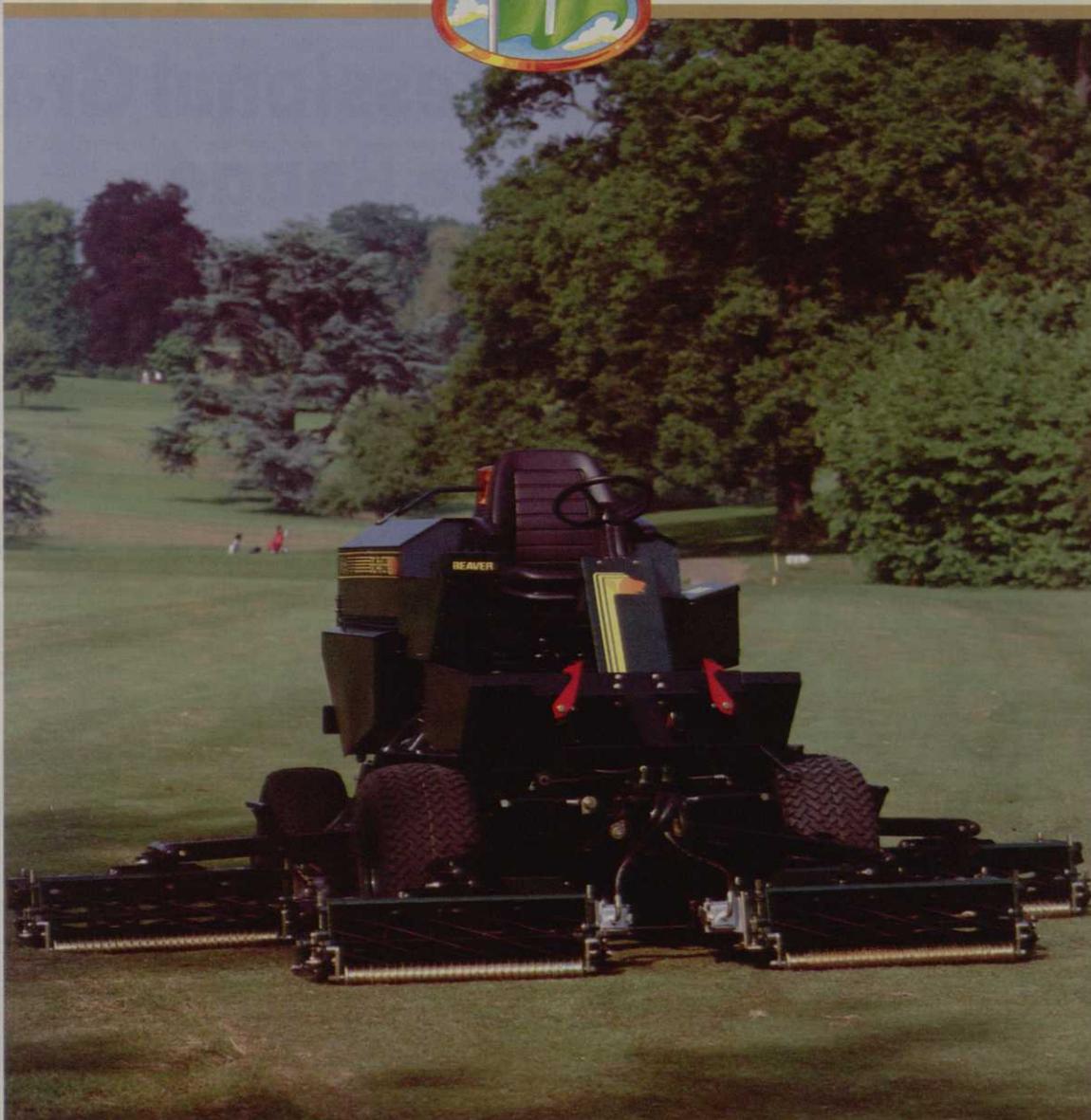
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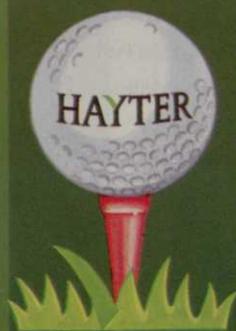
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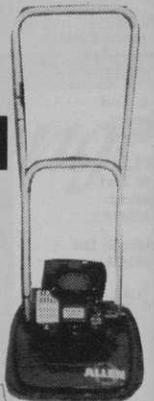
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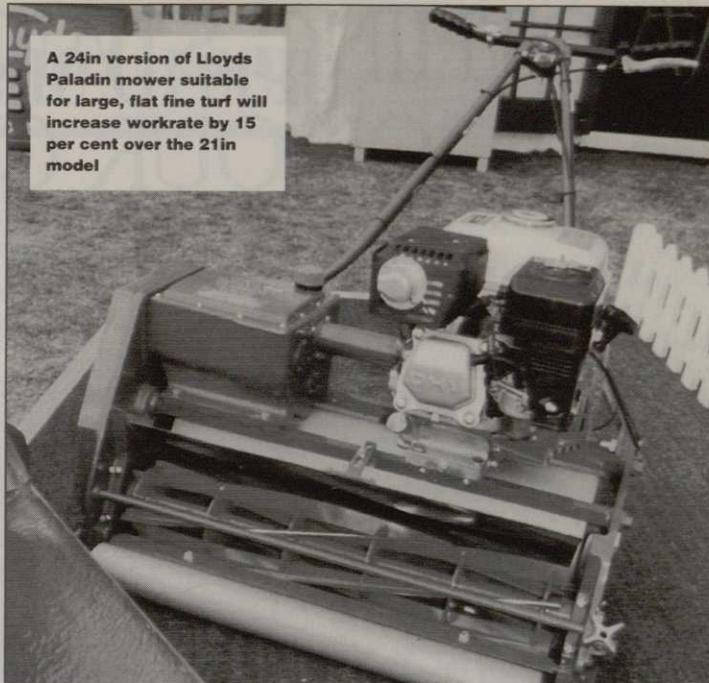
CUTTING EDGE

24" its long-established Paladin mower, to be sold alongside the 21in model. The 18in Paladin is to be discontinued. The principal change is to the width of the aluminium rear roller and 5 or 9 bladed cylinder, although Honda's GX120 4hp engine is now used on the range. Ideal for large, flat greens, the 24in Paladin weighs just 3kg (6.6lb) more than its 21in stable-mate. Price is expected to be around £2,200 when it goes on sale for next Spring.

Dennis, winner of the most innovative new product at last year's IoG exhibition with its FT510 20in fine turf mower, has extended the range of cassette heads available for the machine. A turf roller and sorrel-type surface spiker are now available, with a slitter and wire rake currently undergoing prototype testing. All are interchangeable in less than one minute without the use of tools.

Finally, one name which would not spring immediately to mind when discussing pedestrian greens mowers is Masport, distributed in the UK by Autocar Equipment Ltd. Although badged as Masport, the mowers are in fact now built by New Zealand company, Steelfort, following the take-over of Morrison by Masport, and the resulting rationalisation.

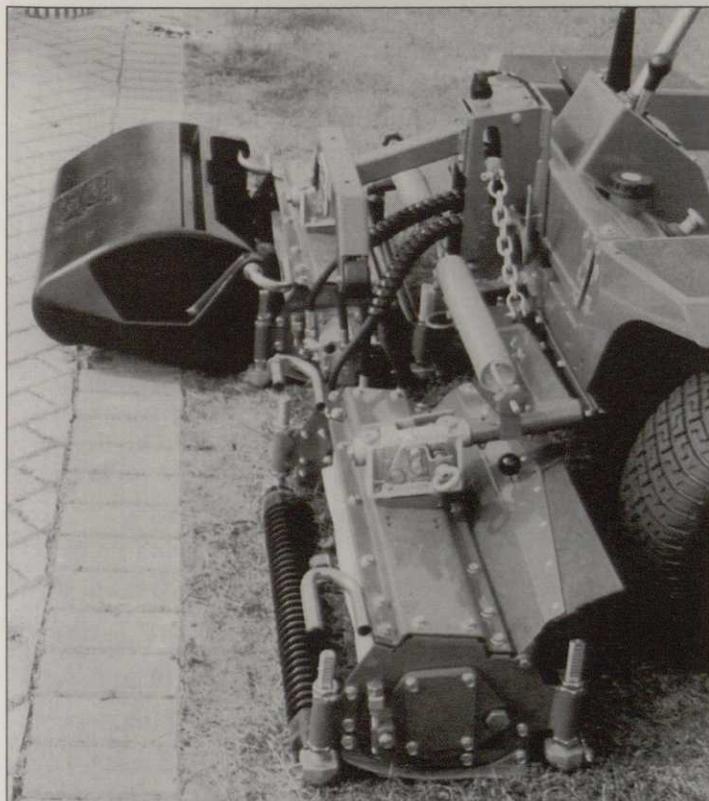
If price is a major consideration, it could well pay greenkeepers seeking a 'no frills', sturdily-built machine to take a look at the Olympic range, especially when a 10-bladed cylinder option becomes available next year. Estimated price of the Masport Olympic 500 with 3hp Tecumseh petrol engine, 20in cut and self-adjusting chain drive is under £900. Although not seeking to be placed in the same class as the top professional pedestrian greens mowers, it is still expected to cut fine turf very nicely, thank you, at considerably lower cost.



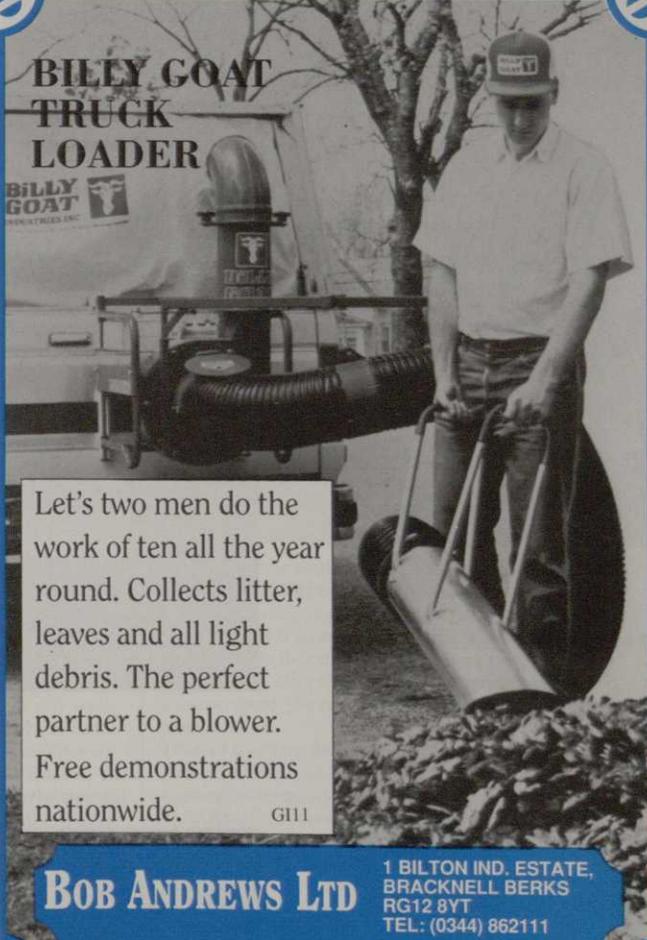
A 24in version of Lloyds Paladin mower suitable for large, flat fine turf will increase workrate by 15 per cent over the 21in model



A roll-over protection structure, four-wheel drive and improved cooling system are key features of Toro's Reelmaster 4500-D



Raising a hinged deflector on the Sabo Roberine C400's front cutting units allows grass to escape rearwards (nearside unit). Lowered, the deflector directs grass into the optional collector



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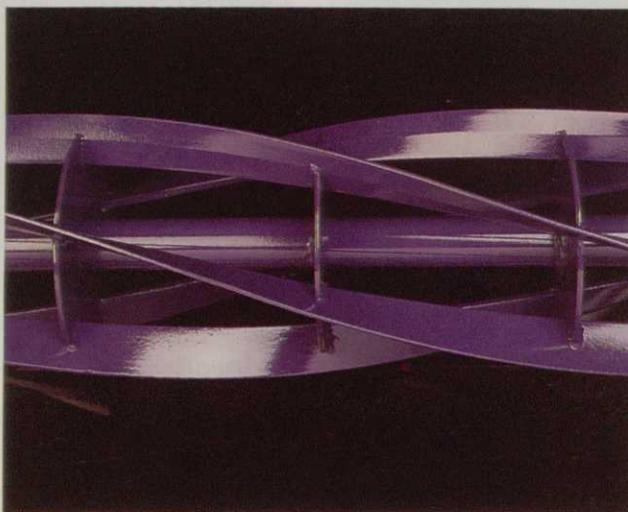
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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

NORTH SCOTLAND

Not much happening just now to report, either that or nobody is talking to me about it! Congratulations to the five lads from the North section who went to Dunbar for the BIGGA National Championships. They could make up only one team, so Gordon Moir elected himself non-playing captain (just as well, I hear) and the four proceeded to win the competition for our section. Well done Alick Mackay, Stephen Sullivan, Paul Murphy (he gets everywhere) and George Paterson. George merits extra praise for actually winning the individual prize (he was both low gross and low nett). George is enjoying a purple patch just now as he also retained the North Order of Merit, with fellow greenkeepers John Urquhart and Stevie Macintosh also finishing high up. Brian Fraser won his home club's 36 hole Open at Inverness – it's a pity he can't make our outings.....or is it? – and his 67 in the morning was a superb score. I'm told also that Gary Tough won the prestigious Edzell Club Championship Dalhousie Medal. With these and other greenkeepers performances people may wonder when the work gets done? The answer – get up very early if you want to see the green staff at work!

By the time this report reaches you the autumn/winter programmes will be up and run-

ning. I wish you all the best and if any of you have interesting jobs for this winter, please contact me and tell me about them.

Next month's report will carry a summary of our autumn jaunt to Kirriemuir (no balls or virgins, I'm afraid), which at the time of writing (August 31) has an entry of 80 – watch this space.

Three more new members to welcome: Barry Cueyne, Newtonmore GC, Alisdair Macleod, Stornaway GC, and Alan Kemp from Blair Atholl, who is a student at Elmwood College. All the best to Stuart Griffiths, who after working at Tain for the summer has gone to Elmwood College for a one year full-time course. I'm glad to report that Colin Mackay now has a full-time post over at Cruden Bay and will be starting college this winter – well done, Colin.



IAIN MACLEOD

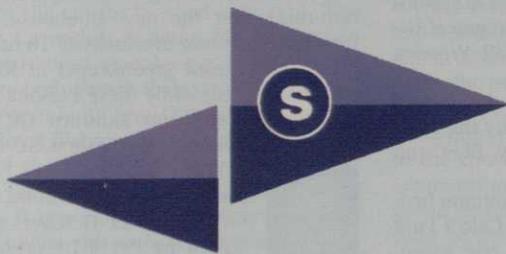
SOUTH WALES

On Tuesday 5 August at Southerndown GC the annual Secretaries v Greenkeepers match took place, with fine weather and a cool breeze blowing from the sea. The result was a win for the greenkeepers by four games to three – 'and about time too' – for this was the greenkeepers first win in six years! Yes, the last time we won

was back in 1987 and that also was at Southerndown. The winning pairs were: Mike Norfolk/Alan Richards, Gary Johnston/Patrick Jones, Tyrone Garland/Robert Johnston/Chriss Thomas. Our thanks to Southerndown GC, its staff, caterers and committee, also to Fred Crossman (from the secretaries) for his splendid organisation.

Royal Porthcawl GC hosted this year's Birdie Cup competition held on 17 August. Again the weather was kind, warm and sunny, and the course was as testing as ever. Our thanks go to Birds of Cowbridge for sponsoring the day and to Dave Ward and his staff and to all at Royal Porthcawl. Results: Best Gross, Birdie Cup-Mike Jones. Runner Up-Gerwyn Price. Best Nett, John Duncan Cup- Andrew Jenkins. Runner Up-Ted Thompson. It was great to see Ted back in action after two years in the wilderness (and taking second place as well) – we'll have to watch him! The semi-finalists in the PRO TURF sponsored matchplay competition are Mike Jones, Laurence Walter, Robert Frater and Douge Donne. Results will follow.

Good luck to both Tyrone Garland and Laurence Walter of Wenvoe Castle GC. Tyrone has been nominated to represent South Wales in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year, whilst Laurence is the only section entry to ➔ 30



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FLEXBRUSH for Toro Greensmaster: £484.00



29 → make the Hayter Challenge Tournament final. (see Hayter results, this issue – editor).
PETER LACEY

MIDLANDS

On 9 August the Midlands played their Autumn Tournament at Copt Heath GC. The players found the course to be in great condition and expressed thanks to Harold Lewis and his staff.

On his own course Paul Loffman played great golf over 27 holes and won the event with a nett score of 98.5, whilst Mike Hughes shot the lowest gross, winning with a score of 111. We thank Copt Heath for the welcome extended to us and for excellent catering. Thanks also to our many trade colleagues for again sponsoring the tournament and for fine support so freely given.

After this event we travelled south the following day to Dunstable Downs GC, for a match against the Mid Anglia section. After last year's result Mid Anglia sought revenge and with a score I won't reveal... they certainly got it! Our thanks to Mid Anglia for organising such a wonderful day: it was a fine game on a nicely presented course, followed by an excellent meal – and enjoyed by everyone. The Midlands section extend special thanks to Bob Pilsbury, who kindly sponsored the day.
DEAN CLEAVER



SCOTTISH REGION

Members of the old SIGGA, especially members of the West section, will be saddened to learn of the death in July of Joe Braid, for many years head greenkeeper at Cawder Golf Club. Joe, in fact, only ever worked at Cawder – from young boy to head greenkeeper – and could boast a career in greenkeeping that spanned over 46 years. Joe was a keen member of the Greenkeepers Association, being both committee member and eventually chairman of the West section. Our deepest sympathies are extended to May, his wife, at this sad time.

Whilst talking to another old member of the West section, Johnny Bulloch (who, incidentally, was a great friend of Joe Braid), Johnny mentioned the recent BIGGA National Tournament at Dunbar, saying that it took him back some 54 years, when on 29 August 1939 he won a trophy at the British Tournament held at Ayr Belleisle. Johnny, along with all the trophy winners that year, held his trophy longer than anyone else, certainly for at least five years. Maybe it had something to do with the fact that two days after the British Tournament was staged, World War II broke out!
ELLIOTT SMALL



SURREY

Here I am on holiday in sunny Suffolk, writing what should have been written last week, but delayed in the hope of news arriving at the eleventh hour from within the section. However, all seems quiet over this holiday period with no births, deaths, marriages or career moves to report. I am fortunate under these circumstances to report on a splendid afternoon of golf enjoyed by nearly fifty section members at Sunningdale GC in mid-August. The old course was an impressive sight, with heather in flower and greens firm and true – only the golf played could spoil the occasion! This certainly wasn't the case for Ian Sutcliffe, who tallied 36 Stableford points to gain victory and thus was fittingly presented with the McMillan Tankard by Jack himself. Dave Langheim pipped Ronnie Christie on a count-back for second place – both on 35.

Around the Green



Following a superb spread of fare in the artisans clubhouse, our thanks were extended to Lawson Bingham and Robert Brewer, plus of course all the green staff at Sunningdale, for the fine condition of the course. In addition we acknowledged and thanked the Sunningdale Artisans Club for their hospitality, whilst not forgetting the caterers for a grand meal.

Please remember that the Autumn Tournament takes place at Epsom GC on Thursday 21 October – with closing date for entries being 7 October. The format is 27 holes Stableford, 7/8th stroke allowance. Please also note that a jacket and necktie must be worn in the clubhouse.

Following the success of last year's mini-bus trip to Harrogate for the BTME (run by the section in conjunction with Ian Kerry), we are considering a similar trip this coming January. Will members please contact a committee member if they are interested in this venture – thanks.
ROGER TYDEMAN

BUCKS, BERKS & OXON

Our thanks to Mark Barthelmie at Risboro Turf for organising the annual Jacobsen Tournament, held at Hazlemere G&CC on 4 August. Forty five greenkeepers from the area were invited, all of whom had the pleasure of playing a course in superb condition, thanks to Russell Lucas and his fine band of men. The event was Stableford off full handicap (max 18). RESULTS: 1st K Stevens Mentmore GC 44. 2nd S Edwards Whiteleaf GC 43. 3rd A Wells Chartridge Park GC 39. Wooden spoon John Witney 20.

Mark would like to thank all those that helped to make the day a success, particularly the trade – Jacobsen, Hardi, Iseki, Etesia, Saxon, BLEC and Lamborghini.

May I remind everybody that our Autumn Invitation Tournament is being held at Calcot Park GC on 11 October. The format is one greenkeeper and one guest invited from your golf club. If you have any queries, please contact me, though you should have already received the information by post.

The section will be running a mini-bus to BTME in January, so if you are interested in attending this important and informative function, please let me know ASAP so we can organise numbers.

After the go-karting we need more ideas for social events that you would like us to stage next year, also ideas for the '94 lecture programme. Write to me with your input or call me on 0628 829208.

Good luck to our chairman, Dave Childs, who is running the Dublin Marathon at the end of this month. We all hope to see him hobble forth at the AGM in December
RAY CLARK



EAST MIDLANDS

At the time of writing, the singles and pairs knock-out competitions are reaching a climax, despite my inability to remember where I have written down the results! Congratulations to Jamie Bedford and Adey Porter on already having reached the singles final. Double congratulations, in fact, to Adey, who will soon be taking

charge of the Crocketts Manor G&CC, a new development at Henley-in-Arden. Although technically out of our area, Adey will be staying with the East Midlands section.

I would like to give an early reminder for the 1993 Regional Seminar, which this year is to be held in the East Midlands. The venue is the Sketchley Grange Country House Hotel, situated at Burbage, Leicestershire, and it takes place on 24 November. In addition to the speakers, Hardi Sprayers have invited all those attending the seminar for coffee and a tour of their establishment – they are situated only a few hundred metres from the conference centre. Booking forms are available from Roger Willars. Tel: 0455 283053. It is hoped that section members will again support the event strongly.

This month we are, as ever, pleased to welcome new members: Mark Stanbrook of Springwater GC, Anthony Foulds of Manor GC., Uttoxeter, and David Sankey of The Leicestershire. With all The Leicestershire's staff now being members, Paddy McCarron could realise a long-standing ambition to manage a BIGGA five-a-side football team – if he could find anyone willing to play against Maurice Emery!
TONY HOWORTH



CLEVELAND

Roger Shaw, latterly course manager at Brancepeth Castle GC, has moved to a new course development at Romside Hotel, Carrville, Durham City.

George Malcolm, tells me the new course layout at Brass Castle is fully operational, six new holes having been built 'in-house' by George's own staff. Also at Brass Castle, Stuart Vickers is confirmed as first assistant – congratulations.

Brian Hall, head greenkeeper at the recently opened Hunley Hall GC at Brotton, East Cleveland, is busily turfing over large mounds (anti ram-raid) near the new clubhouse. The view from the clubhouse overlooks all 18 holes.

Ron Cole, head greenkeeper at Kirby Moor-side, has retired, while Steve Parsons has moved to Hunley Hall from Saltburn GC and Nick O'Grady has moved from Wilton GC to Saltburn GC.

The next meeting will be at Darlington GC on 21 October, a talk presented by Par 4 Irrigation Systems entitled 'Modern Control Systems'.
BRUCE BURNELL



SOUTH COAST

A new venture has been arranged for Wednesday 3 November – a golf game in the morning, followed by buffet lunch and an afternoon talk. East Dorset GC and British Seed Houses have kindly agreed to assist the section with this venture, a departure from our normal winter evening lecture, and I trust members will give the event their full support.

The date, let me remind you, is 3 November, with golf starting at 8.30 am. A buffet lunch will be available from 12.30 pm and the talk begins at 2.00 pm. Members wishing to take advantage of either golf, or lunch, must contact me on 0962 797288 (day) or 0962 733574 (evening) before 24 October, though no advance notice is required if you are coming only to listen to the lecture. East Dorset GC is situated at Hyde, Wareham, and the lecture will be given by Jonathan Franks.

Our other winter lectures are: • Tues. 7 Dec: Royal Winchester GC, 4.00 pm – AGM. • Wed. 12 Jan: Dorset College of Agric. 2.00 pm – Ed McCabe and Arthur King on 'Communications within a Golf Club'. • Wed. 2 Feb. Alresford GC, 4.00 pm. – Ken Barber, East Sussex