



National GC. • Wed. 2 March.
Alresford GC, 7.00 pm. – David
Whitaker, Wisley GC.
BOB DENNIS

EAST OF ENGLAND

Kenwick Park GC, Louth, was the venue for the Rigby Taylor Trophy and our thanks are extended to head greenkeeper Ian Morton and his staff for the super conditions we enjoyed at this new course. Thanks also to Brain Booth and Stuart Jeffs, representing our sponsors, who presented some great prizes.

RESULTS: 1st Dave Hornsey 33 pts, 2nd Josh White 30 pts, 3rd Graeme MacDonald 27 pts, 4th Ian Morton 26 pts, 5th Mike Finney 26 pts.

It is hoped to organise a trip to Hardi Sprayers, Hinkley, Leicester, the proposed date being 18 November. Section members should now have received information regarding this trip, but if for some reason you've been missed – please contact me.

Finally, if you have any news, views, opinions or problems – get in touch.
MIKE FINNEY

NORTH WEST

It is with regret that I report sad news. Graham Teasdale, head greenkeeper at Swinton Park GC, has died after a long illness. Graham moved to Swinton Park from Dean Wood GC two years ago, though unfortunately he only enjoyed about one year of good health after his move. Our thoughts at this sad time are with his wife and two daughters.

Mike Goodhind, the head greenkeeper at Cavendish GC Buxton, is on the move and is going over the 'Big Hill' to take responsibility for managing the course at Tytherington GC. Mike has been at Cavendish for nine years and tells me they are a great club to work for. I'm sure that Cavendish will be sorry to lose him as he always kept the course in good condition. The vacancy at Cavendish is being filled by Julien Snape, latterly head greenkeeper at Marple GC. Good luck to both men in their new posts.

Talking recently to Tom O'Brien, head greenkeeper at Royal Birkdale, he tells me that re-construction of the remaining 13 greens starts in September (five have already been completed). I am sure he is now hoping for summer (the one we missed!) while this work is undertaken.

Now, how about some support for North West section events? A team of 16 was required to play a match against the Northern section, the event kindly sponsored by Patissons, who picked up the tab. After mentioning this event in section notes and still failing to get sufficient volunteers, I spent a small fortune in 'phone calls attempting to gather a team of 16, which eventually I managed, though unfortunately, despite promises of attendance, only 13 members turned up! The result (obviously) was a win for the Northern section, although I understand it was a close match and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Similarly, a visit to GEM was organised for 25 August and this was publicised in the section notes on two occasions. Three days before the event I had the embarrassing task of ringing Andy Hardy, who had made arrangements for catering etc, cancelling the trip. Only three members (plus me) applied to go! I know there can be problems with getting time off, but with nearly 500 members in the North West section I would expect better support.

On a better note, the Autumn Tournament at Mere G&CC on Thursday 21 October will begin with soup and sandwiches at noon, the 18 hole medal round teeing off at 1.00pm, followed by an evening meal and presentation. All applications to Paul Pearse, 1 Swan Close, Poynton,

Around the Green



Stockport. SH12 LHX. Please include your deposit of £10. Latest date for entries 18 October. Any complaints, news or enquiries, please call me on 051 724 5412.
BERT CROSS

SOUTH WEST

August is the holiday month and I'm on mine – currently enjoying some rare sunshine in the Lyme Regis area of East Devon. The weatherman has just appeared on the TV screen, he smiles confidently, but half way through his forecast we realise that he is cunningly standing directly in front of a large area of low pressure and the smile is looking more apologetic by the minute. As he finishes – is that a bead of perspiration on his brow? – the kids start squabbling, the wife bad-temperedly packs away the beach gear and starts thumbing through country house brochures. I can hardly wait. Still, we did manage a game of golf last week. I played a reasonable shot to the first green and affluently marked the ball with a pound coin. My elder son looked horrified as I carried my bag to the edge of the green and bellowed "Dad, you're not going to leave that pound there, are you?"

May I take this opportunity to welcome the dozen or so new members who have taken advantage of the half-year discount and recently joined the section. Entry forms for the autumn – winter programme will be in the post soon, and there should be something for everyone: golf events; lectures; a visit to the Ransomes factory, and training days. I hope you will all feel able to join in as active section members.

Finally, as this won't appear until October, I'll wish everyone the best of luck during the period of autumn maintenance. I'm probably preaching to the converted when I say 'keep the lines of communication open'. A little consultation can go an awful long way toward smoothing over some of the potential problems this trying time can bring. I remember being stopped by a member of my last club, half way through a green with the Ryan Greens Aire, only to be asked "why, when this green is so good, do you have to wreck it by doing that?" He was one of many who genuinely did not appreciate that the greens would not stay in top class condition for very long if basic maintenance was neglected. A brief explanation on the notice board in the 'Captain's Newsletter' helped a lot in this respect. Happy hollow coring!
PAUL WORSTER

NORTHERN

I am pleased to report that there were no problems in raising a team this year to play in the 'Battle of the Roses'. Only two members were unable to accept the invitation, as they were playing in the National at Dunbar. I am also pleased to report that the Northern Team looked splendid in their beautiful white sweaters, given to each player (see photo). Do you recognize the member without a white sweater? It is our chairman, Phillip Taylor, who was not playing golf. I must thank those who accepted the invitation to play for Yorkshire versus Lancashire and I am delighted also to inform of our team's success, winning back the Shield from Bert Cross and his

team. It was four years since Lancashire last won, in 1992, so lets hope it's at least another four years before they win again! Well done the North, represented by Messrs Midgley, Lealman, Storey, Jarvis, Smith, Collins, Kirkbright, Gamble, Gee, Johnson, Waite, Spencer, Linley, Oxley, Potter and Mennell. I must thank Fulford Golf Club for extending the courtesy of their course to us, also our colleague Mark Mennell and his team for preparing the course. Everyone who played was complimentary about the conditions and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Further thanks must go to Peter Marshall and his employer, Patisson's, for their continued sponsorship of the above event and support for our association.

Invitation Day was held at Pannal GC on 17 August, a great success, with the sun shining (as it did last year) all day. Everyone attending enjoyed the event, which again was sponsored by Yorkshire Mowers. Our thanks to John Price and Tony Dodson for making all the arrangements and getting the prizes in place. Incidentally, in conversation with John Price it came to light that since his involvement with the sponsorship (over five years), it has always been sunny – all I can say is, long may you continue sponsoring this event. I must thank our colleague Allan Gamble and his team for preparing an excellent course, also Pannal GC for making us welcome and extending courtesy of the course to us.

The Results:- 1st M. GUY – C. THOMPSON 62, 2nd J. WAITE – D. HARTIGAN 69, 3rd R. SMITH – J. SAMUEL 70, 4th R. GEE – F. MALLINSON 70, 5th K. CHRISTIE – R. BELL 70, 6th G. HOPE – R. ELLIS 70, 7th M. HANNAN – M. BAXTER 71, 8th R. EMSLEY – J. NEWTON 71.

Last month I had nothing to report, but this month has certainly made up for it. First of all, congratulations to Mr & Mrs John Waite, who are expecting their first baby after five years of marriage. Johns current handicap is 16 and I wonder if it will go higher or lower after the event? Best of luck to you both. I've also heard that Bob Raistrick, head greenkeeper at Queensbury GC, is retiring and that Martin Shaw is taking over. I wish you both good fortune and may all your problems be little ones. I also learned that Ron Gaul at Kirkbymoorside GC retired recently. I wish him a long and happy retirement.

Some news of 'the trade': Graham Walker (GEM) has been promoted (he's been given a new car) and the new GEM rep is Alan Dyson. Congratulations to you both. Whilst writing about GEM, I am in the process of organising a trip to Gem's plant in the winter, details later. Glen Hardcastle, who many will know from his days at Trident, has now parked his car and returned to greenkeeping, taking the post of course manager at Leeds Golf Centre, Wike Ridge GC. I wish these folk all the best and look forward to meeting them during our winter lecture series.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome the following new members: Barrie Darsley, Grimsby GC, Alistair Cobbett, Mid York GC, Christopher Berry, Allerthorpe Park GC, and Alan Speight, Michael Stockhill, Richard Revell and Wayne Briggs, all of Redhall Services, Redhall Estate. If any new member requires any information please call me on 0274 568128
PAT MURPHY



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For grass banks, the 'big blow' works wonders

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Many have tried various methods of removing sand from

the grass faces of bunkers. Larry Gilhuly has shown you one technique (*in a previous article - editor*) using water to wash away the accumulated sand on a steep sand bank. It's a good one and it works. Mike Rewinski, superintendent at Westhampton Country Club on eastern Long Island, has found another innovative approach worthy of our attention.

While blowing out his irrigation system to prepare for winter, Mike found a large rented air compressor ideal for blowing sand from grass → 34

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THE BIG BLOW



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33 → bunker banks back into the bunkers. He outfitted the compressor with a hose attached to four feet of 1/2-inch pipe. One person can easily blow the sand back into a bunker usually in 15 to 20 minutes. Some dried grass clippings will settle in the sand but are easily cleaned up with leaf rakes.

The nett result of this action is a neat, clean turf that can thrive

very well and extend the life of the reconstructed grass banks indefinitely. Banks of little-used bunkers should be cleaned once a year. More heavily used bunkers should be subjected to the Big Blow as often as twice a year.

● This article first appeared in the USGA Green Section Record and is reproduced here with due acknowledgement and thanks to the USGA Green Section and author Gary Watschke.

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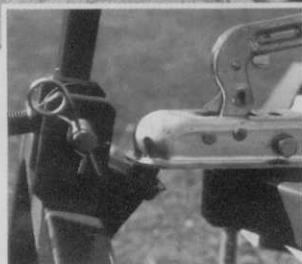
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The emergency first aid course, our first training course in 1993, was staged on August 20 and was a great success. We thank the staff of St. John Ambulance Brigade for the valuable information so expertly given. A better response for such training events is, I believe, required of section members in order that their education may be further improved and to also comply with current legislation. Remember, you are never too old to learn!

The regional seminar is at Hadlow College this month, so do try to attend. The winter seminar will be on 2 December at Oaklands College and the cost for the day is £8.50, including lunch. Please come along and invite your secretary or chairman to attend also. You will, I am sure, gain considerable benefit from listening to the excellent speakers, all of whom will speak on subjects that are of importance to our industry.

The Turkey Trot will be held at Hadley Wood GC on November 11 commencing at 11.00 am. Entry forms will be sent to you for this last golf event of the year and members should note that the AGM will follow the meal. Nominations or propositions for the agenda are required (in writing) and should arrive 14 days prior to the meeting. Please forward such details to our secretary: Barry Moggridge, Flat 3, Hadley Wood GC, Beech Hill, Barnet, Herts. EN4 0JJ.



TONY DUNSTAN

EAST ANGLIA

I've always said that greenkeepers would end up in Happy Valley....well our lot ended up in Fynn Valley, which is pretty close. Being there, it was hard to believe that two years ago we would have been walking in a cornfield. Praise was given to 'Toddy' for the layout and condition of the course, this coming in particular from the owner, Mr Tony Tirrell, who was there to welcome us. Praise must also go to Mick Offord, the head greenkeeper, for presenting the course in such excellent condition.

The results: (0-18) 1st Peter Howard 38 pts, 2nd Sam Sylvester 37pts, 3rd Richard Pride 36 pts, (19-28) 1st Steve Davison 40 pts, 2nd Kevin Bunn 39 pts, 3rd Steve Millard 38 pts Guest prize: Cyril Fuller 42 pts. Prizes were donated by CWM, Toro, CWM, Does, CMW, Hayter, CMW, Rushbrooks, CMW, and Parker Hart. That should make up for all the times I've left CMW off the list in the past - sorry Mike! Our thanks once again to all at Happy - sorry - Fynn Valley!

Our second report is from Sam, reporting from Thorndon Park (as I was again on holiday). An excellent day was enjoyed by a band of 32 players. Weather good, hospitality superb (they're a good lot, those Essex boys). The course was in super 'nick' and Sam reports 'the greens were too fast', though he wasn't complaining and, of course, was in amongst the prizes again.

The results: (0-17) First and winner of the Vic-tor Autumn Cup, Andy Sheehan (on countback) 34 pts, 2nd, Sam Sylvester 34 pts (I bet he was sick, nevertheless well done Sam), 3rd Richard Pride 33 pts. (18-28) 1st Toddy Huddleston 32 pts, 2nd Glen Rayfield 30 pts, 3rd Gerry Steggalls, 29 pts, Guest - Eddie Cottage 34 pts. Nearest the pin sponsors were: 2nd Parker Hart, won by Mike Peters. 5th Parker Hart won by Andy Sheehan (under four feet and he missed the putt!). 12th Rigby Taylor won by Frank Daniels, 15th Parker Hart won by Jim Timms. The longest drive, sponsored by Rigby Taylor, was won by Roland Hughes. Other trade prizes from CMW, Synchemicals, Rhone Poulenc, SISIS, Does, ICI, Sta-Brite and CMW.

Our next meeting is at Yarmouth & Caister on 6 October, See you there.

MICK LATHROPE



Around the Green



DEVON & CORNWALL

Five candidates competed for the honour of representing Devon and Cornwall in the forthcoming ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award. In scoring, the section committee decided to use the Master Greenkeeper assessment paper to mark each of the five courses, and these were visited by Jeff Mills and Steve Redman.

Only half a point separated first and second place and our congratulations go to Lauchlan Miller, head greenkeeper at Dawlish Warren GC, who went forward to represent the section in the regional final, selected subsequently to represent the region in the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year finals, to be held on Dec. 6-7 at Aldwark Manor. I am sure Laughlan will be an excellent representative for our region and we wish him good luck in the final.

Our AGM will be held at Torquay GC on Wednesday November 17 and, as usual, this day will commence with golfing members competing for the Toro Trophy, with prizes kindly donated by DGM and Lely. The section's AGM will follow lunch, and this year we will be seeking three new committee members as our current serving chairman (Bill Pile), vice-chairman (Brian Summers), and president (Don Hunt) will not seek re-election. On behalf of all section members I would like to thank these gentlemen for all their hard work, put in over many years. The section will require one member from Cornwall, one from Devon, and one from



RICHARD WHYMAN

NORTH EAST

On 20 July we held our annual match against the North East secretaries at Foxton Hall GC, the result being a halved match at three all, thus giving the greenkeepers retention of the salver! Our thanks to the committee for granting us courtesy of the course, and to the head greenkeeper and his staff for excellent playing conditions. A personal observation, I hope the Foxton hall secretary takes heed next time he sees swallows swooping low on the fairways, for this action means it is going to rain, not what he thought!

Well, there are quite a lot of people on the move in the section, starting with me. I've moved to a new 18 hole development at Matfen Hall and can be con-

tacted on 0661 886084. Needless to say, any member who wished to visit Matfen Hall will be most welcome. Congratulations to Clive Patterson, formerly of Arcot Hall, who has returned to the Isle of Man, also to David Jennings, formerly of Newbiggin, who is now first assistant at Morpeth. Finally, I believe Glen Barter, latterly of South Shields, has taken the job of head greenkeeper at Seahouses - best of luck to you, lads. May I also congratulate Caroline Malone, who worked at Alnwick in the past, on joining the greenkeeping ranks once again. Caroline, I wish you well in the future.

The match against Cleveland will probably take place this month (October) - details to be advised. Finally, congratulations to Tony McLure (Whickham) on representing his country in the two-man team event staged in August, England v France.



JIMMY RICHARDSON

EAST SCOTLAND

Dunbar Golf Club was, as you all know, the venue for the BIGGA/ICI National Tournament, played on a course presented to the highest order in true Scottish links fashion. Our grateful thanks go to the captain & committee of Dunbar GC, and in particular to Graham Wood and his staff for wonderful playing conditions. A great number of people left with fond memories, for believe it or not, Dunbar is the driest part of the country and boasts the highest sunshine record in Scotland. This was certainly the case during the championship, with the wind cutting the grass and continually drying the course. Many of Graham's staff worked through the night, watering the greens constantly, though this all came to no avail when the winds rose at dawn, drying them out again. As Graham said: "That's sods law."

The tournament certainly was well run, → 46



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The Last Word

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Efficient team

I am most grateful for the help which we received from BIGGA members during the course of the most recent Open Championship. They did, as I am sure you know, provide a most efficient team of bunker rakers and their efforts were very much appreciated. They did, too, tend to stand out from the crowd with their lilac shirts, which I am assuming is now the official BIGGA colour!

I would be most grateful if you would convey our thanks to those of your members who were involved.

G E Watts, Secretary, Royal St George's Golf Club, Sandwich, Kent
(letter sent to John Millen, who forwarded it for publication — editor)

Excellent video

May I congratulate BIGGA on producing an excellent and most professional video — 'SETTING THE STANDARD IN SPRAY APPLICATION'. Not only will this prove to be a great asset in helping with the education of young trainee greenkeepers, but to some of the older generation also — those who came into greenkeeping later in life and who find it difficult to get time off (from some clubs) to attend college and lectures. I hope this video will be the first of many educational training films.

Martin Forrester, Course Manager, Stapleford Abbots GC, Essex

The hole facts

I write in response to Mr S Antolik's letter in last month's Greenkeeper International.

H Pattisson & Co came under new management on July 5 1993 and I became the new managing director. Since taking over the company we have embarked on new strategies, better production methods and new quality checks. Obviously it is difficult to achieve this overnight. On Aug 11 1993 a letter was received from Mr Antolik pointing out that he was in possession of one of our hole cups measuring 111mm in diameter, contrary to the R&A rules of golf. We promptly replied to Mr Antolik, thanking him for bringing this to our attention, and took immediate action by making contact with our manufacturer.

After a short investigation we found a small batch of hole cups to have a diameter change from 107mm to 111mm, this a direct result of the compound of nylon utilised and a change in the coolant cycle, not the original tool that has been made that actually manufactures the hole cup. Our original patented drawings for the hole cup clearly show the diameter should be 108mm.

The problem has now been resolved and a new quality control procedure put into place to ensure that all hole cups meet the required 108mm as set down by the R&A. The small batch with the size differential problem have been sourced and returned to the manufacturer. I have also been assured by the Rules Committee that

the hole cups used at The Open, supplied by Pattisson, measured 108mm.

I am pleased also to announce that our new quality controls are all part of procedures as the company embarks on BS5750. May I also point out that Mr Antolik is and has been a valued customer of Pattisson since the early seventies.

M Hinch, Managing Director, Pattisson & Co Ltd, Luton, Bedfordshire

More on mowrah

Re Jon Allbutt's letter (August) asking for information from 'mature' greenkeepers regarding the use of mowrah meal, although a mere 'young upstart' of 23, I believe I have something of interest.

The following was taken from 'GOLF COURSES, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND UPKEEP' Published in 1933: "Mowrah meal was recommended to be used at the rate of half a pound to one pound per square yard. After the powder has been spread it should be thoroughly watered in, even if rain is falling at the time. It is useless to apply mowrah meal when worms have been driven below either by frost or a prolonged period of dry weather. Nor is it advisable to use it while the grass is in a young and tender stage of growth.

Mowrah meal also possesses some slight fertilising value. This product is the residue from an Indian Bean, known as *Bassia latifolia*, after it has been crushed for the extraction of oil. There are many grades of mowrah meal according to the degree to which the residue is ground. Coarse grades are of small value for killing worms, and although samples of such grades are offered at cheap rates it is uneconomical to purchase them as they may only be 50% effective. Mowrah meal can also be used to eradicate small grubs that feed upon grass roots, the most common of these being Bibio."

It would appear therefore that mowrah meal was only a by-product from the mahua tree after mahua-butter was produced from its seeds. If the butter is no longer produced commercially this may explain why mowrah meal is no longer available. As we are now talking of an organic-based worm deterrent could this also explain why the Pesticides Safety Directorate were unable to help with information. Perhaps some investigation into those industries connected with the mahua tree would be more rewarding.

Jon Cole, Church Lane, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire

Jon is not alone in researching mowrah, as Roger Tydeman's letter and extract (below) reveals. Further, readers may care to look back at 'How to make the worms turn' (March '93), The illustrations used are identical to those in the Carter's catalogue mentioned — editor.

1930s approach

During recent building work in our clubhouse, several books from the thirties were found, including Carter's 'Practical Greenkeeper' for 1936 and Sutton's Golf Course Catalogue for 1939. The information contained in the latter may be of interest to Jon

(and others) regarding mowrah meal.

As you can imagine, the books are of considerable interest to historians, featuring photographs of many well known courses (of the period) under construction.

Roger Tydeman, Croham Hurst Golf Club, South Croydon, Surrey

● *Extract from Sutton's catalogue:* 'Earthworms are present in almost every class of soil, with the possible exception of some of the dry peaty types. Their food consists mainly of decaying vegetable substances, but they also consume decomposing animal matter. Various kinds of leaves, grass stalks, and even twigs are drawn into their burrows to decay and provide food, but living plants are not attacked. When feeding, and also when burrowing, earthworms consume considerable quantities of soil. During the passage of the soil through the body of the worm the digestible matter is extracted, the indigestible residue being discharged when the creature visits the surface, thus forming the familiar worm casts. Even small stones and other solids are passed through the bodies of worms and brought to the surface.

The activities of earthworms are largely affected by weather conditions, and during dry or very cold spells they will descend to a great depth. Although regarded as terrestrial creatures, they are, to a certain extent, semi-aquatic. Moisture is essential to their existence and they are conspicuously active during wet weather, especially when the temperature is not very low. Being nocturnal in habit, worms are not often seen on the surface by day.

Breeding takes place chiefly during June and July, although some authorities state that it occurs in spring and autumn. The eggs (from one to three) are contained in a capsule or cocoon and are hatched in from two to three weeks.

While it is admitted that the operations of earthworms are in some respects beneficial to the soil, the presence of these creatures in golf and other sports turf can only be considered as a nuisance. Not only do the casts they create make the surface muddy and uneven, to the great annoyance of players, but they also provide a ready medium for the germination of weed seeds. Furthermore, weed seeds are brought to the surface by worms. It is sometimes noticeable that worms are especially troublesome on areas which have been limed, and it is also found that the worm population is greater in turf mown without the use of the grass box than where the cuttings are collected.

On some golf courses it is regarded as part of the regular routine to destroy worms in putting greens, and an increasing number of clubs now treat their fairways also, generally by means of mechanical pumping machines designed for applying the destructive agencies. To keep the fairways clear is sound policy, for players have a preference for such courses, particularly in the winter months. For many years we have been in close touch with various methods of destroying earthworms, e.g., by the use of Mowrah Meal, Lead Arsenate,

Copper Sulphate, Permanganate of Potash, Lime Water etc. There is little doubt that on courses where the water supply is restricted a convenient method of disposing of worms is by the use of Lead Arsenate. It must be borne in mind, however, that this is a scheduled poison and that a Poison Book Entry Form must be signed at the time of ordering. Although we have received reports from some golf clubs that rabbits had been found dead following the use of Lead Arsenate, no case of poisoning of human beings has yet come to our notice.

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An interesting fact. In the 1936 price list which Roger enclosed, the price of 'Carter's tested worm killer' (i.e. Mowrah meal) was quoted at £12 per ton, less than in the 1924 Carter list I have in my library, where the price quoted was £15 per ton. How many companies, I wonder, are today able to boast substantial price decreases? — editor.

Picture this

I must have been in one of my bolshie moods when I read the July issue, for I took exception to no less than three pictures within! Page 22: Why not a full group picture of the greenkeeping staff, instead of Japanese golfers? Surely the locals deserve better recognition. Page 19: The redesigned bunker at Sandwich is an eyesore, and the most un-natural man-made obstacle I've ever seen on a golf course. It's not the contractors fault, but the club's, and I trust they have considered the implications of 'accidents at work' by greenkeeping staff when trying to maintain it, or possible claims by golfers injured in an attempt to scale this height. Did you see Mike Harwood clambering about in there during The Open? He was lucky, someone was on hand to rake it afterwards, though ordinary golfers will take so long in restoring it that people waiting on the tee will need great powers of patience — I'd like to hear the greenkeepers reaction to this 'improvement'.

Page 19, lower: Presumably neither Rhone-Poulenc nor their advertising agency are familiar with the complexities of cricket score-boards, this one shows the score at 142 for 4, the last wicket having fallen at 122. So, twenty runs have been added since the fall of the last wicket, but one batsman has 23 runs to his credit, and the other one 48! Therefore the minimum score must be 122 + 23 = 145. There's one exception to this scenario. For a year's supply of Supertox I'll be happy to tell Rhone-Poulenc what it is!

Well, that's off my chest; you can't say that Greenkeeper International isn't perused in this household. Keep up the good work. Your July cover picture is delightful with such natural bunkers, looking an acceptable part of the golfing scene.

Peter Bown, Winterbourne Houghton, Blandford Forum, Dorset

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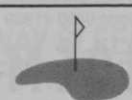


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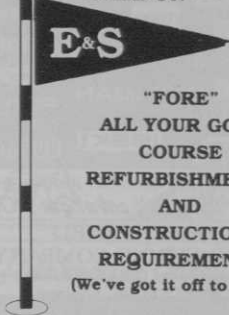
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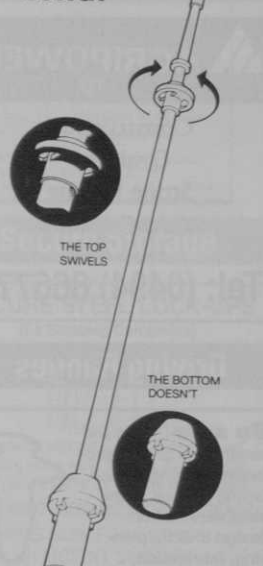
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