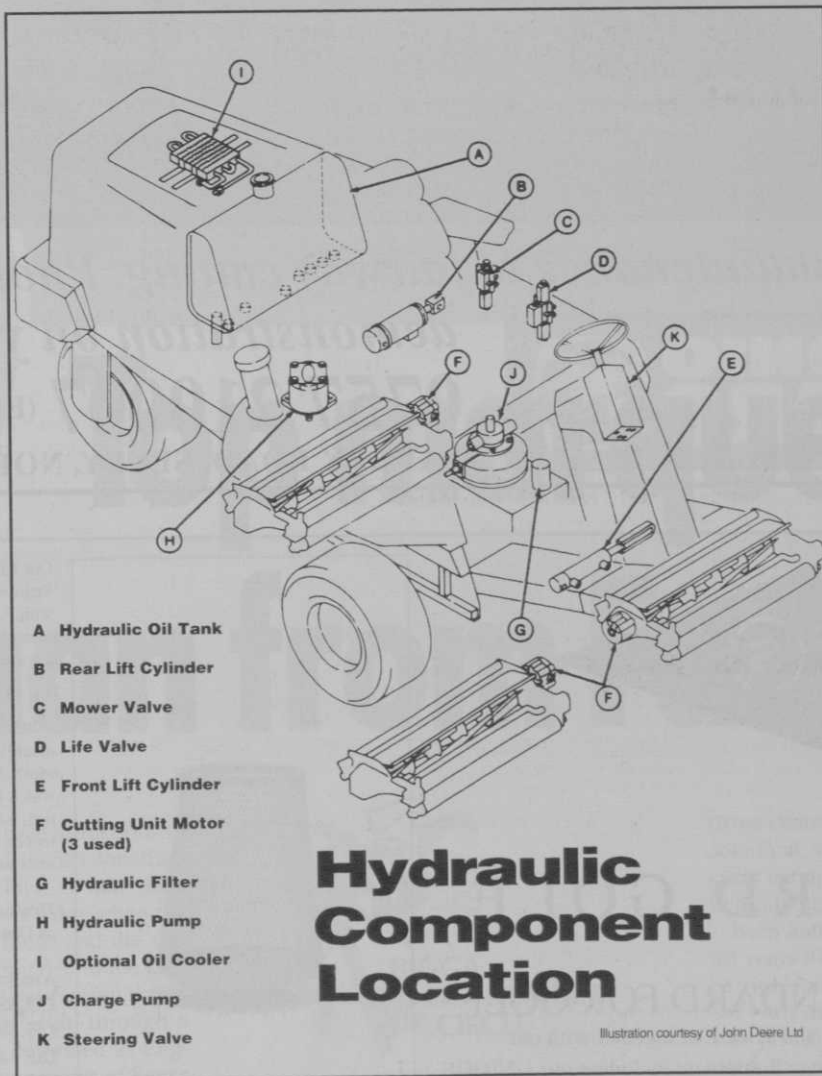


Hydraulics

need to be free to move while the machine works, such as with some sweepers and mowers where height control wheels take the implement weight. A zero leak spool is required where the hydraulic service needs to be 'locked' without 'creeping,' (with pressure in the ram) during work, although standard valves are seldom a problem. If it is a problem the first option is to replace the spool's 'O' rings, and if this does not cure the problem look at the seals in the ram before considering replacement – either may be worn or scored. A kick-out spool valve allows the operator to move the lever to its extreme and leave it, knowing that when the oil pressure builds up as the ram is stopped the lever will 'kick-out,' this is useful in situations such as lifting and lowering trailed gang mowers, as the operator can then concentrate on turning. The kick-out should be adjustable and can be disabled for other operations. A motor detent valve is specifically for hydraulic motors, it holds the spool open for a constant flow but it must not block the return flow when returned to the middle

(neutral) position. Ideally it should be capable of being set so that the motor cannot be inadvertently reversed, – with some motors, stopping the return flow abruptly and/or reversing them will blow the seals. The common alternative of using a piece of string to hold the lever is potentially dangerous as it may be impossible to stop the oil flow quickly in an emergency, this similarly applies to the locks, catches or pins sometimes fitted as a 'kit.' In older tractors with only single acting valves – or those which use the linkage lift hydraulic circuit for driving a hydraulic motor it may be essential to install a separate return pipe to the tractor – some tractors have a special port for this, others may need a special arrangement such as drilling into the oil filler.



Hydraulic Component Location

Illustration courtesy of John Deere Ltd

Controls

Common problems with spool valves are that there may not be enough of them or they are in the wrong place – this is often the case with loaders. Answers from loader manufacturers vary but most use a separate spool valve block. There is a safety requirement to keep all high pressure hydraulic pipes away from the operator, i.e. outside the cab – this may mean longer levers or even Bowden cables, both of which are prone to problems and generally lack precision. Up market loaders are likely to use electro-hydraulic controls, which have the advantages of fingertip actuation and simple flexible fitting, further they can combine up to three actions in a single lever, the third action, for instance the clam of a 4 in 1 bucket, being operated by a rocker switch on top of the

lever. A relatively simple answer to not having enough spool valves, suitable mainly for single acting and infrequently used services, is to use a diverter valve, these are available for manual or electric actuation. Electric actuation is gaining in popularity, particularly for mowers, as it allows the designer flexibility to optimise his pipework, thereby reducing the risks of damage and leaks, it also lends itself to tidy control consoles and automatic operation. For most operations a simple on/off or up/down actuation is all that is required, however for some operations – like loader or hedgecutting operations – it is best if the operator has lever control with proportional control so that he has a graduated response. Flow adjustment may be built into the spool valve, into the tractor hydraulic system or into the hydraulic circuit itself. If an implement drops too fast or raises too slowly the first consideration should be to see if there is an adjustment. Occasionally a restrictor is fitted into the circuit, often a disc with a small hole, this may not be the correct size for the machine, tractor or oil grade, however it is easily replaced. Remember that oil

is thinner when hot.

Other users

While tractors were the prime users of hydraulics, on today's golf course the most intensive user of the principles are inevitably ride-on mowers, particularly greens triples, however these are purpose built and self contained thus it can be assumed that the hydraulics are 'right,' – nevertheless no less care, cleanliness and maintenance is required, especially when all power transmission and control is hydraulic. Many turf maintenance vehicles also provide a hydraulic service and rudimentary lift linkages, one model is also hydrostatically driven, however it is electronically controlled to give it constant speed.

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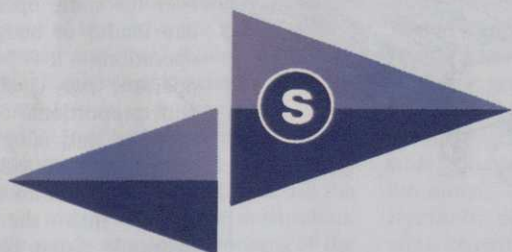
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Top marques for man from Farmura

There were, I suppose, three attractions in the offing as I prepared to visit Jonathan Harmer early in August. First, I had been cooped up too long and it was a day when the sky was filled with fluffy clouds and the sun shone – a day too good to stay tied to the keyboard of my faithful Apple Mac. Second, I was to drive to the village of Egerton, through a delicious part of the south described as England's Garden and into the very heart of Kent's hop country – where the most delectable beer in the world is brewed. Third, a positive magnet, I was to meet a man who shared my passion for motor sport, a fellow enthusiast who raced vintage MGs and who was just as likely to while away the time showing proper concern for such things as camshaft profiles, carburettor jet settings, and the right line to take through Becketts – with 7000 rpm protesting and a horde of MG 'T' racers snapping at one's tail lights!

Of one thing the reader may be sure, though Jonathan Harmer is a 'play-hard' sort of fellow, enjoying, as his motoring trophies reveal, his 'on the limit' racing with the MG Car Club, he is without doubt also a 'work-hard' sort as well, which is why I didn't get all my own way with the interview. Truth is Jonathan was eager to tell me of the Farmura connection,



It's life in the fast lane for Farmura's Jonathan Harmer, as DAVID WHITE reports

while I was pressing him into revealing something more dashing, perhaps some racing scoop. I'll put this down to his sporting modesty, telling myself meanwhile not to forget my journalistic *raison d'être*, which is firmly embedded in turf. That stated, I suspect that something in the air of Egerton generates motor sport mania, for in a village of less than one thousand souls there's a fellow who races Bugatti's; a classic car restoration buff; a Ford Rally Cross champion; the youngest ever Mini

Cross champion, a kid of just 16... and there's Jonathan, who is simply potty about MGs and crazy enough to race them – I tend to like that in a subject.

Born and raised in Egerton, where for over 50 years his father farmed apples and strawberries, Jonathan, 44, recalled driving his first car – an Austin Ruby that cost £8 – when he was just eight years old! He and his brother used to take a hose and saturate the grass around the orchards in order to practice hand-brake turns – he grins when remembering how relaxed his father was about such high spirited activities, grimaces on recollecting his returning home on one fateful occasion, after a lengthy absence at school, to discover that the trusty Ruby, stripped down like a 'racer' of course, had been buried in a quarry – part of a tidying up plan for the farmyard! He could, he swears, take me to within ten feet of the burial plot.

Though with Farmura for some 15 years, seven as managing director, Jonathan did not immediately follow in the family business, rather he became a 'travel bug' after finishing school, setting off (with full parental blessing, let it be known) to 'see the world' – a trip that took him to South Africa and later to Rhodesia where, but for the changes that were taking

place politically, he well might have remained, for he fell in love with the grandeur of it all, describing Rhodesia as 'near to paradise.' In the event he stayed for a year, working variously as salesman and Land Rover delivery driver, before returning to England to take a place at university and later to live in London and work at being 'something in the City', in his case broking insurance.

Meanwhile farming of all varieties was in a state of flux, and changes were being thrust upon the community. Jonathan's father saw the 'writing on the wall', perhaps a good deal earlier than most, and sold the farm's land (a very shrewd move, as it turned out), at the same time acquired the business that is Farmura Limited. History will show that Jonathan's father was one of the first to successfully farm using both organics and synthetics - integrated management as it is now known - believing that one couldn't just keep on throwing chemical fertiliser down, and proving on his own acres, often to the incredulity and disbelief of officialdom, that such natural organic products did work - and work very well indeed.

Moving on apace, Jonathan credits Jim Arthur with bringing Farmura to the greenkeeping fraternity. Jim was advising in Scotland, at Turnberry as it happened, offering his expertise and guidance in order that the course might be returned to former glories and thus gain Open Championship status on the R&A rota. He discovered the Turnberry head greenkeeper using Farmura, sold at that time mainly to farms and market gardens, finding also that it worked minor miracles on the fine links turf, helping to keep *Poa annua* at bay. Further, he found that such organics were increasingly favoured by the more progressive greenkeepers in S.W. Scotland. Contact with Jonathan's father ensured that Farmura products were trialled in greater depth for golf course use, packaged and labelled specifically for such specialised applications, and the rest, as they say, is history.

I asked Jonathan why he thought 'first division' greenkeepers were Farmura's greatest allies, why the championship course managers were so well sold on the efficacy of Farmura liquid organics.

"I think first it's because they want to have the very best," he replied, "they seek always to improve. Second, they know about soil bacteria, they ask questions and bounce knowledge off each other. Finally, they are perhaps more patient, for you can't apply Farmura just once and expect miracles - its application must form part of a properly designed and calculated management programme. I liken it to the motor racing world, if I go to a hill climb and find a driver who is several seconds quicker than me, I'm the first to ask what pressures he's running, what adjustments I should make, what I might do to make me go faster. Yet you may find two golf courses side by side, one is splendid and the other isn't - and the fellow

isn't interested in learning how to make it better, I find that extraordinary." "And is it changing?", I queried. "Yes, I think there is a wind of change, greenkeepers generally are becoming more aware, keener to learn, to educate themselves, but there are still far too many who look for nothing more than a 'quick fix' and have yet to enter the regime of 'balanced management' "

I ask a leading question: "Does Farmura come under the heading of 'mystery and magic'?" - "No, the theory of organics is perfectly logical, it has been well researched and is well documented, so there's nothing mysterious about it, but if you don't understand it, and you've been brought up on the white-hot scientific bumph about NPK, then of course it is." "Do you then dismiss the NPK regime", I



'There is a wind of change, greenkeepers generally are becoming more aware, keener to learn and to educate themselves...'

ask, getting a quick-fire retort: "No, I don't, I think it has its place, but it's no more important than good cultural technique. An idea we've been developing recently - let's call it the triangle, with cultural maintenance, organics and synthetics - shows the greenkeeper in the middle orchestrating all three. You can't take any one of those out and say 'that's the answer', and of course one of the problems in greenkeeping is the quest for a magic technique, a miracle potion. I don't think there's a single magic product - it's 80% hard work (for the greenkeeper) and 10% product application, but if you use the right products in a properly balanced management system you will get results - no doubt about it."

For Farmura this means continuing down the road of being innovators, of being environmentally friendly, of ensuring that everything in the range hangs together with logic. The company was first to introduce liquid iron into Britain, first to import the Australian Turf Iron,

first with liquid organics; and first to put together a range of liquid super concentrates, and though at the time these innovations were thought of as commercially 'dicey', they are not only accepted but indeed thought of now as vital tools in balanced management. Currently Farmura is spreading the 'gospel', along with Milliken and other trade sponsors, with the new BIGGA training video 'Setting the Standard', a film that emphasises quality and professionalism.

The stock question now: "what makes Jonathan Harmer tick?". "Well, I knew you'd ask me, and you know about my racing MGs, but I suppose I could summarise my particular 'tick' by including the happy life I lead with my wife Lynette and daughters Charlotte and Louisa-Jane, I enjoy family life enormously, though developing innovative businesses is also good fun. You're swimming against the tide until the tide changes, but when you start these ideas off there's never a shake of the hand or an offer of congratulations - no one has ever said 'great, you've made life easier'. Sure, we're in business and that must mean making some profit, but it started off as a philosophical approach in a way, we're not hit and run merchants, and I can go back to any of our clients with a very clear conscience, we're ethical. I'll even admit there have been some, though not many, who have said 'Jonathan, this just isn't working', but mostly this has been because they haven't really understood why they are using the products - the fact is, organics take time to work. We live in an instant society: you're hungry, you eat a big Mac, you want a result *now* - remember when glyphosphates came out and the complaints that came because people were used to weedkillers that wiped out overnight - now it takes three weeks. Nobody likes that, we all want it now, can't or won't wait - the problem is that nobody has told Mother Nature. Organics are longer term products that must form part of good management. Those who think they can go from bare earth to beautiful greens in a few weeks are fooling themselves, but the industry has, I believe, often sold 'snake oil' products on that basis."

Determined to finish with a nifty tale about MGs, I learned that Jonathan started racing about ten years ago, though he's always been an MG fanatic and has never owned any other marque for sporting purposes. Listening to his description of that first race was hilarious: joining forces with two other 'nutters', they'd gone to Silverstone with MG TDs and ended up at the back of the grid, firmly believing the timekeeper had made a mistake! It was pouring buckets and Jonathan couldn't see much further than his bonnet, nevertheless it was foot to the floor - until car after car flew past, lapping him and his companions! First blood, as they say, to the quick guys, second to the guy who puts everything down to experience - always learning, every inch, along life's race track.

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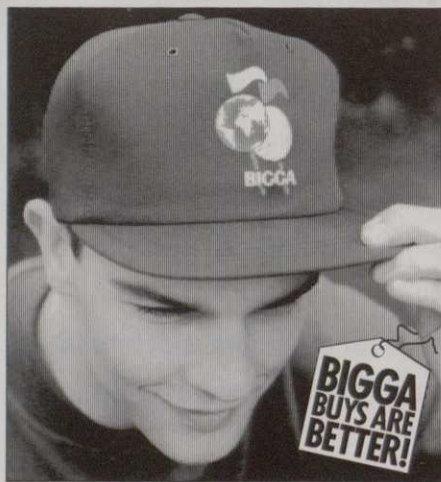
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GREENKEEPERS ON THE HOP

How many holes are there on your course? Are there 9 or 18 – or perhaps the number could even be 1,237? If it's the last figure, then it is likely that your handicap is rabbits. Rabbits are increasing in number throughout the country, mainly due to the waning effects of myxomatosis. Although it is difficult to be precise, it is estimated that rabbit numbers are currently about a third of what they were before myxomatosis arrived and that this number may well double in the coming years as the effects of the disease continue to decrease. Eventually it may kill none. Therefore the message is that problems with rabbits are likely to become more common and more severe.

Problems

One of the most obvious problems which rabbits can cause for greenkeepers is by digging burrows. Many of you may recall the article in this magazine on last year's Open Championship (July 1992, Page 18) in which Chris Whittle, the course manager at Muirfield, described the scale of his rabbit problem where a tee which had been undermined by burrows collapsed when a tractor drove on to it! As if burrows dug into tees were not bad enough, burrows dug into the sides of greens are likely to please even less and there may even be the possibility of claims for compensation if someone breaks an ankle in a burrow hidden in the rough. Then there are also the smaller, shallow scrapes with which to contend. Rabbits seem to love to dig these on fairway grass and these rabbit 'divots' seem to have a magnetic attraction for golf balls, although relief may, of course, be taken under the rules of golf. Last but not least there is the problem of rabbits damaging or killing newly planted young trees on the course and these can be very expensive to replace.

Why do rabbits love golf courses?

Many courses provide ideal habitats for rabbits. There can be a mixture of scrub cover, thick rough or woodland in which rabbits can shelter. From these areas, rabbits can move out to the fairways to feed on the shorter grass, which they prefer to the longer grass of the rough. Populations are higher on sandy soil than on heavier soil types, mainly because young rabbits survive better when rain water can drain freely through their burrows, rather than on heavier soils where waterlogged burrows means cold and damp rabbits. Therefore it is not surprising that many links courses, such as Muirfield, have the worst problems.

Solutions

Under the 1954 Pests Act it remains the legal obligation of occupiers of land to take reasonable steps to destroy wild rabbits on their land or to prevent rabbits from causing damage on adjoining land. Unfortunately, however, there is no simple solution to the problem. There are a range of management methods which can be used. Numbers can be reduced by gassing rabbits in their burrows, by ferreting, trapping or shooting. Tree guards can be used to protect individual trees and fencing can be erected to exclude rabbits.

bits from the course.

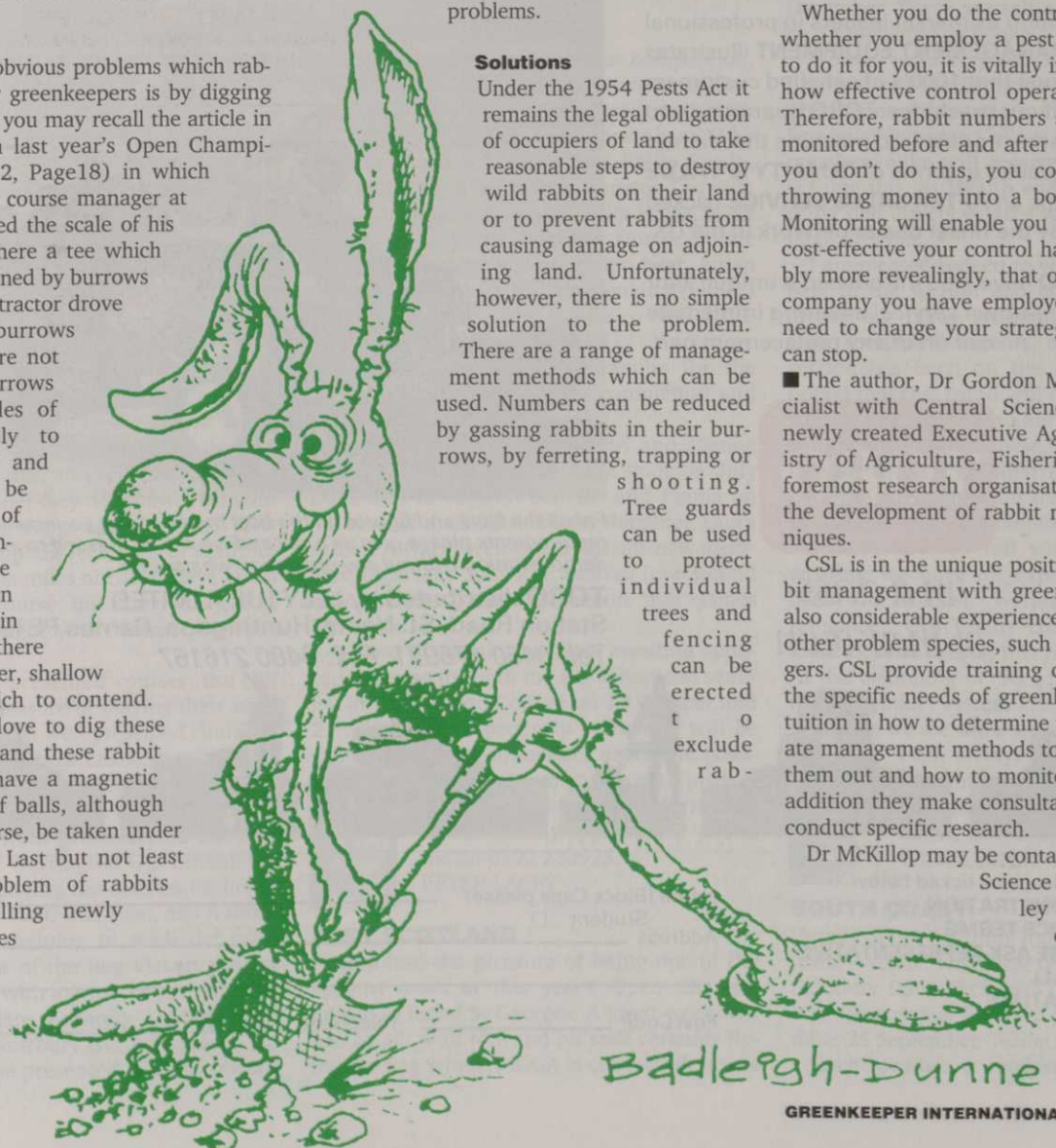
The best results are achieved during winter (November-March), usually by using a combination of these techniques with choice being determined by the particular circumstances. Winter is the best time to initiate a management campaign, because rabbit numbers are at their lowest at this time of year due to natural mortality. Anything done by man before winter will only replace rather than add to this mortality. Also, control at this time of year will reduce the breeding population before the next breeding season begins in January-February and therefore there will be fewer young around that year.

Whether you do the controlling yourself or whether you employ a pest control company to do it for you, it is vitally important to know how effective control operations have been. Therefore, rabbit numbers should always be monitored before and after each operation. If you don't do this, you could well end up throwing money into a bottomless burrow! Monitoring will enable you to determine how cost-effective your control has been (or, possibly more revealingly, that of the pest control company you have employed), whether you need to change your strategy and when you can stop.

■ The author, Dr Gordon McKillop, is a specialist with Central Science Laboratory, a newly created Executive Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the foremost research organisation in the UK for the development of rabbit management techniques.

CSL is in the unique position to discuss rabbit management with greenkeepers and has also considerable experience and expertise on other problem species, such as moles and badgers. CSL provide training courses tailored to the specific needs of greenkeepers, including tuition in how to determine the most appropriate management methods to use, how to carry them out and how to monitor effectiveness. In addition they make consultancy visits and will conduct specific research.

Dr McKillop may be contacted at the Central Science Laboratory, Tangley Place, Worplesdon, Guildford, GU3 3LQ.



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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

BIGGA IN EUROPE - HOLLAND

In Holland we presently have 12 BIGGA members, all of whom have received an invitation to attend our first ever meeting, which is organised to take place this month (September). Sponsorship will be arranged locally to cover expenses and whenever we feel payments need to be made these will be allocated – in order that we may operate on a professional basis. A report of our meeting will be sent to BIGGA HQ.

On a personal level, I have a visit to Scandinavia planned for October and will meet with Stig Persson, (journalist, member of the Swedish Golf Federation, Swedish Greenkeepers Association, and BIGGA), and visit his golf course in Sweden. David Golding (Greenkeepers Training Committee), has asked me to contact the Netherlands Greenkeepers Association to discuss and promote the GTC education programme, details of which were requested by the NGA via the Netherlands Golf Federation. I have spoken to the NGA chairman, Ties Straatman, offering him my assistance whenever it is needed.



FREDERICK ten HAGE

NORTH WEST

I have just returned from The Open at Royal St Georges, where volunteer greenkeepers assembled once more to form a greenkeeping support team. This gathering now appears to have taken on the role of an annual reunion, not only for greenkeepers from the British Isles, but also from Sweden and America. It also provides the opportunity to witness some of the finest golf one may ever expect to see – and from inside the ropes! The course was a credit to Derek Scarborough and his staff, who must be relieved that all their preparation is behind them, though they now have the nightmare job of getting things back to normal after thousands of trampling feet, tons of scaffolding and miles upon miles of cables have taken their toll on the course. But don't worry lads, you have about eight years before you start again!

Talking of well-presented courses, the NW section had the pleasure of playing their summer tournament on a well presented course at Warrington GC. recently. Les Kernott and his staff had the course in lovely condition and must be feeling pleased with all the kind comments, not only from greenkeepers but also from members of Warrington GC. I thank the club for their hospitality, the caterers for lovely meals, and Parker Hart, Rite Feed, and Rufford Top Dressing for helping to swell the prize table. The winner of the Reg Vickers Trophy was Neil Wolfrey with a gross 73 nett 70. May I also congratulate Anthony Davies, head greenkeeper at Prestbury GC, who passed his M.G.C. and will be presented with his reward

at the BTME in 1994. Well done, Anthony.

The next tournament will be the Autumn Tournament at Mere GC on Thursday 21 October. The usual arrangements apply, with soup and sandwiches served from noon 'till 12-30, followed by an 18 hole medal round, all rounded off with an evening meal and prize presentation. Your deposit of £10 must accompany an application to play, and the closing date for entries is 14 October. All applications to Paul Pearse, 1, Swan Close, Poynton, Stockport. SK12 1HX. Smart dress is essential. Preparing now to go to the National Tournament at Dunbar, I am hoping that whilst away the NW section will beat the Northern section in 'The Roses' match and retain the trophy.



Please don't let me down lads, or I will have to take some stick from Mick Hannam following last year's comments. Any problems or queries please ring 051 724 5412.

BERT CROSS

SOUTH WALES

This years Match Play Knockout competition, sponsored by PRO TURF Equipment of Carmarthen, has completed its first round, with the following results: Mike Jones beat Mike Norfolk, Malcolm Davies beat Philip Swain, Robert Johnston beat Gary Johnston (no relation), Laurence Walter beat Philip Huish, Nigel Owens beat Tyrone Garland, Douge Donne beat Peter Lacey, Robert Frater beat Julian Bartlett Jones, and Andrew Jenkins (father) beat Idwell Morris. Our thanks to PRO TURF for their continuing support.

Our evening lecture programme for the oncoming winter is nearing completion and details will be with you shortly.

Congratulations to both Ceri and Joanne Richards on their tying of the knot on July 24th, also to Andrew Jenkins and Emma on the birth of their 8lb 4oz baby daughter, Laura Ashley. A warm welcome to all our new members, especially Judy Ann Weekes (our second lady member), Gary Johnston and James McKenzie.

A word of warning to those awaiting application forms for both the workshop and seminar at Cannington College on 12 October and 23 November respectively – demand will be great, so get those forms back as soon as possible in order to ensure your place is reserved. Any news or information will be greatly appreciated, 'phone me on 0792 233923.



PETER LACEY

EAST SCOTLAND

I again had the pleasure of being one of the support team at this year's Open Championship at Royal St Georges. A great week was had by all, with Neil and his staff certainly flying the flag where BIGGA is concerned. It was

nice to meet up again with all the old faces and already we are looking forward to 1994 and The Open at Turnberry.

Our annual Committee Match was held on 10 June at Royal Burgess, again sponsored by Scottish Grass Machinery. Our grateful thanks go to them. The Eddie Holt Trophy was won for the first time by 'yours truly' with a nett 71, though only on count-back. Our thanks as always to Royal Burgess for the courtesy of their course and clubhouse facilities, and certainly not forgetting Roger and his staff for the excellent playing conditions – t'was a pity the weather couldn't be kinder.

Forthcoming events are the Autumn Tournament on 14 September at Ratho Park, the East versus North East match on 28 September at Goswick, and the Willie Woods Tournament on 19 October. Notification of these events will be issued shortly.

Don't forget to obtain your tickets for the annual Dinner Dance at Turnhouse on Friday 3 December. These are selling quickly, so don't be disappointed by booking late.

Winter lecture programmes are almost finalised and notification will be issued soon. The 'big one' this year is the Health & Safety lecture at Oatridge College and golf clubs and members alike will receive information concerning this, as Health and Safety is the one thing that affects us all – we are hoping for a large turnout.

I am pleased indeed to welcome new members to the section and hope that they will attend our many tournaments, lectures etc. Over the past five years, membership in the section has been on the increase and it is hoped that this trend will continue. There are still vast numbers who are not members and we are working on these. It is in everyone's interest to be a member of the Association, with the advantages far outweighing the disadvantages – ask any member.

I don't have to tell you of the dreadful weather we have all experienced. This has been the coldest, wettest summer I can remember, with many courses flooded and more closures during this year than any other. At the beginning of '93 I put in a new automatic sprinkler system and have yet to use it! Lets hope we see some sunshine shortly.



I am always looking for news for the magazine, so anyone with information should contact me, no matter how insignificant.

WILLIE BLAIR

SOUTH COAST

Details of our Autumn Tournament are as follows: – Venue: High Post GC., Great Durnford, Salisbury. Date: Tuesday 5 October. Format: 36 hole Greensome. Fee: £13 per person. Closing date: 25 September. Teeing off: 8.30 a.m.

Each member is requested to bring along

either a non-greenkeeper amateur partner from their own club, or a fellow greenkeeper from another club. Applications to play, with handicap details and fee, to Joe Burdett, 23 Jacobs Ladder, Child Okeford, Blandford Forum, Dorset. DT11 8EA, Tel. 0258 861482.

Fixture cards listing all section and regional events for 1994 are available upon request. Please let me hear from you, so that you can fully participate in all of your Association's activities.

In the Summer Tournament held at Alresford GC, 46 players took part, with local knowledge ruling the day as members and guests of Alresford GC swept up nearly all the prizes.

Results: First – Bob Dennis and Brian Young 47 points, second – Derek Curtis and John Walden 45 points, third Eddie Fox and Peter Kimmins 45 points – all of whom represented the home club. Fourth were Martin Harper and Malcolm Taylor (Andover GC), with 44 points. The prize for nearest the pin was won by Joe Burdett, with the longest drive winner being Mark Webb.

The competition was played over the club's new 18 hole layout, conceived and planned by Mark Webb, head greenkeeper at the club, and his assistant Barry Young, with the assistance of club professional Malcolm Scott. Members I spoke to were impressed with the new arrangement and the quality of the greens.

Thanks are due to our sponsors, Parker Hart and Roffey Brothers, for providing the prizes. David Haskell and Peter Hampton represented the sponsors and they also enjoyed their afternoon of golf.

It was a pleasure also to have Bill Young, one of our honorary life members, in attendance. Bill has the distinction of having been both the head greenkeeper and club professional at Alresford in times past and has a fund of stories about golfers and their peculiar ways!

The connection between Alresford GC and BIGGA goes back a long way, which is much appreciated by members. I would like to place on record our thanks to all the officials at the club.



BOB DENNIS

SOUTH WEST

The thunderstorms of last month have now largely died away, leaving another problem – flies. I've never seen so many of the little devils swarming around the course. There is, you'll be pleased to read, a remedy which can be particularly useful when playing golf. The flies are attracted to cheap perfume. The answer, therefore, is to purchase a bottle and sprinkle it over your opponent. This gives the immediate advantage of playing in a relatively fly-free zone, also of your opponent conceding after nine holes and heading for the showers in an effort to become separated from his personal troupe of little black friends.

No such problems, however, at Enmore Park for the annual Summer Tournament, where a good turn-out in deepest, darkest Somerset saw a most enjoyable day of golf under bright and breezy conditions on a very well prepared course. Our thanks go to Robin and his staff, the catering staff, and of course the club for their hospitality. In this day and age it is quite a commitment for a golf club to shut its course while local greenkeepers enjoy full courtesy, and the South West Section is very grateful to all those clubs prepared to do so.

Around the Green



The results of the Summer Tournament are: 1st P Baynton 95-24=71 (on last nine), 2nd S Shipley 82-11=71. 3rd M Powell 98-24=72. 4th A Johnson 101-28=73. 5th C Jack 101-28=73. The Head Greenkeepers Cup was won by M Pearce 93-18=75, and the Trade Prize by M Samuel 99-28=71. Two's were scored by D Neale and P Worster. Prizes were generously donated by Messrs Avoncrop, Roffey Brothers, Barenbrug, and Rigby Taylor – Thanks to them all.

It is hoped that we can continue with training programmes through the autumn and winter, with Pesticide Application, Chainsaw Maintenance & Operation, First Aid, and Health & Safety at Work all subjects which the average greenkeeper needs to be conversant with. Please indicate your interest to me in writing or by telephone (but beware of the answering machine), as soon as possible. The sooner the better, as it makes forward planning much easier. I should point out that we have yet to have a complete failure and our instructors have been most impressed with the levels of knowledge and understanding. No one need feel afraid to come forward – you can only do yourselves good by taking this training.

It is also hoped to run 'information' days on pest control (i.e. rabbits, moles etc.), and the accurate recording of weather. We are indebted to Fairways Pest Control, and Gordon Jaaback BSc. Agric., for these days. Dates will follow shortly, please indicate your interest.

The next full section meeting is the AGM at Kingsdown GC on November 18, this preceded on November 10 by a visit to Ransomes factory, sponsored by T.H. Whites. Application forms will be posted during late September-October. The AGM will also be my swan-song as section secretary, for I will be standing down after ten years, due to pressure of work and having a handicapped son who needs my attention more than you lot! Finally, my elder son was rebuked by his teacher for saying "Oh Christ!" in class. When asked what it meant exactly, he replied 'it usually means that Daddy can't find a space in the car park!'



PAUL WORSTER

LONDON

The Summer Tournament was held at Muswell Hill GC on July 12, and following a cloudy start to the day, the afternoon by all accounts developed into a splendid affair. The field of 37 competitors enjoyed a course that was in excellent shape, this clearly reflected in the high standard of golf witnessed. The Sta-Brite Shield was presented to Stuart Green, who scored 39 points. In second place with 37 points was Paul Cooper, this including a back nine score of 22 points. In third place was Mick Sherris, also with a score of 37 points. The nearest the pin prizes went to Doug Smith and Dick Dunne, both hitting excellent shots, with the longest drive being struck by David Paterson on the 16th.

Our after-dinner talk was given by Graham Paul from Sta-Brite, his presentation on water

quality and pesticide contamination being extremely interesting and prompting many questions. Our special thanks to him for standing in at the last moment, also to Linda Exley and Sara Clarke for their help throughout the day. The support from the trade was, as always, appreciated and we thank CMW, G. Browns, Parker Hart, Rigby Taylor, Risboro' Turf, and Sta-Brite for their contributions. Finally I would like to thank Muswell Hill GC for their hospitality and the catering manager



for providing an excellent meal. Our next golf event is at Brookmans Park GC on 6 October – so get those entry forms in!

TONY DUNSTAN

NORTH SCOTLAND

Well, another Open Championship has come and gone. Paul Murphy and 'your's truly' were the North members present, although ex North member Neil Metcalf was there also, as he is a member of the Sandwich staff. We flew down to Heathrow and fellow team member Ronan McKeown took us down to Sandwich. Everything ran smoothly, thanks to HQ staff and David Wood and the lads of the South East region, whilst not forgetting the first tee 'Generals', Cecil George and Jimmy Neilson. One of the many highlights of the week was the Saturday evening football match against the Ring and Brymer chefs. The greenkeepers ran out as 10-4 winners and if Dundee United still seek a replacement for Duncan Ferguson they need look no further than Paul Murphy! All in all it was a great, if sleepless, week with much done to cement European relationships (private joke!). I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate support team member, Paul Seago, on his appointment to Gullane Golf Club, we welcome him to Scotland and wish him all the best.

A new competition launched in Ross-shire and Sutherland Counties to find the Champion of Champions reached its climax at Tain recently. The brain-child of Brora's Robin Wilson, all Club Champions, County Champions and four-day Open winners were invited to compete in a matchplay tournament. The winner was Muir of Ord greenkeeper, Steven MacIntoch.

Robert Hardie of Strathpeffer was the man on form in his club's one round Open. He aced the tenth hole on his way to a 69-8= 61 and first prize. This month sees our Autumn Tournament at Kirriemuir. We look forward to visiting Jim McCormack's course, where I'm sure there will be the usual large turn-out. Let's hope for a decent day weather-wise. I'll see you all there.

Good luck to the Scottish Team in the Hayter Challenge Tournament, to be staged later this month at Sand Moor, Leeds.

One new member this month, Stuart Griffiths of Tain. That's four out of five members of my staff in BIGGA – and I'm working on the other one!

Finally, congratulations to Dundee College for, at last, gaining approved status for Greenkeeping Education. It's good that the the North section has an approved college within its area and we wish Graham Carr and the staff all the best.



IAIN MACLEOD

NORTH WALES

First, I must apologise to Mr P Shaw of High Speed Oils for failing to include High Speed