

BORE/STROKE/CAPACITY: 85mm, 100mm. 2269cc TRANSMISSION: Speeds (forward)24 Speeds (reverse) 8 CLUTCH TYPE: Dual. Live PTO POWER TAKE OFF: Rear 2 Speed 540/750rpm

WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS Weight 1750 without cab Overall length 3485mm Minimum width turf model 2.3Mtrs Height, over ROPS turf model Turning radius less brakes 3230mm Ground clearance 356mm Wheelbase 1900mm CAPACITIES: Fuel tank 42Ltrs.

Our thanks to manufacturers and dealers for loaning the tractors.

Addresses

Antonia Carraro – Barlby Road, Selby, North Yorkshire Y08 8QF tel: 0757 210007 Lamborghini – Barby Road, Barby, near Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 8TD tel: 0788 891446 John Deere Ltd – Harby Road, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HT tel: 0949 60491

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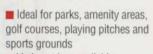
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'Greenshield' is the ideal product for use when the turf is growing strongly, as the combination of the contact chlorothalonil and the systemic carbendazim controls disease for up to six weeks. 'Greenshield' is recommended for all turf areas and should be applied any time during the year when there is active grass growth. Dependent upon the season this will be any time from late March through to late September.

10Z



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Professional Products

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FEP READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY: USE PESTICIDES SAFELY. 'Daconil' Turf contains chlorothalonil.' Greenshield' contains chlorothalonil and carbendazim. Daconil 2787 and Greenshield are registered trade marks of ISK Biotech Corporation.

FORMERLY

ired of listening to complaints that the greens are bumpy this spring? That there seems to be a lot of disease about this autumn? It's only a case of what the medical profession term "golfer's amnesia" flaring up again.

The greens are always bumpy in the spring, it's the variable growth rates of the different grasses you know. The greens are always scarred in the autumn, being annual meadow-grass and the weather favouring fusarium there ain't much I can do about it, guv. In one ear and out of the other. You can put money on the same moans coming at exactly the same time of year. Has the golfing boom brought a plethora of unenlightened golfers onto our courses or do they just like raising the greenkeeper's hackles?

It may come as no surprise to learn that the golfing fraternity has always had its benighted element and although the contents of this article may do nothing to lighten the load when the annual tirade is upon you, it may at least prove of some comfort that your forebears suffered just as much.

The history of golf is littered with little gems of banality, focused not just on course condition and the supposed incompetence of the greenkeeper but on every aspect of the game. The written word is a major source of such platitudes with no better source than the renowned golf journalist, Bernard Darwin, a good golfer in his day too.

Although any reference to the condition of golf courses by golfers has to be taken with some caution, the descriptions from Darwin do give some indication of how golf course maintenance and presentatiion has improved over the years. During the 1890s Darwin received a letter from his father who had been visiting some links, other than his home course, where "the lies are so good that I think a professional could take his

TALKING HEADS

Heard it before?

Blaming greenkeepers and the state of the course for a bad round is one of the oldest excuses in the book, says Steve Isaac, the STRI's Scottish regional agronomist

driver anywhere."

The insistence on the quality of lies was considered a mute point by Darwin who was writing in the 1930s when a good lie was regarded as a right. In an article on St Andrews, written in 1934, he remembers a time long past when one remarked "I've got a good lie", whereas by that era of high-tech maintenance equipment one only commented on a bad lie! Times have obviously changed little since the 1930s in this respect, though with much busier courses complaints of a poor lie may be more frequently heard, particularly where, as seems increasingly the case, poor golfing etiquette is commonplace.

From the same era it is reported that a distinguished professional, whilst playing in a tournament on a well known links, remarked that he could not see which was fairway and which was putting green. The comment was intended as criticism that the green was not distinct from its surrounds but Darwin praised the fine texture and naturalness of the links turf that caused the fairway to melt into the green. The attitude of the professional would, I am sure, be mirrored by the majority of today's golfers, whatever their standard of play If everything isn't in a contrasting stripe and clearly defined from rough, through semi, fairway, surround and fringe before one sees the green then there is something seriously amiss with the man looking after the course. If only we could follow Darwin's example, especially on links and heathland courses where nature has carved out the golfing territory, then the golf course would be a much more environmentally friendly character, and far easier to maintain.

Support for this view comes from a rather unexpected source, the top American professional Bobby Jones who in 1926 compared the heavily watered American greens and artificial American courses to the naturalness of the British links with greens "watered only from the skies". Jones stressed the variable conditions of the links which "afford ample opportunity for the display of any strategic talent we may possess, and preserve in the most human of games that fascinating personal element which is its chief attraction."

Golfers of the present day would do well to heed these words before they throw the next tirade at the greenkeeper. There does seem to be far more emphasis these days on producing golf courses that favour the less-skilled golfer, holding greens and no impediment to a good lie and stance even into the semi rough, than encouraging the player to improve his game so that he can adapt to prevailing conditions. Yet, it has been known for professionals to make adverse comment on the condition of a true links that is in, by most accounts, good order. Darwin noted a distinguished professional of the era excusing his poor performance in the Open Championship with the quip "I can't play on these beastly seaside courses." One might dismiss the quote as misguided rancour **Continued on Page 62**





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Judges' decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff.

John Burgess of Chalgrove Manor Golf Club was the winner of our March competition. He noted the notes - and now he's £50 better off. Start looking NOW and it could be YOUR TURN for success next

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