

£750-worth of prizes to be won!

Only a few spaces left for BTME '95

★ Here is your chance to win a greenkeeper's dream holiday – an expenses-paid trip to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. There's a mammoth £750-worth of prizes to be won! We will pay your rail fare. We will put you up in one of the best hotels in Harrogate and we will give you a free pass to the outstanding education seminar programme.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of THREE superb prizes is answer six questions. Two are published this issue, two more will appear in September and the final two will be published in our October issue. When you have the answers to all six questions, complete the form and return it to us by October 30, 1994.



The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate, January 25-27, is filling up fast. Eighty-six per cent of the stand space has been sold with more than 100 companies booking space six months early.

New exhibitors for 1995 include the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Euromec Ltd, suppliers of front deck mowers, collection machines, industrial sweepers and scrubber driers. The British Association of Golf Course Constructors have said they want to return after the success of this year's show. Many companies, such as Lely UK, Hardi Sprayers and Sisis, are taking more space.

"Stand space is selling at an unprecedented rate and unless some companies book soon, we may not be able to fit them in," warns BIGGA's sales and marketing manager, Bill Lynch. "We have reached the stage now where we'll only be able to fit another 18 companies in. Although there are six months to

go before the seventh BTME, I fear some companies may leave it too late and end up disappointed."

Anyone wondering about the effectiveness of the show need only talk to two of this year's exhibitors.

Graham Williams of John Deere Ltd says: "We decided to double our stand space at the 1994 exhibition. We were not disappointed, the quality of enquiries received was excellent and has contributed towards our growth during 1994."

Chris Macgowan, sales and marketing director of Ransomes, says: "We find the BTME by far and away the most cost effective show that we take space at in the UK. It is very clearly focused on the golf market, it is extremely well attended nationwide, and because of the education programme that runs alongside the show, greenkeepers and course managers really do want to come to the show rather than merely trying to find the time to attend it. We always make a point of launching new machines at Harrogate in January – it is by far the best shop window for us."

AUGUST QUESTIONS

1. Which company doubled its stand space at BTME '94?
2. Which association will take a stand at BTME '95 for the first time?

Our normal competition rules apply.

★ **FIRST PRIZE** – Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights' accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry to all the education seminar sessions ★ **SECOND PRIZE** – Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK, two nights' accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all seminar sessions ★ **THIRD PRIZE** – One night's accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all seminar sessions.

Super Mosstox is as effective on turf as it is on hard surfaces (and as gentle)



SUPER MOSSTOX is a liquid Mosskiller that can be used on fine turf and hard surfaces, wherever moss is a problem.

Controlling moss and spores, SUPER MOSSTOX is easy to use, effective, yet kind to both turf and hard surfaces, such as synthetic sports pitches, car parks or stonework.

SUPER MOSSTOX may be used at any time when the conditions are moist.



Rhône Poulenc Environmental Products, Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex CM5 0HW Tel: 0277 301301 Fax: 0277 301119

SUPERMOSSTOX CONTAINS DICHLOROPHEN. READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY : USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.

Turnberry's Ailsa course was in amazing condition for the 123rd Open. George Brown and his team of 18 full-time staff and three temps did a brilliant job.

It's always difficult to set up a links course because you never know what the weather is going to be like but, judging by the scores, it seems they got that right, too.

George was certainly proud of it. "It would be difficult to get it better," he said.

A few days before the big week, his staff were lightly watering parts of the 6,957-yard par 70 course because the greens were going brown, then he had three days of rain which made the greens and fairways soft.

"The last three days didn't help," said George on the eve of the tournament. "On Friday evening we played golf with the R&A and the course was absolutely beautiful, the greens were firm and fast, almost crunching underneath the spikes. Mike Bonallack asked me what sort of weather I'd like and I said, 'A little shower would see us nicely for the week' and since then it's rained every day. We had 17mm on Sunday, 5 or 6mm on Monday and another 4 or 5 on Tuesday – coupled with no wind. I can't remember Turnberry going five days on the trot without a breath of wind."

For most of the competition Turnberry was blessed with sunshine and light breezes, although after one wet and windy afternoon Willie Blair was heard muttering: "I don't know why they don't hold this competition in the summer."

Before the event George had said: "It's just like having your mother-in-law over for Sunday tea, you just do a bit extra." So we asked him whether it really was that simple.

"Yes, it was," he replied, "you get the best white tablecloth out and polish the table."

But he was obviously happy. "I'm very pleased," he said, "We've received so much good publicity from the newspapers, magazines and players."

Looking around the course after the event, he said everything would soon get back to normal. Mother Nature would take care of the rough that had been trampled down by spectators; his staff would concentrate on repairing the damage to the Arran Course's 2nd and 18th fairways, which were used as a practice ground and walkway respectively, and to the original practice area, where the tented village was sited. He gave the impression that within a couple of weeks you wouldn't notice the Open had been there.

It would all be a memory – but what a memory!

● Nicked it: Nick Price congratulates George Brown and his Turnberry team.



The Open



It's the best condition I've seen an Open Championship course in the last 10-15 years – Michael Bonallack, R&A secretary



Specs appeal: Gordon Moir watches the final players come in at the 18th

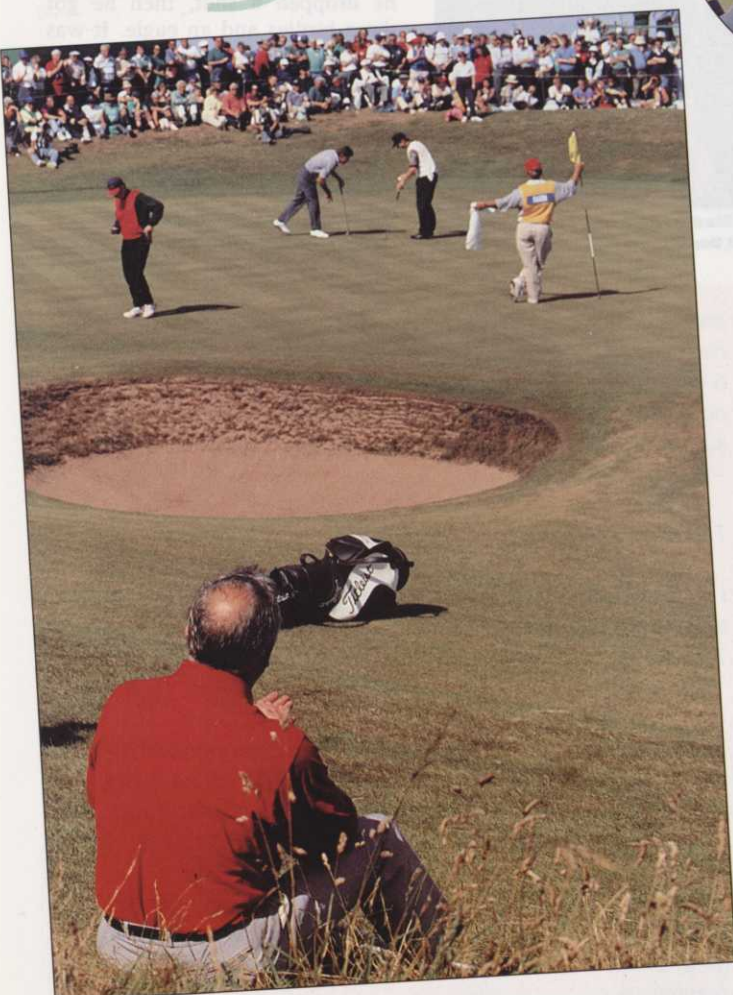


Price is right: Open Champion Nick Price meets the BIGGA support team

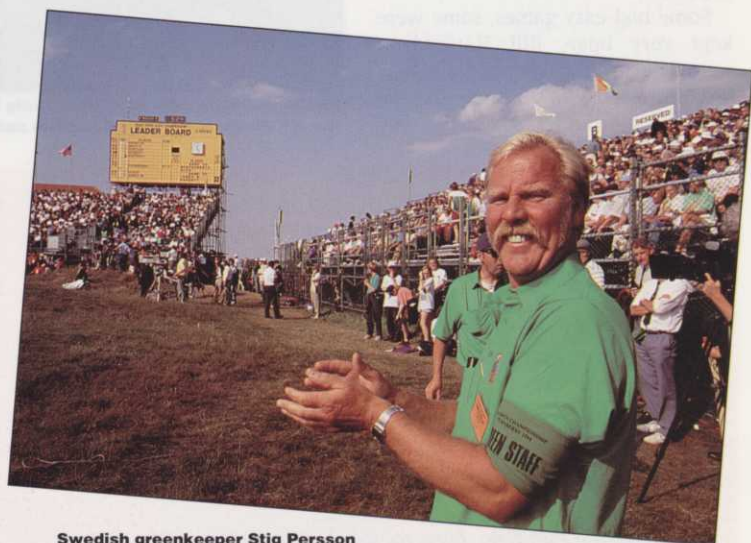
Below: Bill Hatfield

...and Duncan Smith

I have to compliment the R&A for the wonderful job in setting it up. Of all the British Opens, this is the best condition of an Open Championship I have ever seen. It is the best condition of a links course I have played in Europe. The condition is fantastic – Greg Norman



Bert Cross watches Nick Price putt out on 6th



Swedish greenkeeper Stig Persson cheers on Parnevik – before he hears what's happened in the following game

This is only the second links course I have played and I think it's awesome. The novelty is that we do not play courses like this in the United States. The way it looks, the way it plays, the different shots you have to play, it's just different, just great. You need more imagination on a course like this – Tom Lehman



The Open

BIGGA at

Lew Brown and Buddy De Sylva must have been thinking of the bunker rakers at the Open when they decided: "The best things in life are free."

While some spectators were complaining about the cost of a day out at this year's championship – £20 entrance fee, £6 for car parking, £90 for a seat at the 18th – members of the BIGGA support team were enjoying a complimentary grandstand view of each game.

Since 1984 greenkeepers from around the country – and a few from abroad – have been drafted in for the Open to rake the bunkers and help the permanent staff with things like divoting.

This year more than 125 greenkeepers volunteered for the 52-strong team, many taking a week off work for a chance to be part of one of the most exciting Opens for years. They were close at hand for the memorable moments, like Nick Faldo playing the wrong ball, John Daly hitting two balls into the wee burn at the 16th and Nick Price's 75ft eagle putt at the 17th.

Sometimes they got a little too close to the action. Richard Heaslip, head greenkeeper at Epping Forest GC, was struck on the right arm by Tom Watson's wayward shot to the 18th green. He was later spotted recovering in the bar, using his left arm to lift pints of the beer that reaches parts that other beers can't. He said it was what the doctor ordered.

Some had easy games, some were kept very busy. Bill Hatfield, a retired head greenkeeper from Darlington, was with Andrew George when he shot an 83. About the only

Reports and photographs by **CHRIS BOILING**

holes he didn't go into sand on were the 9th, where there isn't a bunker, and the 16th, when he went into the burn. "On the 14th Andrew said to me, 'You must have blisters'. I said, 'I'm not suffering as much pain as you.' He smiled," recalls Bill.

Lee Trevino also felt sorry for his bunker raker, Willie Blair. After finding his fourth bunker in succession, the former champion patted Willie on the back and said: "Make sure they're paying you overtime, buddy!"

Who rakes for whom is decided by drawing the names out of a hat. Alec Robertson, first assistant at Grangemouth GC near Falkirk, had the honour of marching down the 18th with the last pair, Brad Faxon and Fuzzy Zoeller. He also had Brad Faxon in the first round, when he was playing with Gary Player and Jose Rivero. In the second round he had top amateur Warren Bennett, and in the

third round he had Nick Faldo and Mark Calcavecchia, who gave him a ball. It was 42-year-old Alec's seventh Open and "definitely the best as far as draws are concerned."

As it turned out, this year the penultimate pairing was the most important game. And the honour of walking down the last fairway with the '94 Open champion went to Brian Payne, head greenkeeper at Burnham Beeches GC for the past 24 years.

Brian, 52, told me: "It was a terrific atmosphere, but when you've done it for six years you know what to expect."

Many other greenkeepers were happy with their draw on the final day, too.

Dean Cleaver, 36, course manager at Gay Hill near Birmingham, had Greg Norman: "He's someone I've always admired. He played superb golf, just failed to sink the putts but it was a real experience, especially coming down the 18th. It's something I will never forget. The sound hits you and you feel part of it being inside the ropes. It's a terrific feeling." It was Dean's first Open and he was given a ball marked 'Shark' by Norman.

Russell Blackburn, one of two assistants at Castle Douglas, was with Anders Forsbrand, who shot a final round 64. "Even to be here is fantastic but that round was amazing. He started off two under, then he dropped a shot, then he got three birdies and an eagle. It was just fantastic. Coming up the 18th was the best experience ever. After his eagle at the 17th I was as hyped up as he was." The Swedish star gave Russell his glove as they walked to the 18th green. "I'm going to frame it," Russell told me, "It'll never get worn again."



BIGGA members with 'Mr Walrus' Craig Stadler: from left, Billy Merritt and Russell Black, and Ronan McKeown and Bert Cross

The course is set up magnificently, the best condition of any Open I have played in the 10 or 11 years I have played it
– Ronan Rafferty after shooting a 65 on day 3

This is one of the best links courses I have played. Really fun
– Brad Faxon, joint leader after three days

This is a very good course, we don't have this type in Japan. But it's difficult for me to find the line to shoot at because there's nothing to take a line on – Masashi Ozaki

The course is fantastic. Nice to see the R&A listened from the last time and I have to say they have done a great job. Greens as good as possibly they can be. Fairways in good condition and the rough is very fair, so probably the best conditions I have seen in quite a long time. It is set up perfect, and anyone scoring 10 or 15 under may win. Nothing wrong with that. Whatever happens, it is going to be a great championship
– Seve Ballesteros on the eve of the tournament

The course is in very good shape and condition. It seems to be quite fair. It is a bit easier without the wind, but there are some long holes out there where I had to go with long irons

and fairway woods on the par 4s. The fairways are a bit narrow, but there is a stretch of semi rough on both sides 5 to 6 yards which seems to make it fair before the thick rough stuff comes. What I remember in '86 it was severe, only 3–4ft of semi and then really bad kraut, as we would say
– Bernard Langer

The course is very good – Nick Faldo

I think the whole golf course is good. The lighthouse 9th hole is the one that stands out. I think it is the toughest on the course. They have some very tough short holes there, especially the 15th – Ernie Els

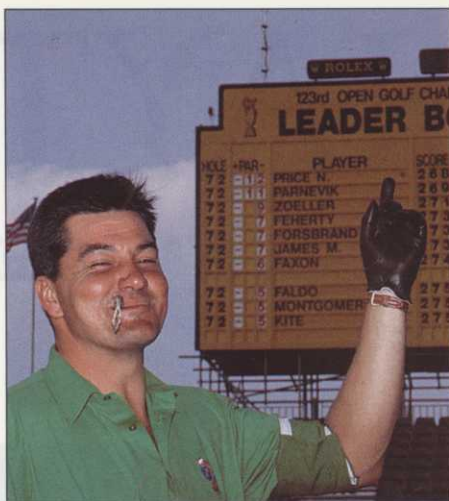
The course is in great shape and it is very straightforward – not a lot of hidden things out there. Greens do not have big, gigantic hollows and the slopes are not overly done. If you play well, you will shoot well – Corey Pavin

I think we've got a course in fantastic condition and they all agree on that. We've set the course up so players can have a go at it – Neil Roach, chairman of the R&A's championship committee

Gavin Kyle, 28, head greenkeeper at the new Sutton Park Golf Club, Surrey, was given Nick Price's glove by his caddy, Jeff 'Squeaky' Medlin, even though he was not raking for him. It was probably because Gavin, who comes from Durban in South Africa, said 'well done' in Afrikaans.

The greenkeepers are briefed to "only speak if spoken to". But if Ronan McKeown had spoken up on the 17th on the first day, the Open might have had a different result. He saw Nick Faldo play the wrong ball. "I had a feeling it wasn't his ball, but you can't say anything can you? Supposing you were wrong?"

Of course, it's not all big names and low scores. Euan Grant's threesome came in 49 over par. The UK's Lee Fickling finished with an 80 for a 20 over par total, Sweden's Anders Gillner shot 79 for +13 and Colombia's Eduardo Herrera's 79 gave him a +16



Winning hand: Gavin Kyle shows off two gifts from Nick Price – his Bridgestone glove and some "biltong", a South African dried meat which Price keeps in his bag for nutrition. Gavin, head greenkeeper at Sutton Park, which is due to open in November, comes from Durban and has been in this country 14 years.

As Brian Payne says: "It's nice to go out for people who are not household names, so you know who to look for in the future."

Ivan Hall, a retired greenkeeper, went out with Ruben Alvarez of Argentina, Peter Smith and Warren Bennett of the UK – and ended up talking to golf-mad Prince Andrew.

score. "I'd have preferred to watch a ladies' Tuesday medal," he said.

Richard Barker looked at his draw for the first two games and was a bit disappointed – no big names. Then he saw Jonathan Lomas shoot a 66 to lead for much of the first day and on the second day he had overnight leader Greg Turner!

International

The support team is an international gathering. As well as the usual English and Scottish greenkeepers there were sisters Jean Esposito and Sue Smith from their family run Hinckley Hills Golf Club in Ohio, a Welsh course manager with Thai ties, and three greenkeepers from Sweden, who were hoping for a Jesper Parnevik victory. Maybe next year!

This year it was Nick Price who collected the Claret Jug and had the honour of being pictured with the boys and girls from BIGGA. Afterwards, when he said: "I am still a little stunned right now. It is amazing," we think he was referring to shaking hands with Jim Paton.

And when he said, "I nearly jumped out of my skin, it is like a fairy tale," he was probably recalling his visit to the loo in the greenkeepers' office. About three hours after finishing his round, Price was still giving interviews and signing autographs when he got caught short. He asked if he could use our loo. While he was in the small room, his wife Sue waited outside holding the Claret Jug.

Now that's something you don't see watching the Open on TV.



Congratulations to NICK PRICE on winning the 123rd Open Championship and to George Brown and his team for a true Championship course at Turnberry Hotel

Watermation
IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Chosen for the best places!

See us on Stand P8-10 at Saltext (IOG) Show

AD
REF
33

SCOTLAND
POWERSHIFT
Dundee
0382 24152

NORTHERN
ENGLAND
GIBSONS GARDEN
MACHINERY LIMITED
Kirkham
0772 682516

FEWSTER AGRIC
SERVICES LIMITED
Seaton Burn
091 236 4155

F R SHARROCK
LIMITED
Wigan
0257 422710

MOUNTAINS MOWERS
Leeds
0532 531201

SEWARD
AGRICULTURAL
MACHINERY
Beverley
0482 869155

MIDLANDS
GROUNDCARE
Lincoln
0526 860060

MITCHELL FARM
INDUSTRIES LTD
Nottingham
0785 787987

MOTRAC
Nesscliffe
0743 741528

WFI GRASSCARE
Stratford upon Avon
0789 204073

WOODLANDS
BRIGSTOCK LIMITED
Kettering
0536 373238

EAST ANGLIA
BEN BURGESS
GARDEN EQUIPMENT
LIMITED
Norwich
0603 628251

COWIES EASTERN
TRACTORS LIMITED
Chelmsford
0245 256281

GRASSHOPPER
HORT. LIMITED
Chelmsford
0245 362377

GOLF AND TURF
EQUIPMENT
Codicote
0438 820879

RISBORO TURF
LIMITED
Princes
Risborough
0844 274127

THURLOW NUNN
STANDEN LIMITED
Ely
0353 662871



HAYTER

THE COURSE LEADER

T44



S W ENGLAND
ROCHFORD
GARDEN
MACHINERY LTD
Wincanton
0963 33713

DEVON GARDEN
MACHINERY
LIMITED
Torquay
0803 872124

G J HANDY
AND CO LIMITED
Swindon
0793 721615

RON SMITH
AND CO LIMITED
Worcester
0905 23887

HENNINGS
HORTICULTURAL LTD
Falmouth
0326 250020

LONDON
& SOUTHERN
ENGLAND
GOLF AND TURF
EQUIPMENT
Basingstoke
0734 326484

DRAKE AND
FLETCHER LIMITED
Ashford
0233 6250445

E O CULVERWELL
Lewes
0273 480250

NEW FOREST FARM
MACHINERY LIMITED
Ringwood
0425 472572

NORTH WALES
MAJOR R OWEN
LIMITED
Penrhynudraeth
0766 770261

SOUTH WALES
PRO TURF
Carmarthen
0267 233648

TED HOPKINS
Newport
0633 680754

NORTHERN
IRELAND
CYRIL JOHNSTON
AND CO LIMITED
Belfast
0232 813121

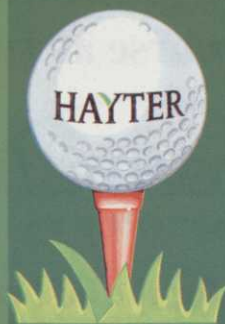
SOUTHERN
IRELAND
DUBLIN GRASS
MACHINERY
Dublin
010 353 1 386995

JOHN O'FLYNN
AND SON LIMITED
Cork
010 353 21314088

CHANNEL
ISLANDS
TONY MAHY
Guernsey
0481 45468

THE PROFESSIONALS' NUMBER ONE CHOICE

Truly way out in front, the T44 is the self-propelled gang mower. The only choice you need to make is 10" fixed or 8" floating heads with 6, 8 or 10 knives. Ample power, advanced controls, weight transfer,



four-wheel drive and differential lock combine to make this machine your perfect playing partner. To proceed further in your quest for perfection, call your dealer today for full details and a demonstration.

AD
REF
90

Hayters PLC, Spellbrook, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 4BU Telephone: (0279) 600919 Facsimile: (0279) 600338

With about 650 greenkeepers attending, the first Southturf exhibition is being hailed a great success by BIGGA's South East section. They say pictures are worth 1,000 words, so here is the way our photographer saw it...

Job shock for greenkeeper

A head greenkeeper went to a section golf day and found out his job was being advertised. A fellow head greenkeeper told him a friend from Scotland was interested in the post and had phoned him inquiring about the course. The job had been advertised in Golf Weekly and the Scottish greenkeeper had replied to a PO Box number.

The head greenkeeper, who has asked not to be named at this stage, says he hasn't been sacked yet but that after seven years at the Essex club he has received two written warnings for different things in the past six months from a secretary who has been in his job for about a year.

"Suddenly he is picking holes in everything I do," says the head greenkeeper, who was about to call a meeting with the chairman and captain as we went to press.



Right: John Deere has broadened its range with the addition of the Gator 4x2 utility vehicle



Above: Pattison's new goodies include a swivel putting flag (£9.95), a heavy-duty hole-cutter (£95), and a pear shaped tee marker made of resin not wood (£6.90). Making a comeback is the divot box (£64)



Above: Hayter impressed these greenkeepers with its T44

Left: The Huxley Multi-Depth Aerator attracted a lot of interest alongside its sister greensmowers, hydraulic reelmower and ride-on rotary mowers

Right: A new-style Big Bird bunker rake with shortened teeth that are angled back and supports to stop it twisting is given its first public showing by Tacit. It costs £14.50. Also shown is the improved Laser holecutter with upgraded blades and a self-setting depth gauge costing £110



Supertox 30 dismisses over 22 different turf weeds



SUPER TOX 30 is the U.K.'s number one selective turf herbicide with an established reputation for reliable broad-spectrum weed control.

SUPER TOX 30 may be used on all established turf types, and a flexible dosage allows you to choose the most effective rate for your weed problem. It's available in a 5 litre Tip 'n Pour container or a 25 litre drum.

CDA SUPER TOX 30 has been formulated for use through the LANCELOT Controlled Droplet Applicator. With no water to add and no mixing, weeds are dismissed with ease.



Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products, Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex CM5 0HW. Tel: 0277 301301 Fax: 0277 301119

AD REF 59

SUPER TOX 30 & CDA SUPER TOX 30 CONTAIN 2, 4-D AND MECOPROP. READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY : USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.

The greens were cut once a week, they had a fence round them to keep the cattle off and the annual maintenance budget was £10. The greenkeeper's wages were less than 50p a week and his equipment included a horse. Such was the lot of a greenkeeper when Bedale Golf Club was formed 100 years ago. John Walker, a past captain and vice-president of the Yorkshire club, sifts through a hundred years of committee minutes to see how the life and work of the greenkeeper has changed.

What a greenkeeper could expect 100 years ago:

Ten bob a week and a horse...

In looking back at greenkeeping practices it should be borne in mind that a parkland golf course 100 years ago was far removed from the present manicured masterpiece. Indeed, it was basic in the extreme, with tees identified by markers on fairways, which were themselves cut to the height of today's semi rough, whilst greens were cut probably once a week, or less. As land was primarily for agriculture purposes, golf was mainly undertaken during the winter months. However, the speedy construction of a golf course is highlighted in Bedale's case by the fact that a general meeting was held on November 20 1894 with the purpose of forming a golf club, and an exhibition match was played on December 6 between the two greenkeeper/professionals from Richmond and Studley Royal Golf Clubs.

It is clear from the records that the greens were fenced to protect them from cattle, and the cost for this work in 1913 was £14/18/11 (£14.85) for nine greens, with £2 for the flags!

For the period between 1895 and 1915, the cost of maintenance for the course never exceeded £10 per annum, and this included cutting and rolling greens. It would appear that the fairways were cut by the tenant farmer. After 1915 the course declined, and there are no records until 1919, when it was decided to reform it in April.

A price of £1/1/0 (£1.05) for preparing nine tees was accepted from JH Raper, the Hornby Castle Golf Club groundsman. In 1919 it was necessary to fence the greens again, and wood and wire were given for this work, together with ammunition boxes for sand on the tees. The fairways, during this period, and indeed for many years to come, were cut by the tenant farmer three times a year, at a cost of £17, but who undertook the cutting of the greens is unrecorded, it must be assumed that a groundsman was used. In 1921, the course moved to adjoining land and in March the committee agreed the price for the making of seven greens and eight tees at £17/10/0 (£17.50).

They also agreed to pay 6/- (30p) for putting down moles, and £2 for cutting hedges. In addition to all this it was decided to purchase a stone roller for 30/- (£1.50p) for rolling the greens. J Myers was appointed groundsman in 1921 at a wage of 10/- (50p) per week, and this was the rate paid for groundsmen for many years. Complaints about the length of the grass on the fairways were common, which was not surprising when one considers the infrequency of cutting. The condition of the greens were subject to a request by the club to the landlord for

permission to use sand from the rabbit warren on the course to mix with the basic slag for dressing the greens. Half a ton of basic slag was purchased to spread on rough patches. This year also saw the purchase of a greens cutter for a price of £5/7/6 (£5.35). The accounts for the end of 1922 detail the cost of grass-cutting at £1/12/6 (£1.63), the groundsman's wage at £26/10- (£26.50) and worm killer at 5/- (25p).

By 1923, a decision was taken to hire "Sir William Gray's cutters" three or four times a year, so obviously the groundsman was now responsible for this work, as well as the greens. The rent of the course this year was increased from £3 to £5 per annum.

'The committee got rid of the horse in the winter when it was not needed'

1924 saw the appointment of a new groundsman at a wage of 5/- for each cutting of all the greens, and 3/- (15p) for rolling. This price was also to include the filling of the sand boxes. By 1925, the groundsman was instructed to take responsibility to cut the fairways, and to this end a grass cutter was purchased for £20, together with a horse! The committee got rid of the horse in the winter when it was not needed.

A 14in Pennsylvania roller mower was purchased this year, so the groundsman now had at least two major pieces of equipment. An inspection of the grass cutters by Messrs Shanks & Son identified £5 worth of repairs

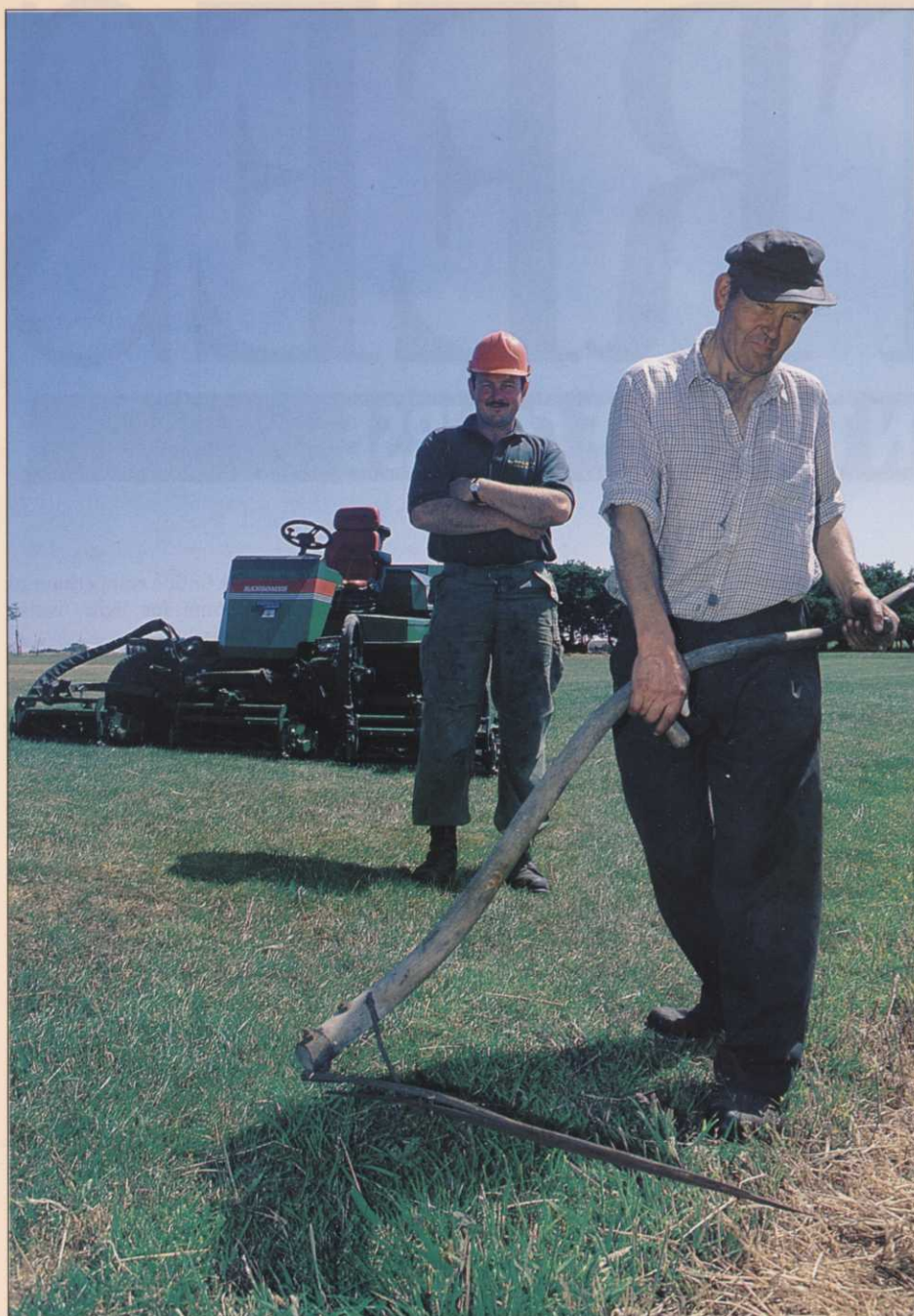
needed, and this was reluctantly approved at the AGM.

The year 1928 saw the appointment of JH Raper as groundsman/professional, who was to remain at Bedale for about 30 years. His initial wage in 1928 was £1 per week.

One of Raper's early tasks was to convince the committee to convert the fairway single cutter to a triple unit at a cost of £40. This obviously reduced the fairway cutting time, but the cutters were still horse-drawn! In 1932, the course moved to a new site some way from the existing, and Raper not only designed the new course, but was responsible for obtaining labour and supervising the construction. In consideration for which the committee purchased a bicycle for him to get between the two courses during the transition and on conclusion paid him an honorarium of £10. In 1933 Raper was asked to attend a sale and bid for a secondhand Atco cutter. Committee permission was given to bid up to £11 for the machine, the price to include commission and other charges.

Raper requested the committee to lay down his duties, which they did as follows: "The professional was expected to keep the course in the same pleasing condition which the committee appreciate as he had done in the past, and endeavour to carry out to the satisfaction of the greens committee any directions that they may find it necessary to give him." Clear, concise, and no doubt a model for many of our course manager/head greenkeepers even today! The committee in 1934, following a request from Raper, agreed to pay his National Health Insurance of 1/6 (7.5p) per week, and his wage was increased to £1/6/6 (£1.30).

The question of purchasing a vehicle to pull the fairway cutter had been considered and



A cut above: George Holland with one of Bedale's original scythes unearthed during a clearout. Looking on is Neil Austwick, with the course's more up to date means of keeping the place in trim

rejected previously, for reasons of cost, but in 1935 Bedale Garage offered to sell them a secondhand car for £10. This was agreed by the committee after running costs had been explored, as it would allow Raper to complete the job in a shorter time, allowing him more time for other work! However, before the purchase was finally agreed, the secretary was instructed to write to the makers of the cutters to check the speed that they could be pulled.

The club showed their generosity to Raper in 1937 by making him a gift of £5 so that he could go on holiday, however, the secretary was told to inform him that he was not to expect an annual present! In 1939, a new motor mower for the greens was purchased, at a cost of £23/10/0 (£23.50).

During the whole of the war period, the question of spares machinery was uppermost in the greens committee and Raper's mind, and that was not helped by the fact that the car used for towing the cutters was a Citroen, for which no spares were available. In addition to all this, Raper was not only expected to carry out his normal greenkeeper's work, but

to keep the clubhouse clean and take the competition entrance fees.

By 1946, Raper had got the committee to agree to the appointment of a groundsman, on the basis of £3/10/0 (£3.50) per week for 31 weeks, and £2/10/0 (£2.50) for the remaining 21 weeks over the winter. This staffing situation did not last long, for by 1951 the membership had declined to 62, and it was decided to dispense with the services of the groundsman, so Raper found himself back carrying out all work with the volunteer help of the members.

The greens were causing a problem in 1948, and worming them was decided with the purchase of 2cwt of Fison's Special Worm Killer, at £2 per cwt. Although the original Citroen car had been dispensed with in 1948, further secondhand cars were used to tow the fairway cutters. Motor mowers for greens had caused problems, but the committee felt unable to purchase a new one with the problems of the falling membership, and it was not until 1957 that a 20in Ransomes Green Cutter was purchased for £121.

The tractor situation was again causing a problem, for the car had been replaced by a tractor, although no records are available, but in 1958 a 1953 Ferguson tractor was purchased for £255, subject to a complete overhaul, a new near-side tyre, and a three months' guarantee! It was decided to keep the old tractor, so for a period Bedale Golf Club owned two tractors. By 1958, a further greenkeeper was appointed and as this was the year of Raper's retirement he was obviously the head man, and for most of his time, the only man, although references to additional temporary help are frequently made. The salary paid was not very great for the greenkeeper, Hodgson, decided that he would be better off during the winter with unemployment benefit. The committee felt he was a good man, and they should keep him, they eventually agreed a wage of £3/10/0 (£3.50) per week.

In 1960, it was decided to introduce water to the course, and various systems were tried. Eventually a Rain King sprinkler was decided, with 400 yds of large bore tubing. The costs are not detailed, but the larger pump cost £85, a smaller one having proved unsatisfactory.

In 1967, the course moved finally to its present location, although additional land amounting to 30 acres was subsequently purchased in 1989. The development of the new course, in 1957, was carried out mainly by the members, as the greenkeeping staff had to maintain the existing course, and could only be spared occasionally. However, this was not the case when the additional 30 acres were developed by golf architects Hawtrees who produced a scheme which also re-organised the existing course at the same time. Whilst the overall contract work was supervised by the architect, day-to-day supervision was carried out by the head greenkeeper/course manager, Garry Munro, a valuable experience for a newly appointed member of staff in 1989. The machinery used on the course since 1967 has shown many increases over the years, as indeed has staff, from one to three to the present day – course manager, first and second greenkeepers, and two staff on agricultural wages.

Greenkeeping machinery in 1994 comprises: For the greens – Toro GM 3000D, Jacobsen Greens King with scarifying units and three Ransomes Auto-certex; for the tees, aprons and approaches – Jacobsen Tri-King (Diesel); for the fairways – Beaver LM 508 gangs (hydraulic); rough and semi – Ransomes MK10 and Mk12; tractors – Ford 39/30 with loader and case International 484; compact tractors – Ford 12/10 and Kubota 15/50 with mounted mower; sundries – 1 Flymo, 1 strimmer, 2 rotary mowers, Hardi BL 200 Sprayer; aeration equipment – Coremaster for hollow coring, Sisis Greens Slitter, and Sisis Fairway Slitter; Scarifying – Sisis twin-headed scarifier, Wessex 5ft Littermiser; Irrigation – Toro system with 3000 controller, Toro 655 heads (700 on new tees).

In the '70s and '80s all servicing work was carried out by outside contractors at costs of up to £8,000, but now all this work is carried out in-house with the exception of grinding which will also be carried out in-house in the future.

All this is far removed from 1894, but it is fair to remind readers of the state of the course then.

Michael Bird examines tree establishment and takes a look at what's available for the golf course

TREES

ON THE GOLF COURSE

Unless faced with totally hostile growing conditions or relying solely on the natural contours of the land to provide interest, protection or a challenge to golfers, trees are regarded as an essential element on the majority of courses.

Able to provide shape, shade and shelter, trees can be used to achieve four principle aims:

- Strategic, helping to define the line of a hole, for example, by forcing a dog-leg or for use in the place of bunkers.
- Protective, separating groups of golfers to limit danger from stray

balls landing on neighbouring fairways or in the 'no mans land' between tees and greens.

- Screening, to hide buildings or separate roadways from the playing area and also reduce the risk of balls being driven onto roads, paths or built-up areas.
- Cosmetic, adding colour, interest and an attractive appearance to the course.

Furthermore, trees are also used to reduce soil erosion, to provide shelter from the wind and, in the case of single specimens, to add variety or a degree of difficulty to an otherwise

straightforward hole.

Irrespective of their ultimate purpose, trees should always be selected to fit in with the surrounding area, stresses Peter Dowle, tree specialist with landscape design consultancy, the Julian Dowle Partnership.

"There are sufficient varieties available to meet all of the different applications required on a golf course," he pointed out. "The aim should be to plant species which harmonise with the existing landscape, rather than choose examples which stick out like a sore thumb."

To that end, he advises that trees be considered with a design objective as well as with a practical goal. All too often, trees are planted which are capable of doing the job for which they are intended, yet do nothing to enhance their surroundings due to inappropriate colour or shape.

"A little care over selection will be amply repaid in years ahead," he commented. "Not only will the plantings be of practical benefit but they will also look good and enhance the appearance and reputation of the course."

Apart from environmental considerations, Mr Dowle advocates the use of a check list to help choose and establish the right tree both from a practical and aesthetic point of view:

- Ensure that the tree is suitable for the purpose for which it is intended.
- Select a variety which is suited to the soil type, the aspect and the available light.
- Position the tree so that it does

not provide undue competition to its neighbours for light, water and nutrients.

- Ensure that water is readily available, especially for the first year or two in the case of new plantings.
- Ensure that sufficient access is available for machines and golfers to minimise the risk of damage or distress to the tree.

When it comes to buying trees, avoid "bargain basement" offers, advises Peter Dowle. "Unless you are able to inspect the new trees first, there is no way of knowing how they have been handled or treated by the grower prior to despatch," he explained.

"Deal with a reputable nursery and seek professional advice if unsure of any aspect of selection, handling or planting."

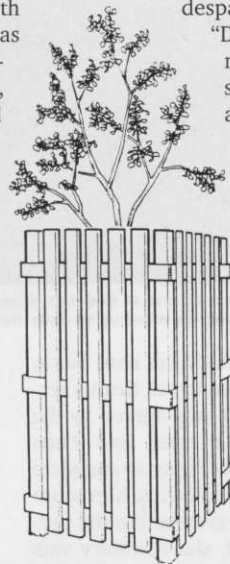
Trees of up to 10cm (4in) girth measured 1m (39in) from soil level will be supplied normally in bare root form. It is essential that these do not dry out.

The usual measure taken by the supplier to prevent dehydration involves dipping the roots in a moisture-retaining solution prior to sealing them in a bag. If there is to be a delay of a week or more before planting, it is

advisable to remove the bag and "heel-in" the roots in a soil trench.

Trees with a girth greater than 10cm at 1m above soil level should come with a hessian or wire mesh wrapped root ball which provides both support and moisture until ready to plant.

Normally, most trees will be available for delivery from late autumn onwards when they are effectively dormant. Planting can



Blenheim tree guard is made from treated timber and is supplied in kit form for easy assembly



NATURE
first

TREE MOVING

Transform your course quickly and economically by transplanting your own large trees.

Tree spades of all sizes available.

AGENTS FOR WYVALE NURSERIES

For free site visit and advice

Contact:

MARTIN BROMAGE

PHONE 0452 731199 FAX 0452 731131
WOOD LANE NURSERY, DOWN HATHERLEY, GLOS

