

Around the Green



future go to Jim, Margaret and family from everyone in the section.

Everyone should have received the entry forms for the five-a-side football tournament which is taking place next month, so if you intend entering a team, please return your forms as soon as possible. If you would like to enter a team, but cannot get five players from your own club, then you may make up a team from other courses as long as everyone is a member of the Association. Likewise with patrons of the Scottish Region, teams may be made up of players from more than one company, as long as they are all patrons of the Region, (this could create some interesting combinations).

Details of some future events: Tuesday November 2 - Lecture by British Seed Houses, time and venue to be confirmed; Tuesday November 29 - Section AGM at Abersour Golf Club and a talk on course presentation by Jimmy Kidd, director of turfgrass management at Gleneagles, at Burntisland Golf Club, date and time to be confirmed. A full list of section events for the winter period will be circulated shortly.

Response to the questionnaire sent out earlier this year was dismal, to say the least, but at least some members took time to return them with the outcome as follows: Health and safety 12, first aid 14, education 11, chemicals 11, fertilisers/irrigation 10, grass seeds 7, course construction 16, machinery 12, course presentation 15, thatch and compaction 10, additional golf tournaments 8, man management 1, quiz night 1, chain saw training 1, machinery repairs maintenance 1.



Efforts will be made to organise as many of the above subjects as possible during the coming months.

JOHN CRAWFORD

EAST SCOTLAND

The annual Summer Tournament, held over Lothianburn GC, was very poorly attended which makes you wonder if it is worthwhile holding it at all. However, our grateful thanks go to head greenkeeper Stuart Melville and his staff for the excellent condition of the course, despite the recent dry condition; to the captain and committee for the courtesy; and to the catering staff for the meals etc.

Chris Whittle, course manager at Muirfield, has decided on pastures new. Chris is leaving later this year to take over Royal Birkdale and the section wish him all the best. Another on the move is Robert Hogarth, ex-Peebles GC who, after a short spell as a salesman; has returned to the greenkeeping profession as head greenkeeper at Interleithen GC. We all wish Robert the best and will hopefully see him again at our many events which he has supported throughout the years.

A change has taken place to the qualifying for next year's Hayter Finals. Qualifying will take place over two tournaments - the Autumn and the Spring with the best aggregate scores going through to the regional finals. Please note that the first qualifier will be the Autumn at Uphall in September followed by the Spring in April.

As secretary, I personally find a tremendous difference this year since the re-organising of the committee under chairman Peter Ormiston. You may remember that I said earlier that Peter had issued jobs to all committee members and put them into various groups; social, match and education. This is certainly working as I find I have very little to do during events and at last can go to the match committee, social committee and education.

Dance tickets this year are going like hot cakes. I would advise anyone who has not yet booked

theirs, to do it now or miss out on the highlight of the year.

The next big event on our calendar is the "Willie Woods". This will be held on August 17 at Murrayfield GC. Entry forms will be out in plenty of time, but make sure they are returned early as we are limited to 40 people.

Another change this year will be the AGM on November 23. Instead of the usual morning lecture, a "Texas Scramble" has been organised with the AGM taking place after this match. More details will follow. It is hoped by the introduction of this more members will attend.

All winter lectures have now been organised and waiting to be rubber stamped at the next committee meeting. The social committee have done a great job, I only hope they get your support.

WILLIE BLAIR

SOUTH WEST

Excellent individual and team performances on two occasions throughout June has meant that South West greenkeepers have triumphed in two golfing events recently.

The first success was in the Hayter regional final held at Bude Golf Club. A full strength team produced first places in each of the three categories, a second place in category 1 and a third place in category 3. Best score of the day was achieved by Paul Legg with a nett 68. With an overall section result such as this the section team shield was presented to the South West by last year's holders Devon and Cornwall.

Thanks must go to the sponsors, Hayter, for their continued support, to Richard Whyman for the unenviable task of producing a first class course for scrutiny by so many fellow professionals and to Bude Golf Club for their hospitality. The below mentioned qualifiers will play in the final at Pannal Golf Club near Harrogate on September 22. South West section qualifiers for each category 1 - 1, Robert Barrett nett 69; 2, Paul Godwin nett 71; category 2 - 1, Robin Greaves nett 69; category 3 - 1, Paul Legg nett 68, 3, Peter Seviour nett 71.

More recently our second victory came at Clevedon Golf Club on June 28 in the annual match versus the secretaries. Team captain Dave Neale began his captaincy on a winning note by selecting a dozen section members who braved the afternoon heat on what was the hottest day of the year so far, to produce a convincing win, the final score being 41/2 to 11/2 points. Avoncrop Amenity Products are the sponsors of the event and many thanks are extended to them for their generosity in presenting a prize to each member of the winning team, providing wine during the meal, and donating the event's shield held last year by the secretaries. Thanks also go to Clevedon GC for the use of their facilities.

KEVIN GREEN

SOUTH WALES

Our regional Hayter Challenge finals were recently held at the Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club, Cornwall.

The course, a beautifully undulating, well manicured course with slick, smooth greens is known to be one of the South West's most challenging links courses. This it proved to be (for me anyway) and a most worthy host to this event, now in its second year of sponsorship.

The 6222yard long course, not over long, but long enough if you know what I mean, was demanding but fair and was presented to the highest of standards. For this we thank Richard Whyman and his team of greenstaff. To the committee and staff at Bude Golf Club, praises cannot be sung loud enough. Nothing was of too much bother or trouble and everybody was both friendly and courteous.

Gordon and Marion Child's organisation was as excellent as ever, with everything running true to form, as was Hayters and hats off to Hayters for without their splendid support this event would not be possible. Thank you Kim Macfie!

Our only qualifier through to the Hayter Challenge Finals, on September 22 at the Pannal Golf

My own club, Bude and North Cornwall GC was the venue for this year's Hayter regional final. As always this event was superbly run by Gordon and Marion Child and didn't Huw Parry do a good job as starter and scorer! Congratulations to C Rawlings and S Milne on qualifying for the National final, but the section's team couldn't hold on to the sectional shield, which was won by the South West for the second time. During the days running up to this event, I had the pleasure to meet the "Hayter support team" consisting of Robin and John, with Hayters back-up service as good as the team running it, it is no wonder Hayters have become leaders in our market.

On concluding this report I would like to inform you that two of our members, Peter Stringer and Tony Ramsden, have recently spent time in hospital. We wish both of you a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you fully recovered at a meeting during the winter programme, also we would like to wish Steve Dommert of DGM a speedy recovery from his broken leg.

RICHARD WHYMAN

SOUTH COAST

We were all very sorry to hear of Royal Winchester's clubhouse being destroyed by fire. The section has for many years enjoyed the hospitality of the club for their December meeting and dinner. Also from Royal Winchester I hear that Kevin Unsworth has left to take up a new position at the new Paultons Golf Centre.

Sparsholt College has established a bursary to assist students experiencing financial difficulties. This has become a problem at the college over the past few years of recession and some students would have to discontinue their studies without help. The committee have therefore felt it appropriate that the section make a donation of £200 towards the fund.

A section seminar is to be organised during March 1995 at Sparsholt College. All members should have received notification of this giving them the opportunity to suggest possible subjects for the seminar. If you have not yet returned the questionnaire, please do so as this will enable us to tailor the seminar to the section needs. A working party has been established to organise the seminar and is due to meet during September.

Eric James, a familiar face in the section for many years, has retired. Eric was one of the founder members of the section in 1969 and has served on the committee ever since. He has been chairman and vice chairman as well as twice serving as national chairman. He assures me that he is still playing and enjoying the courses that he knows so well. I am sure that we all wish Eric a long and happy retirement.

It was sad to learn that Paul Drodge has decided to leave Highcliff Castle after 14 years due to problems with the club.

During June I was able to visit the Isle of Wight for a morning lecture programme and visit Sandown and Shanklin Golf Club during the afternoon. The tour of the course was led by Paul Knight, the head greenkeeper. Paul is a long standing member of BIGGA having been involved in greenkeeping all his working life. He was involved in a serious road accident on his motorcycle a year ago and is making a good if slow recovery. The accident though has not dampened his enthusiasm for his course. The only let down of the day was the weather for after days of fine sunshine the rain came down and the wind blew while I was there. The committee is looking into the possibility of staging one of the section tournaments on the island during either 1995 or 1996.

ALAN MITCHELL

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Section chairman Jim Easton is on the move from Scotland to Surrey. Jim is leaving Stirling Golf Club to take up the appointment of head greenkeeper at Royal Blackheath Golf Club. (There is a strong rumour that he is moving, rather than to find a new joke to tell at this year's annual dinner. Is this true, Jim?) Best wishes and every success for the

Club, Harrogate, was Chriss Thomas. Chriss, a 14 handicap golfer, works out of the Southerndown Golf Club. Mike Jones of the INCO Golf Club and David Gladwin of Carmarthen both qualified as reserves for their respective categories.

On Saturday June 25 Pencoed College hosted its annual open day, BIGGA was in attendance with stand space displaying merchandise such as the "Keeper of the Green" and "Setting the Standard" videos and magazines, and section committee members were present all day to answer questions regarding membership, training etc. The weather was warm and sunny and the attendance was exceptional, a most interesting and entertaining day, definitely a date to remember for next year's diary. Thanks to Peter Gillard of Pencoed College for his help and to the principal, Mr JDB Thomas, for affording us the opportunity.



PETER LACEY

EAST MIDLANDS

Firstly a reminder to all entrants of the pairs and single K/O. Semi-final matches must be played by the 15th of this month.

Not a lot to report, only to say congratulations to Richard Barker for his sponsored golf day in which he completed 180 holes of golf from 5am-9pm for various charities and still managed to come to work the next day.

All members should receive their entry forms for this year's remaining golf tournaments, before the end of the month. Please return them to me one at a time (after each preceding tournament) and before each closing date.



ANTONY BINDLEY

SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Renfrew Golf Club June 21 1994

At 4am it was raining so heavily in the West of Scotland I had visions of a flooded Renfrew. However lady luck was with us and by 9am all was set to go. Fraser Ross and his merry men had the

Around the Green



course in great condition and 110 stout men and true (sorry 109 men and a lady) set out in pursuit of glory and honours. Gary Lewis and his team of caterers produced excellent food all day long and the bar staff looked after all our other needs. The vice-captain, Bobby Ferguson, and green chairman David Love joined us on the course during the day and captain Jack Bill presented the prizes.

This is Renfrew's centenary year and Gordon Moir, Scottish Region chairman, in his speech thanked the captain and the council in allowing us the use of the club in such a busy year and presented him with a plaque from the Scottish Region.

And as for the results, everyone seemed to think the scoring should have been better in the conditions, may be too many underestimated Renfrew's

The course at Duddingston was in excellent condition considering the very dry cold spell with no growth. Adam Gordon and his team had worked wonders to get it ready for the Hayter regional final.

Fifty-seven players were joined by guests Gordon Moir, Scottish region chairman, and John Pemberton from HQ, on the lovely dry day.

You only have to look at the scores to see it is a tough course. But these don't show how tough it is to find. Many of the Ayrshire lads took as long to get there as they did to go round!

trees, there are many of them and most of them in very strategic places. Definite winners during the day were those with their cameras ready when the club's resident fox, a vixen, strolled across the putting green amongst everyone at lunch time and stopped to have her lunch from the hands of chef Gary Lewis, now we know why they have a stone model of a fox in the middle of the putting green.

Our special thanks go to all the Scottish Region patrons who sponsor this event every year, we are most grateful. Our thanks also go to Kenny Hunter (Huxleys) who performed above and beyond the call of duty in selling all the raffle tickets and to Ian McKay (SISIS) who donated the much coveted bottle of Laphroaig to the raffle.

Results: Scottish Champion - Stuart McCrindle, 74 scratch; Best Nett - George Brown (Turnberry) 74-5-69; 1st Class - 1, Archie Dunn (Auchterarder) 76-6-70; 2, Alistair Connell (Cawder) 77-6-71; 3, Sany Bulloch (Haggs Castle) 74-3-71; 2nd Class - 1, Ian Wilson (Hamilton) 84-15-69; 2, Paul Rae (Brunston Castle) 90-17-73; Andrew McDowall (Torrance House) 89-16-73; 3rd Class - 1, Neil Henry (Langlands) 100-25-75; 2, Graham Hobbs (Torpin Hill) 95-20-75; 3, Hugh McLatchie (Peterhead) 96-21-75; Best head greenkeeper - John Young (Dougalston) 87-17-70; Best assistant - James Sievewright (Auchterarder) 78-5-73; Best apprentice - Kevin Fowler (Fortrose) 85-11-74; Veteran - Alex Wallace (Dollar) 81-11-70; Trade/guests - 1, Kenny Hunter (Huxleys) 85-14-71; 2, Pat Allen (Stewarts) 77-5-72; Team prize - West Section.

HAYTER

Hayter Challenge Scottish Region Finals held at Duddingston Golf Club. 1st Class - 1, David Gall (Cardross) 79-9-70; 2, Kevin Peace (Inverurie) 78-5-73; 3, Ian McNab (Dumfries & County) 77-4-73; 2nd Class - 1, David Montgomery (Cawder) 81-11-70; 2, Dick Dugan (Glencarse) 84-10-74; 3, Kevin Fowler (Fortrose) 86-11-75; 3rd Class - Leslie Rae (Montrose) 95-24-71; 2, Stephen Knaggs (Dumfries & County) 96-25-71; 3, Robert Allan (Hazelhead) 101-26-75.

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Twin oaks at the final green at Leeds Golf Centre

High flier comes back down to earth

It must surely be unique for a man who has ruled the skies to set his sights on trying to become equally proficient on the earth as well and yet that is the proud ambition of Robert Bailey, a 46-year-old Leeds businessman.

During the last decade or so, Robert has twice been world hang-gliding champion and he also led Britain to two world championship team successes in 1981 and 1985.

He set up a successful hang-gliding and microlite coaching school and the money he made from this, plus income from buying and selling parts of Rufforth (near York) and Dalton (near

Malcolm Huntington visits Leeds Golf Centre (Wike Ridge Golf Course) at Shadwell, Leeds, to see how the 27-hole development, which includes a driving range and a golf academy, is faring under its new head greenkeeper. First, he talks to owner Robert Bailey

Thirsk) airfields at a decent profit, enabled him to think of something completely different.

And that something was building a golf course on what he describes as "a perfect site" on Wike Ridge Lane, Shadwell on the outskirts of Leeds and just off the road to Harrogate.

"I had received support from my bank manager at Nat West and managed to put together a package which enabled me to start looking at potential sites,"

says Leeds-born Bailey, who is married with three children and lives close to the new golf development.

Formerly part of the Harewood estate, consisting of heathland countryside, the land on which the golf course now stands was sold to a farmer in 1952, but it was found to be only moderately good for growing crops.

This led Bailey, after his extensive search, beginning talks in 1989, although it wasn't until

April 1993 that the first sod was turned.

Work progressed so rapidly that the nine-hole par 3 Oaks Course was opened in September last year along with the David Leadbetter Golf Academy (which recently moved to Kent), plus the driving range.

Then, in May of this year, the 6,620-yard par 72 18-hole Wike Ridge course was unveiled.

It is an impressive package and Bailey and his club manager, Chris Brockbank, are determined to make the centre even more impressive and successful.

A fine purpose-built clubhouse, constructed from Yorkshire stone,



An under cover driving range, complete with floodlights: easy to maintain and incredibly popular

There was a time when driving ranges in this country were built completely separately from golf clubs, which either hadn't the space or didn't feel the need for this facility.

But how times change as many of the new clubs being built these days are having driving ranges incorporated into their plans.

One such club is the Leeds Golf Centre near the pretty village of Wike just outside Leeds in an area which boasts some fine courses within almost a stone's throw – Moortown, Scarcraft, Moor Allerton, Sand Moor, Headingley and Alwoodley.

It is from Alwoodley that Arron Whitney, pictured, the Leeds Centre's new head greenkeeper came, taking up his new post on July 1. Whitney, 29, who was born and bred in Leeds, had only been in his post for just over a week when I talked to him about the club and its facilities.

It has not taken him long to gain tremendous enthusiasm for the centre and the new challenges ahead of him.

"I had been at Alwoodley for four years and I was at Moor Allerton as an assistant before that, but when I got the opportunity to join this new complex, it didn't take me long to accept the position," said Whitney.

"We have a nine-hole course called the Oaks opened last September and an 18-hole course – Wike Ridge – which was played on for the first time in May. But what I particularly – and more importantly the members – like is the driving range which is a tremendous asset to us.

"We have 20 driving positions, all under cover and all floodlit so that we can use the facility every day, 365 days a year if we wanted to.



"And I must say it is proving exceptionally popular. Often after play has ended for the day every single driving position is occupied so you can tell how much members and visitors enjoy the facility.

"One of the greatest things about it from a greenkeeper's point of view is that it is so easily maintained.

"Although we have been cutting the fairways on the golf courses three times a week and the greens every day, the driv-

ing range has only needed cutting once a week, so it is not labour intensive.

"We are properly geared up to deal with everything and the gang mowers pull three ball collecting discs which can be increased to five if we need to.

"A basket of 50 balls costs £2 and the facility is nearly always in big demand from what I have seen so far," he added.

Whitney, who lives in Middleton, near Leeds, heads a team of six other greenkeepers.

"We have had no problems to date and I am really delighted about the way things are going. We put on feed of 12-5-3 in the first week of July and we are getting there. It will take time of course, but my initial reaction is that things are going well," said Whitney.

Another of the club's excellent facilities is a large practice area, plus a smaller one for juniors and this is particularly well used at weekends when the youngsters have more time.

There is also a golf academy. Initially this was the David Leadbetter Golf Academy but this has now moved to Chart Hills, Kent, and the club are in the process of setting up one of their own in its place. As we went to press, plans were to open this in September.

was opened last November and visitors find hot home-cooked food served throughout the day and well into the evening. An on-licence means that the facilities can be enjoyed by both visitors and members.

In the clubhouse golfers will find a few things different to the 'normal' scene.

"I was determined to get rid of the snobbishness of what I call the Jag and gin and tonic brigade which is so elitist," says Bailey.

"While there will be no compromise on high standards, there won't be any question of ties and jackets being mandatory in the clubhouse after 6.30pm and ladies being discouraged as happens in so many clubs.

"We will also allow smart jeans because I believe it is what people have between their ears that counts most rather than how they dress. Sensible people know how to dress and also know they must not pull a trolley over a green. They also know that pitch marks need to be repaired and divots replaced.

"There have been quite a few courses built in recent years and this has led to smaller waiting lists for existing clubs, but I believe that the potential of golf is more in providing a facility for the bank clerks and the insurance agents etc, in other words the man in the street.

"And as far as Leeds is concerned, the major need has been for a pay-and-play course, as Roundhay has been the only municipal course in the area for many years.

"Our new facility takes care of both as we are going to have members in addition to pay and play. Beginners, women and juniors are equally welcome.

"I want to take out the silly element, the politics and the snobbery. Those who watched the TV programme about Northwood will know what I mean."

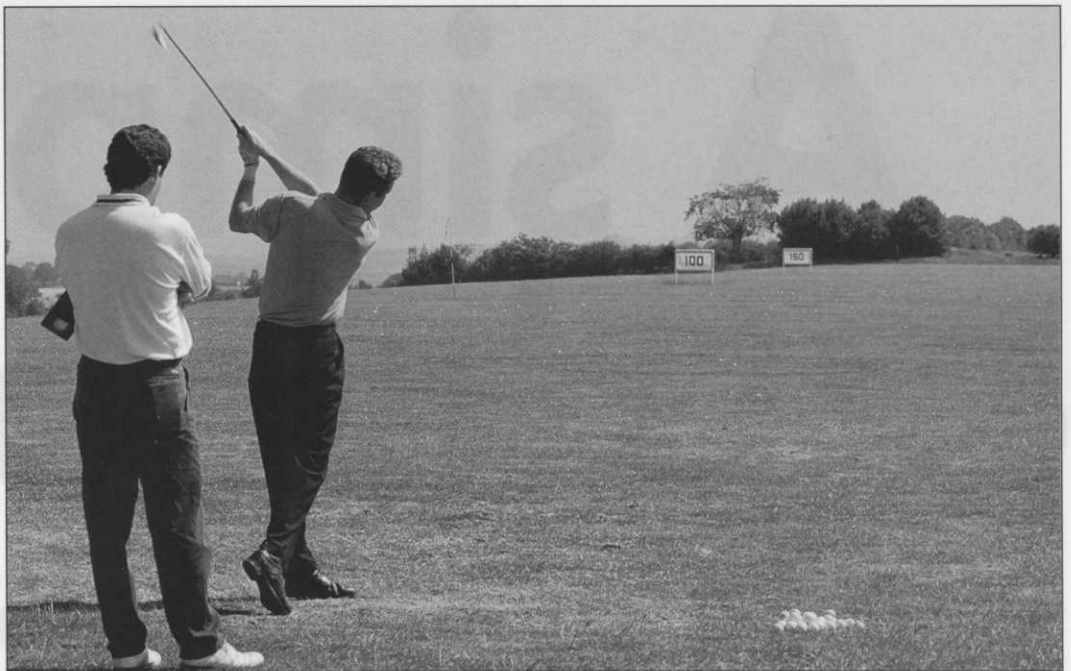
Bailey believes that what he is building and improving is "a dream come true", and after talking to him for some time in the clubhouse, there is no doubting the sincerity of this determined man.

He has left nothing to chance as he has sought the advice of experts.

The well-known international course architect and journalist Donald Steel was chosen to design the courses. Steel says: "The crucial ingredient of any good course is the mixture of challenge and enjoyment it provides for all classes of golfer. The Wike Ridge and Oaks courses will pass that test with flying colours."

Agronomist David Stansfield from Professional Sportsturf Design, Preston, has advised Robert Bailey. Inturf supplied the turf for the Oaks course and Rolawn for the Wike Ridge course.

The experienced Colin Geddes, formerly greenkeeper on the Jack Nicklaus Jr designed Hanbury



Manor, was asked to be clerk of works and consultant and he advised on the turf and seed to be used.

Bailey advertised in Greenkeeper International for staff and was pleased with the response. "Men applied from Scotland down to Kent, but in the end I opted for a local man," he says.

Country lover

Bailey is a country lover. "I potted about with gardening in my flying days when I had time, but now I have more of this vital commodity, my heart is really in the countryside.

"We have planted gorse and thousands of trees, including hawthorn, guelder rose, ash, alder, birch, sloe, holly and rowan.

"I am a lover of natural beauty and I am hoping that my ultimate

ambition of having the whole area maturing slowly will create something we will all be proud of, in addition to having a good atmosphere in the club.

Unlike many owners of golf courses, Bailey takes a very close and keen interest in greenkeeping and he didn't hesitate when I asked him about cutting heights on the course and other technical details.

"While I don't interfere with professionals who know their job, I love learning about the skills necessary.

"We are currently cutting the greens at 7mm, the collars at 15mm and the fairways at 15mm.

"We like to keep the semi rough at about 2in (5cm), the junior rough at 3ins (7.5cm) and the rough at 18ins (45cm).

"I learned a very early lesson about rough. I was told by some

low handicap players to keep the course tight and let the rough come in a bit, but I quickly found out that we needed a much wider fairway and semi-rough areas because the vast majority of players don't have low handicaps and tend to spray the ball about a bit.

"They were spending a lot of time looking for balls and you don't win friends that way or attract them back to the course, so we cut the rough back.

"In the early days we turfed fairways where needed and also overseeded them (there was already a lot of natural grassland) and also turfed the greens and overseeded them as well.

"All greens have been built to USGA specification."

Bailey was equally assured when I asked him which type of machinery was being used. He quickly rattled off: Three Toro GMs, two Toro 216 triples for fairways and surrounds, six Ransomes Auto-cert 22in greens machines, five hydraulic Huxleys, seven Ransomes seven trails, five Lloyds trailed, set of five Toro rough cutters, set of five Ransomes trailed sports cutters, Iseki compact tractor, Kubota compact tractor, two Ford tractors, National tractor.

The tees, greens and surrounds have a fully computerised Toro irrigation system. More than 20 miles of 80mm drains were laid 700mm below the surface with gravel to within 100mm of the surface by Holts of Pontefract.

But more important than all the details is what it adds up to – and that is an impressive complex of which Bailey and his team can be proud.



Club manager Chris Brockbank, left and Leeds Golf Centre owner Robert Bailey outside the clubhouse.

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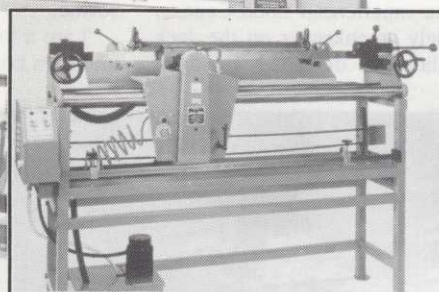
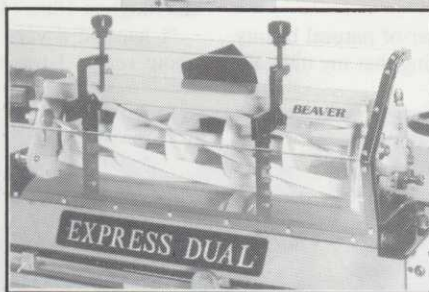
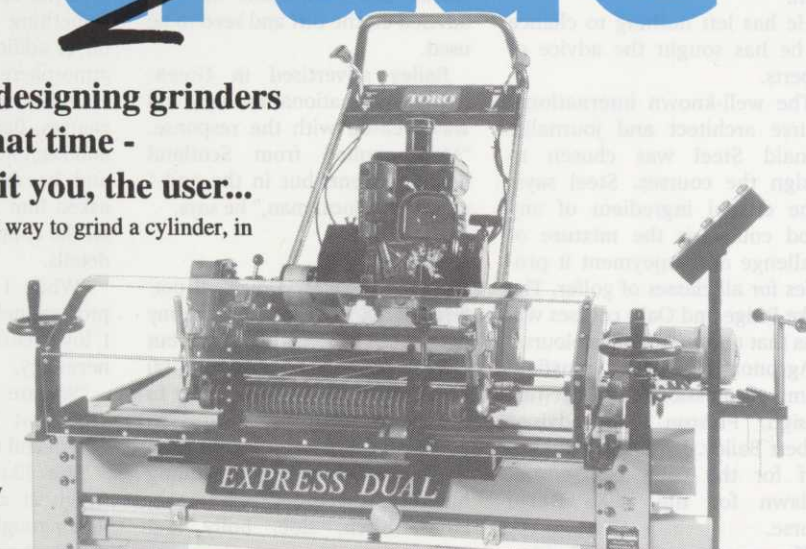
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SALTEX PREVIEW

Saltext (formerly IoG) returns to the Royal Windsor Race-course from September 6-8. Here are some of the new products you can see:



The SISIS Autospred

SISIS EQUIPMENT

Sisis Equipment will be launching a combined scarifier/ sweeper/ collector – the Fibagroom – which uses the well-proven contra-rotation principle. The Fibagroom features two independently floating heads with easily adjusted depth setting. The reels comprise Veemo scarifying blades interspersed with brushes so that the fibre removed is simultaneously collected into the large capacity, high-tip hopper. When the hi-tip hopper is full it can be emptied directly into a skip or trailer without the operator leaving his seat. The counter balanced hopper returns to the working position automatically. Other new products to look out for include an independently powered top-dresser, the Autospred, and a range of land clearers and beach cleaners.

RHONE-POULENC

New from Rhone-Poulenc Environmental Products is the Guardian range of quality grass seed mixtures. Each of the mixtures is named after a precious stone – or jewel. From Emerald to Opal, each has been formulated to meet the performance and playing requirements of specific sportsturf areas. A feature of this new range is that every seed is protected against soil borne dis-

eases by a fungicide and polymer film coat. Rhone-Poulenc says the result is seed mixtures which “germinate and emerge more reliably than ordinary seed”.

INTURF

Inturf will be showing its latest range of turf. In addition to the pure fescue (SS5) and standard production SS1 fescue/bent, Inturf now has a pure sown bent grass turf. All types on both big and small rolls are available in a variety of cultivars selected from the top five seed houses in the country. All golf turf is grown on sand or loam/sand land and Inturf has its own treatment for Poa annua control. In the case of the pure bents turf some areas have been left untreated deliberately so that Poa annua can freely develop in the sward. This has been done in reaction to the fact that a large proportion of putting surfaces in the British Isles are made up of bent grasses and Poa annua predominantly.

SPORTS GROUND IRRIGATION

Sports Ground Irrigation will be showing the new Hunter 650 and 750 valve-in-head, part-circle sprinkler for the first time in Europe. These two new products will be of interest to greenkeepers looking to irrigate their fairways.

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The Dowdeswell Titan outfield slitter comes in working widths of 6ft and 8ft

Also on display will be the Otterbine air flo system for lake and pond management – a system designed to clean up water features by aeration.

STANDARD GOLF

Standard Golf (UK) Ltd will be exhibiting all that you will need to equip a course. And the Wokingham-based company says they are all “highly affordable and durable products”. New to the

range are the Tee Mats. Manufactured with top quality Wilton weave, sports quality synthetic grass, the new Tee Mats have a foam/felt underlay instead of the traditional rubber base. “This makes the mat more user-friendly, giving the feel of grass but kinder to the joints,” says chairman and managing director Duncan Stewart. The mats also feature tee holes that are individually protected from wear and

extruded EPDM edging strips can be fitted around the edges of the mat. Prices start at £99.

DOWDESWELL ENGINEERING

Dowdeswell Engineering will be introducing an uprated version of its 8ft Roller Mower. Featuring three cutting rotors in place of the previous four, the new model is able to work with greater efficiency in thick or fine grass of up to 5in (127mm) long due to the improved air flow and more even spread of cut material beneath the machine’s hood. Suitable for mounting on tractors from 25-55hp, both the new 8ft (2.4m) and the existing 6ft (1.8m) Roller Mowers have shaft and belt drive to the cutting rotors. Turn handles enable height of cut to be adjusted easily up to a maximum of 3.5in (9cm) on the machine’s full width front and rear rollers, which allow the machine to follow ground contours.

SOILCARE

Soilcare will be launching its

Deep Drill machine – 60 masonry drills, 5/8in diameter reaching 10in deep. Soilcare says it is ideal for aerating greens and tees as “it does not mar the surface”. The Ipswich firm will also be demonstrating the Terralift machines. The probe has a working depth of 1 or 1.5m and simultaneously injects dried milled seaweed for turf or tree mix for root feeding around trees.

UNDERGEAR EQUIPMENT

Goodyear’s UK distributors Undergear will be launching the 23 x 14.00-12 Softrac II which has been developed specially for Cushman machines. The tread and width are designed to minimise turf damage while maximising grip. A range of golf, sofrac and Terra Tires will also be on show.

MJT CONTRACTS

The latest model in the Trilo range – the SF150 out-front suction unit – will be launched by MJT Contracts. Designed to be mounted on any golf truck (ie

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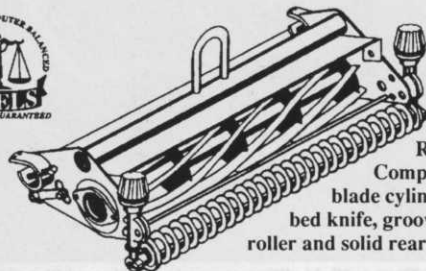
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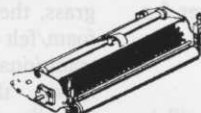


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