

Out of this world



But not out of the way

...and Harrogate between January 23-27, 1995 is most definitely the centre of the universe for:

- * Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers * Greenkeepers
 - * Golf club owners and officials * Golf club secretaries * Green chairmen
 - * Greens convenors * Golf course architects * Golf course constructors
 - * Groundsmen * Local Authority specifiers and executives
 - * Landscape contractors * Maintenance contractors * Agronomists
 - * Conservationists * Ecologists * Manufacturers and dealers
 - * Irrigation specialists * Consultants
- ...and everyone with an interest in fine turf maintenance.

Education space filling up fast ♦ Exhibition space SOLD OUT

The BTME week in Harrogate is truly an event you should shift heaven and earth to attend.

BIGGA National Education Conference: January 23-24, 1995

BTME and Educational Seminar Programme: January 25-27, 1995

TO PRE-REGISTER, COMPLETE AND RETURN THE INSERTED BTME CARD OR CALL THE BTME HOTLINE: 0347 838581

Pre-registering enters you in a free competition with prizes worth £200. It also ensures quick and easy entry into the event. Your badge and full information will be sent to you early in '95 just before the BTME week.

the
Learning
experience

Ask for more details

For comprehensive information of all that's going on, telephone 0347 838581 and ask to speak to Ken Richardson, BIGGA's education officer. He'll answer all your questions and send you a copy of "The Learning Experience". Event organisers are the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. You can also request a copy of "The Learning Experience" by fax: 0347 838864.





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 *A happy
Christmas and
prosperous New
Year to all our
members, readers
and advertisers*

GREENKEEPER

International

DECEMBER 1994

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Bunkers at Montecastillo Jerez, Spain.
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GREENKEEPER

International

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Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 0347 838581.

GOLDEN KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS:

- ET Breakwell Ltd • Hardi Ltd • Hayters PLC
- Jacobsens • Kubota UK Ltd • Lely UK Ltd • Rigby Taylor Ltd
- Toro Irrigation • Zeneca Professional Products

SILVER KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS:

- Ransomes • Risboro' Turf



Pre-registering for BTME means speedy admission and you could win a prize: see the inserted card in this issue

FREE READER REPLY SERVICE

Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 54 for further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the companies' Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us and we'll arrange for further information to be sent to you direct.



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a quick reference guide

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“ Greenkeeper International is the only professional magazine we advertise in because it works – KIM MACFIE, Sales and Marketing Director, Hayters PLC ”

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL:
Bill Lynch on 091 413 7218, or Carol Dutton or Louise Lunn at BIGGA HQ on 0347 838581.

ENTER & WIN

In co-operation with BIGGA, Supaturf Products are offering you the chance to win a free trip with the BIGGA party to the GCSAA in San Francisco in February '95 – worth over £1100.00!

Supaturf will be launching a brand new product for Greenkeepers at BTME. This same product will be launched at GCSAA in San Francisco in February '95 and you could be there to see it!

The lucky winner will accompany the BIGGA party on an action packed week with opportunities to see the newest golf course products, attend seminars, meet fellow professionals, and of course, visit all the sights!



Come with BIGGA to the GCSAA Conference and Show *San Francisco '95*

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will be holding its 66th International Golf Course Conference and Show in San Francisco from February 20-27, 1995.

BIGGA's party attending this major international event will assemble on Sunday February 19 at the Excelsior Hotel, Heathrow Airport, leaving the next morning on a direct flight to San Francisco and arriving back at Heathrow on Wednesday, March 1.

The GCSAA will present an action-packed week dedicated to presenting the latest in educational opportunities with more than 60 educational seminars on offer, the newest golf course products and services, and an opportunity to meet with fellow professionals. Those attending will be able to visit Chinatown, Golden Gate Bridge, Sausalito/Muir Woods, Union Square, Golden Gate Park, Alcatraz and take the cable car to the world famous Fisherman's Wharf – just some of the attractions of San Francisco.

An exciting trip is in prospect and bookings with full payment must be received by Friday January 6, 1995.

ITINERARY

Sunday, February 19

All participants assemble at the Excelsior Hotel, Heathrow Airport, overnight accommodation with free car parking included.

Monday, February 20

Depart Heathrow for San Francisco direct non-stop flight. Departure 1100 hours arrival 1500 hours. Transfer to the Holiday Inn, Union Square. Stay eight nights, room only basis.

Tuesday, February 28

Transfer back to airport. Depart San Francisco 1800 hours arrive Heathrow 1230 hours on March 1. Return transfer to Hotel to collect cars and drive home.

PRICES

£754.00 per person based on twin shares

£1,094.00 per person based on single room accommodation, plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration £35.00

Included are: Overnight accommodation at Heathrow with car parking, return economy flights from Heathrow to San Francisco, UK and US taxes, transfers from the airport to the hotel and return, eight nights accommodation based on room only, US accommodation taxes.

Please forward full payment of £789.00 or £1,129.00 (unless travel insurance is not required) to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Ane, York, YO6 2NF to arrive by Friday January 6, 1995 at the latest, together with name, address and contact telephone number.

ITINERARY

Sunday 19 Feb
Assemble at Excelsior Hotel, Heathrow, overnight stay with free car parking

Monday 20 Feb
Direct flight to San Francisco and stay 8 nights at the Holiday Inn

Tuesday 28 Feb
Direct return flight to Heathrow

Wednesday 1 Mar
Return transfer to Hotel to collect cars.



Your prize includes: Overnight accommodation at Heathrow with car parking, return flight Heathrow-San Francisco, UK and USA taxes, transfers to and from hotel, 8 nights accommodation based on room only, US accommodation taxes and travel insurance.

HOW TO ENTER

PART ONE Simply answer the two questions below, cut out the coupon and return to Supaturf Products without delay.

PART TWO Visit the Supaturf stand whilst you are at BTME in January and complete the final two questions. You could be on your way to San Francisco! First prize is restricted to BIGGA members only. Non BIGGA members, don't worry, there are many other prizes to be won! All entries must be received at Supaturf products by 15 January 1995. Usual rules apply.

Supaturf

PLEASE COMPLETE
IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Question 1 – What is the name of the famous suspension bridge in San Francisco? _____

Question 2 – What is the name of the famous prison in San Francisco Bay? _____

Please tick

I am a BIGGA member with a current passport Yes No

I would be available from Sunday 19 February '95 to Yes No

Wednesday 1 March '95 to accompany the BIGGA party Yes No

I shall be attending Supaturf's stand at BTME to complete the final part of the competition. Yes No

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Are you in the picture?

Copies of this photo of Open champion Nick Price with the BIGGA support team at Turnberry are now available, priced £5 for a 10x8in colour print. Send cheques to BIGGA HQ.

NEWS



Greenkeepers' anger at 'poor' consultants

Consultants are as welcome at golf courses as Tony Blair would be at a Conservative Party conference. That's the conclusion we drew after sitting down with a group of greenkeepers and asking for their views of consultants. It seems the good ones are very good and the bad ones are your worst nightmare – and they outnumber the true experts.

The nearest anyone came to praising them was John Bayliss, head greenkeeper at Coventry Golf Club. He said: "I have found that the majority are very good but there are a few that are only

interested in making money."

Canadian Craig Smith, head greenkeeper at Golf Club Mudau in Germany, said: "My general view is that consultants may be beneficial but because of poor controls on qualifications one can never be sure of sound advice."

He added: "I believe it is important to remember that consultants usually offer one man's opinion, and you should govern yourself accordingly."

Mark Jones, head greenkeeper at Preston Golf Club, was far more outspoken. He said: "They're very poor. They tend to

take the money and run. They seem to be accountable to no-one, the greenkeepers take the blame for any disasters." But he did single out the STRI for praise – "they tend to be more reliable."

Peter Gee, head greenkeeper at Sandy Lodge Golf Club, said: "In my view no individual, no matter what their qualifications or experience, can come to a club for four hours and set out a maintenance programme for a year. This is done by many consultants in golf course maintenance. Although for specific tasks such as irrigation specs and general management they can be useful."

Ian McFarlane, head greenkeeper at Salford GC, said he had mixed feelings. "I feel they pick your brains and feed back what the club want to hear, not what they think. If you are paid to do a job why do committees need another opinion as it is mostly the same content as you have given them?"

However he says there is one exception – Jim Arthur. "At least Jim is honest and forthright."

What do you think? Write to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Ane, York YO6 2NF.

Supporters give green light to ecology booklet

The long-awaited Education and Development Fund ecology project has been given the green light. At a recent STRI board meeting, ecologist Bob Taylor was given the go-ahead to produce a practical guide to the ecological management of golf courses. The booklet should be published late April '95.

"This project has been a long time coming to fruition," says BIGGA's marketing manager Bill Lynch, "but we're delighted it is finally happening. I'd like to thank all our golden and silver key members of the Education and Development Fund, but especially Jacobsens, for seeing this project through with us."

FLYING DIVOTS

■ If you pay your BIGGA subscription yourself, remember you can claim tax relief on the amount paid. This will save first assistants £11.25 and deputy head greenkeepers £13 as the subscription to BIGGA has been approved under section 201 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Members should notify their local tax office on their annual tax return.

■ The date for next year's South Turf exhibition at Mottspur Park near Kingston, Surrey, has been set: June 21. Companies wishing to exhibit at the show should call Louise Lunn on 0347 838581.

■ Hayter has appointed Gwilliam Kellands Ltd, Somerset, as agents for Hayter Professional and Beaver mowers. Gwilliam Kellands spares distribution points are at Monkton Elm, Taunton and at the Cadbury Garden Centre, Congresbury, Avon.

■ Some fascinating facts are contained in a report published by the Golf Facilities Trade Association. These include:

- Scottish courses are more likely to use temporary greens for more than five weeks per annum than the South, where 50% more rounds are played;
- Buggies are now permitted on 50% of courses;
- Stand-alone driving ranges are more successful than ranges at courses, and ranges in the south are more popular than those in the north, Midlands, Wales and Scotland. The report costs £295 (£195 for GoFTA members). Tel: 0181 6811242.



■ Claymore Grass Machinery has appointed John Smith as its northern field engineer. He was previously in Claymore's

service department. His new duties include providing back-up and assistance when necessary for all machinery sold by Claymore dealers in the north of England.



A variety of companies. A common goal.



"Zeneca Professional Products has always believed in improving quality through education and training. Our Golden Key support of the Education and

Development Fund is a clear demonstration of this policy."
Roger Mossop, Marketing Manager, Zeneca Professional Products.



"Education and training are the life blood of the Association. Hayter are part of the Association's life. Our Golden Key support is

therefore vital."
Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director, Hayter PLC



"Ransomes thought that the Education and Development Fund was a terrific initiative when BIGGA introduced it at the beginning of 1992 and it has received our fullest support since that time."

Richard Bishop, European Sales Manager, Ransomes Sims and Jefferies Ltd.



"We have supported the Education and Development Fund as Golden Key supporters since its launch in January '92 and have every intention of continuing

to do so in the future, particularly as we have seen a significant development in the standard of the education of greenkeepers throughout the UK during the time of our involvement."

Graham Dale, Managing Director, Lely (UK) Ltd, UK distributor for Toro Commercial Products.



"In the full knowledge that the industry's future lies in highly trained and qualified professionals, Breakwells as a leading distributor within the industry is pleased to support BIGGA's Education and Development Fund to help

bring about a continuing improvement in standards."

Len Breakwell, Managing Director, ET Breakwell Ltd.



"Risboro' Turf, as a BS5750 registered distributor and Silver Key supporter

of the fund, believe education and training essential for the future and are pleased to continue our involvement."

Mark Barthelmie, Managing Director, Risboro' Turf.



"As a Golden Key supporter of the fund the Toro company is happy to help focus attention on the quality of educational opportunity available. We feel that the education programme BIGGA has developed provides a breadth of management skills to meet the high demands expected by the industry today."

Mark Gunter, Technical Sales Manager, Northern Europe and Middle East, The Toro Company Irrigation Division.



"Education and training must be the cornerstone of any successful professional body and therefore Rigby Taylor feel that it is in the long term interest of all of the major suppliers in our industry to support this fund. The members of BIGGA are our customers and we believe that it is important to invest in the future development of the industry and to use this fund as our way of showing our appreciation of the business placed with us."

Clive Williams, Sales Director, Rigby Taylor Ltd.



"Hardi Ltd, the leading supplier of chemical application and aeration equipment, are very supportive of BIGGA's Education and Development

Fund. It is vitally important that the industry at large is trained to the highest level. This is our reason for continued participation as a Golden Key supporter."

Colin Gregory, Managing Director, Hardi Ltd.



"In our view you cannot get enough training because there is always something to learn. At Jacobsen staff training takes priority, and for this reason we are totally committed to the BIGGA Education and

Development Fund."
René Orban, Director of European Operations, Jacobsen Textron.



"Five years ago Kubota made the first grant to the Education and Development Fund and during this period the golf industry has witnessed an increasing recognition of the importance of the role of the greenkeeper. British greenkeepers now have access to training in management skills and have established a world-wide reputation for their expertise. Kubota is very proud to have been part of this process and we remain committed to the continued development of the greenkeepers' profession."

Brian Hurtley, Director, Vice-President Kubota (UK) Ltd.

The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association thanks the following companies for their support during 1994:

Golden Key: ET Breakwell Ltd, Hardi Ltd, Hayters PLC, Jacobsens, Kubota UK Ltd, Lely UK Ltd, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Toro Irrigation, Zeneca Professional Products. Silver Key: Ransomes, Risboro' Turf

All of these companies – plus some new ones – have already pledged their support for 1995. For more details of the Education and Development Fund and to find out how you can join the Golden or Silver Key Circle, call Ken Richardson or Bill Lynch on 0347 838581

A success story

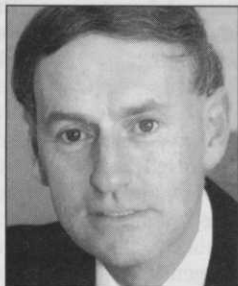
THE STORY SO FAR

On 1 January 1992 BIGGA formally established its Education and Development Fund. At the time I wrote that, "...the new Education and Development Fund has been established to enable the promotion and financing of educational programmes, scholarship awards and training aids for the benefit of the greenkeeping profession". Now some three years on we have a fund on which to draw and one which, given the ongoing commitment of both companies and individuals, will in the future be of enormous benefit for the education and training of greenkeepers.

1993 saw the production of the video 'Raising the Standard in Spray Application' which was circulated to all course manager members of BIGGA. At BTME '94 we launched the widely acclaimed career video 'Keeper of the Green' produced and financed in conjunction with the GTC. During 1994 the 'On Course Field Guide For The Major Diseases and Pests of Fine Turf' was produced and distributed and received an excellent reception from BIGGA members. Filming has just been completed for a module type video on 'Golf Course Preparation' which will premiere at BTME '95 whilst plans are in hand to produce an ecology booklet and a leaflet on grass identification. So the practical benefits of having established the fund are now evident.

FROM WHERE COMES THE FUNDING?

The fund has no guaranteed income and no grant aid. It depends entirely on what can be raised through the auspices of BIGGA. To this end it is gratifying to acknowledge the support received from companies within the industry as Golden and Silver Key supporters and this is done in good measure and quite rightly so elsewhere in this month's issue. Increasingly individual members are contributing to the fund as well as Regions and Sections. The fund is dependent on such support and those contributing are most welcome to put forward suggestions on future fund expenditure. With the companies, meetings are held twice a year to



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

discuss spending programmes and to seek common ground in continuance of mutually beneficial relationships. The fund will only prosper with continued company support and individual contributions. It needs the support of BIGGA's Regions and Sections. Backing from across a broad spectrum of our industry remains vital for future progress.

GROWTH IN 1995

The fund is set to grow in 1995. Already Amenity Technology and Rhône Poulenc have confirmed as Golden Key supporters and Fenchurch will be a Silver Key supporter. Ransomes are upgrading from silver to gold status. Other new memberships are pending. It is an encouraging picture and one which allows for the development of further projects in 1995/96. All 1994 contributing companies have confirmed their continuing support for 1995 thus giving the fund a stability which will allow both for planning and for projects to come through to fruition. It is important to note that this fund is separated from the general running of the Association. Also that BIGGA has no other specific financing with which to further greenkeeper education and training and it is unlikely that alternative sources of finance will be forthcoming in the foreseeable future.

FUTURE PLANS

A major and exciting development is planned for the autumn/winter of 1995/96. There is a very definite need amongst greenkeepers for training to be provided on a local basis whilst still offering the opportunity for intensive in-house

courses at Aldwark Manor. As I write we are in the middle of the annual Management Courses and it is pleasing to report that this year's restructured courses to meet N/SVQ requirements have met with an enthusiastic response. These are real learning weeks and we plan to continue with them in the future. However there is also a need for courses to be taken to members and to facilitate training by making it available on a local basis. I am able therefore to make two announcements in relation to localised training – both made possible through the increasing resources of the Education and Development Fund.

NEW COURSES

During the first two weeks of October next year we are planning intensive Health and Safety courses on the basis of one per Region. These will be subsidised through the Education and Development Fund and be available to greenkeepers, BIGGA members and non-members alike, on a first come, first served basis.

Following on from the Health and Safety courses will be management training courses. These will be held during February and March 1996 initially on the basis of two per Region whilst it is hoped to be able to run these courses also in Ireland. These will be two-day courses financed from the Education and Development Fund with golf clubs sending greenkeepers merely being asked to meet the costs of one night's board and lodge. Again these courses will be available to both BIGGA members and non-members on a first come, first served basis. Whilst still in the planning stages it is hoped over the two-day period to offer a combination

of management and technical training. Importantly these courses will be directly relevant for N/SVQ qualifications and will therefore set attendees on the road to recognised national qualifications.

I believe these courses represent an exciting development and will help many more greenkeepers to identify with both BIGGA's educational programmes and the growing importance of the fund. For those not attending Aldwark Manor for courses, training programmes must sometimes seem remote whilst the availability of localised training will most surely be welcomed by golf clubs and greenkeepers alike. We would welcome ideas on course content as essentially those taking the courses will want to teach what greenkeepers wish to learn. If you are aware of a gap in educational provision let us know about it. If these courses prove successful then I envisage a steady expansion in the years ahead.

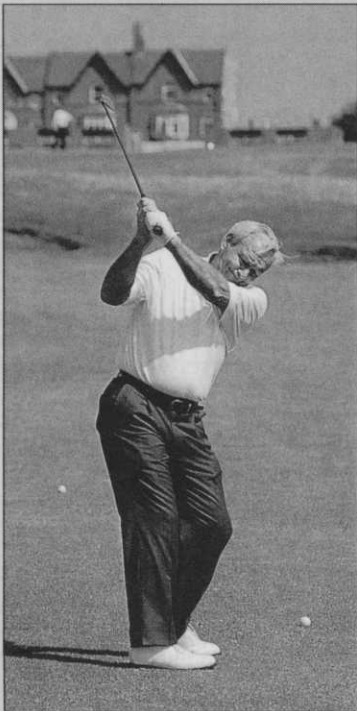
IN CONCLUSION

After three years, the Education and Development Fund, and with it the setting up of Golden and Silver Key memberships, must be viewed as a success story. The fund is even more vital today than was envisaged back in 1992. Continue to support it and seek others who will wish to be associated with the development of greenkeeping as a profession for as I wrote again some three years ago "...the enhancement of knowledge and technical expertise... will surely in turn lead to higher standards of course management and better playing conditions for golf club members".

I believe this is beginning to happen.

■ The Sussex Section of BIGGA has made a donation of £500 to the Education and Development Fund as part of its commitment to the future training of greenkeepers. In welcoming this donation, executive director Neil Thomas said: "It is particularly pleasing to receive a section donation as it is indicative of the support our members are

now giving to the fund. We already enjoy a considerable amount of company support but it is also essential that BIGGA's members either collectively through Region and Section donations or individually support a fund which is being utilised to provide enhanced training and educational opportunities for greenkeepers."



BORN: September 10, 1929, in Latrobe, Western Pennsylvania. Nowadays he spends the warm months of the year there, but makes his winter home in the Orlando, Florida, area.

MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIP WINS: US Masters – 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964; US Open – 1960; Open Championship – 1961, 1962

ARNOLD PALMER won the United States Amateur Championship in 1954 and, turning professional the following year, won the Canadian Open for the first of his 61 victories on the US PGA Tour. Over the next four years Arnold won 11 more tournaments including the 1958 US Masters, but that was only a prelude to an astonishing decade to come.

1960 was perhaps Arnold's golden year. He again won the US Masters, to the delight of his new fans who became known as Arnie's Army. Their march continued to the US Open where Arnold shot 65 in the final round to overcome a seven-shot deficit and pass 12 other contenders. Although he did not win the third leg of the Grand Slam, the Centenary Open Championship at St Andrews, he returned to win the Open in 1961 and 1962, and other stars from the US PGA Tour followed him restoring the Open to its pre-eminence amongst the Major championships.

Arnold won the US Masters again in 1962 and 1964, and was indisputably the dominant figure in world golf when he won the inaugural World Matchplay Championship at Wentworth in 1964. In all, Arnold added 19 overseas titles to the 61 he won in the United States. After turning 50 in September 1979, Palmer won the first Senior event he entered – the 1980 PGA Seniors Championship – and he went on to win the US Seniors Open the following year. Arnold has won 12 Senior titles to date, taking his competitive earnings to \$4,721,436.

Greenkeeper's

Chris Boiling joins Arnie's Army at Royal Lytham and St Annes and talks to the golfing legend about course design

Arnold Palmer is the son of a greenkeeper – and could easily have followed in his father's footsteps. His brother Jerry did. He took over from Milfred J ('Deke') Palmer as the superintendent at Latrobe Country Club in Pennsylvania. Now he is also the general manager at the course where his father started working at the age of 16 and continued until his death in 1976. MJ worked his way up to superintendent and then to pro-greenkeeper. "He ended up being both for 50 years until he died at the age of 72," says Arnold, who bought the 18-hole course in the early '70s.

For sentimental reasons? "Well, yes, I liked it and it was where I was raised. It's a great golf course," he told me as he practised for the Senior British Open at Royal Lytham and St Annes.

Latrobe is a small industrial town in Western Pennsylvania at the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains about 50 miles east of Pittsburgh.

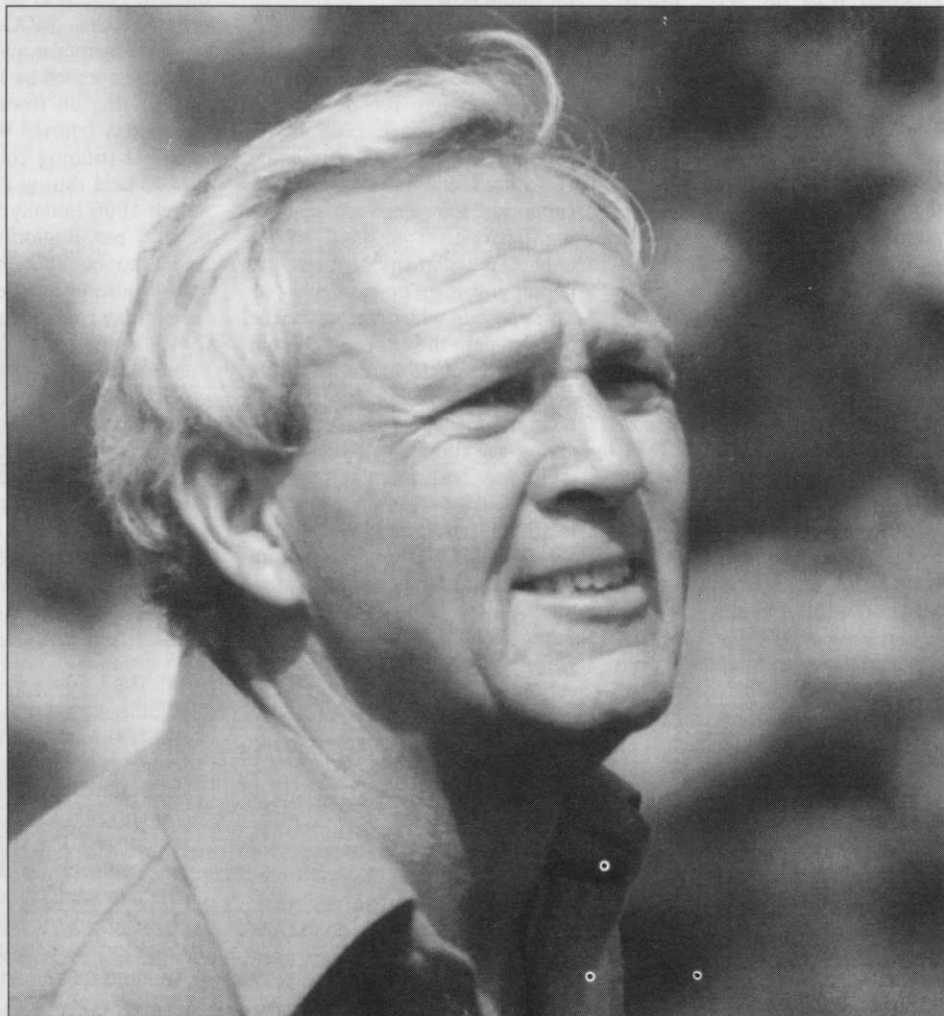
This is where Arnold learned his art using cut-down clubs. "My father was my only teacher," he recalls. "He gave me my first lesson – how to hold the club – when I was four years old. It lasted about five minutes and my lessons over the years never lasted much more than 10. I remember he put my hands on the club, showed me how to grip it and said 'Don't ever change it'. And I use the same grip today as I used then."

This grip and his distinctive swing have helped him win 92 tournaments, including the US Masters (four times), US Open (once) and British Open (twice).

His father also taught him about courses. "I worked with him building the course at Latrobe and learned a lot from his theories. He was a bit of the old school especially where things like drainage were concerned. It was all surface drainage then."

Helping his father build an additional nine holes at Latrobe in 1964 was Arnold's introduction to golf course design and construction, and he continued to stay involved with the design of courses on a limited basis during the heyday of his tournament career.

His call to design during this period was



son makes good...

through friends and associates requesting his expertise for their golf course projects. On several projects during this time (1969-71) he worked with noted architect Frank Duane.

The interest and popularity in golf course development grew in leaps and bounds in the '60s and '70s. And, as you'd expect, the golf course design services of the game's most dramatic and popular champion also increased rapidly.

In 1971 Arnold Palmer and golf course architect Ed Seay began working together – a partnership that continues today. Palmer's executive vice president and chief operating officer Ed was one of Arnold's playing partners during his Royal Lytham warm-up, with Arnold offering the less accomplished golfer this simple but effective piece of advice: "Keep your head still"

The cornerstone of Arnold Palmer's and Ed Seay's design philosophy is creating and producing the kind of golf courses for which the company's clients are asking. Most often they are looking for fun, beauty, excitement and challenge. Seldom is a course of extreme difficulty requested.

"I believe in traditional straight forward design that produces courses with lasting quality and that are exciting and enjoyable for all players. The designs are founded on the principals and strategies of the game and are sensitive to the land and the environment," says Arnold. "All of the great courses blend in naturally with the existing environment. We respect and try to preserve the existing terrain and environment on every course as much as it will allow us to do so and still stay within the framework of playability. Put simply, we do not force or design unnecessary gradework or features.

"Over the years I think we have persuaded a lot of people that you can build a friendly type golf course and do it in a way that will be good for the average player but that at the same time you can make it difficult enough on an occasion for the professional."

The greenkeeper's son was quick to add, though: "And I think of maintenance-friendly golf courses too. I like to keep the golf courses so that they are easily maintained and I think you're going to see, as time goes on, more of that because of the extremely high cost of maintaining some golf courses."

One thing Palmer's courses have in common is the absence of gimmicks and trademarks. "Hopefully all our courses are different. We do not have a design trademark, nor do we want one," confirms Seay. "We do, however, strive to design all of our courses so that they are beautiful, constructed soundly within the budget and are fun to play."

"I truly enjoy designing fun and challenging golf courses," adds Arnold.

Nothing in UK

The Palmer-Seay touch has left its mark on

courses located throughout the world. Seay, who is a past president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, had the distinction on his own, prior to his joining Palmer in 1971, of designing many well known courses. The most prominent of these is Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, which was the site of the Tournament Players Championship from 1977-81, as well as some 100 other courses and residential developments in the United States.

The Palmer Course Design Company has been involved in over 200 golf course projects covering 27 states, as well as internationally in Japan, Thailand, Korea, China, Taiwan, Guam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Spain, Australia, Canada, Philippines, and the first 18 hole course in mainland China.

But, as yet, they have done nothing in the UK. "I would like to know why," commented 65-year-old Arnold.

"I would too," interjected Ed.

'I knew as a youngster that I needed to be outside on a golf course, either playing or maintaining it'

"We have negotiated proposals to do golf courses in the UK on several occasions over the years but, unfortunately, for either financial or personal reasons on the part of the clients, it has not become a reality," explained Arnold whose company is currently working on 52 projects.

Sadly, for him, none are links courses.

"I would love to build a links course. We have built a couple but we don't have the opportunity often to build links golf courses," he said.

The most recent one they did – The Links of Kuilima, Kahuku, in Hawaii – received widespread acclaim and was rated by Golf Digest as one of the top four new resort courses in 1993.

"It's on the ocean and I think it qualifies very well as a links course. It is a very good golf course, one that is very difficult in the right conditions but a very playable golf course," he said. "It's one of my favourites."

Gets involved

When he is designing a course, Arnold likes to get involved in every aspect including the specification of grasses "I enjoy it – the nitty-gritty, the day-to-day stuff is fun."

As well as Ed, he receives tremendous help and support from Harrison Minchew and Erik Larsen, vice presidents and senior golf course architects with the Palmer Course Design Company.

"All of us work very well together. I give

them my feelings and thoughts on a particular hole or course and they fit it in," explains Arnold.

He knew from a very early age that golf was something he was going to do. "I knew as a youngster that I needed to be outside on a golf course, either playing or maintaining it," he recalls.

While he was growing up at Latrobe he used to take on and beat his fellow caddies, and continued his winning ways when he went to high school, dominating the game in Western Pennsylvania. He won his first of five West Penn Amateur Championships when he was 17, competed successfully in national junior events and went to Wake Forest University (then College), where he became no1 man on the golf team and one of the leading collegiate players of that time.

Deeply affected by the death in a car crash of his close friend and classmate, Bud Worsham, younger brother of 1947 US Open champion Lew Worsham, Arnold withdrew from college during his senior year and began a three-year hitch in the Coast Guard. His interest in golf rekindled while he was stationed in Cleveland. He was working there as a salesman and playing amateur golf after his discharge from the service when he won the US Amateur in 1954 following his second straight victory in the Ohio Amateur earlier that year.

It was during this period that he met Winifred Walzer at a tournament in Eastern Pennsylvania. They were married shortly after he turned professional in the autumn of 1954. "I thought about doing a lot of other things, including aviation (he pilots his own Cessna Citation VII jet aircraft). But while I was a manufacturer's rep I decided that I really wanted to be out in the air and playing golf."

During his illustrious career he achieved more than most men can dream about. But, he confessed to me, there are two unfulfilled goals. He has given up hope of ever achieving the first, but the second is still a possibility.

"I have never won the PGA Championship. This is certainly something that I would have loved to have accomplished in my younger days," admits Arnold, who finished second three times and bowed out of the competition earlier this year after 37 appearances.

"Secondly, I would like to continue to build golf courses and do design work, especially something that I haven't done yet – create a golf course totally following my own conception of what should be done in its design and construction."

All his design work to date has reflected his client's wishes, and he has not yet designed a course that just satisfies him or his company.

Even though Arnold is 65 he shows no signs of slowing down, so one day we may just see a course that is totally an Arnold Palmer design. And it may be his first course in Britain...

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