

**Large grants are now available to golf courses undertaking tree planting when using economical woodland establishment techniques. Andrew Vaughan outlines the grants, design considerations and techniques involved.**

**T**rees are a welcome component of any landscape and can bring many advantages to a golf course.

Although shelter is their most obvious benefit, they can also be used to provide security to players/passers-by/neighbours, to divide the course in a natural way, to make certain playing aspects more difficult (or more easy), and, above all, to provide an attractive and pleasant 'backcloth' to the course.

However, expectations of an 'instant' woodland are quickly evaporated when the cost of installing and maintaining very large trees becomes apparent. (They may weigh up to four tonnes each.) Similarly, 'standard' sized trees (2.7-3m tall), whilst being more economical, are still expensive to plant in any number



# Trees

Planting new trees at Canmore Golf Club in Dunfermline

and, with a bulky stake and tree-tie, are often unsightly.

Planting smaller-sized trees at greater density is not only cheaper still, but allows for more options in the long-term development of a golf course. For instance, if five small trees in a large group are found to be in the wrong place, they can easily be moved elsewhere. Larger specimens will need to be untied, and

the stake dug up with no guarantee that the tree will survive the transplant shock.

#### Planting grants

Planting smaller forestry type trees at the appropriate stocking will very often attract substantial grant aid.

The Forestry Authority (tel: 031 334 0303) administer the Woodland Grant Scheme, which pro-

vides grants for woodland establishment. Up to £2175 per hectare (£880 per acre) is available on receipt of a suitably detailed design and grant application. The grants are paid out over a ten-year period up to 80 percent in year 1, 15 percent in year 5 and 5 percent in year 10. The application form is complicated, requiring some technical competence, and you will have to state what

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Typical of many golf courses, previous plantings are haphazard and do not divide the course in an adequate manner

# Trees

you plan to do, where and how you plan to do it, how you will maintain it and supply an accurate map. This information can be incorporated in a design plan.

## Design plan

After agreeing the general principles of establishment, perhaps after consulting an expert, the design can be drawn up with input from greenkeeping staff and club committee. The most obvious sites will lie between fairways, green/tee, or indeed any piece of 'dead' ground. What is less obvious is the siting of individual trees/clumps in the 'in play' areas, where a detailed examination of the course would be required.

Once sited, the overall shape of each block (or indeed tree) is pegged out and mapped to decide the species plan.

## Species

If claiming grant aid, native species are preferred to more exotic, garden-type trees. This does make sense, as native species will not only grow well but will attract the huge variety of wildlife associated with trees and woodlands.

By their very location, most proposed blocks of trees will be long and thin in shape, which makes good landscaping difficult. However, a moderately scalloped (wavy) edge can be further emphasised by siting different sized species in an appropriate manner. Even more texture and shape can be added by varying the species selection both along and through the woodland. Up to 10 percent of woody shrubs are

allowable for grant aid purposes, which are a great help in landscape design, and which promote long-term shelter.

Where safety is an objective, a proportion of the trees should be evergreen conifers which will form an all-year-round dense canopy. These also give winter colour, shelter and add further diversity to the woodland. Scots pine with its orange bark is particularly suitable.

Generally, species are sited by prevailing soil and site conditions which, by happy accident, gives the woodland an even more natural appearance. Fine tuning of the design will involve matching foliage colour and texture both within and between blocks. Bark colour and texture should also taken into account (for winter months, eg willows).

## Planting

Trees are usually planted relatively closely. We often recommend using 60/90cm sized trees planted at 2,500-3,000 per hectare (about 1,000-1,200 per acre), if the site is at least moderately sheltered. This immediately gives a 'wooded' effect and creates the necessary conditions for good growth.

As golf courses are often free of rabbits, trees can be planted bare very economically (for not much more than the total grant aid). Where protective measures are required, either fencing or protective guards/tubes can be utilised. The former is often too intrusive and, in any event, is comparable in cost to the other protective measures. Planting and leaving to

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# Trees

Even at 3,000 trees per hectare, the initial results are barely noticeable before coming into leaf



chance is very risky, as receiving grant aid under contract requires proper maintenance procedures.

## Care and maintenance

Maintenance will involve chemical weeding for at least three seasons, and the replacing of dead trees (called beating up). A site inspection should be carried out in late summer to count losses for replacement in the following autumn. We usually expect 90 percent of broadleaved trees to survive when no replanting is necessary; the Forestry Authority expect an 85 percent stocking rate in year 10.

Longer term management will largely involve pruning, then perhaps thinning which both serve to remove/improve poorly formed, defensive trees and ensures that the remainder grow properly. If the long term plan is to grow good quality, well spaced trees, the close spacing at planting will help the trees develop naturally which, if carefully thinned, can then be progressively respaced to achieve the desired effect.

Management grants are available from year 10 onwards, and are intended as a contribution to

the net cost of the management operations necessary to maintain and improve woodlands in recognition of the resulting silvicultural, environmental and social benefits. These are modest grants of up to £45 per hectare (£18 per acre) per year.

Despite the best efforts of the designer, however, the club members are often the greatest handi-capped to growing young trees.

Any change to a favoured (or even loved) hole will result in criticism from at least some of the regular users. Even where the argument for planting trees is without question, it is a major change of land-use which once planted requires a determined resolve to protect and nurture from the non-believers. We strongly recommend placing newly planted woods out of bounds for at least four or five seasons. This may sound draconian, but just remember that each club member is carrying around 15 scythes!

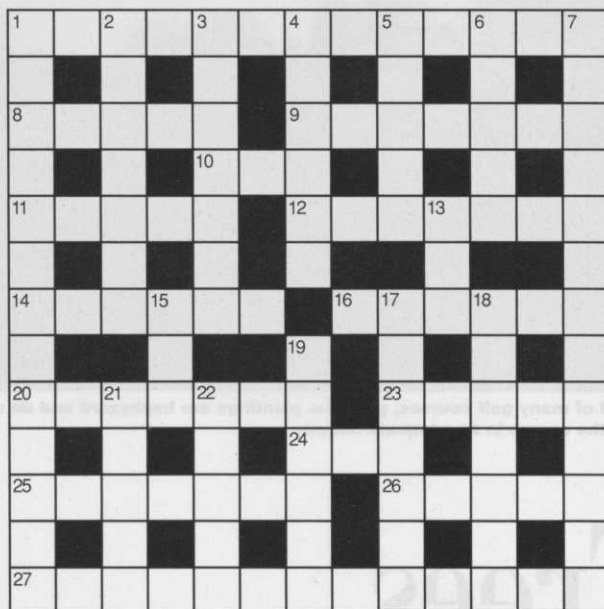
■ *Andrew Vaughan is a woodland consultant with the woodland design and management firm Eamonn Wall & Co (tel: 0259 743212).*



Note the position of the evergreen conifers which will eventually shelter the adjacent houses and right of way

## GREENKEEPER'S CROSSWORD

Compiled by Mark G Smith, first assistant at Frilford Heath GC



### WIN A BIGGA BLAZER OR £50 IN CASH!

#### CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Australian winner of the 1991 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale (3,5-5)
- 8 A lie where the ball hugs the playing surface (5)
- 9 Surname of the winner of the 1947 USPGA Championship (7)
- 10 A hole in one (3)
- 11 Object of historic interest such as a 'feathery' ball (5)
- 12 Greenkeepers may live in a tied one (7)
- 14 Floral name of the 13th hole at Augusta National, part of the Rhododendron family (6)
- 16 Implement used to remove dew from a green (6)
- 20 Entomologists study them! (7)
- 23 Of what are Quercus Robur, Tilia Cordata and Fagus Sylvatica, the Latin names (5)
- 24 Temperature of a putter that holes everything (3)
- 25 L. .... Domestic, plant genus that lends its name to the 17th hole at Augusta National (7)
- 26 A negatively charged particle that sounds like a club (5)
- 27 How to kill a tree! (3,3,3,4)

#### CLUES DOWN

- 1 The .....; USPGA tour event played under a modified Stableford system, held in 1993 at Castle Pines CC, Denver, Colorado (13)
- 2 "Devil in a Bush" (L ... Damascena) (7)
- 3 Case for the head greenkeeper's papers (7)
- 4 The result of a course manager's action (6)
- 5 346 yard hole at Cherry Hills CC, Denver, Colorado, with a plaque commemorating Arnold Palmer, driving the green on his way to winning the 1960 US Open (5)
- 6 Local currency in which the winner of the Nigerian Open may be paid (5)
- 7 ..... (L Aesculus Hippocastanum) (5,8)
- 13 Having two roots or branches; Bifurcated or ....-forked (3)
- 15 The sheltered side; of a tee or green perhaps (3)
- 17 Power rating of electrical items (7)
- 18 Surname of the golfer nicknamed "Supermex" (7)
- 19 Of what are hickory, steel and carbon examples (1,5)
- 21 Approximate time the greenkeepers commence work (3-2)
- 22 The ....-Chaff (L Phylloscopus Collybita), a small warbler (5)

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Closing date April 8, 1994. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win the prize. Photocopy your entry if you don't want to cut up your magazine.

This is the solution to last month's crossword, and the winner, who has opted for a BIGGA blazer, is Mr A Frost, head greenkeeper at Kirkbymoorside Golf Club, North Yorkshire.

Winner of the March crossword will be announced in the May magazine.



Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

If I'm the winner, please send me  £50 cash or  BIGGA blazer, size .....

## Tackling pig problem

In reply to the article 'Wild boar wreaks havoc' in January's edition of Greenkeeper International, which featured Sennelager Golf Club, Germany, coming under attack from wild pigs. This is a typical problem we greenkeepers have over here that does not enter into green-keeping in England.

The wild pigs peel the turf back with their snouts and dig deep holes looking for grubs, larva and the occasional tasty root. They generally disrupt ground that is very wet and peat based, the devastation they can cause in one night is amazing, a herd of four-six can make 6,000 qm totally unplayable and repair work takes up the whole day, only to return the next morning to find the same thing has happened again.

Sennelager GC chose to erect an electric fence to cure the problem, but there is a much cheaper way to stop these ravenous beasts without any detriment to other wildlife and to remain on the friendly side of the Natur Schutz and the green party who, might I add, think greenkeepers are just gardeners who put lots of chemicals and other things on the grass rather than just letting it grow naturally. So, back to the pigs, when I was confronted with the 18 tee, fairway and 17 green looking like a herd of wildebeest had stampeded across them every night, I chose to consult the old men of the local village. When I put my problem to them their answer was quite simply: "Harr mein Junge." (Hair my young one.) Further explanation revealed that I was to collect as much cut hair as possible from the local hairdressers, purchase some small net sacks then put a small quantity of hair in each sack and place the sacks 10 metres apart around the affected area.

The old men say that the scent of humans on the hair stops the pigs and they will not go anywhere near the sacks.

I did as instructed and sure enough no pigs. The problem has gone and has not returned. The old men say that to be effective the sacks must be changed once per year - we have had our sacks out for 10 months and we have not had one visit from a pig in that time. So it seems that the old methods still work the best.

Simple I suppose - when you know.  
Stuart Bishop, Havelweg, Germany

## A hidden agenda?

I refer to 'Greenkeepers Association Under Scrutiny', a recent diatribe published in the Jan/Feb issue of Amateur Golf and highlighted last month in Greenkeeper International.

It would appear that the English Golf Union are clearly misinformed concerning the health of BIGGA, our professional association. One wonders if the venom of their attack was designed to conceal some hidden agenda?

The snow is on the ground  
The golfers are frustrated  
The greenkeeper's in the shed  
Lying there sedated

The secretary's mad, the treasurer's sad  
And the chef's going off his head  
The greenkeeper sighs and wonders why  
Then decides to go home to his bed.

Walter Woods, links supervisor, St Andrews

Possibly the rationale is evident in only their minds?

The assertion that British greenkeepers have "not until recent years acquired a reputation for enhancing their image" is a gross distortion. The truth being that for a great number of years too many clubs, committees and employers denied the greenkeeper an opportunity to enhance his or her image.

Improved status, working conditions, training, education and image have evolved directly from the combined efforts of BIGGA and its membership. R&A funding and support in addition to other direct industry input has assisted our growth but, above all, it has been the Association membership's desire and commitment to professional excellence that has seen rapid improvement.

The EGU criticism of our expansion is an unfortunate example of ignorance raising its ugly head.

In industry, expansion indicates growth (no pun...), the speed of which reflects accordingly with positive support and not negative kneejerk reaction.

Expansion and growth also involves change (including editorial!). This is more than ever true in today's highly competitive marketplace. The process of handling change in a pro-active manner is an objective we all seek to achieve and the notion that the Greenkeeper Training Committee should function as a separate education medium, allied to BIGGA, is an example of progressive initiative. As is the move to partially fund training "through a levy on every club golfer". Not before time in my mind.

The offending EGU article certainly makes for sad reading - the old, nay jurassic, belief that we were ever 60 years behind our American counterparts is a complete fabrication. The fact that three recent Master Greenkeeper Certificates were gained by American superintendents supports the view that the highest qualification attainable in Britain is recognised as one of truly international stature.

I suspect that any professional image that may indeed have been many years behind the USA is that still perpetrated by certain clubs, committees, employers and allied associations in their attitude and disregard to the standing of greenkeepers in Britain.

It is hoped that sooner rather than later, the EGU will get up to speed with our role and achievements within golf course management,

because their current understanding seems barely peripheral.

And while Neil Thomas ponders the motivation not only for the attack but also the reasoning for Amateur Golf's publication of such vitriol - it may just be all down to the hack journalists search for a winter 'filler' - Jan/Feb being particularly slow news months.

Anthony Black, (golf course manager),  
Royston, Herts.

## Thanks for your help

I would like to use your journal to express my thanks to Nick Rigden of Cannington College, Geoff Yelland of Rigby Taylor and Ed McCabe, course manager at Brockenhurst Manor, for their help and advice in my preparation for a presentation evening at North Wilts Golf Club which was followed by a question and answer session.

The evening was a great success and the first of what, I hope, will become an annual event.

Jon Boorman, head greenkeeper  
North Wilts Golf Club, near Devizes

## BTME congratulations



To the Executive Director

I am writing to you on behalf of the Sheffield Section to thank you all at BIGGA HQ for the way in which you organised the BTME and seminars. Everyone I have spoken to in greenkeeping and the trade thinks the exhibition gets better every year. As we all know the hall is only booked until 1996 but we all hope it goes on for years to come.

R Ullathorne, Goole North, Humberside



To the Executive Director

Excellent BTME gets BIGGA every year, it also gets better. Congratulations to you and all staff.

Dennis Mortram, Course Development  
Manager, Reaseheath College, Cheshire




Through the pages of the magazine I would like to thank all the members of the Northern Regional team who were on duty at Harrogate this year (and especially the lads who helped out at the last minute when things became hectic).

Our staff were manning the doors, pre-registration desk, seminar door, roving microphone, Northern Regional stand and even chauffeuring VIPs! All were smart and efficient and helped to project a professional image for the Association as well as assisting in the smooth running of this exhibition.

Many thanks for your time and effort lads!

Bob Lupton, Northern Region  
Administrator, Madeley, Cheshire





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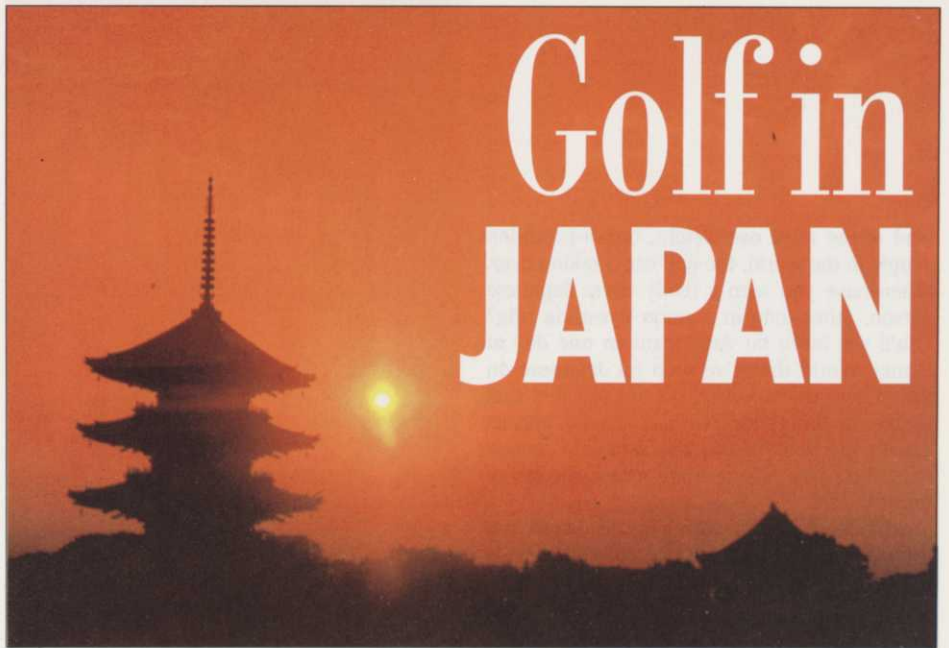
**What I like and don't like about Japanese golf, by Gary Wiren**

**Y**ou've probably read about the cost of Japanese golf; if you thought it was an exaggeration, don't, it is probably true.

Koganei Country Club on the outskirts of Tokyo at one point cost \$3.2 million to join (not to buy). The price is down right now to a more affordable \$1.7 million. That's the most costly. Golf membership at a more typical private club, however, runs closer to \$250,000... a real bargain. In both cases you still have to pay green fees.

For those people not members of a club, a day at a semi-private course or resort, or as a member's guest, may average \$250 per round, not counting the transportation to get there. That's one of the aspects about Japanese golf in the negative category, it's too darned expensive.

A practice that fuels this heavy price is the selling of memberships to non-golfers purely on a speculative basis. Hundreds of clubs in Japan have membership rolls filled with 'investors' who keep the price up, but may never have played their course. Since one can sell one's membership at any time, it becomes the same as playing the stock market. The good news is that developers commanding extremely high membership fees can afford to build world-class facilities. Some of the new clubhouses and courses are truly elegant. Though extravagance is not a practice I find necessary for the enjoyment of golf, one can't



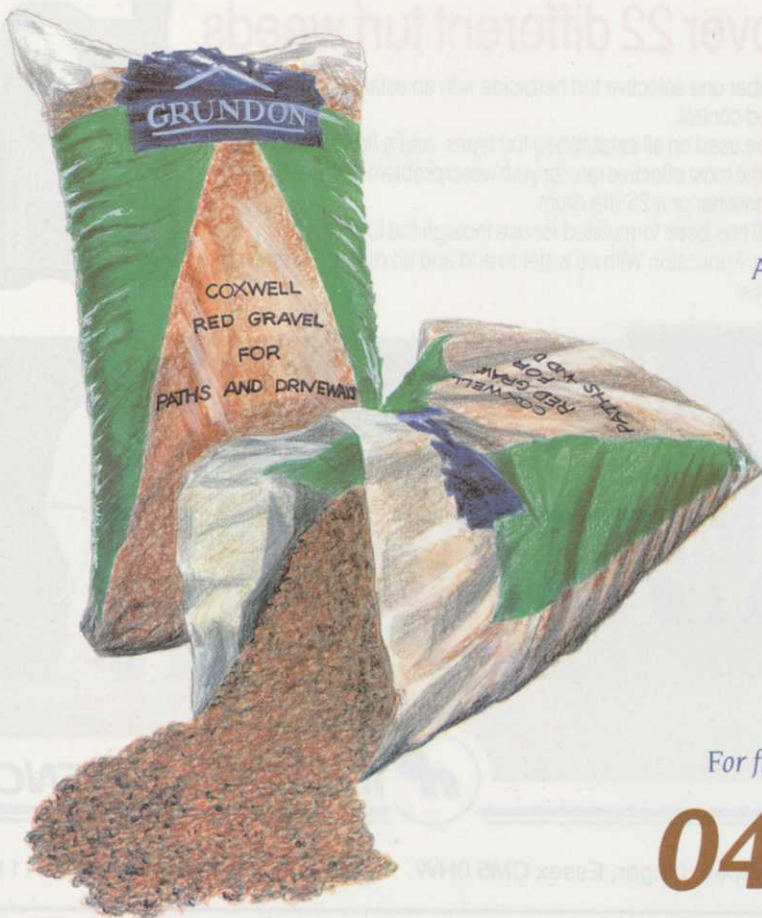
# Golf in JAPAN

help appreciating some of their amenities, landscaping, and quality of the clubhouses.

One of the customs that makes Japanese golf a less rewarding experience for me is the starting and stopping for refreshments and lunch. During a recent round at a very up-scale course, we were offered coffee and juice before our 9am tee time, stopped after the third hole for refreshments at the 'Quarter Way House,' partook in an hour-long lunch after nine holes, stopped again at the 'Three-Quarter Way House' following the 12th hole, and finished with a nice light meal at the prize-giving following the round. I do under-

stand the reason: golf is an all-day experience to be savoured in Japan, and this they most certainly do. But if you are interested in your performance, it sure breaks up the rhythm of the game.

Some of the 'good news' for Japanese golf is that you get to walk off that food and drink. In 12 years of regularly going to Japan, I have never played a round of golf riding in a golf car, nor do I remember seeing anyone else do so. Golf in Japan, like golf in Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Europe and most other nations, is primarily a walking game. Yet in the US, the



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# Golf in JAPAN

land of the most overweight, out-of-condition people in the world, the golf car is taking over. When have you seen a really obese Japanese person, other than in a sumo wrestling ring? You'll see more fat Americans in one day at Disney World than I've seen fat Japanese on 22 visits to that country. It's not just diet that makes the difference, but also activity, and an activity like walking the hilly Japanese courses is perfect. The Japanese are smart enough to recognise this.

Golf course superintendents in Japan can drive me up the wall with pin placements. At one club, each time I played there, the flagsticks were in the same location on every green, ie. all front right, or all back left, etc. for the entire 18 holes. When I questioned the management about it, the response was "it's easier for workers to remember where to cut the cups." Compare that to a recent round at a US resort where on the score card for the day all the green depths and widely varied pin locations were printed on an extension of the card. Some flagsticks were located short left, some middle, some back right, etc., in a more interesting and challenging presentation.

More good news for Japanese golf is that if you are frustrated with the course set-up or how you played, there is the wonderful *ofuro* to wash away those anxieties. I've played some lousy rounds which upon completion left me

less than content with myself. But the *ofuro* lulled me into a peaceful relaxation, with its steaming waters from the Japanese king-sized version of a hot tub. It is a wonderful practice, and one I'd recommend to every cold weather golfing facility that can afford the hot water bill.

Speaking of being happy, Japanese golfers, almost to the letter, do not display anger on the course. That is most commendable. It is considered bad manners and a weakness in character to do so. I've never seen a Japanese throw a club. I've seen Americans throw their whole bag. It appears to me that Japanese enjoy their golf more because they appreciate all the game has to offer: a nature walk, sharing with friends, and time away from their life's routine. They don't measure the success or failure of the day simply on what they shot.

I don't like the Japanese double green system where one green is *Korai* (Korean Grass) for summer months, the other *Bento* (Bent Grass) for the cooler season. Jamming two greens into a landing area destroys some of the aesthetics and quality of design. In addition, *Korai* is a terribly stiff-bladed grass, grainier than the most severe Bermuda, frustrating as all heck to putt, and used too frequently when the *Bento* would work. Fortunately, this double green practice is dying out with the advent of new types of stronger heat-tolerant hybrid grasses.

In Japan, the quality of play, agronomy and management are all improving rapidly. In large part this is due to their national penchant for observing the best of other countries, then adopting and modifying to fit their conditions. The rest of the golf world could take some equally beneficial lessons from Japan.

■ The author, Dr Gary Wiren, is a golf educator and former national (US) PGA staff director. Wiren, a PGA Master Professional, has written or co-authored more than 160 magazine articles and seven books, including the *PGA Teaching Manual* and the *PGA Manual of Golf*.

This article first appeared in *Japan Golf Report*, the English language magazine which serves to inform the western world of Japanese golfing activities: sporting, business and architectural. It is reproduced here with due acknowledgement to the publisher, Masaki Takemori, and the editor, Jillian Yorke.

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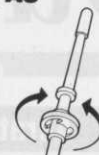
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