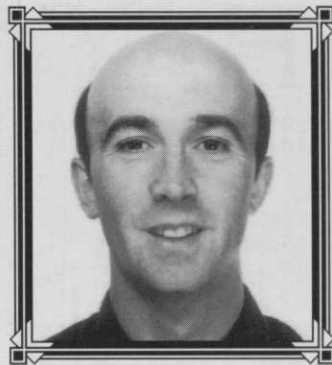


Vincent Lee



Ken Moore



Stephen Pellatt



Byron Thomas

OF FAME



Margeir Vilhjalmsson

WHO WILL BE THE TORO/PGA EUROPEAN TOUR STUDENT GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR?

One of these young greenkeepers will win an eight weeks expenses paid trip to America. Two of them will join the PGA European Tour greenkeeping team and help prepare a course for a major event. The others can take comfort from the fact that they are the best student greenkeepers in their region.

All seven greenkeepers are already winners. Each has been picked to represent their region in the 1994 Toro-PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper Awards after an extensive round of interviews.

During the summer 32 students, nominated by their colleges, were quizzed by Ken Richardson, BIGGA's education officer, Dean Cleaver, a member of BIGGA's education sub-committee and Pete Mansfield, general manager of Toro Lely UK. They clocked up more than 1500 miles as they interviewed the nominated student greenkeepers at colleges such as Oaklands, Cannington, Pencoed, Warwickshire, Askam Bryan, and Elmwood. Northern Ireland had its own selection process.

The upshot of all this is that seven superb students, representing Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Northern England, Midlands, South-East England and South-West England, will undergo further questioning in the National Final at Aldwark Manor in Yorkshire. And three of them will leave there with a "chance of a lifetime".

The overall winner will receive the Toro Scholarship which includes a six-week residential turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts in the USA in January/February 1995. There will also be visits to the Toro company's corporate headquarters in Minneapolis and the Toro Irrigation Division in California. And, if the schedules allow, time to visit the GCSAA's show in San Francisco. All expenses will be paid for by the sponsors.

The two runners-up will join the PGA European Tour greenkeeping team at two venues just prior to a major PGA event and will also be invited to attend the PGA European Tour's Greenkeeping Conference which is held every two years. The selected students will become working members of the PGA European Tour advance party, responsible for overseeing preparation prior to and during the tournaments. All expenses will be paid for by the sponsors.

We will announce the winner next issue, but which one would you vote for?

club, Shandon Park, for three years. His job title there is simply 'greenkeeper'. Ken, who is married, has also worked at Kirkistow and Knock golf clubs.

He plays golf but his best sport is autogress – he was the North-

ern Ireland champion last year.

To back up his practical knowledge he has been taking a two-year day release course in greenkeeping and sports turf management (NVQ II) at Greenmount and has qualified for the

Certificate in Greenkeeping from the GTC.

"I will now study for the level II supervision qualification at Greenmount to become assistant course manager at my present club," he tells us. "My ambition is to be a course manager if possible with the opportunity to help in the design and construction of a new course."

STEPHEN PELLATT

representing South-West England

Age: 30. College: Sparsholt

After leaving school Stephen served a four-year coppersmith's apprenticeship followed by another year "on my tools". Stephen, who is now married with two children, then became involved with turf while working as an assistant groundsman on a naval base. He worked there for two years, maintaining the grounds and the sports pitches.

"After a financially motivated spell in the building industry," he continues, "I joined Lee-on-Solent golf club as an assistant." Two years ago he was promoted to assistant head greenkeeper.

"I now have a career which provides me with enormous job and personal satisfaction. I aim to continue my education and broaden my experience on the way to becoming a successful head greenkeeper."

He has completed phase I of City and Guilds, is taking phase II and plans to take phase III afterwards.

BYRON THOMAS

representing Wales

Age: 20. College: Pencoed

Byron is the first assistant at Morlais Castle Golf Club near Merthyr Tydfil. After finishing school in July 1990, he started at Pencoed the following September and went to Morlais Castle for work experience as an apprentice. He has now trained there for three years and even took over from the head greenkeeper, Peter Lewis, when he was injured "in the line of duty".

At Pencoed Byron has completed phase I and II of the City and Guilds greenkeeping and sports turf management.

MARGEIR VILHJALMSSON

representing Scotland

Age: 22. College: Elmwood

Although Margeir is representing Scotland, as you can probably tell from the name, he is not Scottish. He comes from Iceland and took out a bank loan to go to Elmwood to learn about greenkeeping.

At the moment Margeir is working at Gleneagles on their Excellence in Golf Award Scheme. He has also had some work experience at Carnoustie. A keen golfer, he was the junior champion at Sudurnesja GC in 1987 and 1989 but now he plays off 12. "Greenkeeping has very much interfered with golf playing in recent years," he admits. As well as being a champion in Iceland, he also rose to the position of deputy head greenkeeper before coming to Britain to study. Margeir completed his national certificate in greenkeeping with ease and he is undertaking the HNC in golf course management by distance learning. He should complete this next year.

HAYTER

CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT FINAL

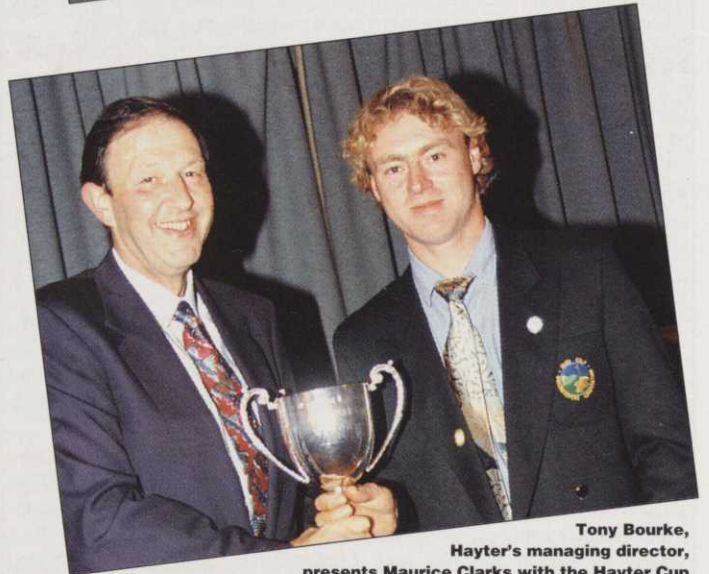
Pannal



Caddy reflects on boss's shot



The winning Northern team



Tony Bourke, Hayter's managing director, presents Maurice Clarks with the Hayter Cup



Kim Macfie, Hayter's sales and marketing manager, shows how it's done

beaters



Kevin Fowler, putting on 17th

Maurice Clarke celebrated his victory in the Hayter Challenge Tournament final by scraping off his goatee beard. But his success at picturesque Pannal was anything but a close shave.

The 31-year-old 14-handicapper was one of three golfers who shot a nett 67 in the morning of this 27-hole competition. But the others couldn't keep up the pace in the afternoon and Maurice, the first assistant a Corrstown GC, near Dublin Airport, won by more than a whisker. A 20ft chip-in on the 5th followed by another birdie on the 7th gave him a gross score of 39 and a nett score of 32 in afternoon.

**Report and photographs
by Chris Boiling**

One of his co-leaders in the morning was his 61-year-old father, Tommy, the head greenkeeper at Corrstown, who was playing just in front of Maurice. "I had the added incentive that I wanted to beat the old man," said Maurice.

Tommy, a 12-handicap player, started the afternoon in superb fashion – with a birdie. "But I got so excited I went to pieces," he said jokingly.

The other morning leader, Steve Milne, a 21-year-old assistant at Exeter Golf Club, didn't go to pieces but still finished two shots adrift of Maurice with a nett 34 off a 24 handicap. Like Maurice, Steve had someone in his family to thank for his success: his 29-year-old brother is a pro. "He set me on the right track," says Steve, who has been playing for two years and has had about eight lessons.

David Spurden keeps his eye on the ball



Tommy Clarke, the over 55s winner



How your team performed:

NORTHERN 885
MIDLAND 906
SOUTH WEST AND WALES 910.5
SCOTTISH 914
EIRE 917.5
NORTHERN IRELAND 946.5
SOUTH EAST 950

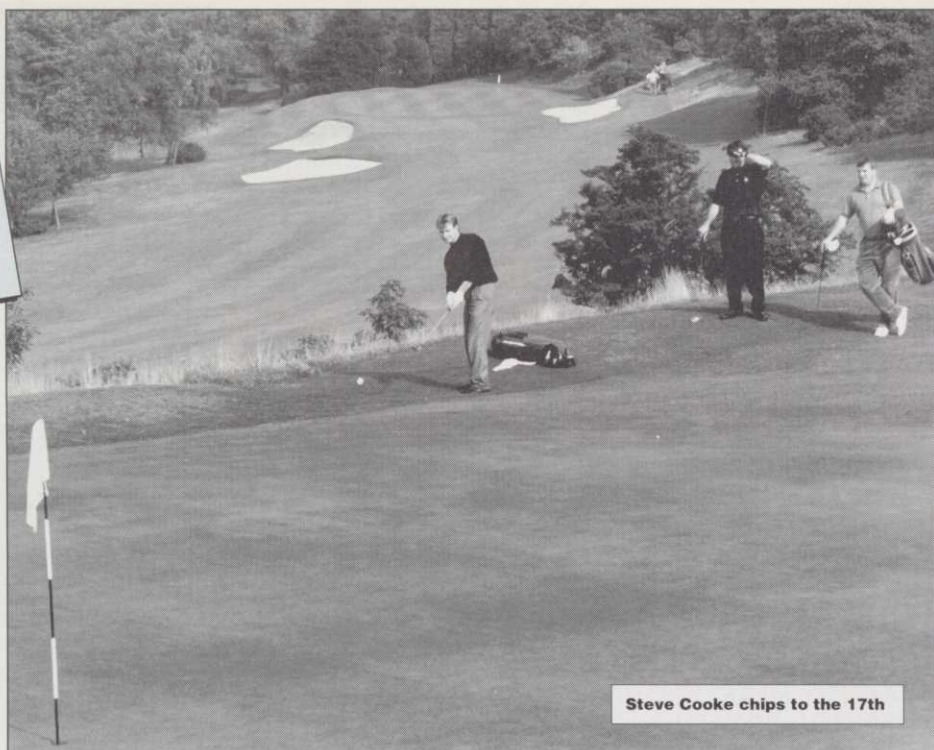
HAYTER

Several other golfers went round the 6659-yard par 72 course in sixtysomething in the morning. Paul Godwin and Mike O'Neill shot nett 68s, and Kevin Peace came in with a nett 69. But, after a quick lunch, this tiring course took its toll and they all slipped back in the afternoon.

Those who came good second time around the first nine were Graeme MacDonald, who added a nett 33.5 to a nett 72, John Moorhouse who added a 33 to a 72, Joe Bedford who added a 33.5 to a 79 and Alan Baxter who recorded a 32 after a morning 73.

However, the Hayter Challenge Tournament, now in its second year, is about more than individual scores. The pride of the regions is at stake. And once again the Northern team have something to gloat about.

"The sun shone again for the righteous," said regional administrator Bob Lupton who picked up the team trophy and a cheque. The winning team comprised: Tony Mears, Ian Hutton, Gary Potter, Alan Baxter, John Waite, David Spurden, Chris Powley, Chris Fiddell and John Jones. The runners-up again were the Midlands team, led by Roger Willars, the only playing captain in the competition. He says he stepped in to save the team's honour when a qualifier cried off and the reserves were unavailable.



Steve Cooke chips to the 17th

They don't know what they missed. Even those greenkeepers who didn't win a prize said they had enjoyed the day, the course and Pannal's hospitality. Most said they enjoyed it so much that they are going to try harder next year to make it through their section and region qualifying rounds to get to the final. Roger Willars has already booked his accommodation!

Verdict on the course

The winner, Maurice Clarke, spoke for everyone when he said: "The course was excellent and the greens were in great condition. The course is not too difficult, but you can get in trouble if you don't keep the ball straight". Head greenkeeper Kevin Wroe, who took over recently from Alan Gamble, and his team did a superb job with the presentation of the course.

Results

Overall winner: Maurice Clarke (Eire), 99

Regional team prize: 1, Northern, 885; 2, Midlands, 906

Category 1 (0-9 handicap): 1, John Moorhouse (Midland), 105; 2, Graeme MacDonald (Midland), 105.5; 3, Paul Godwin (SW/SW), 105.5.

Category 2 (10-18): 1, Maurice Clarke (Eire), 99; 2, Alan Baxter (Northern); 3, Tommy Clarke (Eire), 106.

Category 3 (19-28): 1, Steve Milne (SW/SW), 101; 2, Chris Powley (Northern), 109; 3, Alex Robertson (Scotland), 111.5.

Over 55s: Tommy Clarke (Eire), 106.

Under 21: Steve Milne (SW/SW), 101

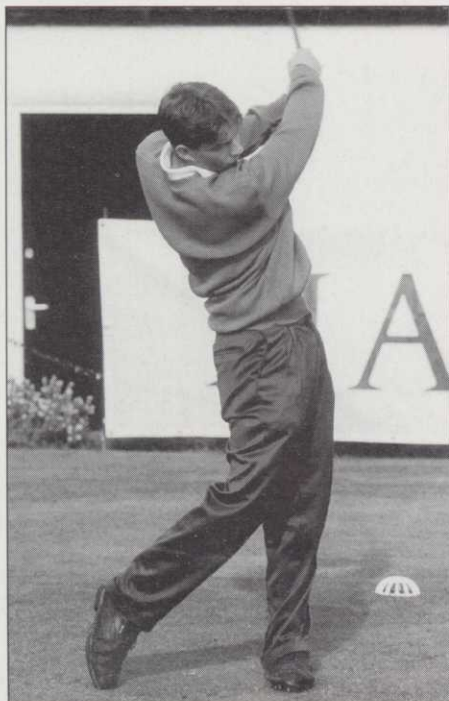
Best Gross: Ron Christie (SE), 112

Nearest the pin: David Behan (Eire), 5ft 11in

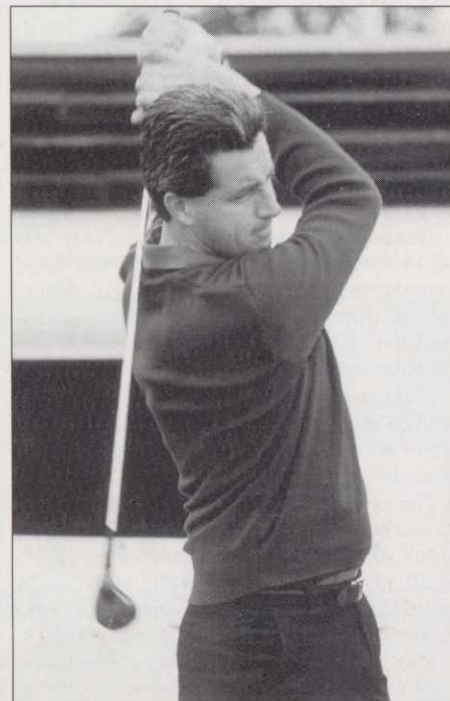
Longest drive: Ron Christie (SE)



John Moorhouse



Steve Milne



Tony Mears

Send your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF or fax them on 0347 838864

How to extend the battery life of your electric mower

I have read your article on the new Ransomes E-Plex triple greens mower in the September issue with interest mainly because it is powered electrically. Although this is a very obvious statement, I am a sales engineer for a very known lawnmower grinding machine manufacturer, and we, as a company, vigorously promote the single blade grinding method of sharpening cylinders, or as it is more commonly known 'relief angle grinding'.

With the launch of the Ransomes E-Plex machine, we feel it would be an opportunity to tell prospective buyers of the mower about some very distinct advantages of 'relief angle grinding' as this will give much longer battery life on the E-Plex mower and as a result will extend the life of the batteries and obtain more 'charges' than 350 as stated in the article. Allow me to explain in a little more detail the advantages of this method of grinding cylinders with a relief angle.

1. There is less friction between cylinder and bottom blade.
2. Longer blade life - both reels and bedknives can last up to 2-3 times longer.
3. Motors, gears, transmissions and all other moving parts last longer due to less friction
4. Adjustments, reels to bedknives (or vice-versa), due to less wear, are less frequent.
5. Dry summers and the lack of moisture in the grass to lubricate the cutting action leads to rapid wear of the blades. Relief grinding of the cutting cylinder is the cure to this and other associated overheating problems.
6. The cleaner cutting action means that mowing can take place in very wet conditions without

tearing, ribbing or skidding of heavily set (tight) mowing machines.

So greenkeepers, if you are seriously contemplating purchasing one of the above machines or any other make and wish to keep your costs down even further, consider the above method of grinding.

Peter Barrow
Southern UK sales engineer,
Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd,
Portsmouth

Teenager with taste

I have recently come into possession of some old issues of your magazine. This is a fantastic publication and I just cannot put it down. Can I subscribe or is there any way for me to purchase it regularly?

I will be 17 in February and I want to become a greenkeeper.

Alan O'Connor
Enniscorthy, Co Wexford, Eire
Editor's note: The subscription rate for non-BIGGA members is £34 per year, £44 if you live outside the UK.

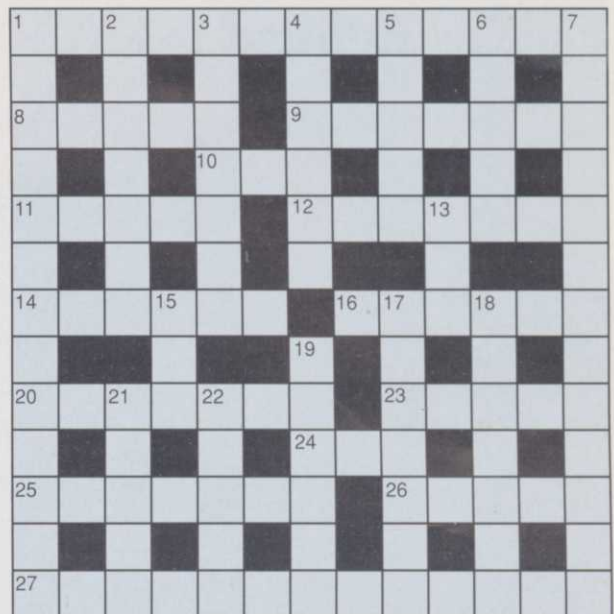
A great time

To the executive director,
Just a short letter to thank you and the BIGGA team for running the Open support team and the National Tournament so well. It was a great two weeks for me, which would not have been possible without the hard work that went into setting up these events and running them so professionally.

John Wells
course manager, Brocket Hall Golf Club, Welwyn, Hertfordshire

GREENKEEPER'S CROSSWORD

Compiled by Mark G Smith



WIN A BIGGA BLAZER OR £50 IN CASH!

CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Term given to the situation where a ball is accidentally deflected or stopped by an outside agency (Rule 19-1) (3, 2, 3, 5)
- 8 Period in which a series of events is completed, eg plant growth, engine operation etc. (5)
- 9 Competitive inter-club matches are often played in them (7)
- 10 Alternative name for a newt (3)
- 11 Blunt nosed short eared rodents some of which are aquatic (5)
- 12Fields C.C., Illinois, venue of the USPGA Championship in 1925 (7)
- 14 What a golfer may ask of an opponent's stroke played out of turn in match play (6)
- 16 Situation on the putting green where an opponent's ball blocks the way to the hole, nowadays remedied by marking (6)
- 20 An item of golf apparel (7)
- 23 What a player's and a marker's card should do before signing! (5)
- 24 Make a mistake (3)
- 25 Andrew winner of the 1993 Turespana Masters Open De Andalucia (7)
- 26 A spring of water (5)
- 27 Golfer with a zero handicap (7, 6)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Strokes played from hazards etc (8, 5)
- 2 To sharpen mower blades using grinding paste (4-3)
- 3 (L.Refracta) Deciduous bulbous plant of the Iris family (7)
- 4 Surname of the only British amateur to win the Open Championship twice in 1892 and 1897 (6)
- 5 Surname of the Australian winner of the 1990 USPGA Championship (5)
- 6 Provide with tools, clubs etc (5)
- 7 Explanation of why a Flymo is at its greatest height of cut (2, 5, 7)
- 13 Month in which the Volvo PGA Championship is played (3)
- 15 Open country or meadow (3)
- 17 Emotional state experienced by some tournament winners breaking fat rule (anag) (7)
- 18 Dog's(L. Chenopodium Bonus Henricus) poisonous weed, or metal (atomic number 80) (7)
- 19 Open Championship played at the National Golf Club and won in 1993 by Costantino Rocca (6)
- 21 Common name of the tree (L. Sambucus Nigra), renowned for its black berries (5)
- 22 Fish of the salmon family (L. Salmo Fario) (5)

★ Solve the crossword puzzle and you could win either a BIGGA blazer (worth £87.95) or £50 in cash! Send entries to: Crossword Competition, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF.

Closing date October 30, 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. ➔ Last month's solution:



Name:

Address:

.....

.....

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

Greenkeeper is bound for Portugal

Callander Golf Club's W Myles has won a golfing holiday for two to Portugal in the Ocmis Irrigation survey prize draw. Ian Semple of Old Fold Manor GC won the second prize of two tickets to the Toyota World Match Play Championship. Twenty other head greenkeepers who completed the Ocmis survey will receive bottles of Somerset Royal Brandy.



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DRAINAGE

Michael Bird examines some of the options open to greenkeepers who are searching for solutions for drainage problems

Effective drainage is an essential requirement for all playing surfaces. An inability for water to keep moving either sideways or downwards can swiftly reduce superb turf to a mudbath, causing a series of knock-on effects which can be extremely costly to rectify.

Poor turf drainage not only limits water percolation, it also hinders the passage of air and warmth through the soil to the roots, restricting strong and healthy plant growth.

Prevention, as in so many other cases, is always better than the cure. However, the ability to carry out and maintain effective drainage is within the reach and means of most clubs. This can be achieved either by employing a professional sports turf drainage contractor or by using their own equipment, hired in or purchased for the job.

In many situations, it will pay to have one's major drainage works carried out using purpose-built drainage machinery equipped with laser guided levelling equipment to ensure that the pipe gradients are correct within both flat and undulating ground.

This requirement is not so demanding beneath turf which has a consistent slope in one direction or another, the aim being to drain to the lowest possible level, keeping water on the move using the lie of the land.

Whatever one's circumstances, there will always be occasions when additional drainage is needed or there is a need for rectification, maintenance or improvements to existing installations. For these jobs, greenkeepers can call on a growing range of equipment suitable for use by the "do-it-yourselfer".

Shelton Trenching Systems claims to be Europe's leading spe-



Top picture: muddy puddles at Newmacher Golf Club before drainage problems were solved. Above: the course as it looks today

Drainage problems at Newmacher Golf Club in Aberdeenshire started eight or nine years ago in the areas where heavy plant had been at work. With the resultant compaction, water just lay on the top.

All the problem areas were sorted with a 100m main drain down the centre and 80m laterals every 3-4m into nearby ditches. Drains were excavated with a Kubota digger.

Pipes were backfilled within 6in from the top with 10/5mm washed gravel then 4in of 5/2mm washed grit and then 2in root zone sand. For deeper drains they used 10/20mm gravel.

cialist manufacturer of sports turf drainage equipment, producing a series of high quality, effective products over the past decade.

The company's Supertrencher Mk Va is designed for high daily workrates cutting pipe trenches from 25mm to 135mm (1in to 5.3in) wide. Features include a longer conveyor than previous models allowing the use of larger trailers to remove the soil. Chain

driven, the conveyor has a chevron belt, the speed of which can be adjusted hydraulically.

Other enhancements include the lowering and enlarging of the soil exit port and the fitting of a stainless steel deflector plate. Together they are said to provide greatly improved soil flow for faster working.

Options on the trencher are laser levelling and a mini gravel

hopper to allow simultaneous backfilling. Designed for tractors of 75 to 90hp/ the Supertrencher Mk Va costs £9,350. It can be specified with segmented cutters with quick-change tungsten carbide tipped cutter heads.

For those preferring a trenchless system, Shelton's gravel band drainage machines can instal two 20mm (0.78in) bands of material 400mm (15.75in) apart in one

DRAINAGE

pass at depths down to 250mm (10in).

Rather than utilise gravel or sand, Shelton recommends 3mm Lytag because of its excellent hydraulic conductivity.

Presser wheels minimise surface heave allowing the turf to be returned immediately to play while the introduction of stainless steel channel openers has enabled the use of tractors of 50hp-plus, with four wheel drive advised in wet conditions.

Available on hire at £185 per day (minimum three days) or for outright purchase from £7,895, Shelton Gravel Band Drainers come in three models, one of which permits the fitting of self-loading equipment on the tractor's three-point linkage.

The company has also introduced recently a range of turf drainage equipment suitable for use with compact tractors.

Perthshire farmer, Jimmy Gilchrist, has been producing the Daisy D Drainer since the early

1980s. Comprising a simple, single leg trenchless unit, it is suitable for mounting on tractors of 75hp-plus, depending on ground conditions and drainage depth.

Versions suitable for laying 80mm or 100mm pipe down to a maximum depth of 914mm (3ft) are available and the hopper has a shutter to regulate depth of backfill.

'As a trencher, the machine is compact, self-contained and highly manoeuvrable'

Available within the Daisy D contract drainage service or for purchase at £2,600, the Daisy D Drainer can be equipped with laser levelling if required.

One multi-purpose machine which is proving its costeffectiveness on a range of jobs for landscapers, contractors, groundstaff and others is the Skidster, fitted with either a petrol or diesel

engine.

Comprising a base skid-steered power unit with a rear stand-on operating platform, the machine can be equipped with a host of attachments for work on hard and turf surfaces.

For drainage works, the machine can be had with a chain trencher, front hoe excavator and bucket loader, each designed to give the Skidster the abilities of a single, specialised unit.

As a trencher, the machine is compact, self-contained and highly manoeuvrable capable of digging a 914mm (3ft) deep trench at 100mm or 150mm (4in or 6in) widths. A crumbler attachment is available and there is also the option of full crawler rubber tracks to minimise disturbance of soft surfaces.

Equipped with a bucket, the machine offers a maximum 2m (6.5ft) lift height. Offered with a variety of tyre options to suit the surface, Skidster prices start from less than £7,000.

Bigger drainage works demand bigger machines and Foster has a range of heavy-duty diggers suitable for fitting to most tractors from 35hp upwards.

The company's D2 and D2P diggers connect direct to the three-point linkage and have twin ram 180deg slewing. Because of its offset facility, the Foster D3 model is attached to the tractor using a load-bearing sub-frame.

Major difference between the D2 and D2P is the use of an independent hydraulic system on the latter. Both machines have a maximum reach of 4.37m (14ft 4in), digging depth of 3m (9ft 10in) and tear out force of 2.9 tonnes (6,350lb).

The D3's arm can be offset to any position along its frame enabling work close to walls and fences. Sideways reach is a massive 5.18m (17ft).

Offered with a choice of ditching, trenching and drainage buckets, the latter with ejector, Foster diggers cost from £3,500.

DIGGERS

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and Grabs



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We went back to basics with the first golf club in East Germany

British greenkeepers Stuart Bishop and his partner Elaine Holland, a trained hairdresser who now cuts greens and fairways and mends machinery with the best of them, have been telling us about their experiences at Potsdam Golf Club, the first golf club in East Germany.

When they arrived in the east of the country after 18 months in the west, Stuart was surprised to find that it took the greenkeepers just eight hours to cut 18 fairways and the driving range with one machine. Asked how they did this, they demonstrated: the driver proceeded to cut the driving range at about 35mph with a 6-ton tractor followed by a flying set of gang mowers. Later, a close examination of the gang mowers revealed no set on (and they'd never heard of this).

The equipment at the course was mainly farming implements of which the 6-ton Russian tractor was their favourite. It was used to cut the fairways and semi-rough – well, almost everything. One problem was that the course was built on a swamp and the tractor kept sinking and making large holes. The answer? Fill the holes with sand and create another bunker!

They had tried to update their inventory with an electric Flymo – but it had to be returned when they couldn't find a long enough cable in East Germany to go around the course. Parts would take 3-4 weeks to arrive from the west. In the event that some-

thing arrived the same day, the staff would break it or insist it didn't fit!

One day the owner decided he wanted the fairways top-dressed. Stuart didn't know this until the top-dresser arrived – a farm manure spreader that discharged out of the rear by a conveyor belt with two bars with flailing rods on them. So going up hill it discharged at a rate of 1 ton per square metre and going down hill, nothing. Stuart and Elaine were assured by the greenkeepers that this was normal practice. Only when Stuart insisted that they all get a shovel and rake to smooth out the 2ft hills did they all remember they had doctor's appointments.

The arrival of a Jacobsen Turf Cat was similar to Unification Day. Suddenly everyone wanted to cut the semi-rough.

The Easteners are very easy going, so it wasn't a complete surprise to Stuart when the day before a big skins game featuring Bernard Langer and David Gilford that one greenkeeper had a day off for shopping plus a visit to the hairdresser's.

The mechanic had spent most of his time working on Russian tractors, which required nothing more than a huge hammer and a 42mm spanner, so when Stuart asked him to adjust the bit of play in the groomers he did just that – he welded the groomers to the frame of the mower, in the down position. Just the job for rotorvating the greens, which brings us to verti-cutting.

"They would normally rotor-

vate the greens because they were set so low and always finishing with twice around the green (as mowing) and once around the foregreen while decapitating any sprinklers in their path," recalls Elaine.

As a rule the greenkeepers were rewarded with a party given by the course owner or with presents of beer – and plenty of it. Stuart, a teetotaler, therefore was not the most popular man in Germany when he banned alcohol from the course.

'This man turned out to be our worst nightmare'

Most of the German greenkeepers are really farmers by profession, so Stuart and Elaine were delighted when their boss told them they were to get a new man with three years' experience. Their smiles turned to laughter when they found out his name was Herr Shiverdick. Their laughter turned to horror soon after he arrived. "This man turned out to be our worst nightmare," said Elaine. "Within two or three days the 6-ton tractor was in one of the streams complete with gang mowers and driver. This was after he had severed a high-pressure standpipe, which produced a 100m fountain. Every day there was some kind of catastrophe, but it was good for the others. It made them look competent!"

The mechanic did his fair share of wrecking, too. In the

shed was a reel grinder, two years old and never used as no-one had any idea what it was. Stuart removed the polythene and taught the mechanic how to use it, giving detailed instruction and demonstrations about what could go wrong. The mechanic appeared to have got the idea, so Stuart left him to it. An hour later Stuart returned expecting to see at least one finished. He was a little surprised to see all seven fairway reels finished – with a 5mm convex shape to them!

In Germany they like to apply quartz sand as topdressing, and a lot of it. Stuart decided he would mix soil and sand, which they did by throwing sand and soil in a small cement mixer, mixing it, then tipping it out and throwing it through a fine mesh screen with a shovel. What went through was used, what didn't was scrapped. "When you require 40 or 50 tons this procedure could take about six months," said Stuart. "Germany has not heard of power screens."

Stuart and Elaine have now left that club – "We both felt we had to leave for the sake of our own sanity," said Elaine. "But we hope we have left quite a bit of knowledge and know-how there. At least we know they'll be cutting the grass, not running over it at 35mph."

She adds: "It was a lot of fun and we met some very nice people. The staff are all now competent greenkeepers. It was a joy to work with them and we learnt a lot about life behind The Wall."

Summer madness hits St Enodoc

Picturesque St Enodoc Golf Club in Cornwall has been hit by a spell of summer madness.

One night 10 flags, six tee markers and six boards screwed to stone tee boxes disappeared and five greens were damaged. The vandals had made the holes about 18in in diameter by gouging them out with their hands. They also gouged other holes in the greens as well.

A security guard was brought in, but this did not stop the vandalism. A mini-Stonehenge was built on the 11th green using 6in wooden tee blocks from various

tees. Rakes were put in the holes and flags were planted in bunkers. Stones along a footpath were thrown in bushes.

While the security guard was throwing someone off one part of the course holidaymakers from nearby caravan sites were letting rip on the other side of the links. A second security guard with a dog was employed and, according to head greenkeeper Stuart Dymond, this seems to have worked.

There was no more damage during the summer holidays although the guards' daily reports

to the club showed that every night they escorted someone off the course.

Sticker winner

The winner of our recent sticker slogan competition is Mrs JR Whatling, wife of the head greenkeeper at Heworth Golf Club, York. She receives a £15 WH Smith voucher for her effort: *BIGGA greenkeepers – a cut above the rest*. One slogan that was rejected by the girls at HQ, due to lack of proof, stated: *Greenkeepers do it with BIGGA ones!*

NEW FACES

■ The new head greenkeeper at Brickendon Grange Golf and Country Club, a picturesque parkland course near Hertford, is Trevor Booth, 32. Previously he was head greenkeeper at Oakridge, Nuneaton. He replaces Mike Reece who has gone to King's Norton in Birmingham.

■ Bob Lawton, 39, has moved from South Shields GC, where he was head greenkeeper, to take over as course manager at Billingham GC, Cleveland. Harry Lees has gone to Ramside Hall.

Designed by Rees Jones to championship standards, the Oxfordshire Golf Course is the second Nitto Kogyo course in the UK (the first being Turnberry) and the first they have built outside Japan.

The architect's design philosophy is quoted as "to create an environment for the game of golf that is challenging, fair and aesthetically pleasing," while Nitto Albion plc, the UK operator, gives its objective as "to meet the cultural and business needs of Britain and Japan and form a bridge between the Japanese and British people and corporations."

Opened on July 4 1993 at an estimated cost of £22 million, the Oxfordshire is a 7187 yard par 72 course with sufficient options to tax golfers at all levels and an exceptionally well appointed clubhouse. Membership is by debenture, with a seven day debenture costing £26,000.

However these statistics are only part of the impressive credentials of the course.

Built on 250 acres of gently sloping ex-farmland just outside Thame and overlooking the Thame valley, the course is officially described as a modern American style parkland course. Course manager Martin Jones suggests that "inland links" is perhaps more accurate and gives a better indication of the design which is extensively landscaped.

Contours give additional interest, both visually and to play, and also ensures that all (rain) water is rapidly shed to drains. Martin is very proud of this, stating categorically: "we don't have puddles - if I saw a puddle during construction it was a cock-up - and notifiable." Of course there has been some minor settlement since, but he added, "rectifi-

Big time here we come

Hugh Tilley explores the ambitious Oxfordshire Golf Course where puddles are a major crime in the pursuit of championship status. Pictured right: the 14th hole

cation has been quick and simple."

The basic layout is two loops of 9 running out from the clubhouse, and a driving range. Part of the brief was that the Oxfordshire should have championship potential - and this justified using the highest specifications.

I suspect that the requirements of spectators and media were also fully considered during the planning because there are some very exceptional vantage points and such detailed

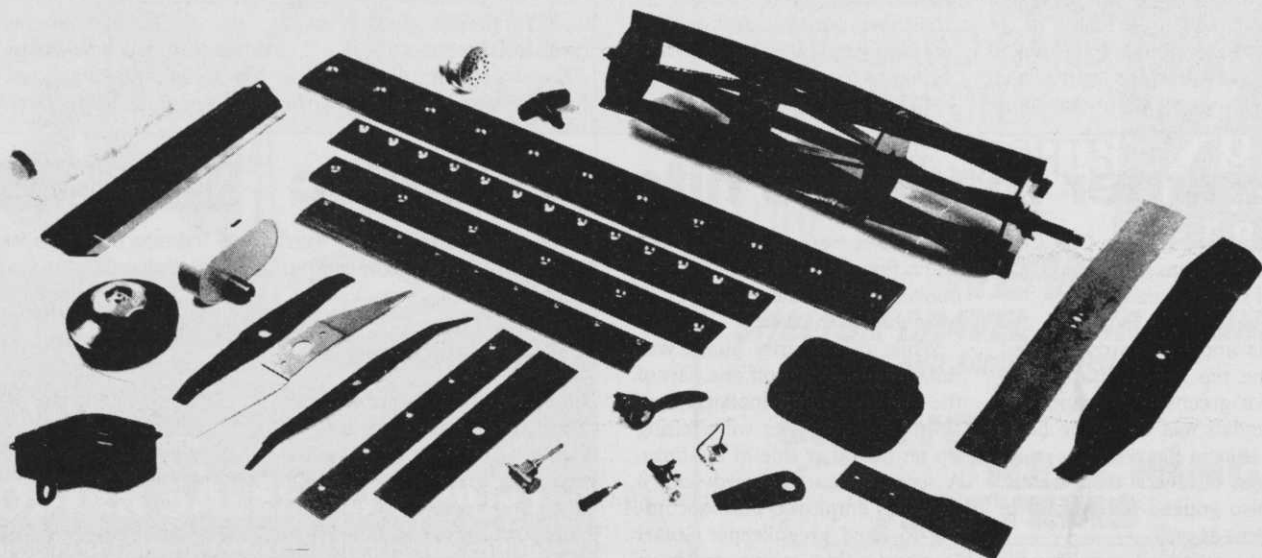
thinking and foresight appears to be a hallmark of this course architect.

The clubhouse, nearly 40,000 square feet of it, is positioned on the high ground with a commanding view of the course. Its design claims to be based on traditional 19th century English architecture but with a luxury interior built to suit individual guest and corporate hospitality. I have to admit to being overawed by it.

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