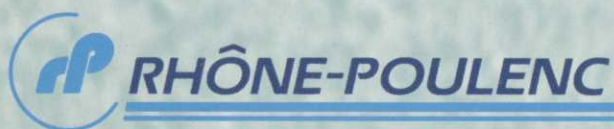


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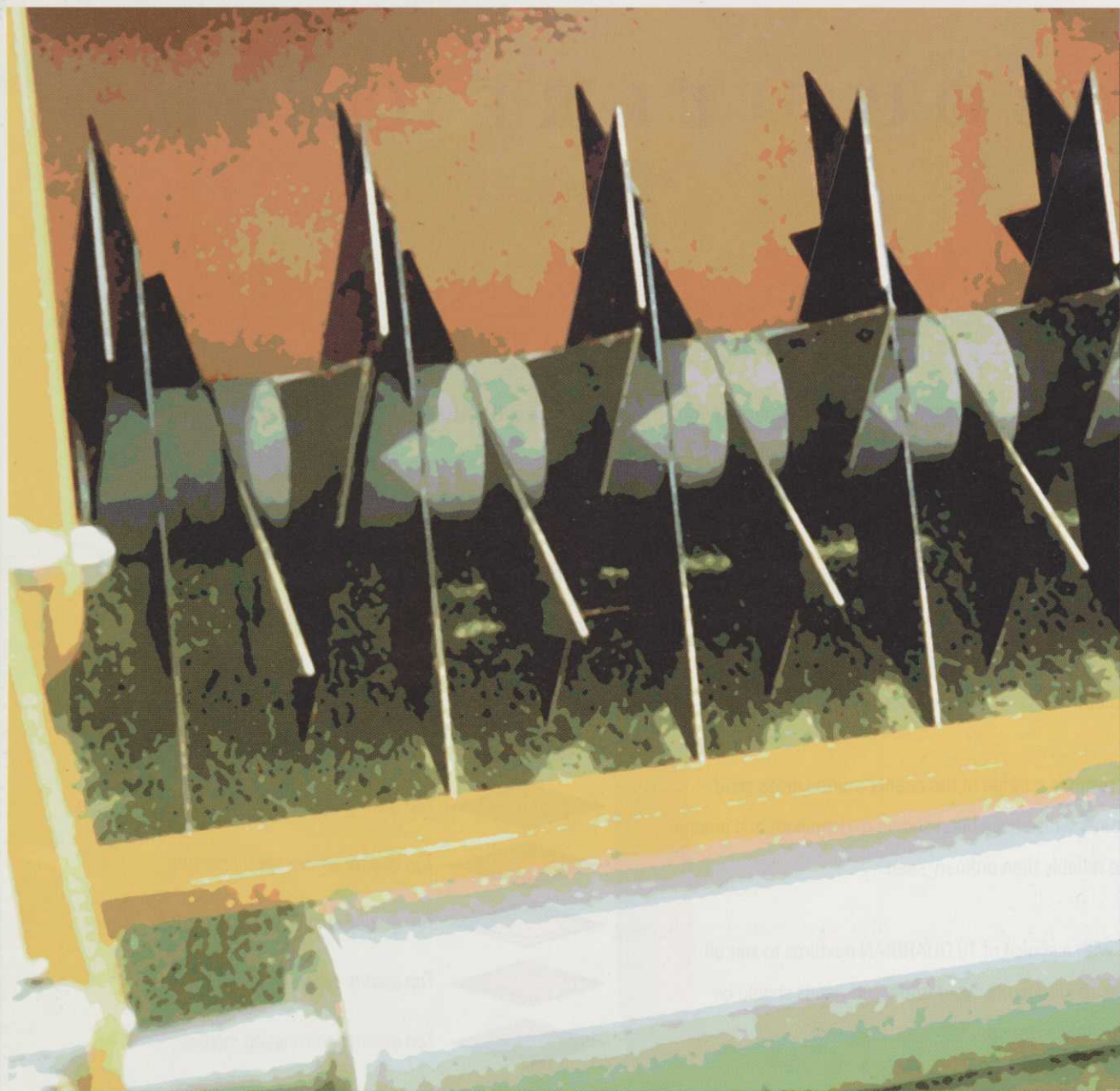
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SEPTEMBER 1994

Contents

A distant, heavenly place

Donnington Grove is more than a golf course – it's a means of strengthening Japan's cultural links with Britain. Chris Boiling



meets their course manager and learns of a company which started out as a Buddhist temple.....**Pages 20-29**

National Tournament's water hazard

When it wasn't falling out of the sky, it was causing mischief on the ground... how greenkeepers defied the elements in the BIGGA/ICI Professional Products tournament ..**Pages 10-11**

The taming of Wildwood

Wildwood used to be yellow, wet and miserable. Now this Surrey golf course is a real gem. We report on the people and the practises behind the transformation.....**Pages 15-16**

No machinery, just sheep

There's a million dollar hole in the "World's Most Outrageous Tournament" – but turf maintenance is never considered in this extraordinary New Zealand competition**Pages 38-40**

Regular features

BIGGA in focus Neil Thomas on why autumn is a season of riches and Clare Douglas offers the chance to make a name for yourselfPage 8

News A look at all that's going on, including straw sausages to reduce algae, curry to kill worms and the electric mower revolutionPages 7, 9, 36, 42, 62

Around the Green Regular updates from our correspondents. Find out what's going on, including news from the Hayter ChallengePages 30-34

Cover

Looking across Donnington Grove, past the temple, to the 14th century Gate House Tower

GREENKEEPER

International

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ADVERTISERS' INDEX

a quick reference guide

	Ad Ref	Page
Acorn Equipment	441	50
Agriland	84	37
Amazone	116	10
Atterton & Ellis	7	26,27
Barenbrug	172	40
Bob Andrews	381	49
Boughton Loam	113	50
C&P Soilcare	46	25
Dalton Cooper	268	53
E&S Sportsground	248	51
Fen Turf Dressings	168	52
Greencare (Hardi)	439	24
Grundon	437	48
Hayters	90	44
Inturf	31	24
Irish Greenkeepers Association		
	458	16
John Deere	103	41
Kubota	86	46,47
Lely	61	38,39
Levington (Fisons)	102	63
Lindum	38	37
Mommersteeg	171	19
Multi-Core	347	25
Netlon	373	42
New Holland Ford	165	6
Pattissons	35	53
Rhône Poulenc	59	2,3, 18,43
Rigby Taylor	127	14
Risboro' Turf	386	23
Rolawn	34	17
Rufford	5	64
Savana Turf	465	62
Sisis	176	4
Standard Golf	421	50
Turf Machinery	101	53
UFB Humberclyde	466	53
Worth Draining	467	29
Zeneca (ICI)	54	22,28
Colleges		• 35
Buyer's Guide		• 54-59
Classified		• 59
Recruitment		• 59-61
Job Shop		• 59

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- PETER JEFFORD, Managing Director, Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd.

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Greenkeeper gets new job in education



BIGGA's chairman of education, Huw Parry, has got a new job – in education. Huw, head greenkeeper at Bristol and Clifton GC, has been appointed lecturer in greenkeeping and golf course management at Cannington College, Bridgwater, Somerset.

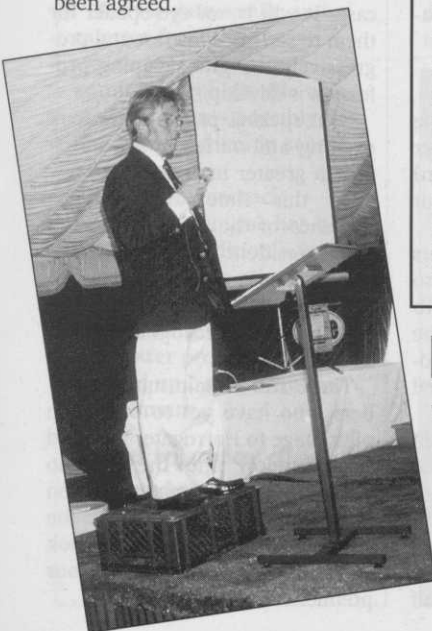
He took up his new post on September 1 after 20 years in greenkeeping and said he's looking forward to the new challenge. "With all my work in education, I see it as a natural development," he said.

As well as serving on the education sub-committee, 37-year-old Huw has also been liaison officer for Pencoed College and was on the working party that produced the GTC training manual. His father is a teacher and his elder brother is a university lecturer in New Zealand. Their subjects are history.

"I'm sad that my work on the education committee has come to an end, I've thoroughly enjoyed it, but this is an exciting opportunity and I hope it will be a role model for other colleges to get someone from industry involved in furthering greenkeeping," he said.

Race ace to buy golf course

Racing driver Nigel Mansell plans to buy Woodbury Park Golf and Country Club, near Exeter. A price rumoured to be around the £2m mark is believed to have been agreed.



NEWS



Sausage theory to reduce algae

Want to control algae growth in your course's lakes and ponds? Try a straw sausage. That's the advice from Contimex, the distributors for Christmas Tree Packaging Netting in the UK. They claim that studies have shown that barley straw packaged in netting (like a large sausage) and submerged is an effective method of controlling algae. As the straw decomposes in the water, chemicals are produced which limit and control algae growth. Fine mesh netting is recommended over large mesh netting as it contains the straw better, it is easier to handle and small fish are less likely to get gilled in it and subsequently drown. Tel: 0825 766135.

Derek has crate plans

The Belfry's Derek Ganning, pictured left, rose to new heights during Sisis Equipment's Grounds and Greens seminar at Newmarket. The previous speaker, Wembley's Steve Tingley, left the vertically-challenged course manager a beer crate to stand on while he described plans to improve the Brabazon and Derby courses in the hope of getting the Ryder Cup back there in 2001. Barkway Park GC's head greenkeeper, Ken Stewart, had a productive time at the seminar, too – he won a pocket TV.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ A workshop on Health and Safety at Work is to be held at Cannington College on October 12. The speakers are John Allbutt and Richard Newman. Price of the Westurf-sponsored event is £10, with preference for the 50 places going to greenkeeping members of BIGGA. For further details call Marion Child on 0803 844056.



■ If you want to see Hayter's range of professional grass cutting equipment in operation on your course, call newly-appointed demonstrator Tony Carr. Tony previously worked in the company's machine and plate shop.

■ Course Care claims its waste removal package is now in use in 10% of golf clubs in England and has celebrated this "major success" by becoming patrons for BIGGA's northern area.

"We are pleased to be part of the patron scheme," said marketing director John Wood. "It is our plan for Course Care staff to give lectures, attend meetings and give advice on lubrication, fuel treatment and static equipment matters. We are very much looking forward to a long and interesting relationship with BIGGA."



■ Claymore Grass Machinery have appointed Clive Pentecost as product manager for the SABO Roberine range of commercial mowers and Columbia ParCar's golf cars, utility vehicles and people movers. He will be responsible for the southern part of the UK including the west country.

■ Safeguard Business Systems has launched a system for golf clubs which combines visitor book with cash received journal, and visitor badge with green fees receipt. Tel: 0270 500921.

Why autumn is always a season to relish

The advent of autumn sees the climax of a number of our major events. Once again the final of the Hayter Challenge Tournament is upon us and this year's final will take us to Pannal Golf Club in Harrogate.

This is rightly regarded as one of North Yorkshire's finest courses and I am sure that those members who have reached the final will enjoy the experience of playing there. How successful the tournament has been again this year. The original concept of this tournament back in 1988 was as a means of establishing an identity for our newly formed regions and to encourage members to think regionally as well as in section and national terms. I believe the formula has worked and continues to do so.

Competition to qualify from section to region to national final is fierce. At the final qualifiers compete for a regional team prize which has perhaps greater significance for team members than the individual prizes. Whilst the tournament is conducted amid much bonhomie and conviviality, the underlying competitive nature of greenkeepers is very much to the fore.

The Hayter team, enthusiastically led by Kim Macfie, is extremely supportive with a keen



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

interest in golf and this contributes in no small way to the tournament's ongoing success.

The choice of Pannal Golf Club this year has special significance in that it coincides with the retirement of head greenkeeper, Alan Gamble. We look forward to Alan and his wife, Molly, joining us for the tournament banquet. Many of you will be aware of the contribution Alan has made to the cause of greenkeeper education over many years when he was a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee. He was also instrumental in the development of greenkeeper training at Askham Bryan College. We wish Alan and Molly a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Students applauded

At the beginning of October the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award climaxes with the national final at Aldwark Manor. This award has grown in significance with the expansion of greenkeeper training in recent years so much so that in 1993 for the first time regional finals were necessary to make selections for the national final. This process has been repeated again this year. Awareness of the award has increased with each passing year and students have a target to aim for which can only encourage their application and determination during their college courses.

The joint support of Toro, Lely UK Ltd and the PGA European Tour in providing three outstanding awards has been instrumental in the success of this scheme. The first prize providing an eight week educational experience in the USA including a college based course represents the opportunity of a lifetime for a student greenkeeper. It is not without significance that the standard of candidacy improves each year in line with the development of greenkeeper training.

Talking to candidates who reach the final and spend two days with us at headquarters, it is clear not only is it an experience which will serve them well for the future but it represents their first real insight of BIGGA's operations at national level and they return home with a much greater appreciation of the aims and aspirations of the Association.

Ultimate award

At the beginning of December the ICI Professional Products Premier Greenkeeper of the Year award reaches national final stage at our headquarters.

Each year five of our members come through their sections to regional finals and ultimately to the national final. As with the Toro award they return from Aldwark Manor having benefited from the experience.

It is important to recognise that the concept of this award is designed to reward the greenkeeper who has made the most out of the facilities and resources available rather than the one who might have the premier golf

course. This award involves assessments of the candidate's golf course and I feel one of the prime benefits of entering the award is the experience it gives for potential Master Greenkeeper candidates who again will have their golf courses assessed in working towards their certification.

I am aware that some worthy course managers/head greenkeepers are reluctant to enter the award feeling uncomfortable with being assessed by their peer group. They really have nothing to fear – it is a beneficial experience with assessors having a clear brief to base their assessments on the facilities and resources available to the course manager/head greenkeeper. Those who have entered have gained much from the experience and we remain grateful for the continued support the award receives from Roger Mossop and his ICI/Zeneca team.

BTME on horizon

Finally this month some early thoughts on the BTME '95. It certainly promises to be bigger and better than ever and with a major change in format in that our National Education Conference will be held on the Monday and Tuesday, January 23 and 24.

Our members need to be there in great numbers to support the companies that make the exhibition just what it is – the premier turf management event.

Bring your secretary and chairman of green with you – in many cases it will be an eye-opener for them to see just how fast and progressively the greenkeeping profession is developing.

Our speaker programmes look exciting and varied and I anticipate a greater international presence this time around. The presence of the GCSAA through their president and chief executive officer as well as a stand in the exhibition signifies increasing international recognition of BIGGA.

There still remain many members who have yet to make the pilgrimage to Harrogate. We need your support and there is no doubt that you are missing out on a great experience. Mark the dates in the calendar and I look forward to meeting you at our premier event – BTME '95.

Membership matters

BY CLARE DOUGLAS

◆ Could you be the BIGGA member who is going to win a £600 prize?

Earlier this year we advertised our grand prize draw for members who recommended two new people for 1994 membership. So far we have 64 names entered in our prize draw.

But there are 140 people who have recommended *one* member. Could you be one of these? If so, you have until September 30 to recommend *one more* person, to qualify for the grand prize draw. This will be made at the BTME in Harrogate, with the winner receiving airfare for two up to the value of £600.

So don't delay – recommend another member today!

◆ Do you have an idea for the new 1995 BIGGA sticker slogan?

Previous slogans include "Golf greenkeepers don't miss out – BIGGA's about!" and "Great golfers need great greenkeepers".

Could you do better than these? If you think you can, send us your ideas and you could win a £15 gift voucher for WH Smith.

We'll send you a voucher if it's your slogan we use for our next batch of stickers. Suggestions to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF by Monday September 26 please.



■ The Halliloo golf course, currently under construction in Surrey, has had three underground reservoirs built. The concrete reservoirs, pictured below will be able to hold a total of 20,000m³ of water. When the course opens next year the reservoirs, designed by Booth Concrete Ltd, will be invisible to golfers and will not affect the use of the ground surface.



Greens are wrecked in salt spillage

Goswick Golf Club greenstaff have been re-laying two greens after salt contaminated the irrigation system.

Authorities are investigating how salt got into the stream from which the Berwick-on-Tweed club draws its water.

Several other greens have been affected to varying degrees, but not as severely.

A river gate a mile and a quarter from the course which prevents water coming in at high tide was wedged open – possibly the work of poachers in search of salmon.

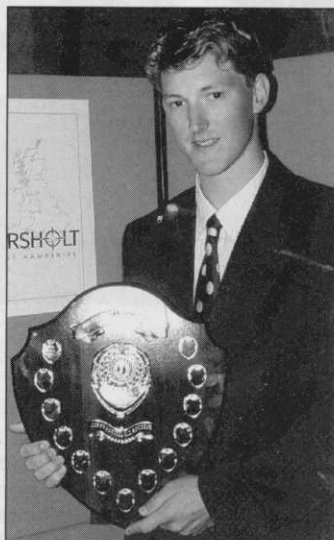
“It’s a real setback because the course has been in superb condition – we’re just praying for rain because we can’t use the irrigation system until we’re sure the salt water problem has cleared up,” said a club spokesman.

Seed founder dies

The founder of Gerson Grass Seed, Frank Gerson, has died following a short illness. He was 73.

Students collect prizes

Andrew Boyce, pictured below left, receives the BIGGA Shield for Best Practical Student at Sparsholt College, near Winchester. Andrew, from Bath, has been studying on the National Diploma Horticulture Golf Course and Sportsground Management course and hopes one day to become a course manager on a major course. His tutor said: “Andrew’s award reflects not only his ability at Sparsholt but also a creditable performance during his middle year placement at Lansdown Golf Club, Bath, as assistant greenkeeper.”



Andrew was presented with the shield at a ceremony in Winchester Cathedral, where the guests included Lord Wakeham, Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal, and Lord Sainsbury, president of the college.

At the same ceremony James Haywood of Owslebury, Hants, also pictured, was presented with the Rufford Cup for top student on the National Diploma Horticulture Golf Course and Sports Management course. He is now working at Barshaw municipal golf course and associated sportsfields in Paisley, Glasgow.



FLYING DIVOTS

■ Martin Smith, the head greenkeeper at Porters Park in Hertfordshire recently rushed to help a damsel in distress. A lady member came into his office crying, “Help me, please, I’ve had an accident on the practice ground.” But visions of another player lying unconscious after being hit by a wayward shot were misplaced. The distressed female had, in fact, got her new graphite-shafted 3-wood stuck in a tree!



■ Acorn Equipment has appointed a new sales rep for the North West. Andy Powell, formerly with Richard

Campey machinery, will be driving to courses in Acorn’s new mobile equipment van. Tel: 0378 162162!

■ A conference on vegetation and slopes (stabilisation, protection and ecology), organised by the Institution of Civil Engineers, is to be held at the University Museum, Oxford, on September 29-30. Price is £205.95. Tel: 071 839 9803/5.

■ The opening of the Brian Huggett-designed Park course at Orchardleigh, in Somerset, has been postponed until the spring. The park, one of two 18-hole championship layouts originally planned for the 420-acre estate near Frome before the receivers moved in three years ago, had been due to open late this summer.

■ Turf Irrigation Services Ltd (TIS), the UK’s largest Toro dealer and installer, has opened a new office in Beckenham near Bromley in Kent. Tel: 081 6584030.

■ Rhone-Poulenc Environmental Products has appointed two new distributors – Eden Park Ltd for London, Middlesex, Kent, East Sussex and Surrey and Driving Force Leisure for the Home Counties.

■ £500,000 is being spent improving facilities at Castle Coombe, bought recently by hotelier Guisepe Pecorelli.

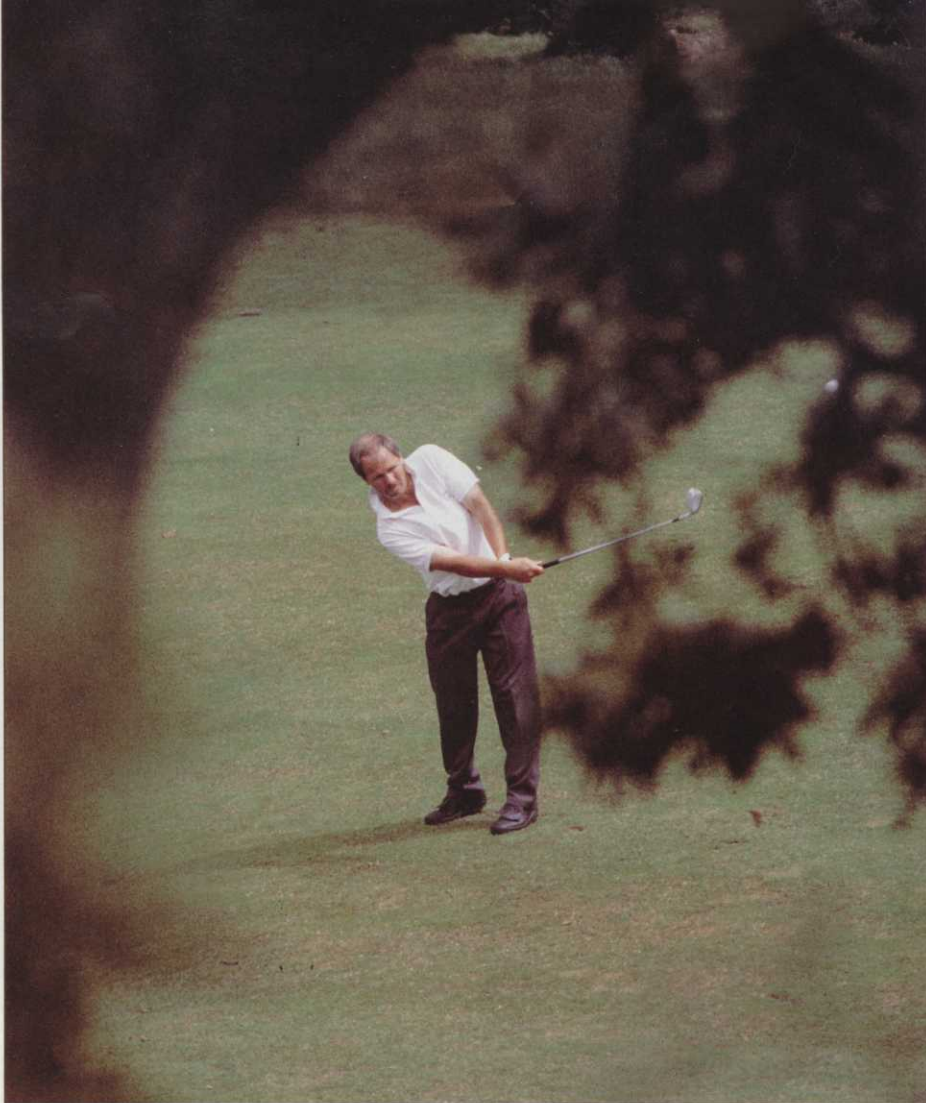


BIGGA/ICI PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

It's a helluva test. The weather was bad and I think everyone did well to get round. If low-handicappers are struggling, high handicappers have to be struggling even worse. It's a long course and a good test.

— greenkeeper Malcolm Lathan



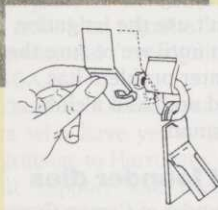
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