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AD REF

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Self'-cultiva'tion (n. the effect of small polypropylene mesh pieces as they flex within a free-draining rootzone material to create and maintain voids and to resist soil compaction. The mechanism takes place as the surface is compressed during play, maintenance or by other activities.

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of pesticides shall be minimised.

Bound for Algarve

Peter Wisbey has a new job and a flashy new title. He has been appointed technical director of Planal SA's Quinta do Lago courses in the Algarve.

Peter, 47, has been working in Portugal for the past seven years, moving there to supervise the fin-

INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

How to play golf in two countries at the same time

When you pay your green fee at Tornio Harparanda Green Zone Golf you get more than a scorecard - you get a borderline passport. The 6180m par 72 course straddles the borders of Finland and Sweden, so when you register at the club's reception you get a scorecard that is also a licence to cross the border. On the back of it, where you'd normally find local rules, there are the duty-free allowances for cigarettes, alcohol and foodstuffs.

The clubhouse, driving range and first two holes are in Finland. From the third tee you hit the ball into Sweden. On the 6th you come back into Finland. The second nine starts with a drive back into Sweden and you play most of this half in that country before driving back into Finland on the 18th.

Green Swedes

The Swedish Golf Federation has produced an environmental programme. As far as maintenance routines are concerned, it says: ● the use of fertilisers and pesticides shall be judged by the need; • to check the extent of purification and to register possible leaches of nutritions or pesticides, earth and water tests shall be carried out at regular intervals. As regards the water tests, they shall be carried out at the influx and at the outflux; ● in those areas where grass clippings cannot be left, the clippings shall be composted in places especially established for that purpose; • roughs are maintained arranged plan ion to the natof equipment e date of mowancient monurea, these shall ccordance with received instructions; • areas not in play shall be maintained in accordance with a written plan, aiming at biodiversity according to each local circumstance; • the use

ishing works and growing in of the San Lorenzo course. For the following four years he was responsible for both San Lorenzo and the Penina courses in his capacity as regional golf superintendent for Trusthouse Forte.

Having seen San Lorenzo rise into Golf World's top ten of European courses, Peter moved to the nearby Pinheiros Altos course.

After nearly three years moving the course through final finishing and grown-in towards maturity, the lure of the neighbouring Quinta do lago complex with its 36-hole championship layout, seven times the venue for the Portugese Open, proved irresistable. Peter will still, however, manage Pinheiros Altos on a consultancy basis.

Since 1987 Peter's expertise in the management of warm-season grasses has become acknowledged throughout Portugal and he has been involved on a consultancy basis with a number of projects, the most recent of which are Salgados, an 18-hole links course in the Algarve, and Quinta da Peru, a new William Roquemore designed course near Lisbon.

UK arm of US body

The English members of the American Sod Producers Association have set up a turf growers association in the UK: Turf Producers International - UK. Chairman Derek Edwards of the Inturf Group said: "We have for some years recognised the need for a proper organisation to represent our industry and once we managed to get everyone around a table, prompted by earlier ASPA meetings and talks about turf accreditation schemes with NIAB and STRI, everything seemed to fall into place very nicely."

The aims of the 20 founder members are to improve standards of cultivated turf production and distribution, to tackle environmental issues, and to promote a product that is helping to make our environment a whole lot "greener". Tel: 0759 305117.

San Francisco date

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 66th International Golf Course Conference and Show is scheduled for February 20-27, 1995 in San Francisco.

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL September 1	September 1994
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The T93 with its 16 hp Kubota diesel is fully hydrostatic. Many parts are interchangeable and servicing and daily maintenance are simple. Features such as the adjustable seat and steering column ensure operator comfort. On course

for a great Final

This is Pannal Golf Club. This is where the Hayter Challenge will be decided. After battling their way through section and region qualifying rounds, this is where 63 greenkeepers will fight for the honour of being the Hayter champion.

Great players have won on this 97-year-old course. Legendary players have won here too. Nick Faldo won the British Youths Amateur Championship here in 1975 with a 10-underpar total of 278. Lee Trevino triumphed here in an exhibition match three years earlier. He wise-cracked his way to a 66 and on one hole he was overheard saying: "I'm playing in Paris, France, and then in Birmingham but I'm not sure which country that's in."

There's no doubting where Pannal is, there's a great big arrow pointing to the course from the A61 Leeds to Harrogate road.

The 6659-yard par 72 moorland course was designed by Alex Herd in 1906 and opened for play a year later. Since then it has been updated and altered by various leading architects, including James Braid and the Hawtrees. In its early days the course was fields and heathland with stone walls providing obstacles and very few bushes and trees. Now there are trees and shrubs everywhere adding interest and colour to the North Yorkshire course.

The thing most golfers like about this members' club is the panoramic views. From parts of the back nine you can see York Minster, the white horse at Kilburn and the magnifi-



Above: the clubhouse and, top, views like this one from the 17th green make at visit to Pannal well worthwhile



cent railway viaduct that stretches across the valley.

It's the sort of course you can easily fall in love with. In the clubhouse they tell the story of head greenkeeper Alan Gamble's encounter with an American. Alan, who retired this summer after 17 years service with the club, spotted the American playing off the white tees, went over and told him he couldn't do that. The American replied with words to the effect: "I've paid my money I can play where I want."

"No, you can't," said Alan and referred him to the secretary.

Next day the American was back again. Taken aback, Alan went up to him and said: "Tm surprised to see you again."

"I'm leaving for the States tomorrow and had to play this course one more time before I went back. I love it. If I could wrap it up and take it home with me, I would."

Many of the Hayter Challenge finalists will probably want to take it home as well – and transplant it on their sites. Alan kept it to a very high standard and new head greenkeeper Kevin Wroe, 35, seems to be following suit. What do greenkeepers do when they finally get away from their courses? Visit other people's courses. Here are three different views of different courses in different countries.

ZIMBABWE

Retired head greenkeeper Sam Sylvester, chairman of the East Anglian section, went to Zimbabwe for an African golf safari. He was met at Harare by a friend whom he had last seen at the '93 Open. That afternoon he played at Royal Harare GC, which he describes as "a lovely parkland course in excellent condition.

"I believe they have 60 greenstaff! The greens are extremely difficult as there is a very strong nap to contend with as well as the usual borrows. The cards are measured in metres, but I eventually found out that because of the height above sea level, where the ball flies further, to count the metres as yards.

"The cost of the green fee was about £3.80. Due to a relaxation of currency control, Royal Harare has now got a Toro greens machine. Needless to say, spares are a big problem. Another of the problems is that the kikuyu grass, which makes up most of the course, tends to creep onto the

GREENKEEPERS



The clubhouse at Vilamoura III in the Algarve

greens. To prevent this the green surrounds and apron have been planted with another grass to prevent the approach shot plugging. Not a success as the grass was much too fluffy and the ball nestled right down. "The following afternoon we played at Wingate Park GC which is a bit out of town. This is a treelined course which is very intimidating for a player from a heathland course. It was not of such a high standard but the club has neither the membership nor the money. Yet again the nap on the greens – ugh!

"The following morning I flew to Bulawayo and drove 400km to Victoria Falls, where I played in a small competition at the Ele-



ON HOLIDAY

were good, as were the greens with some nicely cut approaches. Another tree-lined course, if you missed the fairway there was very little chance of hitting the green in two shots."

ALGARVE

Antony Bindley, assistant greenkeeper Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, visited a new course in Portugal. "I spent an awful lot of my time at Villamoura raking an awful lot of sand. The course is three years old and the greens are a year younger. It was said to be an American designed course but I was beginning to doubt this until I reached the 8th tee and saw a large lake which required a carry of some 180 yards. This was again required at the 14th tee and, in total, water came into play on seven of the holes.

"The greens were in excellent condition and contained a lot of fescues and bent grasses although a certain amount of annual meadow grass had found its way in from the surrounding fairways where *Poa* was very prominent and was already showing its seed heads in early March. The greenkeepers there were in the process of hand-weeding the greens for *Poa*.

"Unfortunately I could not communicate with the greenkeepers as their English was

phants Hills GC with Brian Evans, secretary of the Kent Golf Union. On the first tee I met course manager Doug McClymont. His biggest problem seems to be game running over the course and in particular families of wart hog, which are quite tame. They find a damp area and then start snuffling like pigs, looking for roots. The mess is enormous, though I saw no signs on the greens.

"The course was pleasant and not too long with quite a few water hazards. There is no shortage of water from the Zambezi, but the evaporation is very high during the day. The short rough is very tough with the ball nestling right down. No point in trying for distance. The long rough is jungle, so forget about it!.

"I found judging distance to the greens very difficult as the grey/brown flagsticks were very hard to see against the background.

"Another course I played during my visit was at the Bulawayo Country Club. The greens were excellent with only a little nap, but there is always a water shortage in this area, so the fairways and rough are rather thin. The course has been turned round since I last played there four years ago and now both 9s finish at the clubhouse, which makes it much easier for halfway drinks and food. A lot of alterations have been made to the course by the sort of ex-officio course planner who seemingly is anwerable to no-one. However, he is prepared to put in the time and effort and is left to his own devices. He is attempting to make the course more difficult which does not suit the average member. Asked how often he changes the holes, he replied 'once a month'.

"The greens mowers are all electric, with power points at each green and tee. The water hoses are connected to stand pipes around the greens and the fairway watering is by connected irrigation pipes with standing sprinklers.

"Another club we played in Bulawayo was owned by the railways before independence. Now it is owned by the members. It suffers from being extremely dry and with many harvester ants which take bits of the good grass into their nests. As a result, the fairways are very patchy. However, the greens are good, though only hand-watered. We played a nine-hole stableford - some players on each nine. There was a five-ball in the middle of the competition and the prize was won by a professional! I managed to win £1 for best joint nett score on a nominated hole. I never did find out which hole!

"The following day we played at Bulawayo Golf Club which celebrates its centenary in 1995. This is the best course in town as it has the most members and hence most income. The fairways

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AD REF

GREENKEEPERS ON HOLIDAY

almost as bad as my Portugese, so all the information I have is what I saw while walking around. The fairways were a bit sparse in places but not too bad for a course which appeared to be heavily played by tourists (we had to wait two hours for a tee time). The tees were all large and rectangular in shape with predominantly Poa species.

"A lot of construction was taking place on the course with an extra nine holes being built and a lot of large lakes being dug out. The machinery was very much the same as here with Triplex mowers, compact tractors, work trucks. The whole course was irrigated by Rainbird sprinklers including the semi rough. There weren't many trees on the course, just a few palm trees and some bushes."

UNITED STATES

John Nudds, course manager Gerrards Cross GC, had a threeweek holiday in America, first staying with old friends in a

small Texas town one hour's drive from Houston, then visiting his wife's sister and her husband in Delaware. The day after he arrived, his nephew took him to play at Garrisons Lake Golf Club, a 6595-yard par 72.

"I met the professional, Jim Mathias, and told him I was a course manager or greens superintendent in England, at the same time flashing my BIGGA identification card. He said, 'John, your nephew has told me all about you, the course is yours for the next two weeks.' I was dumbfounded and didn't ask him what my nephew had told him!

The following Saturday John and his nephew played in a tournament in Maryland.

"We arrived at the golf club and started by having a monstrous breakfast then at 9.10 a shotgun start with 140 playing. Five and a half hours later we arrived back at the clubhouse shattered. Wooden tables were all set up outside the clubhouse

with paper tablecloths. Andrew went to the glove compartment of his car to fetch a leather glove and a screwdriver. They had this 24ft long barbecue, all round the tables were big bins of oysters and then I knew what the glove and screwdriver were for. Our team finished one point away from fifth prize.

"After playing round Garrisons Lake I now know why Americans call autumn 'the fall'. I have never seen so many leaves, enough for them to bring in a leaf rule that allows you to drop a ball as near to the spot that you think it finished. This is only in friendly matches.

"Jim, the pro, took me to Wilmington Golf Club, one of the best courses in Delaware, It was lovely - lots of water and quick greens. It was interesting to see that they had stopped buggies because of the wear and tear on the course. You had to have a caddy, my man was a big ex-pro footballer called Oscar. The yardage was marked 200

yards or 150 yards from the green on concrete blocks in the middle of the fairway or on the sprinkler heads - not a bad idea. Oscar continously tried to get the black marks off the face of my clubs before realising it was not possible with them being a bit dated!

"I had a word with the greenkeepers at two of the golf clubs I visited. What surprised me was they kept talking about how fast our greens looked on TV in events such as the Open - this completely threw me because we think the same about them.

"All the American golfers I met in those three incredible weeks want to talk about the British golf courses such as St Andrews. Carnoustie and Wentworth, and those who hadn't visited the UK had this burning ambition to do so, particularly Jim the pro. He had certainly read up on our history of golf so that after I finished my golf round he would leave the shop to come and sup a beer or two and talk golf.'



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