

Calls to the Association's legal helpline continue to grow. Employment barrister Jonathan Waters considers some common problems concerning greenkeepers' employment.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

I am an assistant greenkeeper. I have heard on the grapevine that the committee is going to make an assistant greenkeeper redundant. What is redundancy and if I am chosen what procedure should my employer follow prior to making me redundant?

Unfortunately, as a consequence of the recession, this is a common enquiry. The term "redundancy" is often misunderstood – both by employers and employees. In law, redundancy has a specific legal meaning. It basically occurs when either the golf club or the place at which the greenkeeper works closes down or, as is more common, there is less work available for the greenkeeper to do.

A greenkeeper who has been employed for in excess of two continuous years would be entitled to a statutory redundancy payment based upon his length of service, age and gross weekly salary. The statutory redundancy payment is calculated as follows: a) one and a half week's pay for each year of employment which consists wholly of weeks in which

the greenkeeper was not below the age of 41;

b) one week's pay for each year of employment (not falling within (a) which consists wholly of weeks in which the greenkeeper was not below the age of 22; and c) half a week's pay for each such year of employment not falling within either of the above.

The maximum amount of a week's pay is £205.00. The redundancy payment is tax free.

The greenkeeper would also be entitled to notice money calculated on the basis of one week's notice for each complete year of service. If, however, the contract provides for more notice money than this then it is the greater amount that must be provided.

Making someone redundant, an employer must follow a full and proper procedure. This usually involves consultation with all greenkeepers who are likely candidates for redundancy, consideration of alternatives to redundancy (such as an agreed reduction in hours or salary) and consideration of alternative employment – if available.

If the greenkeeper is one of a number who may be selected for example, the employer needs to dismiss one of three assistant greenkeepers, then the employer must have a legitimate reason for selecting that particular employee. Traditionally, this has been based on the principle of "last in, first out" however, in recent years, there has been an increased tendency to follow a points criteria. This is based on marking each employee on factors such as attendance, timekeeping, sickness record, disciplinary record, and qualifications. The greenkeeper with the least amount of points is the one who will be selected for redundancy.

If a greenkeeper has been employed for more than two years he will be protected from unfair dismissal. If he considers that there is either not a true redundancy situation or that the procedure followed is defective then he may make a complaint for compensation for unfair dismissal at an Industrial Tribunal within three months of the date of dismissal.

I recently left my last club to take up a new position as a Head Greenkeeper at a rival club. My new employers have requested a reference from my old employers but they have refused to provide one. Are they entitled to do this?

Unfortunately, the answer to the question is yes. With the exception of the financial services industry, a former employer is not legally obliged to provide an ex-employee with a reference. The law does, however, provide that if a reference is provided then it must be truthful and accurate. If it is not and the greenkeeper is unable to obtain a new job as a result then he may be able to sue the former employer for damages to compensate him for any losses sustained.

■ The information contained in this article is for general guidance only. In the event of a member having any legal problem then it is extremely important that Hambro Legal Protection Ltd be contacted without delay. Hambro Legal Protection Ltd's telephone number is 01206 867775 and the service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

KEENEST PRICES EFFICIENT SERVICE QUALITY GOODS

NATIONWIDE SERVICE

QUALITY SOILS
ROOTZONES
TOP DRESSINGS
SPORTS SANDS
DIVOT MIX
TURF
FERTILIZERS



PHOENIX

PATHWAYS & CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES

USE COCKLESHELL FOR ALL YOUR PATHS & EDGINGS



WHY?

1. Easy to lay
2. Always washes clean
3. No mowing problems
4. Very attractive

Carnoustie and St Andrews both use cockleshell pathways



WE CAN USUALLY DELIVER WITHIN 48 HOURS

Perfect turf. No weeds. Get the point?

Spearhead

Even the most Stubborn turf weeds won't see new SPEARHEAD coming.

Containing new chemistry, SPEARHEAD is a selective herbicide with the power to strike from out of the blue in any sports or amenity turf situation.


SPEARHEAD sets new levels of excellence, and controls not only the more common



weeds of turf, but also the problem weeds such as Slender Speedwell and the Clovers.

With its approval for use on grasses as young as two months, low rates of use and clearance for knapsack application, now is the time to select SPEARHEAD - the ultimate all round weapon in the war against turf weeds.

**See us
on Stand
P2 at
SALTEX**

 **RHÔNE-POULENC**

For details of your Rhône-Poulenc distributor telephone 0277 301115.

Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products, Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex CM5 0HW Telephone 0277 301115 Fax 0277 301119
SPEARHEAD CONTAINS DIFLUFENICAN, MCPA AND CLOPYRALID. READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY: USE PESTICIDES SAFELY. MAFF 07342

Spearhead. The ultimate all rounder on turf.



To the Manor born

This feature comes to you in
association with

TORO

professional turf maintenance
equipment

Celtic Manor Golf and Country Club is the result of one man's dream, a dream which will give pleasure to thousands and provide Wales with a truly great Championship venue.

Written by Scott MacCallum Photographs by Phil Inglis and Jeff Morgan



'It is a quality development of truly international standard'

Crossing the Severn Bridge into Wales at the moment it is difficult not to marvel at the magnificent structure currently under construction a mile or so to your left. The new, as yet unnamed, bridge, complete but for a few gaps in the span and with huge cranes somehow floating in the water around it, gives a reminder of man's ability to create technological masterpieces.

Travel a few miles further down the M4 and again your breath is taken away by another extraordinary feat.

Like the new bridge Celtic Manor Golf and Country Club is a showcase for man's talents as well as being a tribute to the achievements of one particular human being. We've all heard tales of the local man made good but the story of Terry Matthews puts most others in the shade and is sufficiently awe inspiring to make all but Richard Branson feel an underachiever. He began his professional life repairing telephone kiosks and has risen to become the tenth richest man in Great Britain. He no longer resides in Wales however. He moved to Canada some time ago and his £500 million personal fortune – that's £500,000,000, a five and eight zeros – was amassed from the telecommunications business, Newbridge Network, he founded.



Riding high: Course Manager Jim McKenzie

Terry was born in the building which is now the Celtic Manor Hotel when it was a maternity hospital. He bought it some years ago and turned it into a hotel before his

dream of creating a golf course fit to host a top PGA European Tour event for a Welsh title developed fully.

It's a dream which is nearing fruition and one which has cost in excess of £50 million.

It sounds, and is, a lot of money but when you visit Celtic Manor and see the sheer scale of the development, 36 holes plus the Ian Woosnam Golf Academy, and the blind devotion to excellence it is easy to see where the money has gone and even, it may sound ludicrous to say, conclude that he's got a bit of a bargain.

Designed by Robert Trent Jones Snr, who would have a strong case for being the man at the very pinnacle of the profession, the Roman Road course at 7001 yards par 70 is not something you'd want to play to in the Monthly Medal while the Coldra Woods course 4094 yards par 61 will help to develop new talent – Celtic Manor is also the new home of the Welsh Golf Union. Coldra Woods is a selection of par-3s and par-4s with the added bonus of making it a pure par-3 course by moving to the front tees which have been built on the par-4s.

Testing every club in the bag the Roman Road will be a particular examination for the putter as Trent Jones Snr has installed his trademark greens with subtle and some not so subtle borrows. One thing it doesn't do is comply with conventional wisdom when it

This feature comes to you in association with **TORO** professional turf maintenance equipment



Celtic Manor's head mechanic Cal Callaby, left, in the well-equipped workshop with Julian Driver, sales manager of Pro-Turf Equipment, Carmarthen

comes to considering Roman Roads. Long it may be but dead straight and flat it isn't. High on a hill overlooking some majestic Welsh countryside it will require shot making of the highest quality to make a score and when the wind blows as it undoubtedly will even Touring Pro Ian Woosnam will be hard pushed to tame it from the back tees.

It also carries the flag of the Wales Tourist Board which is hoping that it will attract top sportsmen and women as well as accompanying tourist influx from all over Britain and the rest of Europe.

"It is a quality development of truly international standard and ideally placed, just off the M4, to attract visitors from the rest of Wales and across the border," said Shan Ekin-Wood, Wales Tourist Board Press Officer.

"With Ian Woosnam's involvement and with proposed equestrian and tennis centres it should attract top quality sportsmen and women to Wales. It will be an important part of the Welsh tourist industry," she added.

Course Manager, Jim McKenzie, is the man who has been charged with bringing the courses to peak condition.

"We've actually kept very quiet about Celtic Manor before we opened. Our marketing people have been very clever in that they have not given the course a huge build up as has happened at some others. The idea was

to finish it and then let people make up their own mind about it. Then they could be the ones to sing our praises," explained Jim.

A 33 year-old Scot with an impeccable greenkeeping pedigree having worked at some of the country's finest courses, Jim has been on site since June '93 slowly bringing it along so its condition will match the quality of the lay-out.

"I've had the benefit of being involved from very early on so I've had input on a great deal of the construction work.

"Trent Jones Snr drew up the construction specifications, Wenvoe Construction of Cardiff moved the top soil, Trent Jones' own shapers shaped the course, the top soil was replaced, Gerald Davis did the final seeding and the irrigation was put in by Toro," he explained.

Jim's own team did all the final shaping, all the drainage and sanding of the bunkers and this not only had cost cutting benefits but also enabled the job to be done at the optimum time.

"By doing this ourselves it meant that we could structure the jobs much better. If it was

too wet for my guys to put in sand they'd go and do something else. If a contractor came he'd do it anyway."

The course has been built to be extremely maintenance friendly and capable of fending off all but the worst the South Welsh elements could throw at it.

"It really is a facility to play golf every day of the year. It's built on the apex of a hill so drainage is not a problem and there is little or no frost because of the wind. There is very little time consuming strimmer work involved and it's all ride-on Toro mowers on the banks so it's quick to do."

At the moment there are 35 people working on the course with 20 full time permanent staff. Once open, and the official opening will take place at the beginning of this month, there will be a full time staff of 25 to 26 working under Jim including two mechanics and two gardeners.

There are two Head Greenkeepers. Russell Anderson, formerly with Jim at Wentworth, is Deputy Course Manager and in charge of the Roman Road while Paul Davies, who previously worked at St Pierre is Assistant Deputy Course Manager and in charge of Coldra Woods.

Byron Thomas, runner-up in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, is also a member of the Celtic Manor staff.

"Once both courses are open I'll pick out people with strengths in particular areas to work on the course where that skill is important. The ability to handle a machine on a slope will be a skill required on the Coldra Woods course for example," explained Jim who in addition to his last position at Wentworth has had experience at Hagg's Castle, Cawder and Renfrew, a course he rates as one of the best inland courses he has ever seen.

The maintenance sheds at Celtic Manor are among the best anywhere and at a cost of around £333,333 they should be.

"The design came from a collaboration with Robert Trent Jones, a local architect and myself.

"There is a drive in area to the Chemical Store so there is little danger of spillage and the Mess Room is designated a clean area so dirty boots and jackets are banned. The floors are tiled and the tables and chairs can be

folded away and stacked so it can be hosed down. The office is by the main gate so I can see who's coming and going while we have a skip permanently on site so you won't see any litter anywhere.

"We have low level lighting so mechanics don't need spotlights to see what they're doing."

CELTIC MANOR FACTS

■ The total number of hours on ride-on grass cutters currently stands at 2,672.

■ The estimated time on the Roman Road course spent pedestrian mowing since April 1 is 1,568 hours.

This feature comes to you in association with **TORO** professional turf maintenance equipment



Jim rates Chief Mechanic, Patrick Callaby, as the best in the country and is delighted that he was able to persuade him away from St Pierre.

"The maintenance area was available in April '94 and I didn't touch it or buy anything until Patrick arrived and he lived in his workshop for two weeks before he bought anything just to make sure he had the feel of it. It took seven of us to unload his specially designed £1,000 workbench when it arrived.

"People might read this and think it's alright for them they've got the money to do it but I'm sure if they were in the same position they'd try to do the same," explained Jim, whose February wedding to Tracy, the Sales Manager, was celebrated at a reception in the sumptuous hotel.

Celtic Manor is probably unique in that it concentrates on one main company for all its greenkeeping equipment and another for

the heavier work with the club owning 34 pieces of Toro equipment and six Massey Ferguson tractors.

"I went for Toro equipment because Lely, Toro's UK distributor offered me the best overall deal and the benefit in going for one brand is quite considerable when it comes to spare parts and in the general maintenance and servicing of the machinery.

"It was not a decision taken purely on financial grounds, quality of service was extremely important as well. To give you an example our local Toro dealer is Pro Turf in Carmarthen 70 miles a way but I phoned an order in for three items about £10 each and someone made the 140 mile round trip to deliver them to me that day. That is them coming across with their side of the bargain."

For Jim it is a superb job but also a huge challenge and one which swallows up his time.

"I used to look at the Greenkeeper of the Year Award and think it was wrong because instead of going to the likes of David Whitaker at Wisley with all the money he could possibly want it should go to the one man and a boy working on a course at the top of a hill. I've changed my thinking and now believe that the more money you've got the more pressure there is and the greater the expectations.

"The entire staff have been working seven to seven, seven days a week for the last five weeks and there was a time last year just after we'd seeded that we clocked up 103 hours in the one week. We'd arrive in the dark and go home in the dark.

"At the moment (just before opening) we're not under the same obligation to do things when they should be done. For example the tees need cutting today and if we were open we would be doing them but the boys are doing something else and we'll cut the tees tomorrow.

"You just throw the rule book right out the window.

"You always try to strive for perfection and ideally I would like it to open next year because then it would be better and all the non grassed areas would be grassed," he said.

It's that attitude and general attention to detail which will ensure that when the course and clubhouse opens fully Celtic Manor will quickly establish itself as one of the premier golf and hotel resorts in Europe. It also virtually guarantees that the dream that has driven Terry Matthews will make that all too rare metamorphosis and become reality.

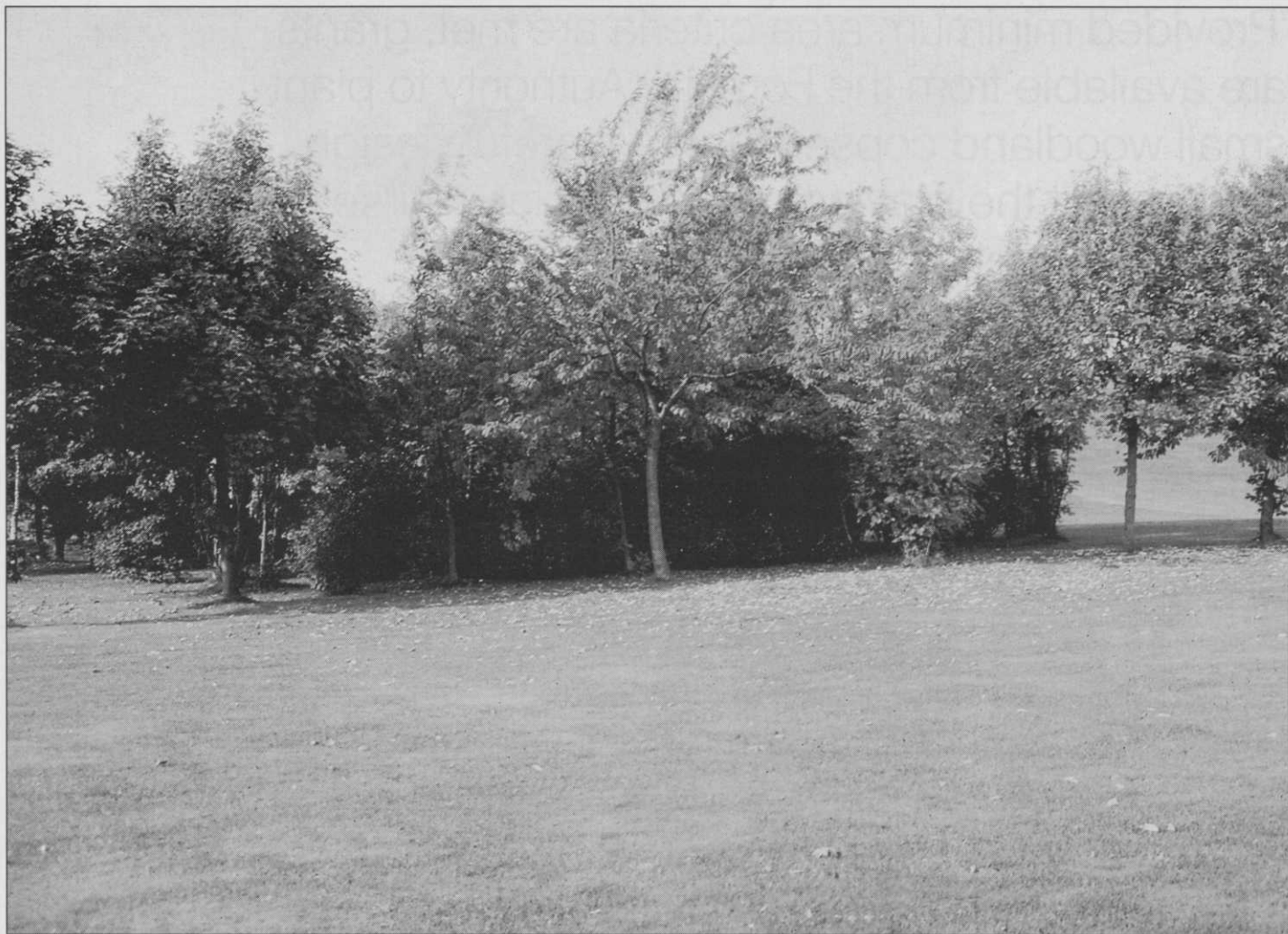
Toro Equipment

- Five Greens Master 3000 D Mowers
- Five Reel Master 216 D Tees Mowers
- Two Reel Master 5100 D Fairway Mowers
- One Reel Master 5300 D Fairway Mower
- One Grounds Master 325 D Rotary Mower
- Two Grounds Master 455 D Rotary Mowers
- Two Workman 3300 D Utility Vehicles
- One Sand Pro Bunker Rake
- One Toro Top Dresser
- Ten GR 1000 Pedestrian Greens Mowers

Rest of Equipment

- Four Ransomes Marquis
- One Hardi 600 ltr sprayer
- One Vico fertiliser spreader
- Three Massey Ferguson 362 Tractors
- One Massey Ferguson 240 Tractor
- One Massey Ferguson 1250 Tractor with front and rear loader
- One Massey Ferguson 1230 with front and rear loader
- Three Massey Ferguson trailers
- Ten Club Car Carryall utility vehicles

This feature comes to you in association with **TORO** professional turf maintenance equipment



Golf courses that have had the foresight to manage their landscapes are without doubt the most attractive and inspiring to play, says Andrew Vaughan. Catch up with a thoughtful tree planting programme.

Anyone connected with the management and upkeep of a golf course will be aware that virtually all courses are currently in the process of being measured to upgrade their Standard Scratch Score.

As the deadline on 31 December 1995 draws ever closer, at the time of writing some 30% of courses have yet to be measured and surveyed. Of those already completed, approximately 50% will remain unchanged, 30% will have their Scratch Score raised by 1, 10% raised by 2 and 10% reduced by 1.

Although the assessment procedure is rather complex (if not mystical) an understanding of the Rating System could allow the Scratch Score to be maximised.

For the uninitiated, the Standard Scratch Score and Handicapping Scheme originated in 1925, and was last upgraded in 1983 when the system used by the Australian Golf Union was

Up to SCRATCH

introduced, based on all scores returned by players under Medal Play conditions. However, this still did not address the problem of uniformity of Scratch Scores or the portability of handicaps, and as a result the Course Rating System of the United States Golf Association is now the basis on

which golf courses are to be assessed. Under this system the Standard Scratch Score is the score which a scratch player is expected to return in ideal conditions over a Rated course.

Before assessment and measurement begins, the course is provisionally rated by standard

length (the sum of the horizontal distances from the medal tee to the centre of each green). The Provisional Scratch Score is then adjusted up or down depending on a number of physical factors that affect the playing length, namely; roll, changes in elevation, forced lay-ups, dog-legs,

'Provided minimum area criteria are met, grants are available from the Forestry Authority to plant small woodland copses that by careful design can benefit the playing of a particular course'

prevailing wind and altitude. Secondly, the obstacles that affect playing difficulty are evaluated and scored to give a final adjustment.

The basic USGA Course Rating is therefore based on the performance of a scratch golfer, whose better half scoring average will equal the Course Rating in normal conditions. However, more interestingly the USGA System also provides procedures to determine the Bogey Rating, based on the performance of a Bogey Golfer (handicap 17 to 22, or a player who cannot normally reach the green on a hole exceeding 370 yards in 2 shots).

Such a rating could help deter poorer golfers, or at least reflect the anticipated difficulty (or cost in new balls!).

Besides driving the ball much shorter, the bogey golfer is much less successful at hitting fairways and greens. He/she plays long

par-4 holes as a par-5 and is not nearly as effective in getting up and down from rough or bunkers. Thus the areas (and angles) they play differ from those of a scratch golfer.

While the Rating system adjusts for the bogey golfer, no account is taken of an obstacle being more difficult for them to escape, or because they cannot recover as well as a scratch golfer. Overall, the system converts obstacle ratings to stroke values by multipliers of 0.26 for scratch players and 0.11 for bogey golfers (because scratch players avoid and overcome obstacles more than twice as easily as bogey golfers).

In the process of rating a course, and a typical hole, an assessor will consider the following (roughly from tee to green):

■ Chute – consisting of trees that are positioned such that they can interfere with the early flight path

of a shot, where on average, the ball must pass through a narrow opening. Difficulty is rated on the width of the gap between extending branches, how far the opening is from the tee, or for a subsequent shot, from the landing zone. Other factors include foliage density, where might the ball drop and how well can the player recover.

■ Extreme Rough – classified as vegetation that will either make it likely that the ball will be lost, or can only be advanced with great difficulty (eg. long grass, heather, gorse, tree roots, marram grass, underbrush).

■ Landing Zone – defined as the area from where the shot hits the ground to where it comes to rest (length) by the fairway width. Generally, Landing Zones are rectangular, and obstacles are considered to be near when within 20 yards.

■ Layout – Forced – where obsta-

cles cross the fairway or reduce the width in the normal landing zone to less than 15 yards.

■ By Choice – where a player decides to hit less than a full shot to allow a subsequent full shot to the next target (usually a green).

■ Obstacle Squeeze – occurs when obstacles within 20 yards of the centre of a Landing Zone prevent a player playing away from either obstacle.

■ Shot Length – assuming players hit straight shots, the average distance covered after two shots can consistently vary by 100 yards between Scratch and Bogey golfers. Therefore assuming obstacles apply to all golfers, is often not the case.

■ Transition Zone – the area just beyond the average distance of shot expected to be hit with consistency. On the drive, 10 yards, from the fairway (2nd/3rd shots) 20 yards. Where a green lies within a transition zone, a golfer



BELWOOD

NURSERIES PEPINIERES BAUMSCHULEN VIVAI BOOMKWEKERIJEN

Specialists in quality semi-mature trees

Top quality stock
Reliable supply
Expert advice
Excellent husbandry
Service

★ Consultancy

★ Choice: 300 acres, field grown trees, 250,000 trees

Deciduous: 250 varieties, standard to semi-mature sizes, to 30/35cm girth

Coniferous: 100 varieties, up to 8 metres in height

Container grown: 100 varieties – in pot sizes 50L upwards

Specimen shrubs: 60 varieties in a range of sizes, some to 3m+ in height.

★ Contract Grow facilities

★ BS EN ISO 9002: 1994 quality assured

BELWOOD NURSERIES LIMITED

Mauricewood Mains, Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 ONJ

Tel: 01968 673621 • Fax: 01968 678354

AD
REF
331



NATURE
first

TREE MOVING

Transform your course quickly and economically
by transplanting your own large trees.
Tree spades of all sizes available.

For free site visit and advice

Contact:

MARTIN BROMAGE

PHONE 01452 731199 FAX 01452 731131

WOOD LANE NURSERY, DOWN HATHERLEY, GLOS

See us on
Demo Area
B38 + 44 at
SALTEX

AD
REF
433



has a 50% chance of reaching the green. Placing an obstacle close by can determine how the "average" approach shot is played (eg. lay up by choice with short approach to give a full shot to the green).

■ **Accuracy Pattern** – an Accuracy Table indicates the average target size that can be hit with 67% of shots over increasing distance. This is used to evaluate the effect of an obstacle around the target or Landing Zone (usually a green).

■ **Combining and Weighting** – In some situations an obstacle can have a greater effect than would otherwise be the case, particularly where two types combine (eg. extreme rough under trees or crossing deep rough to a green surrounded by bunkers). Also severity on one side of a Landing Zone can differ greatly from the other, or indeed where one "hazard" varies in severity (eg. well maintained grass under trees in one section, heavy rough in another).

Ten types of the most common obstacles have been identified that will affect play namely; Topography, Fairway (width, nearby hazards, hole length), Green Target (difficulty of hitting green), Recoverability and Rough, Bunkers, Out of Bounds/Extreme Rough, Water Hazards, Trees, Green Surface (Putting difficulty) and Psychology (cumulative effect of obstacles on a player's score).

Other than major changes to

the layout of a golf course, the obstacles that are most easily influenced by course management are greenside bunkers, rough and trees.

Missing a green is twice as significant as missing a fairway, thus increasing the difficulty around the green is likely to be the favoured option when tightening up a course. This also generally coincides with the largest area of "dead" ground.

While increasing the acreage of heavy and semi rough will almost certainly be opposed by many club members, the planting of trees is gaining popularity. Many courses considering tree planting not only seek an immediate "woodland", but also one which is designed to provide an attractive and pleasant backdrop to the course. Although shelter is an obvious benefit, trees also provide security to players/passers-by/neighbours, help divide the course in a natural manner and influence how the course is played.

Very few courses are prepared to be really bold in making certain holes more difficult, as with increasing player numbers and pressure, slow play (and exasperation) is often the result.

Accordingly, designing woodlands for golf courses is fraught with difficulty, not least as golf balls are one of the best tree pruning devices available.

Previous attempts at tree planting on an informal basis very often prove to be an expensive

and wasteful exercise as either tree protection and maintenance are non-existent, or they are sited in the wrong place. There is no instant way to establish trees, and although many courses plant six to eight feet high "Standards", they are initially expensive and establish slowly, while smaller, trees quickly establish and can soon overtake their larger counterparts.

Provided minimum area criteria are met, grants are available from the Forestry Authority to plant small woodland copses that by careful design can benefit the playing of a particular course (and cover 30-80% of the total cost). Coupled with planting individual trees scattered between larger areas, the effect can be very natural and attractive.

When designing the layout of new planting, the following criteria are especially important:

1. Landing Zones off the Tee should generally be given a wide berth, as there is no point making a particular hole impossible to play for the poorer player. Also, as tee shots are the most erratic trees close by the landing area are likely to be bombarded at regular intervals making establishment difficult.
2. Trees will eventually occupy significant space as the canopy broadens and matures. Thus, strategically placed young trees will increasingly interfere, with play.
3. Creating Obstacle Squeeze

for players approaching the green is the most likely method of deliberately affecting play, not least as this usually corresponds to the largest area of dead ground, and is the one shot that is under control (reducing damage to trees). However, maintaining adequate aeration and light to the playing surface must also be considered.

4. The location of open space and vistas is just as important as where trees are located. Reducing space around the green/tee area will increase wear and tear as player traffic concentrates in a narrow through-route.

5. Tree planting need not be completed all in one season. Not only will this spread the cost, but it allows for the player/tree interaction to be gradually increased.

6. Work out a grass management regime before tree planting, identifying who does what and where. Green staff need only be concerned with areas potentially in play. Maintaining closely cropped grass in between hundreds of young trees is not realistic.

7. Where possible try to use site specific native tree and shrub species. This should ensure rapid establishment and promote the long term vigour and viability of the trees into old age.

8. Plan for dropping zones (and the necessary local rule changes) such that the tree bound shots are properly but fairly penalised.

9. Secure the support of club members/players, or at least attempt to educate them about the problems of tree establishment and the damage they can inflict.

10. Be prepared to maintain newly planted trees for three to five years, ensuring that a prescribed maintenance programme is rigidly applied.

Those golf courses that have had the foresight to manage their landscapes are undoubtedly the most attractive and inspiring to play. Therefore, golf clubs wishing to plant trees are initiating a major change in how their course looks and plays, and seeking specialist guidance is crucial to getting it right. Happy planting!

■ *Andrew Vaughan is a consultant with Eamonn Wall & Co, the Woodland Design and Management firm, which offers a nationwide service. Tel: 01259 7432120.*

REAL WORLD TEST

TMVs and ATVs

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

Hugh Tilley canvasses opinion on six TMV and ATVs from the people who know them best.

Whether their main used is as course runabout, to carry specific attachments or as the major component of greens maintenance, turf maintenance and all terrain vehicles (TMVs and ATVs) have found a place on most UK golf courses. Cushman has arguably become a generic name and the best known of TMVs, perhaps with the greatest number of attachments built for it, however there are competitors and most greenkeepers agree that a TMV is not always the best machine to carry out some tasks, nor are they ideal for three point linkage implements. For tasks such as ball collection or course ranger an ATV without frills, except possibly a protective cage for the driver, is a simple and inexpensive means of accessing all parts of the course without damaging the turf. Many tasks require load carrying capabilities, while for others the ability to carry two or three people as well as tools and materials is important. Prices range from around £2500 for a plain ATV to around £4000 – £6000 for a transport utility and up to £14,000+ for a purpose built TMV. Diesel adds perhaps £1000 to the price but few greenkeepers are looking at anything else, nor is price the most important factor when it comes to buying such a major item.

Jacobsen Workhorse SV 2322 at Tiverton GC

The SV of the name means "Sys-

tems Vehicle" – Tiverton Golf Club has now had its own for a couple of months and the club extremely satisfied with it. Bought through MST at Tiverton nevertheless consideration was given for several other competitive machines. Head Greenkeeper at Tiverton is Stephen Baker and he said that selecting the Jacobsen was a joint decision because all four of the greenkeepers expect to have to operate and maintain it, "and it is no good having a machine which not everyone is happy with".

The machine is expected to undertake the majority of greens and tee work, and for this the club has top dresser, cargo box, sprayer and multi-tine aerator. These units have the same working width as the Workhorse itself thus making matching runs easy, particularly when topdressing. Stephen commented that turning on and off the topdresser drive was extremely easy and pleasant as the lever was very conveniently placed. Important features in the selection apart from the easiness of driving was the fact that the engine is mounted at the front under a bonnet where it is

extremely convenient for maintenance. The "solid" construction of the machine was another factor and it felt safe with four wheels and a good track width. Stephen said that they undertake their own machine maintenance and the good accessibility made this simple, it also meant that such routines as checking oil levels was less likely to be neglected. The three cylinder Kubota diesel rated at 23.5 hp has adequate power, and the payload is around a tonne. Although Stephen felt that the machine may be heavier than its competition it is still very nimble, and it does have very wide wheels, thus he is perfectly happy to have it in his greens.

Cushman Turf Trucksters on Salisbury & South Wilts GC

This 27 hole downland course has two Kubota 22hp engined diesel Trucksters, both three wheel versions and the club likes them. Naturally Salisbury has an extensive range of equipment to fit, including a three point linkage kit which has yet to be used. The main uses for the machines apart from transport of staff and materials is for spraying and top

dressing. At the present one machine is being used exclusively with a Hardi sprayer, while the other alternates between transport duties, topdressing and other implement tasks. The 'stable' includes two types of slitter, a coring drum and brush.

Kerran Daly, Course Manager at Salisbury admits to being a fan of Cushmans, he likes the simplicity, the (lack of) size and the manoeuvrability. He hopes that Ransomes won't increase the Turf Trucksters size, add complications or in any way 'tart the machines up'.

The only serious reservation he has is over the pto which at 1000 rpm is too fast for the many implements which use (the normal European speed) 540 rpm. Mention was also made of the fact that the machine found difficulty maintaining a constant speed on undulating ground, so that the operator has to consciously compensate with the throttle to maintain his speed when spraying. There are other little niggles such as the seats which are not well attached and a cab induced drone which is "wearing" for the operator over day long use. The service record includes a parking brake cable which snapped, but with this as with other items no problems have been found with spares and service which are sourced through T.H. White Ltd. For maintenance access to the engine and mechanical components was rated as excellent. Kerran said he finds the machines 'very stable', certainly he has no criticism over the three wheel configura-



Jacobsen Workhorse SV 2322



Cushman Turf Truckster