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YOUR COPY OF THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME, PLUS BOOKING FORM, IS INCLUDED IN THIS MAGAZINE

BIGGA National Education Conference: January 22–23, 1996

BIGGA Educational Workshops: January 22–23, 1996

Educational Seminar Programme: January 24–26, 1996

BIGGA International Symposium: January 25, 1996

Sports Turf Research Institute/BIGGA Chairmen of Green/Secretaries' Course: January 23–24, 1996

the
**Learning
experience**

Use the **FREE Pre-Registration Card** in this magazine to stake your place at BTME. You'll beat the queues and you could **WIN £100-worth of merchandise** in our prize draw!

BTME and the Educational Seminar Programme is organised by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. For more details, or for an extra copy of "The Learning Experience", call Ken Richardson, BIGGA's education officer, on 01347 838581.



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BY RAIL: The comprehensive rail network means you can get to Harrogate very easily. For example, 25 trains run daily from London King's Cross to Harrogate and there are some 15 trains from Edinburgh, 16 from Glasgow and 30 from Manchester

BY AIR: Manchester International Airport is 56 miles from Harrogate and there's a convenient direct train via Leeds railway station. Transfer and direct flights are available from all over the world – including Canada, South Africa and the USA. Leeds/Bradford airport is 12 miles away and also has direct flights from major European cities

BY ROAD: From North and South – A1 exit Wetherby, nine miles from Harrogate. M1 and M62 to Leeds, which is 15 miles away

BY SEA: North Sea Ferries, from Rotterdam/Zeebrugge to Hull, 59 miles away.




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GREENKEEPER

International

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GREENKEEPER

International

OCTOBER 1995

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The winning Scottish team at the Hayter Challenge Final and the Walker Cup squad, against a backdrop of Royal Porthcawl

WIN £50 CASH IN OUR BUYER'S GUIDE COMPETITION: TURN TO PAGE 49

FREE READER REPLY SERVICE

Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 58 for further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the companies' Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us and we'll arrange for further information to be sent to you direct.



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Want to exhibit at next year's BTME? It's filling up fast: call Louise Lunn on 01347 838581 for an information pack

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, contact BIGGA on 01347 838581.

GOLDEN KEY CIRCLE COMPANY MEMBERS:
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– SIÓN PRICE, Manager, Rhône Poulenc Environmental Products

”

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL:
Bill Lynch, Carol Dutton or Louise Lunn at BIGGA HQ on 01347 838581.

GCSAA Conference and Show,
Orlando, February 5-11, 1996

BIGGA's trip of a lifetime!

As in previous years BIGGA is offering you the opportunity to travel with us to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show at the Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida from February 5-11, 1996.

The BIGGA party will assemble at Gatwick Airport on Sunday, February 4 for departure to Orlando at 12.30pm. BIGGA is able to offer accommodation at the Holiday Inn, Gatwick at a cost of £39 per person for any members wishing to stay over the night before departure.

The Clarion Plaza Hotel, chosen by BIGGA to accommodate our party, offers excellent amenities including a heated swimming pool and whirlpool, three in-house restaurants, live entertainment and a night club. The Clarion Plaza has the added convenience of being a co-exhibitor hotel and is based next to the Convention Centre.

The GCSAA Conference and Show takes place between February 5-11 with the trade show on February 9-11. You will have the opportunity to attend educational seminars, programmes and the trade show bringing you up-to-date information on golf course management, technology and the latest trends in turfgrass management.

ITINERARY

Sunday, February 4

All participants will assemble at Gatwick Airport, for the 12.30pm direct flight with Virgin Airlines to Orlando arriving at 16.40 local time. The group will then transfer to the Clarion Plaza Hotel for a nine night stay on a room only basis.

Tuesday, February 13

Transfer to the Orlando International Airport for the direct flight at 19.10 arriving at London Gatwick at 08.15am on Wednesday, February 14.



The trip to Orlando will also give you the chance to see the sights; but there's nothing Mickey Mouse about the GCSAA show - it's the best there is. Picture: Walt Disney Company

PRICES

£530 per person based on twin shares or £710. per person based on single room accommodation.

Plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration of £55. Included are: Return economy class flights Gatwick to Orlando, UK and US taxes, transfers to and from the airport to the Clarion Plaza Hotel, nine nights accommodation based on room only and US accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Pre Conference Seminars which run from February 5-8 and for the Education Programme which runs from February 8-11 are not included in the package and bookings need to be made direct with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £585 or £765 (unless travel insurance is not required), adding £39 if accommodation is required for the night of February 3, to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO6 2NF to arrive by Friday, November 17 at the latest, together with name, address and contact telephone number.

A BIGGA Thank you



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and SILVER KEY
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For details of how you can support the
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Contact BIGGA at Aldwark Manor,
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BIGGA: BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Moving forward with the industry

This month I would like to take a look at the turf industry which supports and works with our members in seeking to produce quality golf courses. It remains a small, compact and, in my relatively brief experience, friendly industry. Many greenkeepers come to know and respect those company representatives with whom they deal and much business is born out of a mutual trust and respect. Companies are fiercely competitive but come together for the good of the industry and the greenkeeping profession. The BTME Steering Committee is but one very positive example of companies co-operating and working with the Association for our mutual benefit in the form of an increasingly successful BTME. It is not easy for the Association to always deal equitably with all the many companies with whom it comes into contact but it is not for want of trying.

BIGGA's Education and Development Fund will shortly enter its fifth year and the Association's thanks are due to those loyal supporters of the fund, both companies and individuals. Thirteen companies are now golden key supporters with a further four in the silver key category. This year the fund has already seen the production of a new book on Ecological Management of the Golf Course together with a video on Golf Course Preparation. A further video on the Construction of a Golf Green will shortly be available. The first of our local Management Training courses takes place in Scotland during October with others planned for our other regions as well as Southern Ireland next February and March. Projects for 1996 will be decided shortly. All in all the fund is a success story but in addition to providing education and training benefits for our members it has a cohesive and positive role to play in cementing the Association's relationships with the 17 companies who currently support the fund. Those companies have the opportunity to meet twice a year with the Association and their views are taken on board. Their ideas for utilising the resources of the fund are welcomed. They



BIGGA in focus

BY NEIL THOMAS

receive equal acknowledgement and benefits for their support of the fund while both they and other companies are not precluded from entering into individual sponsorships with the Association. The arrangements have largely worked well, epitomised by the fact that some companies are now in their fourth successive year of fund membership. The fund has therefore been a power for good in bringing the Association and the Industry together for mutual benefit. BIGGA places a high premium on positive, practical and lasting relationships with the companies within the industry.

At a local level the benefits of the education and training available to greenkeepers can be seen in their budget management and choice of products. Today's Course Manager is discerning in the choice of products for his golf course. Old friendships may die hard but the company representative with a suspect product will be given a hard time. So it is my view that, alongside improved training, better products are being made available and the vast majority of business deals are undoubtedly conducted for the benefit of the club's golf course.

Yet, as in other industries, there can be a downside. BIGGA's members are bound by the Association's code of ethics. One of the tenets laid down in this code is that a member will "refrain from encouraging or accepting considerations of any value which might be deemed an inducement to find favour for a particular party or influence decisions in relation to that party and at all

times avoid any exploitation of my Association, Industry or Profession". I am sometimes asked how often cases are brought to my attention which violate this code and the answer is few and far between. This is not an attempt to bury my head in the sand for shady dealing can and does occur. Unfortunately when the waters are muddied those prepared to put their head above the parapet and come forward with evidence are noticeable only by their absence. Suspicion is one thing, proof is another. Those of our members proven guilty of such conduct have no place within BIGGA or within greenkeeping at large. Equally BIGGA would need to examine its relationship with any company proven guilty of offering such inducements. I would like to think that such dealings have a diminishing role to play within our industry and I would welcome a debate on the subject through the columns of this magazine. Where there are undesirable practices those working within the profession and the

industry can combine to stamp them out. Again where golf clubs have proven cases they would benefit both the Association and the Industry in making details available.

Looking ahead, the Association will continue to work purposefully with those companies who support greenkeepers and greenkeeping. Where we can assist companies in the provision of information and advice we will do so. During 1996 we hope to publish a much needed Directory of Resources and we would welcome any suggestions from companies on format and content. Again we would hope that our exhibition and magazine will continue to be a show case for company products and we are always open to suggestions on how both can be improved. It remains my view that a continuing partnership of BIGGA and the Industry is essential if the objective of better constructed and maintained golf courses is to be achieved. Perhaps a case of "united we stand, divided we fall"?

BIGGA CODE OF ETHICS

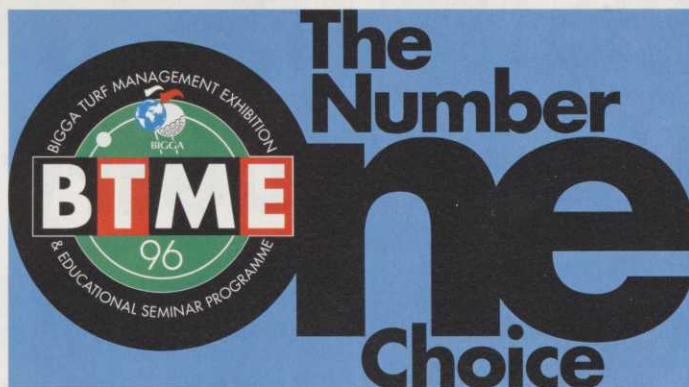
This Code is established to promote and maintain the highest professional standards of service and conduct among the membership of BIGGA. Through adherence to this Code, members will gain for themselves recognition of individual integrity, responsibility and professionalism whilst enhancing generally the respect and good will for both their profession and Association. As a member of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, I accept this Code and pledge myself to:

1. Set standards of personal conduct which will enhance the stature of the profession of golf course management.
2. At all times carry out my duties and responsibilities in such a manner as to reflect favourably on the profession and Association.
3. Seek to use every opportunity to broaden my professional expertise for both self-improvement and the good of the profession.
4. Follow, as a basic tenet, sound business and turf management principles in exercising the responsibilities of my post.
5. Observe the highest standards of personal integrity in my relationship

with fellow greenkeepers as well as other associated individuals and at all times, as far as I am able, assist my fellow greenkeepers as required of me.

6. Pursue job advancement only where vacancies arise and not at the expense of a fellow greenkeeper and abstain from any action, comment or communication not founded on truth which is likely to harm the professional reputation or practice of another greenkeeper.
7. Give endorsements of any kind only upon satisfactory personal experiences of the item identified.
8. Refrain from encouraging or accepting considerations of any value which might be deemed an inducement to find favour for a particular party or influence decisions in relation to that party and at all times avoid any exploitation of my Association, Industry or Profession.
9. Support at every opportunity the Association, its Regions and Sections in seeking to improve the public understanding and recognition of the profession of golf course management.
10. Report to the Association any evidence likely to be in violation of this Code of Ethics.

Over 150 exhibitors snap up spaces for BTME 96



Working for the good of the fine turf industry

Exhibition space at BTME '96 is all but gone with over 150 exhibitors confirmed.

Many are established companies who have attended every BTME but word gets round and '96 will see several companies making their first appearances.

Among them are Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals, British Sugar, which will be showing its new top soil, and Grass Roots, the one-stop greenkeepers' shop.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be welcoming so many new companies to the show and I'm sure once they have experienced the very special atmosphere at Harrogate they will become regulars," said Louise Lunn, Exhibition and Marketing Executive.

It is now the time of the year that companies begin to turn their attention to the show but one keen exhibitor was already

on the phone demanding the exhibition manual from Louise well ahead of schedule – "Guaranteed to keep me on my toes for BTME 96," she said.

"The entertainment has been confirmed for the BTME '96 Gala Dinner and delegates will be able to enjoy the delights of comedian Stan Boardman, singer Lyn Paul (ex New Seekers) and the City Lights Show Band."

Chance to learn in a stimulating atmosphere

The Learning Experience of 1996 will take place in Harrogate from January 22 until January 26. More than 20 speakers from seven countries will present papers on topics from Pest Management to Portfolio Development. Next year sees the return of training workshops which will enhance and expand last year's successful programme. Workshop 1 deals with the Design Construction and Growing in of a golf course and will be presented by Howard Swan and Simon Gidman, both members of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects. Workshop 2 deals with the Management of Stress and will be presented by Brin Bendon of Vector Training, best known for presenting the BIGGA management courses. A newcomer to Harrogate will be the STRI Chairmen of Green/Secretaries Course, which will be held in the Hotel St George on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 January.

the Learning experience

Make sure that you book early for what promises to be the largest greenkeeper training event in Europe and take full advantage of the Learning Experience 1996.

"Considering the calibre of the experts and the range of education and training on offer, The Learning Experience will be the major European greenkeeping training opportunity of 1996," said Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer.

It's not all about education however as there will be ample opportunities to relax and enjoy yourselves in the evenings with the Conference Dinner which this year will feature special guest David Gunson, the former Air Traffic Controller, who has established himself as one of the top after dinner speakers in the country.

£800-worth of prizes to be won!

★ Here is your chance to win a greenkeeper's dream holiday – an expenses paid trip to the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition. There is a huge £800 worth of prizes to be won! We will pay your rail fare, put you up in one of the best hotels in Harrogate and give you a free pass to the outstanding educational seminar programme.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of THREE superb prizes is answer these six questions – two appeared in August's magazine and two last month so you should only have to think about the last two. Complete the form and return it to us by October 31, 1995.

August questions

● Name one of the countries from which National Education Conference speakers are coming.

● In which hall will you find the BIGGA stand?

September questions

● Which new company has recently booked over 20 square metres at the show?

● With which Institute is BIGGA holding a Chairmen of Green/Secretaries Course?

October questions

● What is British Sugar going to be displaying on its stand?

● What returns to Harrogate this year as part of The Learning Experience?

Normal competition rules apply.

FIRST PRIZE: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry to all the education sessions. **SECOND PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK, two nights accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education sessions. **THIRD PRIZE:** One night's accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education sessions.

Name:

Address:

Send your completed entry form to BTME Competition, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO6 2NF. To be received by October 31. The first three correct entries opened after that date will win the prizes. Judges' decision is final.



Jemima
Puddleduck
saves
thousands
for golf club

NEWS



When a 10,000,000 gallon lake at the Lambourne Golf Club in Burnham, Bucks, cracked as a result of the hot weather, greenkeepers took a leaf out of Beatrix Potter's book, bringing in "Jemima Puddleduck" and 22 of her friends.

In just three weeks the paper-white Aylesbury ducks, halted a 20,000 gallon a day leak and reduced the cost of repairs from

£75,000, for draining and lining the lake, to just £80, the price of an electric fence to keep foxes at bay.

"A time honoured country tradition has beaten all modern technology," said John Millen, Head Greenkeeper for ClubPartners International Plc which owns the course. "Aylesbury or 'puddle' ducks, as they are often known, have been used to maintain farm

ponds for centuries. In hot weather, the sun dries out the banks and leaves thousands of tiny cracks along the bank through which the water seeps away. Puddle ducks, with their big feet, keep the shore wet and compress tiny bits of mud into the cracks, cementing all the holes."

Staff and members at the exclusive club have put forward Jemima's name for the August Employee of the month award.

"She'll probably be the first duck in history to win a recognition award from a Plc but we don't see why not. She's down on the payroll for a sack of premium quality corn each month and has worked hard on several important areas including ecology, conservation, economy and good member relations - even if it did take a little gentle persuasion to convince her that a ball which landed near the shore once was not, in fact, an egg."

Jemima's prize for her efforts is a beautifully framed certificate by the lake and her own nesting box on the small island, well away from the danger of troublesome foxes.

● Pictured: John Millen with the ducks which saved the day.



■ GTC Chairman Bob McLaren presents NVQ assessor certificates to the Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers from the North Wales golf clubs who have all successfully achieved the D32/D33 assessor units.

The presentation took place at the Welsh College of Horticulture in Mold.

The GTC has recently become a registered centre to offer National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications and all enquiries should be directed to the GTC Education Unit based at Aldwark Manor, York Tel: 01347 838640.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Otterbine/Barebo Inc., the aeration and water quality management product specialist, has announced that Rainbird Europe has been awarded the Otterbine distributorship for France and North Africa. "We're very proud to welcome Rainbird Europe to our distribution team. It an excellent company which enjoys a fine reputation," said Charlie Barebo, President of Otterbine.

■ Eamonn Wall & Co has appointed John Nicholson as Associate Consultant based in Durham. He is a keen ecologist with specialised knowledge of tree pests and diseases and is currently writing a book about trees on golf courses. He has undertaken studies in golf ball damage and its effect on tree health resulting in a knowledge of which species of tree are resilient to damage.

■ Nigel Tyler has been appointed Technical Sales Representative to the Amenity Division of County Crops Ltd. He was previously employed by Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd. He will cover the Midlands area.

■ Geoff Whalley has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at the shortly to open Mobberley GC.

■ Ian Greenfield, Head Greenkeeper at Goodwood GC, has retired after 28 year's service.

■ Applications are now being accepted for Pennsylvania State University's two year Turfgrass Management Technical Programme for the class beginning September '96. The application fee is \$35 and the deadline for applications is December 31, '95. Application forms can be obtained by calling United States 001 814 865 8301 or by writing to: Turfgrass Management Technical Program, The Pennsylvania State University, 306 Ag, Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802-2601.

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35

Michael is Britain's most wanted man

By Andrew Vaughan

This year's drought had many repercussions for most golf courses, not least the size of their water bills. As the privatised water suppliers in England and Wales now address the many years of under-investment in infrastructure the cost of water will undoubtedly rise with forecasts of three and four fold increases in the next few years. (Scotland soon to follow?)

"Pay as you use" is perhaps the tip of the iceberg, as it is not unreasonable to expect the most heavy water users to pay a premium for the quantities required, and golf courses must figure amongst them.

The solution to the problem is undoubtedly under your feet. Surveys in Scotland have shown that private ground water sources supply 13 million litres per day for a variety of uses, including chemical and manufacturing industry, foodstuffs, agriculture, as well as domestic consumption. In 1978/79 ground water provided 78 million litres per day (of a total supplied of 2800 million litres per day) – a drop in the ocean.

After complying with the various planning requirements, the next problem is how to find the water. Large numbers of dry bore holes indicate that it is not as easy as simply drilling a deep enough hole. Several golf courses have overcome this by calling on the services of a water diviner, Michael Cranfield of Dollar, Cen-



Michael Cranfield: Dowser

tral Scotland Tel: 01259 742744.

Mr. Cranfield, 72, has been dowsing since the age of 13 when he learned he had the knack from a naval commander experimenting on his parents' lawn in Sussex. Over many years he honed his skill by practising on various farms he visited while selling animal feed for Quaker Oats, and on retirement, took up water divining as a recreational occupation.

Due to advancing years, he prefers to pre-survey the particular site using a map on his dining room table. He then sweeps over the map with a crystal pendulum ("but a rusty nail would do"), which when passing over a likely site swings round and round.

After finding as many "hot-spots" as possible, he then checks the site using the well known

hazel dowsing rod, and has found the map surveys surprisingly accurate. The many years of experience also allow him to judge the depth and flow-rate of water present.

Any sceptic cannot be left unimpressed by his strike rate of 98.5% for over 450 clients. However, perhaps his most important skill is that he pinpoints exactly where the borehole is to be located, which could involve hitting a two foot wide target, 300 feet down.

Farmers make up 70% of his work load (often dairy farms that require regular and vast quantities), and to date only 12 golf courses have called on his unusual services. Undoubtedly this situation will change when clubs realise the potential rising cost of water usage, and the relatively quick payback period for installing your own bore-hole and pump. In some instances, the capital cost has been paid back after just three years.

Mr. Cranfield does not expect to be travelling the length and breadth of the country for many more years, but hopes that his dining room table will continue his amazing success rate well into his 80s, that is if the water companies don't outlaw him first!

■ Andrew Vaughan is a golf course woodland design and management consultant with Eamonn Wall and Co based at 15 West Burnside, Dollar, Clackmannanshire, FK14 7DE, Tel: (01259) 743212.



Art editor gets mower out of The Open

Keith Jones, Art Editor of Golf Monthly magazine, winner of the Great BIGGA Bunker Competition at The Open in St Andrews earlier in the year, was presented with his prize at Saltex '95 by Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter.

The competition was run in the Media Centre at The Open and asked journalists to predict how many bunkers the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support team would rake during the course of the Championship. The final figure was 700 with one more coming in the play-off and Keith predicted 684 thus depriving Andy Farrell, Chief Reporter of Golf Weekly magazine, who had won each of the first three daily prizes with his uncannily accurate predictions only to be wildly wide of the mark on the Sunday. The final daily winner was Mike Kern of the Philadelphia Daily News.

Keith won a Hayter Harrier lawnmower valued at £600. He is pictured, left, receiving his prize kindly donated by Hayter from Kim Macfie as BIGGA Chairman Barry Heaney looks on.

Swedish study trip

A group of 18 Swedish Head Greenkeepers is visiting Scotland this month to investigate the art of greenkeeping in the Home of Golf.

The group, gathered from the Swedish Greenkeepers Association will be visiting Fife and taking in the Alfred Dunhill Cup as well as visiting links courses in the area and studying how the education of greenkeepers is undertaken at Elmwood College in Cupar.

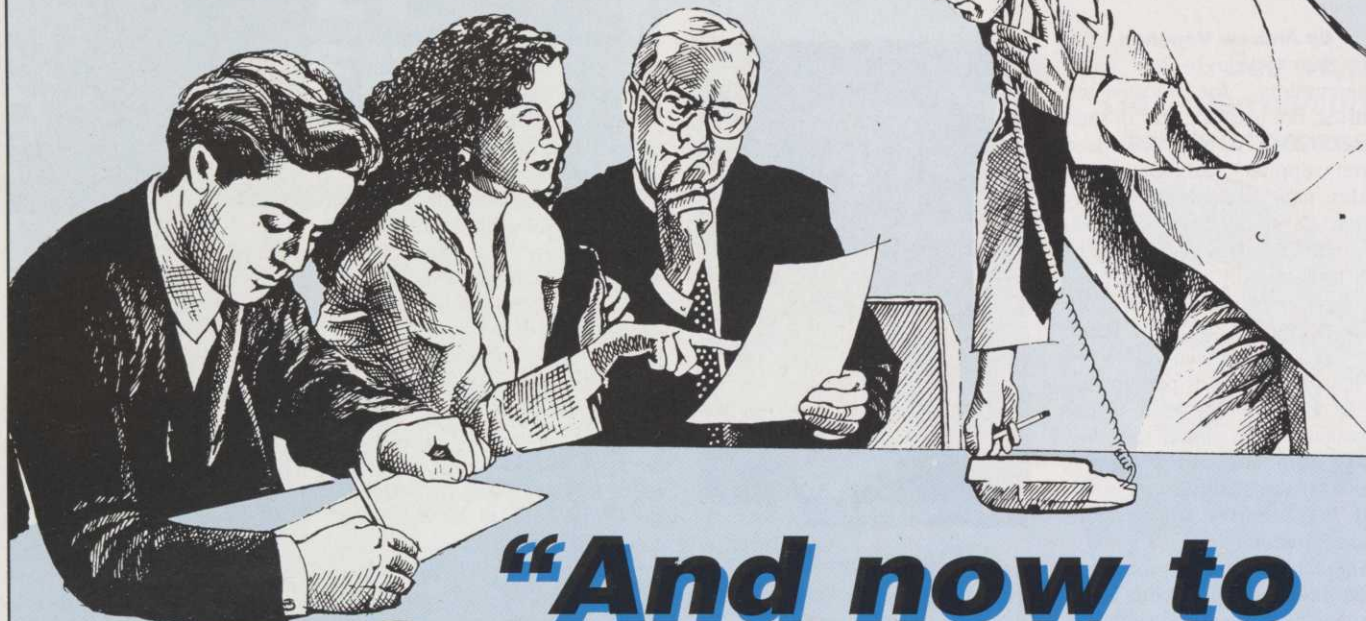
One stop shop gears up for autumn

Wokingham-based Grass Roots is gearing up for a busy autumn as it caters for the needs of the greenkeeper. The one-stop shop for everything from turfcare consumables, machinery sales and service to furnishings and maintenance means the greenkeeper doesn't have to spend time shopping around for individual suppliers.

The company guarantees a definite time of arrival for any order and a daily 2.5% retrospective discount with be offered until the order is confirmed. The office is open to quote and take orders from 7am to 9pm six days a week and they can be contacted on Tel: 01734 771185 Fax: 01734 785116.



AGENDA



“And now to the Green Issue...”

“Ladies and Gentlemen, I have a formal request from our Greenkeeper that we discuss the benefits of purchasing our own grinding equipment. He has researched the market and concludes, without any doubt that Atterton grinders are the finest available...”

“In-situ grinding – huge time savings”

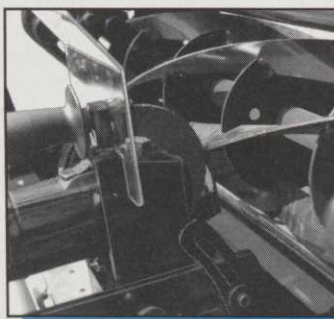
“Separate cylinder grinding – the ideal time to sharpen”

“The cutting unit sits on a flat bed – avoids angled set-ups”

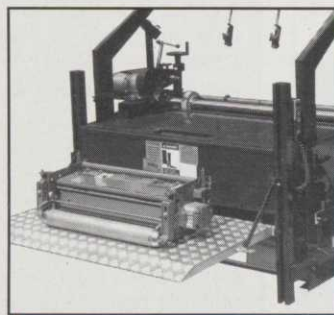
“A single action foot pedal to set-up – simple one-man operation”

“No more high service cost outside sharpening – reduced costs”

“Choice of machines, Express Dual ‘1000’ or the new multi-featured ‘2000’, with new features as shown – a relief may be ground on the cylinder cutting edge and our heavy gang units can now be positioned on the grinding table by one man”



Relief grinding attachment



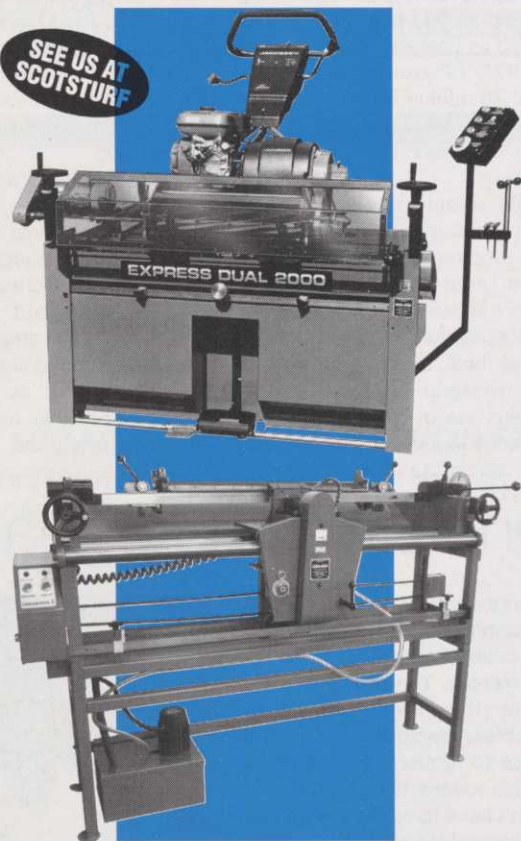
Electric drive lifting table

“Anglemaster the ideal partner for grinding bottom blades – simple set-up makes this the only choice for the job”

“Costs are reasonable and we’ll be able to keep on top with the grass cutting – the members will benefit and the GREEN ISSUE will be a thing of the past!”

“That’s a unanimous vote in favour I believe – I’ll advise the Greenkeeper to go ahead”

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