



the Learning experience

Golf and nature can be made to work in harmony

Growing public concern over the environmental impact of golf courses put the industry on the defensive in the mid to late 1980s.

A spate of new course developments, many situated in some of the most beautiful parts of the United Kingdom, provided support for the arguments of those who preferred to see the countryside remain as it was.

In some cases, the planning authorities agreed. In others, they listened carefully to both sides and realised that perhaps golf courses are not as damaging to the environment as pictured by the "anti's".

These battles, whether they were won or lost, had a major effect on the way in which golf courses now present themselves to the public. Instead of apologising for being there, clubs have moved onto the offensive and are actively demonstrating how a well managed golf course, rather than damaging nature, can actually provide substantial ecological and community benefits.

Faced with a hostile environmental activist, greenkeepers should remind the person that golf courses actually help conserve green spaces which might otherwise have been lost forever or fallen into total neglect.

In addition to providing a place for quiet recreation, a golf course enhances and protects wildlife habitats, giving flora and fauna a safe place in which to flourish. In virtually every case, a golf course will help improve the landscape by bringing professional land management practices to poor grade farmland, run-down parks and woodland, reclaimed landfill sites and other areas which, due to their location, topography or cost of improvement, would never otherwise attract sufficient investment.

It is often overlooked that course managers and greenkeepers are among the best educated and most conscientious users of chemical management aids in any industry.

Most of those responsible for course maintenance entered the profession because of a love of nature and the outdoor life and are totally committed to conserva-



Man and machine in harmony with nature at The Gleneagles Hotel

tion. Surveys carried out in the USA have shown that course superintendents give top priority to maintenance practises that do not have a negative effect on the environment. It would be safe to assume that the same aim applies the world over.

Environmentalists would do well to recognise that, in comparison with the surrounding industrial, farming or urban areas, a golf course is one of the most ecologically sound places on the planet.

Some will argue that flags, bunkers and closely mown turf are not part of a natural rural landscape, but surely these are preferable to a six lane highway, an industrial estate or an overgrown field of weeds "set-aside" as the answer to agricultural over-production?

While the recent mushrooming of new courses has dragged golf into the environmental spotlight, it is worth reminding the objectors that the industry has been commercially active for at least 100 years, playing its part as a tax-paying, land-improving, socially-responsible employer.

Anyone wanting a good example of how nature and a long-established golf course can walk hand in hand should be directed towards the environmental programme being pursued at Gleneagles.

Located in the wonderful countryside of the Perthshire hills, Gleneagles has established an integrated ecological management plan to preserve and enhance the delicate balance of nature within its 830 acre estate

and the surrounding area.

The plan works in harmony with Gleneagles' support for the Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Trust initiative, designed to create a greater awareness among Scottish golf clubs, their members and visitors of their responsibility towards good environmental and monitoring practices.

Planning and building of the newest course at Gleneagles – the Nicklaus-designed Monarch's – presented an ideal opportunity for the whole management of the estate to be considered while analysing maintenance practices and their impact on both the local and surrounding environment.

Studies began with a look back at pre-historic events and how the movement of ice and melt waters had helped shape the land mass, forming the stadium ridges which separate the fairways to create some of the finest natural grandstands in championship golf. Closer sub-surface examination revealed rich seams of sand and gravel beneath the turf – deposits which are preserved for perpetuity by golf.

Having examined the geological aspects of the area, attention focused on the many species of flower, grass, tree and shrub native to Gleneagles. Some rarities were found and these are included within a number of marked out areas where every species is counted and noted. Regular monitoring allows a close eye to be kept on how the flora responds to changes in management techniques, enabling the latter to be adjusted or altered to

maintain an ecological balance.

In the past, Gleneagles admits that it looked upon the management of its estate and golf courses principally in terms of whether they looked tidy, not really being aware of the real environmental issues.

Although Gleneagles has 20 sites of scientific interest, including one SSSI, all of which have been protected and cared for, they had been treated in isolation and not in relation to the whole estate.

This attitude has now changed with a balanced approach ensuring that the complete area is treated and managed as an entity. Management is needed because, left unchecked, nature would run riot with invasive species choking out those which support the more delicate and vulnerable ecosystems at Gleneagles.

"Conservation is not about leaving nature alone," points out Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turf Grass Management, Gleneagles Golf Developments. "It is essential that we lend a hand to maintain the balance. The alternative would be walls of gorse along every fairway, beech trees covering the King's, pines invading the rough on the Queen's, weeds running riot on the Monarch's and the Laich Loch within the formal garden becoming silted up."


The philosophy at Gleneagles, and one which can be applied in some way at every golf course in the world, is that it is much simpler to maintain a course in harmony with its natural surroundings than to create something totally unnatural.


This means that the course, its architecture, layout and maintenance must fit in with all else around. If changes are deemed necessary, consider them carefully and then make them gradually so that possible impact on the environment is minimised.


Native plants and trees and the natural lie of the land have been utilised since golf began to give a course its unique character while helping it harmonise with its surroundings. Removing or altering one or the other, or bringing in a species totally alien to the area, is likely to fuel anti-golf course sentiments far more than a few flag sticks or tee boxes.


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Chris Knowles, Assistant Greenkeeper for Forest of Arden Golf and Country Club, reports on his impressions of the Double Eagle Club in Columbus, Ohio

After graduating from Myerscough College in April 1995, with a BTEC National Diploma in Turf Science and Sports Ground Management, I was given the opportunity to participate in the Ohio State University's "Agriculture and Horticulture Intern Programme". Through the established relationship between Myerscough and the Ohio State University I undertook an eight month placement at the Double Eagle Club, Columbus, Ohio.

The Double Eagle Club is 25 miles north of the city of Columbus in an area called Galena. The golf course is quite a secret, with no signs indicating its presence, many local people are unlikely to be aware of it. Membership is very exclusive with 50 local members, 98 non local and only about 4800 rounds of golf are played each year. Membership is by personal invitation of the Double Eagle Club's sole owner, a very successful local business man, Mr John H McConnell.

McConnell purchased the land for the course eight years before construction began. During that time many meetings were held with the two designers, Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish, to determine how to create a truly top class golf course with the land that was available. The eight years deliberation and design certainly paid off, for between them, Weiskopf and Morrish came up with a masterpiece that certainly ranks up there with the Augustas and Pebble Beaches of this world. Construction began in 1990.

Double Eagle Club has an 18 hole golf course, a Bye Hole for settling ties, a driving range with Bent grass tees and target greens and a putting green outside a magnificent clubhouse. The course is truly spectacular and has characteristics of both park land and links.

The Course Superintendent is Terry Buchen, certified golf Course Superintendent and BIGGA Master Greenkeeper. Buchen has grown-in 11 new courses in the US and has worked with people such as Tom Fazio, Tom Weiskopf, Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus. Buchen, who is a Pennsylvania State graduate, is also a committee member for the USGA and former PGA Tour agronomist. He also writes articles for several golfing and greenkeeping magazines and can often be found giv-



A hide

ing turf related talks at many venues. In 1990 Buchen was approached by McConnell and was asked to take a look at the site. He liked what he saw and stayed to oversee the construction and the grow in, and subsequently became Superintendent of the club.

It is due to Buchen's unquestionable knowledge and experience and through the hard work and dedication of his well educated and trained greenkeeping crew that, in 1994, the Double Eagle Club was voted, by Golf Digest Magazine, 2nd best conditioned golf course in the States



Practice tee at the Double Eagle Picture by Brian Morgan

en American treasure

after Augusta. In 1995 Double Eagle was ranked 44th in the States and 72nd World wide. These accolades are very impressive for a course that has only just finished its fourth season and is still little publicised. It is not hard to see why these accolades were presented.

- The greens are all Penn Links Creeping Bent grass and hand mowed daily with Toro 1000's at anywhere from 5/32" – 1/8", depending on firmness and moisture levels, usually double cut daily during normal summers.

- Tees are all Penn Cross Creeping Bent except for the 7th cham-

pionship tee which is Penn Cross oversown with *Poa trivialis* as the tee is in a very shaded area. The tees are cut at 5/32" almost daily.

- Fairways are all Penn trio and are cut at 3/8" with the Toro 5300, – 4 wheel drive.

- The rough is a mixture of Kentucky Bluegrass (smooth stalked meadow grass) or Rye grass and chewings Fescue.

The deep rough, or "Native" as they like it to be called, is very much encouraged to grow wildly as it consists of Tall Fescue, Timothy and Foxtails. Wild flower mixes are also incorporated into the Native which is very benefi-

cial to the local ecosystem and really enhances the aesthetic value of the whole course. The only drawback is that the "Native" is certainly lost ball territory!

There are 83 sand bunkers on the course and they must be among the best maintained anywhere. The bunkers are raked daily and edge trimming is carried out at least once a week using a strimmer held in an upside down position. I found this method to be most effective in creating a very tidy edge if done properly.

The hole positions on each

green were changed daily by the greenkeepers. A systematic approach was adopted in this operation in that the greenkeepers were provided with a scaled plan and chart which shows, on each green, nine viable locations for the flag stick. Consequently it is a full nine days before a flag position is repeated. This gives the new plug and old hole time to bind and of course provides players with variations in pin positions. Caddies also have copies of the charts and can advise the golfer of the daily hole position at each green.

Divots on all tees are repaired

A hidden American treasure

daily with a Penn Cross seed and rootzone mix of 85% sand, 15% sphagnum moss.

Buchen operated an effective management control system through providing all the green-keeping staff with Motorola radios and speaker "mikes". This enabled immediate two-way contact between Buchen and staff and through previous time and motion studies it was demonstrated that 1/hour/man/day would be saved. I am sure that everyone knows how time consuming and frustrating it can be to locate a member of staff somewhere on the golf course. While, as yet, Buchen cannot control the elements he is certainly up to speed in the technology of weather forecasting. Using an 18" satellite dish Double Eagle is in communication with the national weather satellite and using "Golf Links" software has up-to-the minute weather charts displayed on the office monitor. This obviously assists in the planning of the work programmes for the

OPERATION	MACHINERY
Mowing Greens and Tees	Toro 1000s
Mowing Fairway	Toro 5300
Mowing Short Rough	National Triplex
Victory Laps around Fairways	Toro 3000s
Mowing Rough	Toro 455
Mowing around Bunkers	Stiener Triplex
Cutting Deep Rough	Toro 322 with 72" Deck
Raking Bunkers	Toro Sand Pro
General Purpose Machines	Cushmans and Kawasaki Mule
Spraying	Cushman and tractor attached Chempros
For Hauling	Ford Tractors, Toro Workman

course, particularly those that may be detrimentally affected by weather extremes.

Of particular value to me during my time in America was working with other "turf students" from various State Universities including Ohio, Michigan and West Virginia. It was very stimulating talking and swapping ideas and information with this knowledgeable peer group. Buchen was also keen to utilise and formalise this "knowledge" pool and hosted a "turf club" every Wednesday

afternoon where we would discuss course operational matters and problems. Buchen also seems a believer in "learning by doing" and I was given tremendous opportunities to use all the various machinery during my time at Double Eagle. I learnt a great deal using new machinery including Toro Hydroject on the greens, Cushman GA60 Fairway Aerifier, and Cushman Core Harvester.

Of particular interest was the week, in November, that I spent with the irrigation engineer when

we "blew out" the system in advance of winter conditions. This was a great opportunity for me and I now feel totally confident in performing an operation which I previously thought very complex. With regard to the irrigation system at Double Eagle, wall to wall watering is achieved using a PSI Flowtronex 1500 GPM Pump Station comprising of 25, 50 and 75 HP pumps. It also incorporates a chemical irrigation injector system, used for treating 'well' water and a Toro fully automated fertiliser irrigation injector system with 650 and 670 heads. These heads can also be controlled by the Toro VT4 satellites distributed over the course. Sprinkler heads are also used as 'yardage' markers for the benefit of golfers.

The Double Eagle Club is very well equipped with some excellent machinery and pretty well everything that could be needed to keep the course in pristine condition is available. Listed are the basic machines used for day to day course operations and these

INTRODUCING THE NEW GREENSMASTER 3200-D.





Chris Knowles, right, and Terry Buchen at The Double Eagle Club

are supplemented with other specialist equipment including the Hydroject, Green and Fairway Aerifiers, Metermatic Green and Fairway Top dressers and an Olathe Core litimiser vacuum.

The course also has three excellent maintenance buildings with two full-time mechanics who operate a comprehensive range of repair and maintenance equipment. The main building also houses a first class staff room with a complete range of kitchen equipment and two drinks vending machines. Buchen and his two assistants also have their well organised offices in the main building. The other two buildings are used principally for vehicle

and material storage.

I would also refer to something that is of particular interest to me and that is the questions of "nature conservation". Over recent years, in Britain, there has been a continued growth in criticism directed at golf course development, from conservationists. The Double Eagle Club, in my view, epitomises how well a course development/conservation relationship can be achieved. Alongside the excellent, even manicured, presentation of tees, fairways and greens, the course has a high proportion of woodland, the 'Native' rough and several large water bodies. Flora and Fauna abound in the various

course environments and it was most exciting for me to see many new species of animal and birdlife, although the smell of skunk I could have done without!

I must also mention the accommodation that was made available to me during my stay. I shared a large bungalow with three other turf students. It was situated in a woodland glade, quite close to the course, and was fully furnished and provided with all mod cons. It also had its own fishing lake which also came in handy during the very hot summer of 1995 (regularly 95°F temperatures).

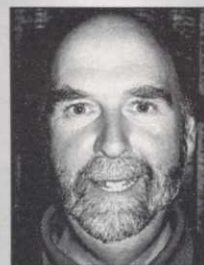
This was my first trip to America, it was a wonderful experience and I met many helpful people. The only real difficulty I found was the lack of transport, although I was able to organise lifts and, at times, course vehicles were available. I would therefore advise anyone considering a sojourn in America to plan for buying some appropriate transport.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity personally to thank

Terry Buchen and Mr John McConnell for allowing me to be part of the team running a wonderful golf course. It has left me with very fond memories, that will stay with me always and I made some new, genuine friends who I hope to see again one day.

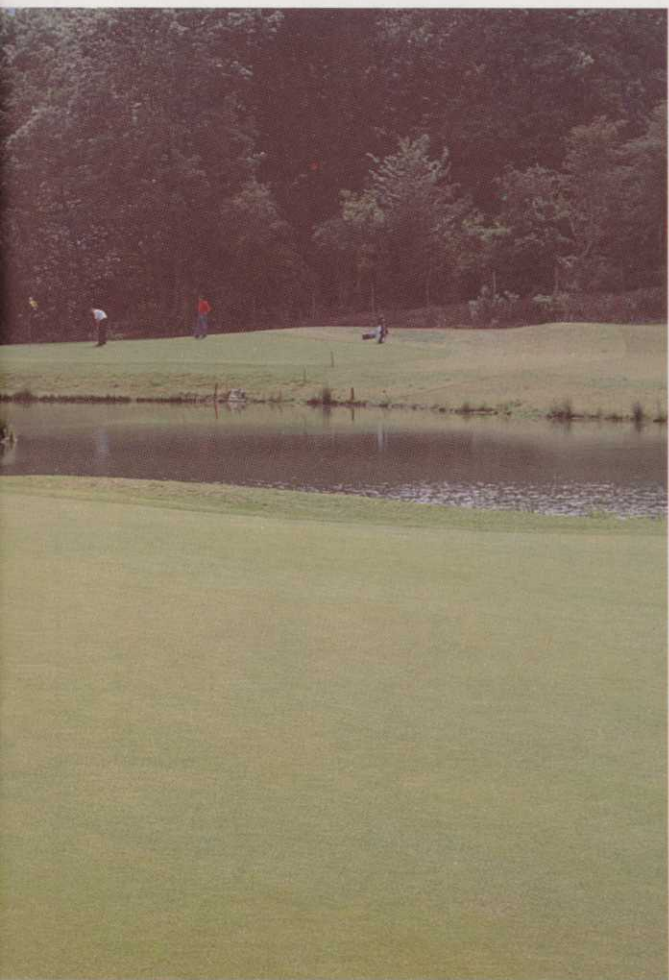
I wish Double Eagle a great future and I look forward to seeing a 'major' being played there very soon; it is certainly no more than it deserves.

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GOLF IN ASIA: NEW HORIZONS

The clubhouse at Serendah GC, north of Kuala Lumpur

Golf in Asia is a sleeping giant but it is stirring from its slumbers and when it wakes fully there will be some excellent employment opportunities for BIGGA members

Some British designers and suppliers have been working in Asia for some time – some have only recently taken the plunge. Golfconsult has worked there, and in Australia, since the late 1970s and took the big step of establishing a base in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October last year – coinciding with the British Consultants Bureau (BCB) Mission to India, Myanmar and Malaysia led by its President, the Duke of Gloucester.

The company has a full portfolio of work, both for golf design and its consultancy expertise – principally golf investment appraisal for which, as in UK, viability problems have awakened a big demand.

Asian dynamism began in the 1970s with the emergence of the Pacific Rim economics zone. Historically, the rise and rise of Asia has been a four act scenario. The first was led by Japan, now ranked with the USA as one of the two most powerful economies in the world. Act two sees the rise of the four Asia tigers, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore compressed into just three decades. Act Three added Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia – the former now the largest producer of air conditioners and exporter of televisions and telephone appliances.

The Fourth Act is under way with China, Philippines and Vietnam being sucked into the development whirlpool. Guangdong Province in China could well become the largest manufacturing centre in the world and India has emerged on the world industrial scene. The standard of living in the early “Tigers” is already fast approaching ours with growth ratio about three times the European average. Centuries of Western supremacy have left us ill-equipped to grasp to what is happening.

Not surprisingly the development of the Asia golf business – not least in economic terms reflects these rankings with Japan in the van. There is continuous growth in all Asian countries. However, very little research has been done and the supporting services sector,

not least for consultancies, hardly exists and design is dominated largely by Australians and Americans.

The “Tiger” league rankings (Asia/Pacific) on the basis of the latest golf course figures from a recent study are:

(population in millions) Total number of golf courses – 5058 in total.

Japan	(124)	2500
Australia	(18)	1600
New Zealand	(3.5)	425
Malaysia	(19)	160
Indonesia	(191)	135
South Korea	(44)	82
India	(800)	170
Thailand	(58)	160
Philippines	(64)	60
Taiwan	(21)	80
China	(1185)	38
Singapore	(3)	32
Hong Kong	(4)	15
Vietnam	(66)	1

The table could mislead. There are allegedly some six million regular club golfers in Asia/Pacific – roughly around 1200 per course. But there are an estimated 21 million “active” players without a course of their own – most will be range customers – in Japan alone some 4000 many of whom travel far to play a course abroad.

To appreciate the gross under supply the question is how many courses would meet the demands of the “active” and clubless 21 million – probably over 10,000!

Unfortunately for the clubless and the general public put off by exclusivity and high costs the fashion has been to follow the “expensive is best” watchword – a fallacy as greenkeepers know – with bankers too but they are very slow to catch on!

History tells us differently. A glance back at the inter-war years 1920 to 1930 shows that the golf architects of those days set the standards prevailing today. Their vision of duty was to create the best with minimum disturbance as economically as possible. Such stringent criteria is a test most designers today

would fail!

There are not only 21 million active golfers buying clubs, clothes and golf balls in Asia but also 300 million middle class with disposable income, many potential golfers among them. The mind boggles at the thought when entrepreneurs find out how to entice them into the Royal and Ancient game. Those who already know are not telling.

One part of the answer is, of course, no 7000 yard “monster masterpieces” – unplayable by the paying public.

This brief insight into the vast market of Asia might give greenkeepers an idea of the greenkeeping requirements. In truth ex-patriots now fill many posts because the education facilities for local potential greenkeepers are pathetic. There is a large market for the good greenkeeper – especially Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers. They command high salaries – but they must be knowledgeable about tropical turfgrasses and diplomats par excellence.

One solution to this shortage of affordable golf in Asia is the short course complex – several or which designed by Golfconsult are on the stocks in Malaysia. Their principle benefits are economic, use less land than 18 holes, far greater capacity and the economics enable owners to lower the cost of play to a fraction of that for the fashionable monsters.

As for working in tropical turfgrass in high temperatures there are enough foreigners already there to show it is congenial. Pleasant people, English widely spoken in most countries and, with a degree of sensitivity to local customs, little risk.

Unfortunately as yet the greenkeeping bodies in Asia are not yet as well organised as BIGGA but nevertheless any ambitious members willing to try something very different should have little difficulty fitting in – provided he can find a position. Until more British take up the option it will not be easy at first.

Persistence will pay off in the end. They need us and our cost effectiveness!

■ The author, Bryan Griffiths, is Chairman of Golfconsult International Ltd.

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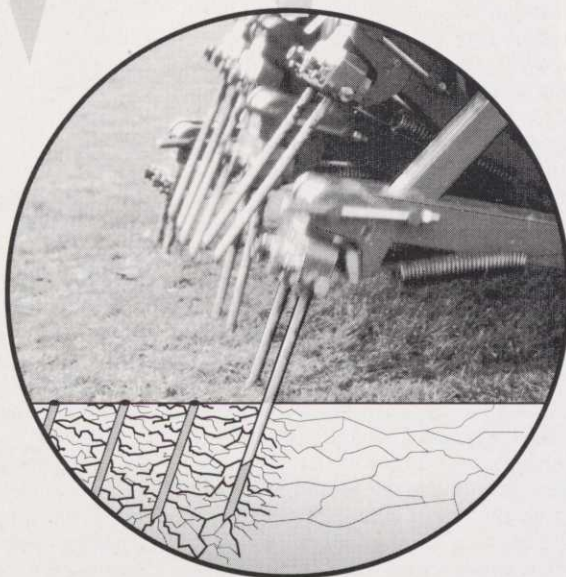
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AD REF 60

Having been at the forefront of amenity grass seed for many years Mommersteeg has decided the time is right to strengthened relations with greenkeepers by becoming a Golden Key Sponsor.

At times when relations with some of our continental cousins are, to put it mildly, frosty, it is refreshing to discover one country with which we are on the same wave length and where successful integration and co-operation is the norm.

Holland and the United Kingdom seem to get on rather well together and we can apparently work in close harmony to our mutual benefit.

Bergkamp, Gullit, van Hooijdonk have all made impressive impressions on the UK football fields – although the imminent arrival of the European Soccer Championships will split the loyalties of Arsenal, Chelsea and Celtic fans for a couple of weeks at least. Van Gogh is another from the flatlands to make a big impression in the UK, on canvas rather than turf, spending his early years working in England.

In fact those who have crossed the North Sea and failed to make an impact are about as numerous as British Wimbledon Seeds – there, I knew I could bring this introduction around to seeds eventually. It's not just BBC 2 continuity announcers who can contrive a link.

"The MM range was the first real national branded range of seed mixtures for greenkeepers and other sports turf managers," explained John Akers, Commercial Manager for the Mommersteeg Seed Company in the UK, which has become a BIGGA Golden Key sponsor this year.

The family firm was founded by Henry Mommersteeg in 1923 with its raison d'être grass breeding and multiplication of grass varieties for agricultural and amenity use.

The first Mommersteeg trading in the UK occurred in 1968 when a base was set up at Finedon in Northamptonshire. The commercial arm of the company is now based at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, where the local MP is a certain John Major.

"We have a team of 11 people who cover both amenity and agriculture," explained John. "That's backed up by the group production facility in Sleaford, Lincolnshire, which services the three seed companies and is owned by Mommersteeg's parent company, the Royal Van Der Have Group, which employs nearly 1000 people around the world."



Taking a closer look: Examining a trial base at Mommersteeg's headquarters in Holland

From little seeds great grasses grow



The original reason why Holland became such an excellent breeding ground for seed companies is open to debate but what is known is that in the modern age the Netherlands is ideally suited to the role.

"It is very flat and has excellent farmland which is good for its seed production capabilities. Also in terms of distribution Europort

Sleaford."

Mommersteeg's Head Office is in Vlijmen in the east central part of Holland not too far from the Second World War landmark of Arnhem, of a Bridge too Far fame it the way to the German border.

The Royal Van Der Have Group's Headquarters are at Kapelle in the south west of the country and they have operating

Smooth-Stalked Meadow Grass is sold as Kentucky Blue Grass in the States – so we have connections with many of the main turf business in America," said John.

The MM range has been a market leader for the last 20 to 25 years and Mommersteeg's position will be strengthened by some new variety coming through the breeding programmes which are highly rated by the STRI. "These are now being incorporated in our mixtures and we are aiming to regain the number one position in the market place for amenity mixtures," said John.

"Our business has always been very strong with golf clubs because we deal with amenity distributors whose main market is in golf. Companies like Stewart's, Gem Professional, Stabrite Supplies and John Lindsay in Northern Ireland."

In addition Mommersteeg has a team of four people who cover

Mommersteeg

in Rotterdam is an ideal location for the distribution of seed throughout the world also the receipt of imports for other product areas such as Canada, America, New Zealand, and South America," said John.

"For the UK market much of our amenity grass is grown in Holland and Denmark but it is then assembled, mixed and dispatched from our base at

bases throughout Europe in France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Poland and the Czech Republic and are currently expanding into the Russia and Ukraine.

"We've a fairly big operation in North America and the companies within the Royal Van Der Have Group use Mommersteeg-bred amenity grass varieties in their mixtures. So you would find that, for example, Cynthia

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the UK in a technical support role to these distributors. They do some direct selling in certain sectors of the market and are available to give direct advice to distributors and customers.

The Golden Key Sponsorship will provide more opportunities for Mommersteeg to tap into the sort of feedback greenkeepers can offer on how grasses have performed to refine future mixtures.

"One area which is of particular interest to us at the moment is whether greenkeepers should oversow with an all bent mixture or with a traditional chewings fescue and bent mixture.

"There are two schools of thought on that and to canvas opinion from current greenkeepers on what they are doing and what success they are getting from each of the two approaches would be extremely useful," explained John.

"We've also got information we can impart to the greenkeepers on the technical developments our breeders are looking at on mixture formulation and new varieties which are coming forward. If the greenkeepers tell us what they are looking for and what responses the mixtures are having in a practical situation. If we need to we can realign our thinking to take on board information we get."

Another example where co-operation between Mommersteeg and the greenkeeping fraternity could reap benefits is in the use of fungicidal seed treatments in certain situations for oversowing of greens and tees where there is a threat from fungal attack.

"We use a seed treatment called Apron T not as standard but as a special application and there is quite a bit of work which can be done between ourselves and greenkeepers to help develop its use."

The advances made in seed development in the last 20 years, a relatively short period in seed breeding, have been quite extraordinary.

"You only have to look at the STRI Amenity Booklet and there are over 50-60 perennial rye grasses listed, 30-40 chewings fescues, 20 slender creeping reds and 20-25 smooth stalked

meadow grasses.

"It complicates the situation for the customer with so many to choose from. Choice is good as long as you make the correct choice," said John.

"What the STRI has done is very important as a guide for using the correct grasses for each situation. At Mommersteeg we have always provided a product which is genuine and true to itself and been open about what has been put into the mixtures. We specify individual cultivars rather than groups of cultivars so the greenkeeper knows exactly what he is getting.

"We're a founder member of AGMA - Amenity Grass Marketing Association - and the two main ideals of the Association are that the customer gets the right product for the right job and that he's sure that when he buys a bag of seed he is getting what he asks for and that it is of consistent quality."

John is keen that Mommersteeg forges good relationships with the bodies within the golf industry like BIGGA.

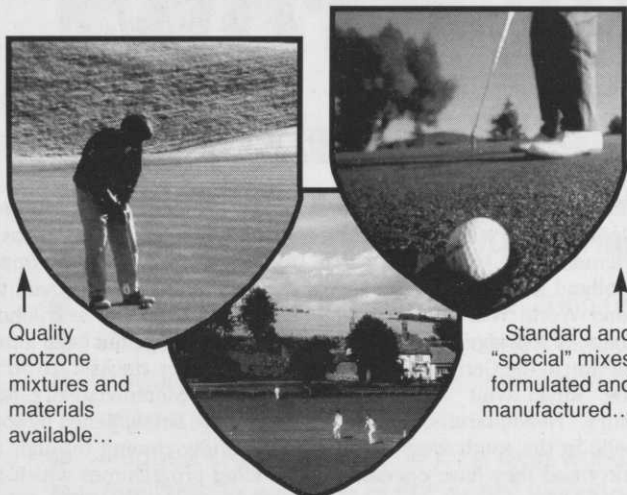
"It is important that we do play an active role in grass seed usage in the golf industry and that is the main reason we want to support the education programme within BIGGA.

"We believe that through things like the Turf Grass Workshops we have been running that we have some practical things to offer as well as a lot of expertise within the company and that a closer relationship between Mommersteeg will help to develop better greenkeeper understanding of grass seed mixtures and individual grass seed cultivars."

Mommersteeg, with its Dutch headquarters has also already been of practical support to greenkeeping acting as host to the inaugural meeting of the European Golf Greenkeepers Association..

"We were delighted to be invited by Neil Thomas and Dean Cleaver to host the first meeting in Holland and it gave us an opportunity to show off our trial and production facilities to Europe's greenkeeping bodies. We hope that it becomes a successful Association," said John.

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