

would like to see the college provide. If you receive one please fill it in and return it to the college.

Kim Blake

East of England Section

The final event of our winter programme before the golf season commences was a visit to the John Deere factory at Nottingham. A good turnout of 27 was greeted by Howard Storey of the organisation. We then had a guided tour through the various sections of the John Deere Company. We examined the running of the stores and parts division and were shown how quick it was to order a part. I must say, the back up is second to none.

Then on to the service section and then a detailed breakdown of the latest machinery in the turfcare range and finishing off with a hands on practical demo on the front lawns.

A thank you presentation was made to Sharon Hornbuckle, Company Secretary for our work on behalf of our section. When we were all fed and watered our Chairman, David Walden, thanked Howard and staff for a great day.

A lot of orders were placed.

New members this month are Adam Britton, Gedney Hill, Keith Fletcher and Ross Tomblin, Belton Woods and on the move is Alan Buckley coming from North Wales to Newark.

Diary Dates: April 23, Ramsey GC, PGM Trophy; May 21, Market Rasen GC, Rigby Taylor/Hayter Qualifier; June 26, Newark GC, Purdy's Cup; July 16, Peterborough Milton, Hayter Regional Final.

Graeme Macdonald

East Midlands

Not a lot to report this month as not a great deal is happening. I will start this month by informing all members that as well as being your Section Secretary I have now been appointed as your Region's Chairman.

Congratulations this month go to Chris Butlin on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Cosby GC.

I would like to remind all members that their entry forms for this year's Spring Tournament must be returned to me before the closing date of April 11 along with a cheque should you wish to attend this day. Also on offer is a chance to qualify for this year's Hayter Regional final, held at Peterborough Milton on July 16.

I keep seeing Richard Barker's name appearing in the magazine.

Sorry to have to say this Tim but I think Richard has made more appearances in this year's Greenkeeper International than yourself so far. Keep trying though.

Finally I would like to appeal to all Section members to phone or write to me if they have any snippets they would like to see in this column.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

In early March a course visit to Ashridge GC was arranged and was well attended with 25 members turning up. Jim Cassidy, the Course Manager, gave us a short tour of the course followed by a look around the workshop and staff facilities which, it must be said, were of an exceptional standard. Gerald Bruce, our Section Secretary, presented Jim with some wine to show appreciation for his time and effort. It was certainly an interesting time spent there and let's hope that the standards set by Ashridge GC, particularly the staff facilities provided, become the norm in the future.

Just a short reminder about our Spring Tournament on the 29th of this month.

All entries should be in by now, by form and cheque only please.

This event is the Sectional qualifier for the Hayter Tournament, the regional final of which will be held on July 16 at Peterborough Milton GC.

The Lodgeway fourball Tournament should be underway by now, would all players ensure their matches are played by the date shown, it helps Chas run things smoothly if this is done. Many thanks.

Paul Lockett

Bucks, Berks and Oxon Section

It's been a long hard winter and I'm glad that spring has arrived at last to wipe the cobwebs off the golf clubs. That's if I can remember where I dumped them. I expect the wife has sold them at the local car boot sale.

The first event of the season is at Southfield GC on April 30. This is also the Hayter Qualifier. I hope everybody has received their entry forms for this event along with the Rigby Taylor Knockout form and fixture card for the season. What about the launch of the newsletter for the Section? I'm sure everybody has an opinion to share on this new venture.

I hope this proves to be a successful way of keeping all you members informed of what's going on in our area.

Also if you have a point of view you would like to share then put pen to paper and who knows your letter may find its way into the next newsletter.

Congratulations to Russell Lucas whose name came out of the hat at Harrogate for a free holiday.

Finally as we approach the start of yet another season I think it's a good time to remember an old friend. My last memory of Bob Plain was at last year's Spring Tournament.

His old friend John Nudds has written this tribute which I'm sure you will agree is very fitting.

He walked the path of righteousness
He walked the path of good
This man who knew his destiny

This man who understood
Well liked and well respected
Well thought of on the green

His humour not forgotten
His golf swing never seen (too quick)
This man Bob Plain has left us

But our memories linger on
As work mates are indebted
For the knowledge he's passed on

And all of us who knew him
Will quietly offer prayer
Hoping we'll be lucky

Seeing more Bob Plains appear
Lindsay T. Anderson

South East Region: East Anglia

On February 29 a seminar was held at Bury St Edmunds GC (and the previous day at Channels GC), sponsored by Turf Actant Products.

Richard Davies and Edward Clarkson welcomed 30 greenkeepers and grounds-

men, before introducing the speakers who had travelled to give us a further insight into their companies' development work and the products they supply.

Neil Baldwin of Service Chemicals gave an interesting talk on the subject of "Dry Patch" and, with the help of slides, explained some of the trials that had been carried out on golf greens to combat this problem.

One of the latest products on the market Alleviate was discussed in depth and a look at the unique way it works on "Dry Patch" contaminated soil particles. "It is not a wetting agent," said Neil. Guy Longshaw, who then took us through the Symbio products. These are a range of growth activators used in a biological maintenance programme. The aim? To produce quality, healthy turf without the use of high levels of fertilisers and fungicides. Following this Guy was joined by Neil Baldwin in a joint effort to answer questions from the floor.

After a short break for coffee, Chris

Davy, of MB Bark Supplies, gave us an idea of the type of products MB supply. These include the Hepworths Minerals Pro-Sport range of rootzones and top dressings.

John Pemberton, the Administration Manager of BIGGA, gave an informative talk on the Association, "All you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask!" Following questions and lunch, a round of golf was played by those keen to take advantage of the spring-like weather.

Many thanks to Turf Actant Products for a very interesting day.

Welcome to Reg Pooley, Bury St Edmunds, who has recently joined the Association.

The list of known fixtures for 1996 for those of you who many not have seen the list in February's issue of Greenkeeper International are, April 18, Waldringfield; June 18, Caldecot Hall; October 9, Stableford Abbots.

Anyone wishing to play in any of these competitions who fails to receive an entry form around two weeks before the competition date should contact David Wells 01702 522202 or Andy Sheehan (I don't have his number at present) to register. ALL SECTION MEMBERS WELCOME. Make a note in your diary of the dates and be prepared to make that call. "It's good to talk."

It is with sadness that we learnt of the passing away of Geof Hills, South East Regional Administrator. Those who met Geof when he visited us at Thetford GC last August will know how much he had to offer the Section with his friendly approach to the tasks in hand. On behalf of the East Anglia Section we send our deepest sympathy to all his family.

Stephen Millard

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*Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor*

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

ager at the Drift GC and to Mark Bel-lamy, also of the Drift for his appointment as Head Greenkeeper.

Upon speaking to Terry Huntley, providing numbers of would-be assessors come forward, the GTC are prepared to run an assessor training day in the not too distant future. There is room for up to 15 Head Greenkeepers or First Assistant and the day will be free and will contribute towards obtaining D32/33 Assessor Awards. Please consider this proposition as Middlesex and Surrey are in great need of qualified assessors.

Contact either the GTC or Terry Huntley on 0181 337 1395 ASAP.

Forthcoming events include the Spring Tournament on May 1 at Fox-hills -pm only 18 holes. The Cresta Cup at Croham Hurst GC, June 10, also pm, 18 holes only. Please support these events to ensure their continued existence.

David Gibbs - 01737 832 015 for any relevant information.

London Section

This month is the start of our golfing events and our tournament will be held at Hendon GC on Wednesday April 24 starting at 11am. This is the Hayter qualifier and a good turnout is expected.

Our summer tournament will be held at Mill Hill GC in June and the date will be finalised soon. This is an alternative to the venue that was booked previously, because of problems with the advanced booking arrangement.

The Autumn Tournament will be held at the London and Hatfield G&CC on Wednesday November 13.

This year we will be running on a trial basis a team inter club challenge which will be held at Dyrham Park G&CC in the June/July period. This event is organised for local Course Managers and their club officials. The club will provide a team of four players to include, for example, the Secretary, Chairman or Ladies Captain and the Course Manager. The tournament will be sponsored by Miracle Professional and the main team prize will be one tonne of fertiliser or goods to the value for the club. Other prizes will be available and the cost for the day will be £62 per team. The golf will be followed by an evening meal with a prize presentation. The main purpose of this event is to increase the harmony of local clubs and to improve the communication between all Course Managers and club officials. If you are interested in this event then please contact Don Wilson on 0181 440 3361 ASAP.

We are currently in the process of organising our golf fixtures for 1997/8 and if anyone is interested in hosting an event would they please contact Don with the details. Barry Moggridge

Kent

Firstly I would like to thank David Wood for filling in as scribe for the last two magazines.

Secondly by now you should all have had your letters for Sene Valley, as well as an information sheet for the next few months. Please read it and take note about behaviour and dress. You all have a duty to uphold the standards of the Association.

In March the Gentleman's Dinner was held at Walton Heath on a very

Around the Green



cold wet day and our Section was well represented. On a well presented course scoring was very good. Most embarrassing the winner was yours truly with 40 pts off 8 handicap. My Captain, Kevan Dougal won the guest prize with 39pts off 9 handicap. Other prize winners were Callum Arthur and Mike Smith. Well done lads.

I would like to thank Walton Heath for a wonderful day and George, Ray, Ian, Don, Rob, Mike and Mike for inspiring me to the win via those £5 notes. Cheers lads.

If anyone has any news or comments please contact me on 0860 260 240 or 01732 465363. Huw Morgan

South West and South Wales: Devon and Cornwall Section

In the past our February meetings have been renowned for their inclement weather conditions - just ask our Executive Director about his visit six years ago to Newquay.

This year members were treated to a glorious Cornish day with just a slight nip in the air at our venue of Newquay GC on Wednesday February 21.

During the morning our golfing members competed for the Avoncrop Trophy with our non golfing members having their usual guided tour of the excellently prepared links course by Head Greenkeeper Paul Bullen. We were delighted to have the company of our afternoon speaker David Ward on the walk. David was recovering from being a passenger of our advance driver's short journey to Newquay!

After an excellent lunch John Paley of Avoncrop presented the Avoncrop Trophy and prizes for the morning's bogey golf competition. Results: 1. Tim Ellis, Mullion, level; 2. Gordon Tamblin, Mullion, -2 on back nine; 3. Tony James, Tehidy, -2.

To conclude a most successful day our afternoon educational talk was presented by David Ward, Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl on his preparations for the Walker Cup. David's talk was most interesting as he covered revetting work carried out on bunkers, tee construction, width and height of fairways including semi rough, rough, green speed for the tournament and the problem of disease just before the event. Many thanks, Dave, for your excellent talk.

The Section's thanks and gratitude are extended to Newquay GC and Secretary Mr Binney for allowing our Section use of their facilities. Also our thanks to Paul and John Bullen and the crew who had the links looking great and to Mr Boyle and the catering/bar team who looked after us so well.

Don't forget May 1 is Westurf Day. The Day when you could win £200 worth of travel vouchers just for attending!

Westurf should be in the minds of all greenkeepers in our Region as this local turfcare show is put on for you.

This year the layout of the show has been changed which sees the demonstration area moving into the middle of the showground, with announcements being made over the PA system about demonstrations and products. Don't forget to pop into the Region's tent and enter the free raffle, you could be walking away after the show with £200 worth of travel vouchers. Westurf will be held once again at Long Ashton GC, Bristol on Wednesday May 1. Just follow the RAC signs from the motorway and when you arrive parking and admission is free.

All the main local and national dealers will be there to answer questions and take your orders, with all the latest turf care products on show. You can't afford to miss Westurf '96 I look forward to meeting you all at Westurf.

Richard Whyman

South West

Stinchcombe Hill GC was the venue for the first golfing fixture of the year together with an afternoon talk, and was well supported with approximately 35 people in attendance. The weather for this event is normally a lottery as last year's snow at Lansdown proved. However, this year we were treated to glorious sunshine with perfectly still conditions which made for a very enjoyable morning's golf. For those who had not visited Stinchcombe before the course proved somewhat difficult to find but on arrival we were made to feel most welcome, with Lawson Products, the day's sponsor presenting everyone with three complimentary balls. As well as these there were some excellent prizes to be played for which led to some tough competition.

Victorious on the day were: 1. Mark Powell, nett 63; 2. Anthony Knight, Kingsdown GC, nett 64 back nine; 3. Steve Francome, Tracey Park GC, nett 64; Best gross Paul Worster, 71. Price for best hidden nine holes, Paul Worster.

The afternoon talk was given by Michael Dyer from the National Rivers Authority who gave us an interesting insight into the procedure required for application for a bore hole licence.

Thanks are given to Stinchcombe GC and in particular Secretary Ken Johnson for their hospitality, to the Steward and Stewardess for lunch and to Lawson Products for its generous sponsorship.

The management course held in February at Thornbury Golf Centre was well supported with eight people attending the two day course. I understand from those present that the presentation from Brin Bendon was extremely informative.

Miracle Professional is once again sponsoring the Premier Greenkeeper of the Year competition this year. Those who attended at Stinchcombe will have been given an application form. However, if you require one please contact me. The success of this event depends on our support so please send your nominations to Headquarters by May 31. The winner of the final in December will win a trip to Las Vegas for the 1997 GCSAA Exhibition and Conference. A prize of £500 will also be awarded to the winning Head Greenkeeper's staff.

As mentioned last month, Westurf at Long Ashton GC on May 1 is just around the corner. Help is always

required for its preparations, running and dismantling. If you can spare some time for helping at this event then please contact me in advance. But most importantly, be there on the day.

A pesticide application foundation course (PA1) was held on February 28 at Filton GC for six people who will hopefully have passed their subsequent examination by the time you read this report. A reminder again that legislation has changed recently meaning that anybody in the last 18 months who has received their (PA2) qualification is not now qualified to use a knapsack sprayer legally and needs to take a separate training day and examination (PA6). If anyone requires training then please contact me so that a course can be arranged.

Finally, Oake Manor GC on Wednesday April 17 is the venue for the Spring Tournament/Hayter Qualifier. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the day.

Kevin Green

South Coast Section

February's winter lecture was held at Alresford GC. Taking into account the bad weather, and the reports from the radio to stay indoors, we had quite a good turnout.

Ed McCabe, the Course Manager from Brockenhurst Manor gave us a presentation on Communications. Ed started off by telling us about the Club Policy Document. He then went on to talk about Communications between the golf course staff, the committee and the members. He then told us about the seminar that he and his staff presented to the club members.

Judging by the questions after the presentation it was felt that lessons had been learnt. It was satisfying that Communications were working at Brockenhurst and that this can be followed by other golf clubs.

The South Coast Section is looking for speakers for the forthcoming Autumn/Winter meetings and if anyone would like to give a presentation on their course or any other greenkeeper topic please let me, or any other committee member, know.

A suggestion for a meeting is a Quiz Night when members can bring along guests. If there are any other items which you have please let us know.

A final reminder for Westurf 1996 on May 1. Westurf has been revamped to attract a larger attendance and this is the ideal time to encourage your Greens Committee members to attend this exhibition.

This year a new public address system is being installed, the stands are being repositioned and the demonstration area will now be in the middle so that everything is more accessible. Also a free draw is being held for all attending members and the prize will be well worth having.

The South West and South Wales Region is funded mainly by the proceeds of Westurf and this is how we are able to subsidise events such as the coach fare to BTME and the Regional Seminars. Without this funding these events may not take place due to the cost.

Please, gentlemen, make a big effort to attend this year and, as stated previously, if there is a problem with transport please ring me on 01329 282362.

Ken Lodge

Supaturf

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SUPATURF SS/P

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SUPAHIGH N+

SUPATURF AW/P

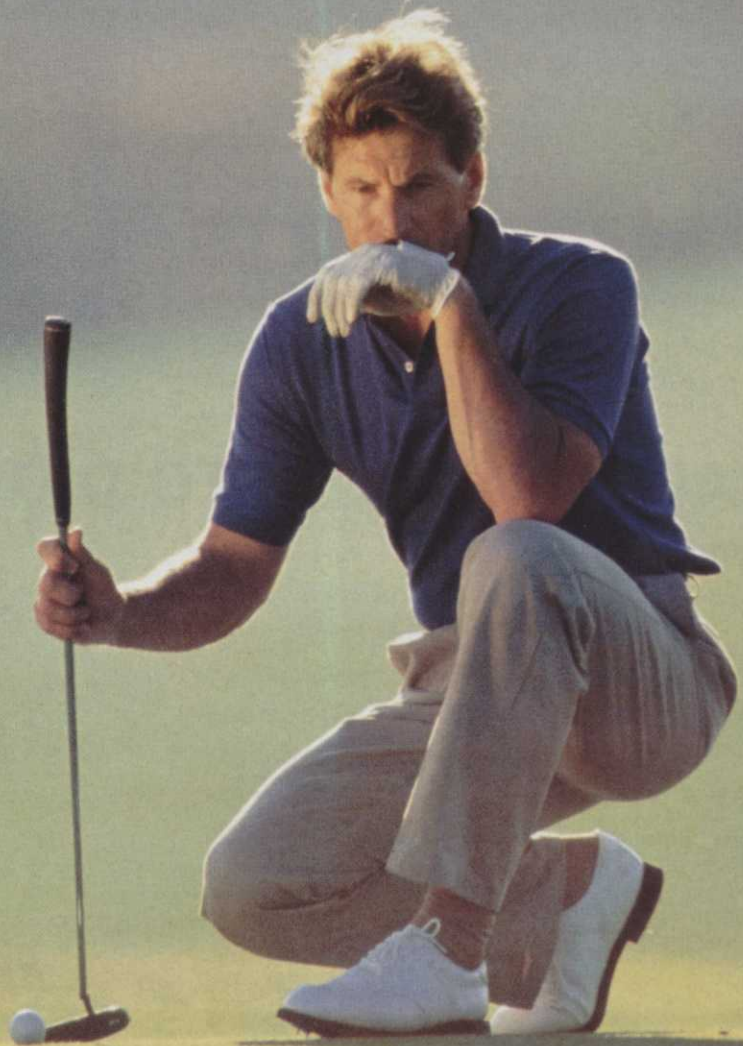
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GREENEX

OMG 10

OMG 11

SAN IRON



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20 - 5 - 10 + 0.1Fe + 0.03B	7% MU Compacted Granular 1-3mm - Spring & Summer
14 - 6 - 15 + 2MgO	5% MU Compacted Granular 1-3mm - Summer & Autumn



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MU is a chain of urea molecules linked together by methyl groups. These chains can be manufactured in different lengths which due to their structure break down at different rates when in contact with the bacteria in the soil. Intafaze contains chains of 2, 3 and 4 urea molecules long and as the time taken to break down the chain is linked to the length of the chain the effect is a

phased release of the nitrogen. This is the major benefit that MU offers - one application replaces several applications of traditional fertiliser.

The nitrogen in Intafaze will continue to be released for up to 10 weeks and over, with the longer chains lasting 3 - 6 months. You simply apply it and leave it, the technology and soil bacteria will do the work and exceptional and consistent results will be apparent throughout the period. Supaturf Intafaze offers a formulation to suit all needs. Spring, summer and autumn grades are available, all suitable for fine turf, fairway and outfield applications. An interesting feature with Intafaze is that the bacteria that break down the MU are more active in warm conditions, so the product won't release the nitrogen until conditions are warmer, thus the nitrogen will be available as the grass requires it and there will not be excessive top growth in winter. The fertiliser can be applied and lie in wait for the correct conditions to come along before releasing its nitrogen.

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1010	8-0-0	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1001 Information sheet I1001

SUPATURF SS/P

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1003	12-6-6	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1003 Information sheet I1003

SUPATURF SS/G

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1017	11-9-10	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1017 Information sheet I1017

SUPATURF AW/P

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1004	3-10-10	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1006 Information sheet I1006

SUPA MG+

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1008	12-0-8 +2Fe	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1008 Information sheet I1008

GREENEX

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1040	5-0-3	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1040 Information sheet I1040

SUPAHIGH N+

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1006	18-0-0 +2.4mg + Trace elements	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1006 Information sheet I1006

SUPASAN

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1002	5-0-0 +3Fe	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1002 Information sheet I1002

OMG 10

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1007	12-6-4	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1007 Information sheet I1007

OMG 11

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1009	4-3-8 +2Fe	25Kg

Data safety sheet DS1009 Information sheet I1009

SAN IRON

Product code	Specification	Bag size
1005	3-0-8 +3Fe	25Kg

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Professional Performance Fertilisers

Raymond Hunt is charged with creating US Open like conditions for the Alamo English Open in June. Scott MacCallum found out how he is going about it.

Hosting a European Tour event on your course is a pressurised situation for any greenkeeper. The exposure a top tournament gets, with the world's best players competing before large galleries with television cameras recording every move, can make a course's reputation and the subsequent financial benefits it can bring are massive. Alternatively if it doesn't go well...

Raymond Hunt, Course Manager for the Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel and Country Club, knows all about the pressures as he goes about preparations for his fourth English Open Championship.

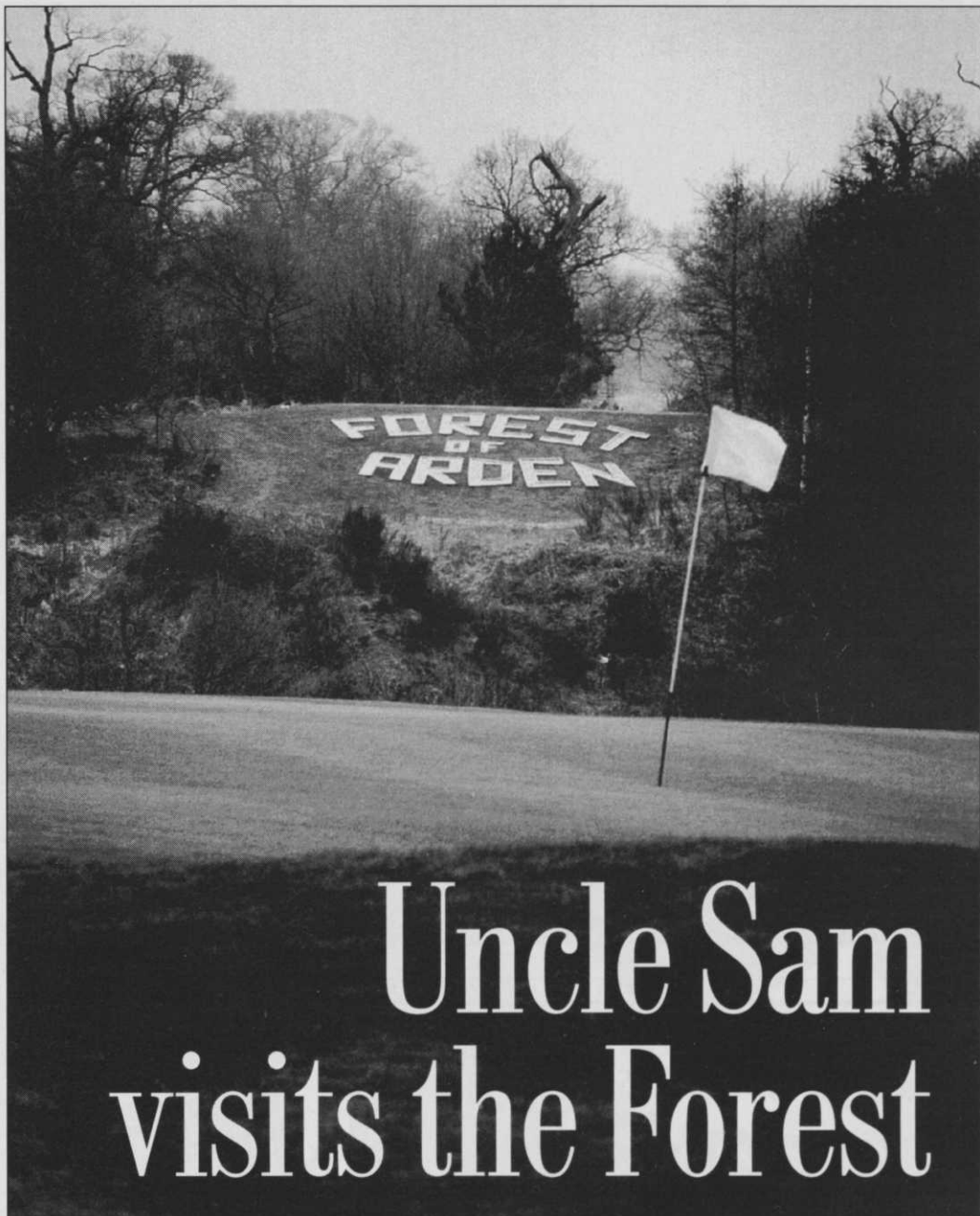
If that were not enough to keep him on his toes it was announced at the pre-tournament press conference that he will be expected to provide "US Open-like conditions" so 15 of the European Tour's top stars, led by Colin Montgomerie, can get some practice in before flying out for the US Open the very next week.

We've had three English Opens already and they've all gone very well and obviously it's got to grow and go on from there otherwise it'll become stale. It's a challenge to see what sort of test you can provide for the players."

The US Openification was first mentioned to Raymond and his team by the Tour about six months ago.

"The idea was to give players better preparation for the US Open and also to make it more tough and more interesting," explained Raymond, from the modern magnificence of the Hotel which over looks the spectacular par-3 18th.

The extent of the problem it sets can be seen when you con-



Uncle Sam visits the Forest

sider that the US Open is invariably contested in temperatures which exceed 100 degrees, and that just 11 weeks before the Alamo English Open – it was the Murphy's English Open until this season – the thermometer was barely stirring and certainly in no

fear of developing vertigo. Raymond also has to keep the course open for members and important corporate golf both of which form the bread and butter business for the Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel and Country Club.

"Coming out of winter our

growth is particularly backward and we are badly affected by wildlife – Canada Geese on the front nine and deer on the back nine where the course forms part of a deer park," said Raymond, as, right on cue, a group of deer posed for pictures on the side of

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the 14th fairway.

"Having said that I'm fairly happy with where we are now because on average you are going to get some good weather in May and knowing the course, and how it is going to react, we should achieve what we want," explained Raymond, who is employing a special cover on his 5th green to attempt to inject some warmth and speed growth.

Although that means only six to eight weeks of really intensive work on it Raymond knows that being in June things won't be burnt up as they might be later in the summer and the course will be really fresh.

So what does "US Open style" actually mean for Forest of Arden?

"We have to promote growth to get where we need to be for early June. So at the end of the day the main difference is going to be cutting.

"We will have a collar two width of a pedestrian machine, then a fringe which, although we haven't talked about a definite height yet, I think we'll be looking at around about two and a half to three and a half inches. This could be as close as a yard off the green."

The rest of the course will also have thicker rough.

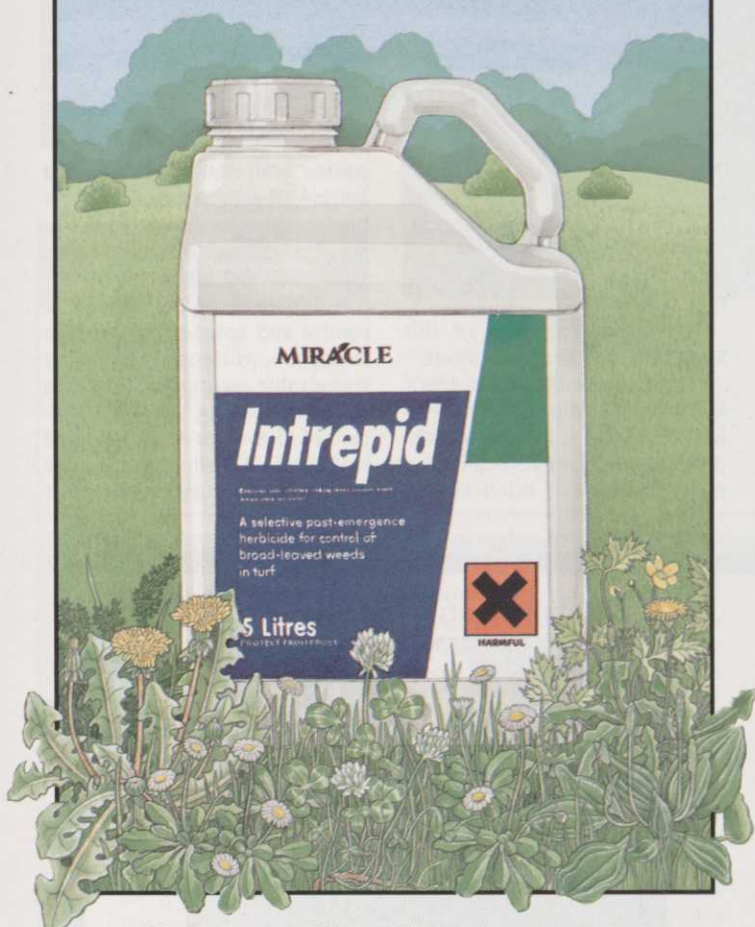
"I don't see that as a problem



Course Manager Raymond Hunt and, above, activity at his club, the Forest of Arden

because the rough here grows well and is quite consistent which is what the Tour wants - you don't want poa annua at the bottom and the ball nestling down in it. In general I think the rough will come up to scratch. The difficulty we will have is around the greens, getting the sort of consistency and the sort of rough we want when you have traffic moving over it all the time and we don't enjoy US Open weather. We can only do what we can do if we've got weather on our side."

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Meet the team: Greenstaff at the Forest of Arden

If the pressure leading up to the event is bad Raymond feels that the pressure through the week itself is even more intense.

"I have 22 staff (Raymond pulls in other experienced greenkeepers from courses in the Marriott group) out there all of whom have machinery and something can always go wrong. So not much time to relax through the week itself.

"I'm in complete contact with

the Tournament Director through the week through radio and I'd see him two or three times through the day generally to discuss how things are going."

Some of the things which can crop up are quite bizarre including last year a complaint that the hole was misshaped.

"This was two thirds of the way through the day. That was a new one for me. I got a call over the radio and had to go down to the

7th green. I spoke with the rules official, stopped play and had a look at it and although it didn't appear out of shape to satisfy the players we reshaped it with a hole setter."

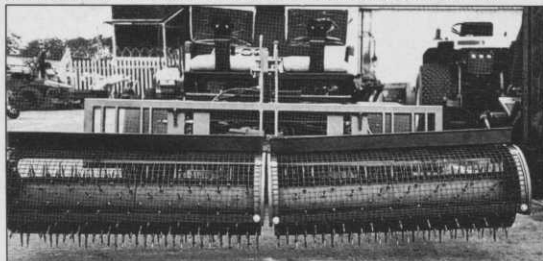
The unpredictability of the British weather also plays a part.

"On the Saturday of last year's event we had a heck of a lot of heavy rain and it became a fairly pressurised situation. You've got to get your staff all over the

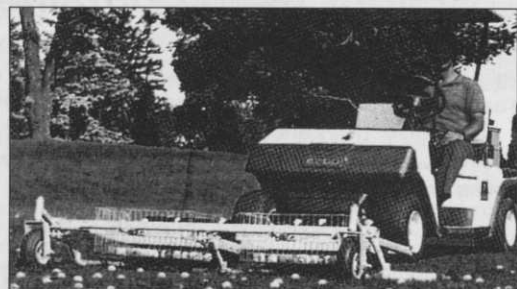
course with squeegees and act quickly. The TV is on, the players don't want to wait, you've got to get through the crowds and all the time it's pelting down."

If Raymond appears well in control and gives off the air of a man who will cope with every conceivable eventuality it perhaps comes from living through a Baptism of Fire when he first arrived at Forest of Arden just a few months before the course's first

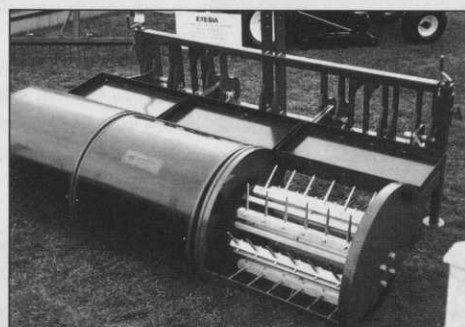
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'We had a heck of a lot of heavy rain and it became a fairly pressurised situation. You've got to get your staff all over the course with squeegees and act quickly.'

English Open.

"When I arrived there was about 50% grass cover on the greens and tees and lot of scarring to repair on the fairways where the irrigation and drainage had gone in.

"So we had an awful lot to do in three and a half months to make it playable for the first tournament which we did. A 1000 rolls of turf went done on the fairways up until the end of July and it was hot as well so we had to keep it wet. There was a lot to achieve that first year and since

**Marriott Forest of Arden
Golf and Country Club
Machinery Inventory**

- 6 Lloyd's Paladins
- 5 Toro GM3s with Grooming, Verticut, Vibra spike units and 11 blade competition cylinders.
- 5 Toro 216s
- 2 Toro 5300Ds with Verti-cut units
- 1 Toro 4500D
- 1 Toro 455D Groundsmaster
- 1 Toro Workman with attachments including Hardi Sprayer, Top dresser
- 1 Lloyds Leda Gang mower
- 1 Massey Ferguson 240 Front Loader
- 1 Massey Ferguson 240 Tractor with Trailer
- 1 Kubota B7100 Compact with Trailer
- 1 Fiat Tractor with Trailer
- 4 E-Z-Go Trucks
- 2 Cushman Trucksters with Attachments including Slitters, Brushes, Top Dressers and Sprayers
- 1 Tractor Mounded SISIS Slitter
- 1 Verti-Drain
- 1 Howard Rotovator
- 1 Tractor Mounted Fertiliser Spreader
- 5 Scotts Fertiliser Spreaders
- 1 Wessex Leaf Sweeper
- 1 Wessex Grader, Rake
- 5 Flymos
- 5 Strimmers
- 4 Waterpumps
- 2 Leaf Blowers
- 1 Chain Saw
- 1 Ryan Overseeder
- 1 Ryan Turfcutter
- 1 Turf Iron
- 1 Mole Plough
- 1 Core Master



then we've built on it.

"Everybody enjoys the buzz leading up to the tournament the week itself and then the Sunday afterwards.

Michael O'Dyer, General Manager at Forest of Arden, is also in no doubt as to the quality of his Course Manager. "He is a perfectionist and it shows," is his ringing endorsement.

Raymond began his greenkeeping career at Bidston on the Wirral before joining Bill Lawson at Heswall GC.

"I spent six years with Bill, four years as his Deputy, and I learned everything from Bill. If you can't learn anything from that guy you can't learn anything at all. All my greenkeeping and man management skills can from him and he also directed me in the route I should be taking."

He then went to Royal Porthcawl adding good links and championship experience before joining Goodwood and the Country Club Hotel group as it was then.

Since '93 and his arrival at Forest of Arden he has helped improve the course to the extend that Colin Montgomerie, whose input into course design has been acquired as part a contract Europe's number one has signed

with the Marriott Group, was quoted as saying, "The aim is to make this the best course there is on the European Tour."

It's a challenge that will be met with relish by Raymond and his excellent team.



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**IF I WASN'T A GREENKEEPER
I WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN:**



"A seaman"
- Oliver English, Dundalk GC

Hugh Tilley takes a look at brush cutters and hedge trimmers.

There are always many areas around a golf course which need trimming but cannot be mown with conventional mowers. The standard machines for tidying up such areas is a strimmer or brushcutter, however these are not ideal for bunker edges and many greenkeepers have tried alternatives to edging shears such as motorised edgers and reciprocating cutters.

The conventional power edger has the disadvantage of not being sufficiently light or manoeuvrable for bunker work, especially as the edge is seldom flat or level. Other major problems are that sand destroys cutting edges rapidly and there is a requirement for a neat tidy finish.

For mowing banks the usual tool is the hover, or air cushion

mower, while for hedge trimming there are a range of machines from tractor mounted units to electric hand power tools, but the more usual option is a two stroke engine hedgetrimmer as this gives versatility and flexibility. As these are used only once or twice a year and usually only for short lengths of hedge around the clubhouse, where wear isn't a problem but neglect may be. For anyone with greater length, especially of boundary hedge, the simple and cost effective answer

seems to be to hire a contractor.

Most clubs carry "spare" small engine machines, this usually reflects past experience of unreliability. Many people look on these machines as they look on a Kleenex - use it and throw it away. One or two seasons is not unusual as the lifespan of either a brushcutter or air cushion mower, but there are differences between models and the engine fitted as well as the use and abuse they get. Greenkeepers generally look after their kit con-

siderably better than local authorities and contractors.

When it comes to air cushion mowers the JLO motor is almost exclusively used as experience suggests that it lasts longer and provides greater power for its weight.

The main differences between strimmer, brushcutter and clearing saw are the head, and of necessity, the size of the motor. There is some interchangeability between heads except on the smallest and cheapest models. Most greenkeepers use the trimmer head mainly with motors of between 30-45cc capacity. Under powering is an expensive economy, but large machines are tiring to use and control.

The strimmer or string trimmer uses monofilament line to cut vegetation, however, there are other types of head which use nylon or similar dense plastic blades, these should have similar attributes of

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Brushcutters/hedgetrimmers

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A cut above... or below

not being destroyed when they contact stone, concrete or steel. Neither should trimmers be as devastating should they come in contact with the trunks of trees, or tree guards, however, this "friendliness" is something of a myth and caution is needed when close to obstructions – in other words a loosening of the throttle finger is still required. Most machines have alternative heads and blades available to allow them to cut heavier vegetation. A steel blade is more efficient for cutting grass, making the machine in effect a rotary mower, but to get height accuracy and safety it may need a special guard plus skid or dome fitted under the centre of the blade. Such skids may have height adjustment. For cutting small trees and dense undergrowth or grass the clearing saw comes with greater engine power and an ability to operate slasher and saw type blades.

The dust hazard around bunkers and often elsewhere on a golf course is a very real one, and this probably accounts for the early demise of most of these small power tools – it does not do a lot of good for the operator either! There is often acceptance that these and hover mowers do not last more than a season or two, thus there are many attractions to using a different form of cutter, one which does not rely on a fast impact with the grass to cut it. This applies particularly to bunker edges as, of necessity, these require the trimmer to operate virtually in the vertical position – try this with a brushcutter and you get grass, debris and dust thrown everywhere.

The manoeuvrability of the hover or air cushion mower makes them virtually the only tool for steep banks, however, standing on the bank is often not easy or even possible – although shoes with spikes or studs help.

A common practice is to tie a rope to the handle and dangle the machine down the bank while standing at the top – a somewhat dubious practice in terms of safety.

Hedgetrimmers while normally seen as single purpose tools are also available as attachments for the knapsack type of brushcutter,



Dixon & Holliday Hover Hood

and this may be more cost effective when there is relatively little hedge to trim.

Recently, long reach hedgetrimmers have become available and these are a real saver when it comes to trimming very high hedges. Hedge trimming does not require a great deal of power, which is just as well as having to a manhandle machine with a heavy power unit would soon tire the operator.

The Dixon & Holliday knapsack brushcutter and hover hood at Cranleigh School in Surrey

Grounds manager Peter Woodhead saw the D & H knapsack brushcutter/hedgetrimmer advertised and considered that it looked right. The 700 pupil public school has a 9 hole course as well as considerable lengths of high Leylandii hedge. Safety was the prime consideration in purchase, with the hoverhood attachment enabling gardens supervisor and greenkeeper John Pope to cut his greens and tee banks with greater control and less fatigue. Previously the school had cut these banks using the hover mower on a length of rope method, a practice which Peter commented did not stand up to

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TREE-FRIENDLY STRIMMER

Useful as the ubiquitous strimmer is, it does have disadvantages. For instance, its flailing whips cut through the tender bark of young trees condemning them to contorted growth or even "death of a thousand cuts". Then, again, they do throw grit and mud at the operator forcing him or her to wear clumsy protective clothing.

Ahresty avoids all these problems by having a scissor-action cutting system; the upper serrated plate is stationary, the lower 4-bladed plate is fractionally smaller in diameter so bark-damage is impossible. Also since Ahresty runs at half the speed of ordinary brushcutters there are less fumes, less noise, less wear and it uses less fuel. Try one, soon!

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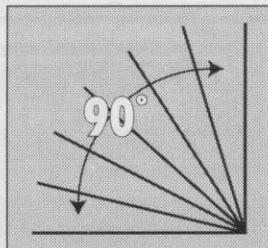
With its 51-inch shaft, even high or wide neatly shaped bushes are always within your reach - without you having to wade into the bed.

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risk assessment under the health and safety audit now necessary. Cutting tall hedges in the past had required steps and trestles, but the D & H long reach hedgetrimmer had removed the need for these and more than halved the time taken to cut the hedges, and because the operator always keeps his feet firmly on the ground the job has become significantly safer with less risk of accident - to man, machine or hedge.

Commenting on the machine itself John said that he has found it easy on the back, although he as not used for longer than three or four hours at a stretch - others have used it for a full working day and say they are far less tired at the end than when working with conventional power tools. He said that it is easy to use and reliable and changing heads is only a few minutes work.

Ahresty and other machines at Manor House Golf Club at Castle Combe

A recent acquisition to the Manor House machinery fleet is the Ahresty from Bob Andrews, this is described in the brochure as a "new type of brushcutter". It uses

a relatively slowly rotating blade which cuts against a star shaped fixed blade so giving a better cut while reducing the danger of debris, sand and bunker edge being ejected. The design of the blades is such that there is little danger of cutting into the actual edge. Course Manager Paul Bishop first saw the machine at Windsor and then had it demonstrated on several of his bunkers by Handy Garden Machinery of Swindon last autumn. He was satisfied that it would do the job, just cutting grass without damaging the edges and thus the club bought it. He admitted that as yet it has not had a full season's use but to-date it has worked well, cutting only grass, and he sees no reason to regret the purchase. He commented that "it does a very nice job". However the club is retaining its Allen Reciprocator.

For bank mowing the club uses Flymo air cushion mowers and an Allen, however, Paul specified all as "professional" with JLO engines which he considers the only one suitable for intensive professional use and likely to last two or three seasons. Having some commonality between all



Paul Bishop, Course Manager at Manor House Golf Club, with Bob Andrews' Ahresty