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NEW PRODUCTS

Supaturf Products has recently been appointed as European distributor for Aquatrols Corporation of America, whose products include Aqua-Gro, Primer 604 and InfilTTx.

Supaturf is now to introduce another product to the UK and Europe from Aquatrols called CleanCarbon.

It is a spreadable, water dispersible activated carbon product which is capable of binding many materials such as organic pesticides, petroleum products and hydraulic fluids.

Ordinary activated charcoal is a messy fine black powder which is often difficult to handle and apply and does not suspend well in water, but CleanCarbon is a new granular formulation or activated charcoal which is both spreadable and water dispersible.

Supaturf recommends it for emergency treatment to deactivate mis-applied pesticides or spills and as a once a year clean up of harmful residues from greens and tees. It will also act as a warming agent – warming up soil by up to three degrees.

Further information Tel: 01455 234677.

Wicksteed Leisure Ltd of Kettering has recently installed rubber safety surfacing tiles at Leek Golf Club.

Normally used for children's outdoor playgrounds the tiles are being used on walkways around the course – an area which had previously caused problems.

The walkways, many with steep gradients, needed a surface which was non-slip and porous, would allow tractors to travel up and down, would not damage mowers and create no mess. Golfers wearing spiked shoes needed to be able to walk on it and the noise level had to be kept to a minimum.

Wicksteed's Safety Tiles solved these problems.

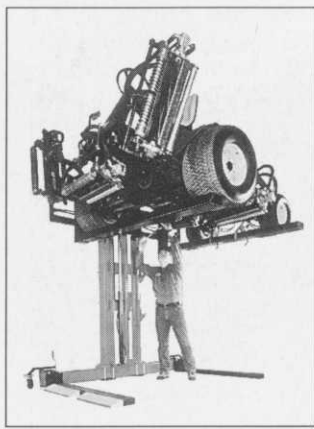
Further information Tel: 01536 517028.

Tonick Watering has launched an extended range of replacement decoders which have guaranteed compatibility with other types. The range includes competitively priced

R+R has launched the Heftee 3600 lift, as a big brother to the Heftee 2000, designed to accommodate 86 inch wide greens mowers.

"Users are increasingly undertaking service and maintenance themselves," said R+R's Equipment Head Tony Watson, "and the Heftee lifts are a proved cost-effective investment."

As the name suggests the lift has a payload of 3600lbs and has detachable wheels enabling it to be moved around the workshop. It also has a boom that enables easy engine removal and there is a clear-



ance of six feet under the forks. Further information Tel: 01480 455580.

replacements for Watermation, CIC, Wright Rain, Primetime and Robydome decoders; although directly interchangeable, the replacements are designed to last very much longer. They do not have switches and are carefully sealed in a special compound for a long operational life.

Available with up to four solenoid outputs, each with its own address, the Tonick versions save money and minimise wiring tangles in the ground. They use the latest digital microprocessor technology, have no moving parts and are truly "fit and forget". Each decoder has built-in lightning surge arresters, carries the CE mark and is guaranteed for three years.

A companion, low-cost programmer is available which conveniently and easily sets the decoder address as many times as required. The programmer also tests any decoder connected to it whatever the make.

Tonick Watennng decoders are now stocked by most independent irrigation distributors and installers.

For information Tel: 01903 262393.

Kubota (UK) Ltd has added a new 25hp out-ride mower to its professional ride-on range.

Called the F2560, it is aimed at the local authority and contracting sectors, and is equipped with Kubota's advanced Dual-Acting Over Running Four Wheel Drive.

This feature is designed to

deliver greater levels of operator control by allowing automatic change over between 4WD and 2WD to match the demands of the terrain in forward and reverse operations – 4WD for rough and uneven terrain and 2WD for large flat areas of turf. For constant use on hilly terrain permanent 4WD can be selected.

The F2560 has a top travelling speed of 17Km/hr, and also features hydrostatic transmission and power steering.

The 60" mower deck has side or rear discharge options and has a clearance level of 200mm for easy travelling between sites and over obstacles such as curbs.

This latest addition means there are now nine ride-on units in the range of Kubota professional machines.

Further information Tel: 01844 214500.

Brand new additions to the John Deere range of grounds care equipment include the Aercore 1500 and 1000 tractor-mounted aerators; and the 3235A Turf System II fairways mower.

With working widths of 95cm and 146cm, the aerators further extend John Deere's grounds care range, already the broadest available from a single manufacturer in Europe.

They are designed for aerating golf greens and fairways, as well as other professional sports and amenity turf areas. Depending on model, they can be mounted on compact tractors from 15 to

30hp, equipped with a Category I three-point hitch and 540 rpm power take-off.

Built around heavy-duty frames and tine rams to provide durability, the aerators can pull up to 30 cores per square foot, at over 75,000 square feet per hour, according to individual requirements.

The special Flexi-Link tine design helps to produce a consistent, round hole with little or no scuffing at the hole top. It also allows the tine spacing to be infinitely adjustable without changing gears on the aerator – it automatically adjusts to any tractor speed setting.

John Deere's improved 3235A lightweight fairways mower boasts a new hydrostatic transmission and larger wheel motors now provide higher transport and mowing speeds, and improved 4WD performance on slopes.

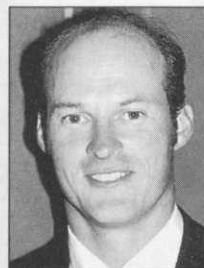
This five-reel 32hp diesel-engined machine features 56cm wide seven-blade cutting heads as standard, or optional eight-blade heavy-duty ESP, extra strength and precision, units, with one touch lifting and lowering.

The patented RFS (rotate for service) feature means the cutting units can be rotated and presented for easy servicing, by simply flipping up an unlocking spring and pulling out a single pin.

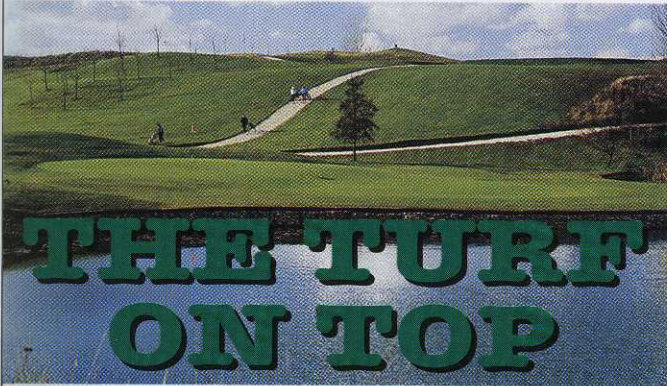
Height of cut can be adjusted from 9.5 to 76mm, with patented hydraulic down-pressure on the reels to follow ground contours more closely. On-board backlapping and simple reel speed adjustment are further standard features.

Further information Tel: 01949 860491.

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Where golf courses h

Master Golf Head Greenkeeper – Jukka Silventoinen.

One of the most popular courses in Finland with 43 thousand rounds a year. Currently 27 holes with another course under construction. "These are not USGA spec. They are my own greens," said Jukka, proudly.

He has a staff of five including himself for the existing course with another 15 working on the construction of the new course. They dig their own gravel and make their own root zone on site.

They have wall to wall Rain-bird irrigation and under soil heating on all greens which is considered ideal for bringing seeds along in the spring.

The practice course also doubles as a testing station for new



Novel way of dealing with rakes at

Master Golf

types of grass – up to four on one green.

"We started with 14 different types and are now down to seven. Poa Supina is very aggressive and is very strong against disease but it requires mowing three times a day."



Jukka Silventoinen with his Master Golf complex

Helsinki GC Head Greenkeeper – Petteri Lehmuskoski

The oldest golf course in Finland having been formed in 1932.

It is a beautiful parkland course with many Salix trees which are native to Finland. Ideal tree for golf because they catch the ball and once the bottom few branches have been pruned there is enough room to allow a player to play from beneath them.

The course averages 30,000 rounds a year, there are 1,200 members 850 of them are active and the average age of the member is 52. There are 900 on the waiting list.

The FGA has excellent relations with the Finnish Golf Union and the two have worked closely



Finnish Golf Union Secretary Osmo

Saaicinen with Helsinki GC Head

Greenkeeper Petteri Lehmuskoski

on research work which is benefiting golf all over Scandinavia. A report on the research work will appear next month.



Golf Talma

Head Greenkeeper – Pekka Nieminen

One of the country's newest and most lavish golf developments, with a par 3 course as well as the magnificent 18 hole layout. Six years old, costing £9 million with some spectacular holes and stunning views. Attractive bridges span the stream which winds its way over the course.

The club has 400 members and there is a greenkeeping staff of 11.

Magnificent Greenkeeping facilities with yard full of Toro equipment.

"Winter is the chance to empty the brain and fill the

belly. In the summer work is extremely hard with long days," explained Pekka, who was previously the Head Greenkeeper at Helsinki GC.



Pekka Nieminen at Golf Talma

The attractive equipment store at Helsinki



ve a superior Finnish

Finland may not be widely known for its golf but in the limited playing season the quality of both the courses and the course maintenance is second to none. Report and pictures by Scott MacCallum

Think of Finland and the brain immediately heads for its files marked "S" and "Ski jumping", "Saunas" and "Snow", while also taking in the "Ms" and the "Js" for "Middle Distance Running" and "Javelin Throwing".

For those who have not had the pleasure of visiting the country it's likely that the "G...s" and "Golf" would not be given a moment's thought.

However, despite the complications of being so far north and with a long non-playing season, golf is very much a growth sport in Finland and the quality of the golf courses and people who maintain them are second to none.

There are 83 golf courses in the country with many more under construction and the Finnish Greenkeepers Association, in harness with the Finnish Golf Union and the Government, are ensuring that each step in the development of the courses and game in general is taken in the knowledge that everyone is pulling in the same direction.

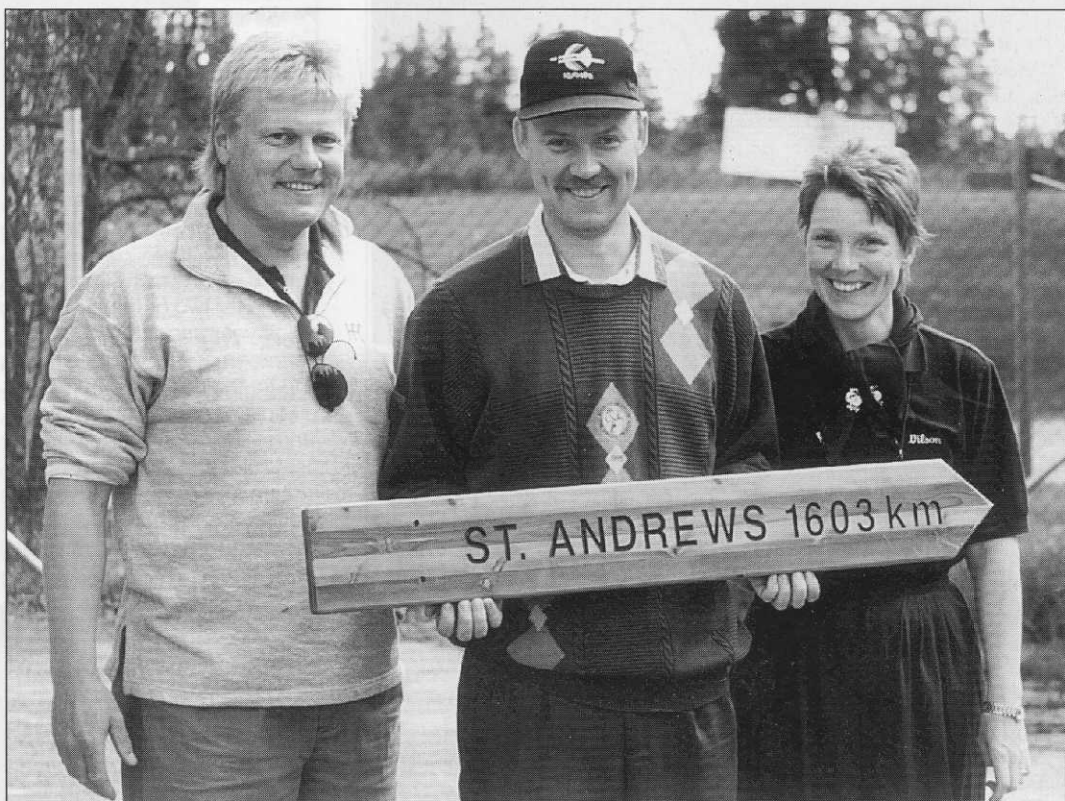
The FGA is filled with committed, enthusiastic and talented individuals who work closely together – in a country of five million population there are over one million mobile phones and having spent five days in the country I am convinced that the highest proportion of calls is made by Finnish greenkeepers to each other.

"There is a network of greenkeepers in Finland and you can always ask a second opinion of another greenkeeper. We don't have consultant agronomists," explained Jukka Silventoinen, Head Greenkeeper at Master Golf, about 15 miles from Helsinki.

While Kristina Laukkanen, Head Greenkeeper at Vierumaki, says "Greenkeeping in Finland is not a profession. It's a disease."

So what are the main golf course maintenance problems in Finland?

Well on many of them they can be covered by up to a metre of snow for as much as five months



Ilkka Kaivosoja, Pekka Neiminen and Elise Jarvinen prove they're not that far from the home of golf

of the year. Then in the summer months, because there is so much daylight the grass can grow at up to three times the speed of the UK.

They make up for it in the summer months working long and hard and without holidays which are used up in the winter.

Course maintenance work breaks down into three distinct periods. The spring is when the course is reactivated after the winter shut down, the summer is the playing season when grass cutting takes up much of the time while the autumn is when the "winter programme" work is car-

ried out before the snow returns.

Finland is a country where the visitor can end up doing some strange things.

When anywhere else you would be tucked up in bed dreaming of that next great drive or monster putt in Finland you can be out there doing it – with the midnight sun enabling reduced green fees from 8pm to 7am.

Where else would you strip naked before total strangers, sit in a filthy, smoke filled room whip yourself with birch leave, then fling yourself bodily into seas and lakes where the temperature is far better suited to white wine?

Where else would you eat things that you would ordinarily run away from – wild boar, moose. You even eat reindeer! – without turning a hair?

In Finland all these happen with an air of ordinariness which sucks in visitors and leaves them wondering why they are not common practice at home as well.

During the trip we visited eight golf courses each excellent in its own right and each with a Head Greenkeeper committed to ensuring the highest possible standards. The Equipment Stores were well stocked with the latest equipment with all the major manufacturing companies represented and several pieces of equipment specially devised for working in such extreme conditions.

Space prevents us looking in depth at each of the courses but a "snapshot" from all eight should give a flavour of golf and greenkeeping in Finland.

Next month we will examine the research work carried out by the Finnish greenkeepers and the Finnish Golf Union and take a look at the state of the art Mechanic's workshop in Katinkulta.



A Finnish sauna backs on to the sea

Where golf courses have a superior Finnish



An extra large bunker at Vierumaki Golf

Vierumaki Golf Head Greenkeeper - Kristina Laukkanen

Part of Finland's biggest and oldest of the 11 sports institutes in the country which gives the country's elite athletes and sports men and women top quality coaching as well as offering sporting holidays to the general population.

Golf is one of the biggest growth sports within the Institute and the golf course which was opened in 1988 is shortly to be extended.

Kristina has a staff of 11 plus a mechanic. "My job is to decide what we don't do. There is just so much," said Kristina.

Like most other clubs in Finland the members offer their services for a weekend to help with course maintenance. "We get around 30-40 members and they rake bunkers, pick stones and fill in the holes left by the stones with sand. It is voluntary and the members do it because they want to see their course looking good. We close the course when it is being done," explained Kristina.

Girls cut the fairways because,



Kristina Laukkanen

says Kristina, golfers are more careful if they see a female on a mower.

"My ambition is to have Nick Faldo come and play my course... just once," she said.

The Director of the Institute is Tapani Ilkka, who was also President of the Finnish Olympic team at Atlanta.

"In 1985 there were just 11 golf courses in Finland and 10,000 players. Now there are 83 courses and 45,000 players," explained Tapani.

"Initially people were saying that golf was not really a sport but now those same people are playing every day. Older people need something to do and they now play golf and swim in the summer and cross country ski in the winter and for many golf is their number one sport and they play as many as 100 rounds during the summer season."

Imatran Golf Head Greenkeeper - Veijo Kettunen Course Manager - Jorma Pakkunen

Close to the Russian border - you can actually see Russia from several of the holes on the east of Finland - with 12 Russian members.

Excellent conditioned course which has been remodelled recently because of a new road coming through the area. Also three years ago removed 3,000 trees but still need more taken away.

A total of 960 members with 17,500 rounds a year played.

Course has one of the best restaurants in the country.

"Snow is better than straw for insulating greens but I also

Laukaan Peurunkalgolf Head Greenkeeper - Veijo Hamalalainen. Course Manager (Equivalent of Director of Golf) - Jorma Paakkanen.

Course designed by Ronald Fream and 250 miles north of Helsinki.

A total of 12 holes where water comes into play. It is closed from October 31 to the middle of April. Experience one metre of snow in January, February and sometimes March. Can only play on greens for two or three months of the year and often put straw on the greens to insulate them and try to prevent ice burn.

Midsummer day shotgun starts at 8pm finishing at half past midnight and start again at 7am and normally have 242 players a day playing - three players every seven minutes for 11 hours.



Head Greenkeeper Veijo Hamalalainen, left and Course Manager Jorma Paakkanen

Normally start cutting greens at four or five in the morning and because of the long hours staff of five work a shift system. The annual greenkeeping budget is £120,000.

They have also developed an unusually ball collector for the practice range - as our picture (below) shows, a converted Saab!



sometimes put sheeting down if the weather is going to be really bad," explained Veijo.

He has developed his own ice crushing attachment for a tractor.

■ Pictured left, Veijo with the ice breaker; below, the 17th with Russia in the background.





The course - complete with ski jump on the horizon

Katinkulta

Head Greenkeeper - Jarmo Saajanne

Biggest holiday resort in all Scandinavia with time share apartments, ten pin bowling, badminton, indoor golf, badminton, squash, a gym, restaurants, beauty salon and the best sports shop in Finland!

An all season resort with skiing in the winter while Katinkulta is a major ski jump centre plus all the indoor activities.



Head Greenkeeper Jarmo Saajanne

Jarmo has a staff of seven, including himself, and he works repairing bicycles in the winter and so is employed full time while three others work on the ski slopes in the winter.

The course spends five months under one metre of snow. "It is good for the course and if we spray chemicals before the snow arrives we won't get diseases or ice burn," explained Jarmo.

He showed one green where they had been unable to spray because of a baby in a nearby apartment and it was the worst green on the course.

"We do get snow mould which destroys grass and three or four times in the winter I will dig a hole in the snow and take a look at the grass and check that there is no ice."

Played golf at 1am with more than enough light to make it a worthwhile game.

Amer Golf

Head Greenkeeper - Elise Jarvinen

Nine hole course which belongs to Amer Group Ltd, the parent company of Wilson Sporting Goods Ltd and for the personal use of Wilson Directors and their guests.

Magnificent, yet tough, course on the edge of the sea - there is a private sauna which sticks out into the sea giving participants the opportunity to cool down with a quick dip. 2,500 rounds a year.

Wildlife on the course and greens the equal of anything you would see anywhere.

Greenkeeping team of five including a mechanic and several students many of whom return year after year and this year including one studying to be an economist and another who is studying to be a geneticist.

Another course which has under soil heating but Elise doesn't feel it is particularly useful.



Head Greenkeeper Elise Jarvinen is also Chairman of the FGA

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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

West of Scotland

Summer over and everybody should be hard at work starting renovation work. What a summer if it can be called that – been and gone in a flash. Let's hope winter is kind to us.

Apologies to Peter Cowan for omitting you in last month's issue with regard to your new appointment at Clydebank and District, as First Assistant. Congratulations and I hope you settle in well and encourage them to come along to West events.

I hope everybody has returned their questionnaire forms full of ideas. It will be interesting to find out what sort of response has been forthcoming.

Remember to return your entries for the autumn outing at Balmore. It is sure to be popular.

Last but not least best wishes to Brian Inglis of Souters on account of taking the plunge. His new wife Kathleen must have a big heart taking on such a challenge. No more golf for Brian. Apparently they had a beautiful honeymoon in St Lucia which means he'll be chasing orders when he next sees you folks. Only kidding. May you have many happy years together.

S Taylor

East

Welcome to this month's report. First of all by the time you read this we shall have had had the Willie Woods Memorial Tournament at Seahouses GC on August 22. So I hope that everyone and his partner, whether it be Captain, Secretary, Greens Convener or any other committee member had a very enjoyable time. Results and report in next month's magazine and perhaps even a photograph or two.

On the subject of photographs if anybody has any photos that may be of interest send them to me and we will see if we can get them into the magazine.

People on the move include one of my former assistants Craig Pennyquick who has moved to Winterfield GC, Dunbar as Head Greenkeeper. Congratulations and all the best for the future in your new job. Craig moved to Dunbar from Duddingston GC in Edinburgh where he was assistant greenkeeper. So now I will wait for an invite to play his course at Winterfield.

I must apologise for the next one. This slipped through and should have been in the column a couple of months ago. So belated congratulations to Scott Ramsay, who has become Head Greenkeeper at Harburn GC, where he has taken over from Bob Smith who retired in April. All the best in your new job Scott and best wishes from the Section to both of you.

Up and coming events. We have arranged a skittles night at the Right Wing on Willowbrae Rd, Edinburgh on Friday October 25 from 7.30pm until 11.30pm. As well as skittles there is a basket supper included in the price of £5 per person. So if you want a good night out and good company get our entries in as soon as possible with numbers – call Andy Forrest 0131 339 1315 or Steve Dixon 0131 660 3965 or Chris Yeaman 01875 870485 to book one of this winter's social nights.

We have arranged a shopping trip again for the Christmas Shopping (Already it's only September) (Exactly, and a yellow card from the Editor for being the first person to mention the "C" word) to the Metro Centre in Gateshead by coach with various pickup points in and around Edinburgh. The price will be £8 per person and the bus will be leaving Edinburgh on the morning and returning at night. The date for this is Sunday November 24. It's a great opportunity to get your Christmas shopping done and we hope to see a big turnout and support for your section.

Coming up in next month's report are the results and comments and possibly a few photos from the Autumn Tournament at Murrayfield GC which is celebrating its centenary this year.

Next month we will also have the list of winners of the Patron's Prize for 1996 – look out as you could be one of the lucky ones as there are four chances available.

Also dance tickets are going fast with just over a quarter gone already as I write. The venue once again is Kilsplindie House Hotel, Aberlady, Saturday December 7 at a cost of £18 per person and £20 B&B per person. Hurry they're going fast.

That's it all folks. Don't forget to support all your section's activities not just the golf! Social events as well because it is after all your section.

Also if you have anything of

interest let me know or you would like to write an article give me a call – you pick the topic – and send it to me and we'll make every effort to get it into print.

Chris Yeaman

North

This month we return to Grantown-on-Spey to stage our Autumn outing, unfortunately, rained off last year. As usual there should be a good turnout to play this lovely course. At the outing we will draw the next four winning numbers in the 200 Club, so if anyone still has not paid for their ticket, please do so quickly. This is the Section's only fund raiser and all tickets need to be sold to help the Section thrive. Anyone wanting to buy a ticket should phone Gordon McKie on 01334 653995 before September 11, the day of the outing.

Once again, I will mention the second Section Dinner/Disco (I am not trying to fill space honest!). The venue this year is the New Inn Hotel, Ellon, the date Friday, November 29 and it will cost £12.50 per person with a double room available at the hotel for £33.00 bed and breakfast. Telephone Hughie McLatchie on 01779 470173 to book your tickets. Family and friends are welcome to come.

The Open Championship at Royal Lytham was a great success again. My only complaint was the heating being on in the hotel bedroom all week, with outside temperatures in the high 70s and 80s, although it gave us the perfect excuse to stay up all night as it was cooler outside. I won't name the people who took it a bit far and had an early morning dip in the sea! It was great meeting up with all my old friends again and making new ones. A special thank you to Paul Murphy for getting me to my train in Preston with a couple of minutes to spare after I misread my ticket and missed the train at Blackpool! We had BIGGA members from Sweden, USA, Vietnam and all over Britain in the team to make it a really cosmopolitan group. Any of you who visited the STRI tent and had a go at the putting competition might like to know that I won the prize for Friday, the new edition of the "Care of the Golf Course", very nice indeed. Roll on Troon 1997.

Iain Macleod

NORTHERN REGION

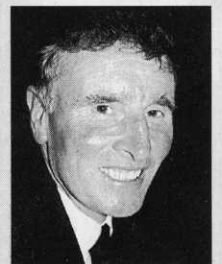
North Wales

Later in the year our section will again be organising first aid courses. There will be a two day refresher course at £40 for those people who are already certificated and wish to keep their certificate valid. A four day certificated course at £80 and a one day Emergency First Aid course which should cost less than £25. I believe that as we work in an environment that involves both hazardous machinery and quiet isolation on the golf course it is in our own and our clubs' interest that we should each have at least the basic emergency first aid knowledge. An application form for the above First Aid courses will be posted along with the entry forms for our autumn competition which I can confirm will take place on October 16 at Chester Golf Club.

Our records of past prize winners seem to be a little bit lacking and I would ask anyone who knows the whereabouts of the Richard Campey Trophy, which was won in April 1995 at Abergele, to please contact me.

Our Chairman, Brian Anderson, and our Treasurer, Dave Proctor, will both be standing down from committee at the end of this year. So, if you can spare four or five evenings per year and you wish to take a more active role in your association, please contact me or any of the following committee members that you might know personally: Brian Anderson (Abergele), Dave Proctor (Storws Wen), Stuart McCall (Chester), Justin Cheung (Eaton), Terry Adamson (Gem), Phil Davies (Mommersteeg), Terry Evans (Nine of Clubs), Neil Toner (Wirral Ladies) or Dave Goodridge (Denbigh).

MY IDEAL HOLIDAY
DESTINATION IS:



"North West coast of Scotland or, abroad, Bermuda"

Elliott Small, Kincardine GC

Our congratulations go to Andy and Sarah Peel on the birth of their second son on July 19.

The Welsh College of Horticulture advise us that three students have achieved their NVQ4 and they are almost certainly the first in Wales to do this. They are Robert Wilkinson of Bargoed Golf Club, Matthew Horton of Buihth Wells Golf Club and our own Alan Cefn of Carden Park. Awards day in July at the College saw various trade prizes being awarded for meritorious achievements. The Gem Professional prize went to Cefn Owen of Conwy, the Hortiplay prize to Alwyn Jones of Bull Bay, the Rufford prize went to Tudor Owen of Lanidloes and the Mommersteeg prize was won by Carl Price of Northop Golf Club.

I am sure as a section we would like to wish Ray Cotgreave of Bromborough every success in the forthcoming Toro/PGA Student Greenkeeper of the year award.

Please ring me on 0151 336 6675 if you have anything that may be of interest to your fellow greenkeepers.

Trevor Johnston

Northern

The Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes is over and all the lads on the support team had a great time, me included. It is nice to meet up with "boys" from all over the British Isles and even a couple from Augusta.

The vacant sponsorship place for our invitation day at Bingley St Ives on September 4 this year has been kindly taken over by the Ritefeed liquid fertiliser company. This position being vacant due to Yorkshire Mowers going into liquidation.

May I take this opportunity in welcoming the following new members to our section: John Edmund, Cottingham Golf Club; John Crowhurst, Howley Hall Golf Club; Christopher Peel, ADAS (Associate member).

A couple of dates for your diary: Christmas golf at Selby Golf Club on December 11 and Annual Dinner Dance at Wetherby Golf Club on March 15, 1997.

Around the Green



Finally, anyone wishing to purchase a caravan please contact Dennis Cockburn. But be sure to check out the stability of the bed before purchasing!

Simon Heppenstall

North West

I have just returned from The Open at Lytham as part of the greenkeeper support team and once again met many old friends and some new ones. It was interesting to see again some international representatives from Sweden, Thailand and the USA. The two greenkeepers from the States work at Augusta and although Lytham and Augusta are as different as chalk and cheese, they were very impressed with the condition and the design of a true links course. I would like to congratulate Jim MacDonald and his staff on the fine condition of the course. To produce a course to the standard that Lytham is, takes many hours of hard work and dedication and Jim and his staff fit the bill perfectly and are a credit to our profession.

A funny thing happened while out divoting after the second day's play which just shows how gullible people can be. I happened to comment while removing a large divot, "This must be one of Woosnam's" and five or six passing spectators stopped to gaze at the divot. Alec Davies quickly responded that the divot he had removed was one of "Seve's" and another one was one of "Daly's". We soon finished up with a crowd around us, asking for the divots to take home. I feel sure that had we set up a stall and labelled the divots we could have been in business.

Now back to reality, and a reminder to get your entry for the

Autumn Tournament at Wilpshire Golf Club. The details are in the August section notes.

Not often do I receive any news from section members but John Nicholson, Head Greenkeeper at Longridge Golf Club, passed me a letter which I think is well worth a mention. On June 22 at Longridge Golf club after the President's prize presentation, the Club presented John with a silver tray, decanter and glasses. John gratefully accepted the gift and in thanking them decided to enlighten them on what is a greenkeeper. To some he is, "The guy who cuts grass in the summer and plays cards in the winter, fails to cut the grass where the ball has landed, puts the hole in bad places and alters things when they have just got it right." However, a greenkeeper is, "A machine Operator, Mechanic, Botanist, Weather Forecaster, Architect, Constructor, Gardener, Ecologist, Irrigation Engineer, Manager and above all a Diplomat." John once again thanked the club for their gift and left them with a parting thought that the greenkeeper is also their friend (I think John might be right).

I would like to finish by thanking the Northern Region and particularly Ian Holoran and Bob Lupton for the donation of £75 which was raised by two raffles and will be used to help the children at KASISI orphanage in Zambia to purchase much needed medical supplies. Any queries, please ring on 0151 724 5412.

Bert Cross

Cleveland

Bill Rank, Head Greenkeeper at Thirsk and Northallerton Golf Club is moving fairways and rough on a new 9 hole extension. Turf will be laid this autumn on greens and tees which will be open in spring 1997 for play.

The new course at High Throston, Hartlepool will open the first 9 holes in September, Farmer Owner, Fred Sturrock told me.

Wynyard is now open which is near Billingham on the A689 road.

Our Autumn Tournament to be held here. See newsletter from Gary Munro.

Nick Bissett at Askham Bryan has been promoted to Head of Horticulture. Stephen Prinn is the new head of Greenkeeper Training. Now is the time to enrol for college courses. Work based assessors are helping colleges. Verification is becoming more time consuming. Further work needs to be done here. Liaison committee is useful in taking feedback to the College from industry in order to meet the requirements.

Graham Scott has moved from Billingham Golf Club to a course north of Inverness. Colin Graham is now with D & E Stephenson, local Toro Dealers.

Bruce Burnell

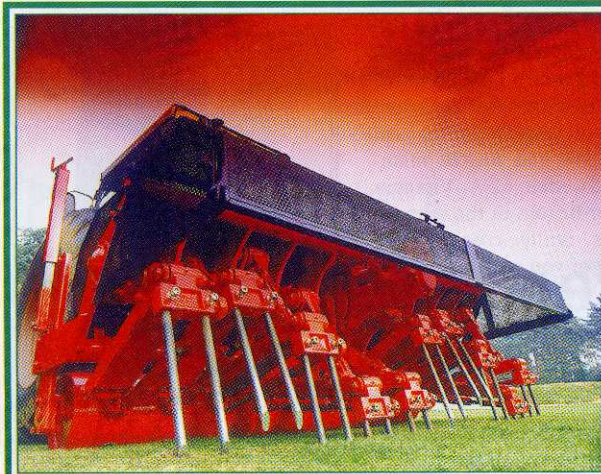
Sheffield

On July 3 the Northern Region Final of the Hayter Competition was held at Abergele and Pensarn Golf Club in North Wales. This was attended by seven of our section members.

It was a good day of very different weather conditions. It started with heavy rain and strong winds and finished the day with glorious sunshine.

Congratulations go to three of our members who qualified for the Final. They were Allen Allsop, 2nd in 10-18 division, Colin Hopper, 3rd in 10-18 division and Paul Neve 2nd in 19-28 division. Well done to you all and good luck for the Hayter Final at Fairhaven Golf Club in September.

The following week we held our annual competition at Abbeydale Golf Club on July 9. The course was in very good condition and our thanks go to John and his staff. We would also thank Abbeydale Golf Club for the courtesy of their course and to the Steward and his staff for an excellent meal and thanks to all the trade members who provided the prizes for the competition. Congratulations go to all the prize winners. Well done to Paul Neve who continued his good golf of the previous week and won the overall 27 hole competition. Paul also won the



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