

9 hole competition in the morning and well done to Steve Currie who won the scratch competition: 1. P. Neve, 2. S. Currie, 3. M. Coltas, 4. R. Needham, 5. R. Browning, 6. R. Ward. The nearest the pin competition was won by Allan Allsop. The prize presentation was a bit disappointing for Paul and Steve as the trophies were not there to be presented as last year's winners had not managed to return the trophies on time.

A date has been fixed for our Christmas competition. It will be held on November 27 at Wortley Golf Club.

It is with regret that I have to report that Cyril Chappell has died. Cyril spent nearly all his life in greenkeeping and was Head Greenkeeper at Phoenix Golf Club for 30 years. He retired from greenkeeping 10 years ago and enjoyed his retirement very much. May I, on behalf of the Sheffield Section, convey our sympathies to his family.

Finally, a message to our Chairman - keep practising your darts Neil!

John Lax

MIDLAND REGION East Midlands

This year's Hayter Challenge Tournament Regional Final was held on July 16 at Peterborough Milton Golf Club. Unfortunately, we could not make it a hat trick of wins, narrowly missing out to the Midland Section. Congratulations should go to Dave Leatherland, Kedleston Park, and Steven Heap, Rothley Park, on qualifying for the National Final to be held at Fairhaven Golf Club. Thanks should go to Peterborough Milton for courtesy of their course and once again a special thank you to everyone from Hayter.

I was sorry to hear of the recent illness of John Stonebridge of Glen Gorse. On behalf of all the section members I would like to wish John a speedy recovery.

Congratulations go again to Richard Barker on winning himself a trip to America in a prize draw.

Finally, good luck to all members

in this year's Autumn Tournament, held at Ramsdale Park Golf Club on September 12. Our next section event will be held at Hinckley Golf Club on November 6, this being the AGM.

Antony Bindley

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

I can't believe we are approaching the end of yet another season. When it gets to autumn I start to wish I was back working on a links course. No need for a leaf sweeper there.

Never mind we will have them all cleared up by January.

The last golf day was back in July, and what a day it was - an absolute scorcher. The venue was Henley, a delight to play any time of the year. The field was a small one but this did not prevent those taking part from having an enjoyable day. There were a couple of surprises in that two new members picked up the main prizes (how dare they. I've been trying for years). 1. Phil Cushnie, 37pts; 2. Tony Brown, 36pts, 3. Adrian Cooper, 34pts (on count-back from myself). Nearest the Pin, Home Boy Richard Fletcher with some help from his partner Bernie; Longest Drive, Dennis Edwards - there was talk of him having to submit a sample for a drugs test but saying he only scored seven points overall we thought better of it.

Many thanks to Henley GC for their hospitality on the day. The course was superb and food delicious. Thanks to Tim Webb, Tacit; Bernie Wall, Gem; and Johnny Beck, Miracle. Johnny provided refreshments at the halfway house which was very welcome. It's a shame he couldn't have followed me around (maybe next time).

Congratulations to our very own Ray Clark, Chairman, for flying the flag at the Hayter final. He came first in category two. Thanks to all who supported this event from our section.

The next event is the invitation at Studley Wood on October 7. If anyone is not receiving their entry

forms. Please phone me on 01491 578147.

Lindsay T. Anderson

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES

South Coast

Our autumn golf meeting will be held at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club on Thursday, October 10. The competition will consist of 36 holes.

The cost for the day will be £15. All cheques to be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section and forwarded along with entry forms stating current handicap to: Mark Webb, 12 Lime Road, Alresford, Hants, SO24 9LD. Tel: 01962 733061. The closing date for entries is Monday, 2 September 2.

Once again, please make sure that last year's winners return their trophies and make sure they are on the prize table at the end of the day.

By the time this report gets in the magazine you should have received all the details for the regional seminar at Cannington College. It would be nice to see a few more faces from our section there this time. Transport can be arranged. All you have to do is contact me on 01329 282362. By the way, on the Section Programme Fixture Card, it reads November 29. This should read Wednesday, November 27. More details next month.

As I said last month I would give you a list of the assessors we now have in our section, they are as follows: Alan Mitchell, Hampshire Golf Club; Jeff Drake, Hampshire Golf Club; Ed McCabe, Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club; Mark Webb, Alresford Golf Club; Adrian Archer, Broadstone Golf Club; Trevor Smith, Canford Magna Golf Club; Matt Maryon, Canford Magna Golf Club.

As you can see, the whole of the section is well covered. The only weak area being West Dorset. Anyone who wishes to be assessed for their NVQs may contact any of the above. I am sure they will be only too pleased to give you all the information you require.

Our annual match against the

South West Section this year will be held at Wells Golf Club on Wednesday, October 2. All those wishing to play, forward your names to Mark. At the present time the South Coast Section hold the trophy.

BTME will soon be with us again. The region will be running a coach the same as last year. The only difference is that a larger coach has been booked. This is due to ever increasing demand. A coach will also run from the Section to meet up with the main coach. I strongly advise you to book early so that you are not disappointed. Initial enquiries to our Secretary, Jeff Drake (Tel: 01722 330277).

Finally, if anyone would like any news item included in the magazine, give me a ring. It could be births, retirement, marriage, pastures new or any other interesting topic.

Ken Lodge

■ At Writtle College on Tuesday, September 24, two lectures will be given. Starting time 7.30pm in the main building, room L60. Contact Andy Sheehan (Tel: 01277 215765) for further information.

Martin Forrester

South West

As with last year's Summer Tournament at Long Ashton, the weather played a large part in this year's event held at Mendip Golf Club on July 25. Although perhaps not as humid as last year, the temperatures were certainly in the high 70's which led to some thirsty souls at the 19th and in most cases some high scoring as was with last year some 9s and 10s on the cards being common place. The course itself was playing very short due to the prolonged dry spell and fairway accuracy was demanded on a course with some tight holes. Head Greenkeeper, Richard Flower, however, had the course in excellent condition with the speed of the greens causing problems for a high percentage of the field.

Forty people played in what was a very successful day for two first prizes, these being for the best

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

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Head Greenkeeper's score and the best Assistant's score. Michael Fawcett from Marlborough Golf Club won the event outright and the Best Assistant's trophy with a nett 71 on the back 9. Ivor Scoones, Long Ashton Golf Club, had the Best Head Greenkeeper's score with a nett 74; 2nd Steve Panting, Henbury, nett 71; 3rd Adam Turner, Woodbury Park, nett 74; 4th Simon Shipley, Henbury, nett 75 (back 9); 5th Duncan Smith, Cotswold Hills, nett 76. There was also a prize for the best guest, that being Club Captain, Tony Taylor, with a nett 73.

Thanks are given to Mendip Golf Club, and Secretary Jackie Howe, for their hospitality and granting of course courtesy and to Club Captain, Tony Taylor, for finding time in his busy year to participate in the day's events. Thanks once again to Richard Flower and staff for course presentation and to the Steward and Stewardess for feeding us so well.

Trade members donated several prizes for the prize table, these being Avoncrop, B S Mowers, T H Whites and Miracle Professional and thanks are given for your continued support of the Section.

This year's AGM takes place on Thursday, November 14 at Bristol and Clifton Golf Club and anything that you feel requires discussion at that meeting should be put in writing and returned to myself by the end of September for discussion by the Section Committee prior to the day. Another reminder that if you wish to take on the responsibility of the Secretary's position from myself at the AGM then please contact me immediately.

Finally, we wish competitors from the South West Section taking part in the Hayter Final at Fairhaven on September 18 the best of luck.
Kevin Green

Devon and Cornwall

Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club was the venue for our summer meeting on Wednesday, July 17 which saw 30 members attending. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to work commitments. Our Chairman, Bill Mitchell, reported that the evening went very well and thanks go to Course Manager, Jeff Mills, for guiding members around his impressive course. Our last meeting of the summer programme will be held at St Mellion Golf & Country Club on Wednesday, September 18. The agenda will be as usual with members meeting in the car park at 6.15pm prompt, course walk with host Course Manager, Robert Brewer, returning to the Club house at approximately 8pm for a bite to eat. If you would like to attend, please call Steve Evans on 01208 863647 by Wednesday, September 11.

With summer meetings drawing to a close, thoughts turn to autumn

Around the Green



and winter programme which start at Dartmouth Golf & Country Club on Wednesday, October 9.

Dartmouth has kindly allowed the section 17 start times which will allow a maximum of 51 members the chance to play their tremendous course. Starting times will run from 7.30am-9.44am. With the early start, I intend to send out starting times the week prior to the meeting as I did last year for St Mellion. The early return of the entry form is suggested to avoid disappointment.

You should have all received your fixture card sponsored by Devon Garden Machinery with our forthcoming events on. If you haven't, please let me know and I will make sure you receive one.

To reduce postage, we have decided to send details of our meetings to one member per club (Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper) as in previous years. If you don't receive details and would like to, please let me know so I can put you on the mailing list.

Finally, a reminder that your local Regional Supervisory Management course will be held at the Royal Clarence Hotel, Exeter on October 23 & 24. For more details, ring Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ.
Richard Whyman

South Wales

The section's summer competition was held at the Caerphilly Golf Club near Cardiff. The course has recently been extended to a full 18 hole layout but due to the lack of good growing conditions, the new layout has yet to be brought into continuous play. However, the original layout that we had the pleasure of playing proved enough of a challenge (indeed too much for some) and was in excellent condition thanks to the sterling efforts of Head Greenkeeper, Adrian Panks, and staff.

We were blessed with good weather, indeed glorious sunshine all day. This made the going tough, especially up on the top holes high above the clubhouse. The return to the lower holes and the 12th was welcomed by all and saw most people dash to the pro shop to take on board refreshments.

The winner on his home course was A Panks with a nett 71 winning the Birdie Cup and cut glass decanter. 2nd nett was Daryl Bray of Morrision Golf Club winning a carriage clock. Best gross and winner of the President's Shield was Andy Roach with a 78. Winner of the John Duncan Cup was Cradoc's Richard

Patterson.

The sponsor of the day was R S Bird Ltd, "Birds" of Cowbridge, and Managing Director Roger Bird made the presentations along with the Section's President, Colin Murphy. Our sincere thanks to Birds for their continued support, to the Captain of the Caerphilly Golf Club, Mr David Edwards, who joined us for our evening meal and presentations, to Ann Fletcher and her staff for an excellent four course meal and to the Committee of the Caerphilly Golf Club for allowing us the courtesy of the course for this annual competition.

The annual match versus the Secretaries is fast approaching and will take place at the Southern Down Golf Club on Wednesday, August 14. Last year we had our best attendance ever and we are again hoping for a team of at least 20. Please make every effort to attend this competitive and enjoyable day.

It is with great sadness that I should inform you of the sudden death of Mollie, beloved wife of Henry Fry. Mollie who, for those who had the privilege of knowing her, was one of life's true characters will be sorely missed.

The winter evening lecture programme and seminar is nearing completion but any requests for subjects or speakers will be considered. Dates will be with you shortly!

Hopefully, by the time the seminar comes round in the spring, the new conference suite presently under construction at Pencoed College will be complete. This will be a tremendous addition to the facilities.
Peter Lacey

SOUTH EAST

Kent

Sorry members but Huw has gone on holiday so you have to put up with me, your secretary, writing the column this month.

The recent greenkeepers golf day held at the Wilderness club proved to be a great success. Many thanks to Huw Morgan and staff for the course thanks also to the club for their efforts for making it a memorable day. Thanks to Parker/Hart for sponsoring this event and to trade members for their support.

Congratulations to the eventual winners Lee Sayers taking first prize on a countback with Trevor Hindmarsh being runner-up. Well done Lee. Best gross H. Morgan, second best gross M. Arthur and winning the trade prize, G. Ogilvie.

Please note any member wishing to play at a golf event must send a cheque with their return form. Thankfully Huw will be back writing next month. Watch this space. Best wishes to all Section members.
Steve Johnstone

Surrey

A brief report this month. Just to say

a big thank you to Epsom GC for allowing us to play the annual England vs Scotland match. Fortunately for me, as England Captain, I was able to see my team return victors with a 4-1 result.

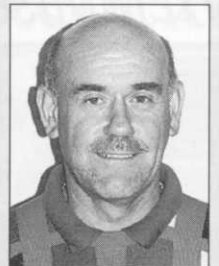
A big thank you also to Dougie Fernie and his team for presenting the golf course to the highest of standards I'm sure Epsom Downs has never looked so good. Its members can be very proud, also thanks to Patisson's, Brian Wilmott, for the refreshment on the way round.

Forthcoming events include the Parker Salver on September 12 at Addington Palace. Also the autumn tournament on October 3 at Effingham GC and the Turkey Trot and AGM on December 3 at Guildford GC. Please make an effort to attend these tournaments. Thank you.
David Gibbs

London

Our first inter club team challenge was held at Dyrham Park Golf & Country Club on July 31. The event was sponsored by Miracle Professional and the challenge trophy was donated by Mr Bernberg, Chairman of Dyrham Park. The course was in excellent condition and the Course Manager, Don Wilson, and his staff must be congratulated for preparing the course. I would also like to thank Don for all his efforts in organising the event. As usual, Dyrham Park must be thanked for their hospitality and I would like to thank the Catering Manager for a superb evening meal and lunch. I would also like to thank the bar staff for their service throughout the day. The winning team with 48 points was Finchley Golf Club and the runners up were Old Fold Manor with 47 points. The nearest the pin was won by David Montgomery from Finchley and the longest drive was won by Ian Semple from Old Fold Manor. I would like to thank the club Captain, Mr Blackstone, for presenting the prizes and Johnny Beck for all his help throughout the day. The event attracted twelve teams and was a great success and next year the event will be held at Hadley Wood Golf Club.
Tony Dunstan

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From cows to birdies

Tom King has made the leap from dairy farmer to Course Manager with remarkable ease, while his course is set to become a superb addition to the Edinburgh golfing scene.

When six years ago dairy farmer Tom King and his father, John, decided the time was ripe to diversify, golf was identified as the ideal opportunity. The move also opened up an entirely new career for Tom, one which he is now following with great enthusiasm and success.

The piece of land earmarked for an 18 hole golf course – King's Acre – could have been intended for the Royal and Ancient game in the first place. Just south of Edinburgh, close to the City By-pass, the land is undulating, tree lined and designated as an area of great landscape value.

"We were looking to diversify out of pure dairy farming as we felt we had expanded the dairy as far as we could," explained Tom, whose family had farmed the site since 1939.

"I'm not a golfer myself but some people visited us who were interested in developing the site as a golf course and that is what started the ball rolling," he explained

A feasibility study was then carried out



Tom King: We knew there would be a demand

which involved speaking with local golfers and learning more about the waiting lists at other local courses.

"We knew there would be a demand but we felt we had better get something on paper."

The Greens of Scotland Division of the Aberdeen's Scottish Agriculture College carried out the research and submitted the plans to the local authorities which were ultimately approved.

The course was designed and constructed by Graeme Webster, of the Aberdeen-based design and construction company Glen Andrews Ltd, but much of the early hands-on work was done by Tom and his father

"The ground work started in January '95 and my father and I started stripping the top soil for the greens, tees, fairways and bunkers," said Tom, from the farmhouse which sits in the middle of the site.

Most of that work was completed by April at which time the construction equipment was brought in – a D7 Bulldozer and scraper box and a D4 Bulldozer which was used for the big earth shifts and general shaping up. A tractor shovel was also used for much of the shaping and the adding of the green contours and the tees.

"We have quite a lot of contours here anyway and I'm extremely pleased with the design because Graeme has used a lot of the natural contours in the layout. However, we did do quite a bit of earth moving to remove possible blind shots into holes."

That work was completed by July last year and all the top soils and root zones were in place by October.

"We've tried to design the course so that we could use as much machinery as possible

From cows to birdies

reducing maintenance time and I'll be looking as to how best the job can be mechanised."

Not reliant on outside investors keen to see a return on their money Tom is happy not to rush jobs through in order to open the gates to the golfers

"We had hoped to have everything sown out last autumn but the wet weather came and we weren't able to get it done. It got too cold and we didn't want to risk sowing too late. I would think we would be open for business by next June (1997) but wouldn't want to rush the opening if it is not ready – it all depends how it grows in," explained Tom (30), whose wife Lizzie and the rest of the family, also got involved, picking stones when the drainage was going in.

"My father and I also did all the drainage on site. We installed the main circuit for irrigation putting in Toro twin speed sprinklers on the greens and tees. The surrounds also get done. Knowing the land we knew where the wet spots were. We maybe don't know how to run a golf course yet but we know our own land."

Knowing how to run a golf course is something which Tom is learning quickly how to do.

"I'm going to be the Course Manager and I went to Oatridge College and did an HNC in Golf Course Management," explained Tom, who also has a BSC in Agriculture from Edinburgh University.

"A lot of people in my position would employ a Head Greenkeeper and just look after the business side but I like practical work and I enjoy working on the course side of the job.

"Greenkeeping is totally different to farming and people who try to jump from one to the other immediately see the difference. Farmers are trying to grow grass as quickly as possible and as much as they can while in golf there are totally different cultivars and you are trying to grow it slowly and get colour."

Tom has much praise for his fellow greenkeepers at Oatridge.

"They were very helpful as I was coming in not very knowledgeable and they were great at putting me in the right direction."

So successful were they that he won a prize for being the best HNC student over the two years of the course.

"It was tough because it was one or two days a week in the winter from 1pm to 8pm and it was while we were still farming cattle so it was a busy time for me."

It was that personal commitment, coupled with a willingness to learn greenkeeping from the bottom up, that has enabled Tom to forge ahead with the project.

"As long as you don't enter greenkeeping thinking that you know it all agriculture knowledge definitely helps because you have an understanding of the soil and drainage."

On the golf side green construction was something which really took him, until he got



more involved, aback.

"The amount of work involved really did surprise me with the different drainage layers, the root zones, the lot."

The course is going to be around 6000 yards, par 69 and will definitely be open to the public while a decision on what form of membership will be available will be taken shortly.

"We have a cottage which we are going to extend to include changing facilities and a bar but we are not meaning to invest heavily on the clubhouse but it is something which we can expand in the future."

Even on a rainy day in April and with the course still a long way from what will be its

picturesque best it was still easy to see what an excellent new course King's Acre is going to be and as a new golfing development just a stones through from the capital of the home of golf it seems set for long and prosperous future.

■ Since visiting King's Acre Tom has completed the sowing in of the course and is currently involved in what he describes as "hectic cutting".

"We are cutting the whole site to the same length at the moment to allow the grass to thicken up while we are also top dressing the greens.

"We are extremely pleased with the way the course is coming along," he said.

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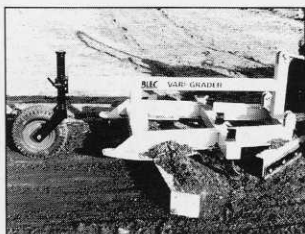
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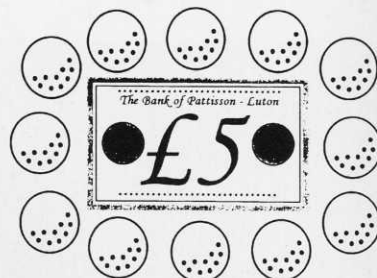
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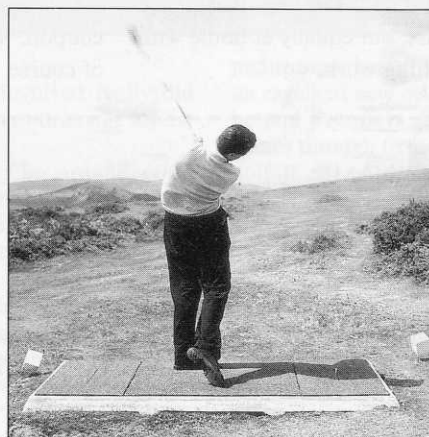
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GRINDING OUT

Hugh Tilly in his sharp suit and newly sharpened pencil was sent out to examine the world of grinding.

Successful cutting equipment

Everyone agrees (don't they?) that mowers, greens mowers in particular, need to be kept 'razor' sharp, but there is significant dissension over how this should be done. Most ride-on hydraulic mowers have built-in back-lap facility, but there are electric drives for pedestrian and trailed cylinder mowers which enable these to be quickly and easily 'touched-up' by back-lapping. But not everyone believes that back-lapping is a good idea, in fact, there are some who believe that back lapping is an anachronism, that it increases drag and considerably reduces the life of both bottom blades (or bed knife) and cylinders – most of these people either sell grinders or have a grinder. Never-

theless for many greenkeepers back lapping is the quickest and most economic way of resharpening, using a grinder to put the correct edge back.

Nor is there agreement over whether cylinders (reels in American), should be relief, single blade or spun ground, although there is a change in perception in this and an increasing number of converts to relief grinding – single blade grinding would seem to all intents to be the same as relief grinding. For any greenkeeper to make a decision it is necessary to know what each process involves. So first a little explanation of the terms and methods, and a diagram. Of course the final test is the effect on the grass and whether it can be cut cleanly. The

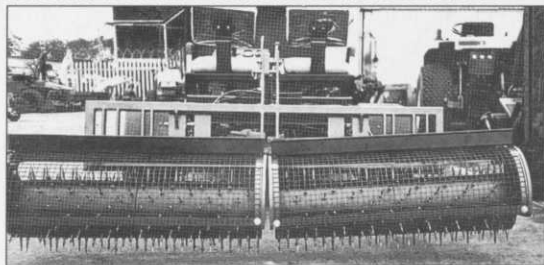
universal test is to cut a piece of paper. This is, of necessity, done by hand which is slightly different to operating with grass, on the ground, but still... The accepted standard seems to be 'ordinary' copy paper, but perfectionists will state 'bank' – 35gms – paper which is thinner, or even cigarette paper.

Greenkeeper International has spoken to several Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers or their Mechanics, First Assistants about what they were trying to achieve and their means of achieving it. There are now only two UK manufacturers of cylinder and bottom blade grinders, (and no obvious importers), and an increasing number of clubs have invested in one of these (or

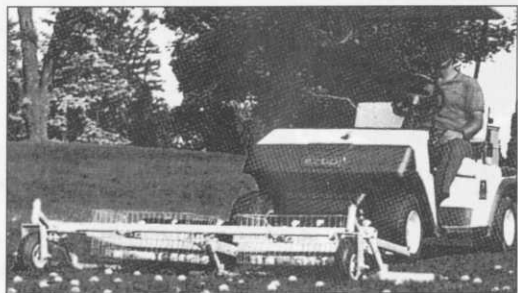
those of the two recent ex manufacturers BRL and Supreme Mowing, nevertheless there are still many clubs which send their mowers away and rely on back-lapping to keep an edge on their blades and cylinders.

In simple terms spin grinding involves grinding the cylinder while it is revolving – this gives a face behind the cutting edge which follows the circumference of the cylinder, whereas relief grinding means each blade is cut so that the face is angled back from the circumference. Single blade grinding means grinding each blade separately without specifying the relief. Back lapping is essentially a spin grinding process. Whatever process is used the aim is to produce clean sharp

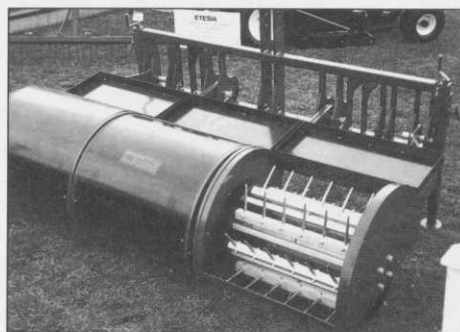
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- 2 Fixed lapping speed of 140 RPM.
- 3 Adjustable drive shaft for left/right hand units.
- 4 Three assorted drivers.
- 5 Adjustable height 12.7mm drive shaft.
- 6 Universal cylinder drive sleeve.
- 7 12.7mm universal joint.
- 8 1/2kg drum backlapping compound.

GRINDING OUT



Jim McKenzie, left, Course and Estate Manager and Patrick Callaby, Head Mechanic with Express Dual grinder at Celtic Manor

edges to both cylinder and bottom line. Some relief angle is automatically produced by the relative locations of bottom blade and cylinder but there is no formula for this and each manufacturer has his own idea of what is "optimum" but extra relief can be introduced by how cylinder and bottom blades are ground. How much varies by make and model – and a greenkeeper/mechanics past experience, but most people rely on the figures provided by either mower or grinder manufacturer

The advantage of providing relief is that it gives better clearance behind the cutting edges thus reduces the power required to drive the cylinder and the heat build up. Relief grinding should (perhaps) be followed by a light spin grind or back lap to ensure concentric surfaces and an optimum match of cylinder and bottom blades. The disadvantage of a lot of relief is that edges will (perhaps) blunt more easily and

quickly. On the other hand it is possible to back-lap more often or for longer before all the relief has been ground away. Back-lapping should ensure optimum sharpness of the edges, but it will remove relief and extend the contact area of the blades, thus increase power requirement and heat. Top dressing – sand – is abrasive and so quickly removes any cutting edge and wears down the blades.

Most greenkeepers aim for a minimum of back-lapping and an increasing number have bought a grinder to enable the club to sharpen their mowers more often. Frequent light sharpening is far better than an infrequent heavy sharpening. Having to screw the cylinder tight to the bottom blade to get a good cut leads to rapid heat build-up which may destroy the temper on the blades or even distort them. Most modern grinders will both spin and relief or single blade grind, and some will sharpen

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- Collingtree Leisure
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GRINDING OUT

both cylinders and bottom blades on the same machine. Older machines may not be able to be adapted to the latest requirements such as in-situ grinding, where the cylinder and perhaps the bottom blade do not have to be removed from the machine for sharpening. There are also attachments for getting the mower or cutting unit up on the machine for in-situ grinding.

The Celtic Manor Hotel, Golf & Country Club with Atterton Ellis Express

With a third course now in construction things at Celtic Manor have to be 'right' – and mowing is only one aspect where Course and Estates Manager Jim McKenzie expects the best. He sees Celtic Manor's workshop as a maintenance facility, and justifies two mechanics in it. But theirs is not a 'fire fighting' job – repairing machines that go wrong – they are expected to be active in ensuring that machinery is set

right and produces its optimum performance before it goes out on the course.

As regards mowers, all the cylinder mowers, (or reel mowers they are mostly Toro), are checked for 'cut' daily and are resharpened every three to five weeks. This requires a comprehensive facility and Celtic Manor certainly has that – built specifically with wall level light and ventilation, and fume extraction. For grinding they have an Atterton & Ellis Express Dual with the attachment for relief grinding and an Anglemaster for bottom blades and these machines served for the exclusive use by trained personnel and for mowers so excluding the possibility of misuse or abuse.

The machines are fitted in the main building in the walled maintenance bay and not separated as Patrick 'Cal' Callaby, Head Mechanic likes to see and hear the grinder when it is working. Jim also said that it is essen-

tial that whoever does the grinding is always aware of what is happening and so should not be called away and detained. The grinders have automatic traverse. Celtic Manor has estimated that currently it has 70 mowing cylinders to maintain.

Cal is also adamant that the machines are only used for their intended purpose, so that the stones remain true and unblemished. A line is painted round each machine in the workshop indicates the danger area – a simple health and safety feature – and is intended to keep the operator aware of his need to be conscious of the risk when venturing within working distance of each machine.

The Express Dual has in-situ ability and a lift table to raise mowers and units to working height this table is used to raise pedestrian mowers to a convenient height for their daily check. The machine was also bought with the relatively new relief

grinding kit and the club's aim is to spin grind during the season and then to overhaul each machine during the winter and to relief grind the cylinders. Cal said that this relief will then be removed progressively during the next season. He intends to take the manufacturer's suggestions for the angle of relief to be ground in. In-situ ability was an important feature in selecting the A & E machine as it is not seen as practical to dismantle the cutting mechanism each time before sharpening. The Express Dual is normally kept set up for grinding pedestrian mowers and the fittings do not have to be removed to allow the cutting units of other machines to be ground.

The Anglemaster is seen mainly as a stand-by machine as most bottom blades are replaced rather than sharpened. However some part worn blades are kept in case an almost new blade has to be replaced having been

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