

difference



chilled, frozen or even hot food and carries a list price of from £345 plus VAT.

The Maillon is a top-loading box. When fully loaded with chilled foods, the standard insulated version will maintain temperature safely for hours at a time, without the need for an external power source. Thus food can be dropped off at pre-arranged spots for players to eat when they are ready – and it keeps in prime condition, whatever the weather. For longer storage optional chilling systems are available using either eutectic plates or a 'dry ice' system to maintain temperature.

PRC can offer the Maillon in a choice of colours, so users can colour-code them for, for example, different groups of players, menus or times of day. As well as being equipped with carrying handles, the Maillon can be supplied with wheels for easy transporting of heavier loads. It could also be carried using a buggy or in a car boot.

For more information, brochures and details contact your local PRC branch or call Portable Refrigeration direct on 01428 707622.

■ Standard Golf has introduced for 1997 TurfStone Tee Markers, Yardage and Course signs. How tees can look a million dollars without breaking the bank. TurfStone Tee Markers by Standard Golf provide the look and feel of real granite – at a fraction of the cost. They are even available in a mountain range of colours, Red Garnet, Blue Slate, Yellow Sandstone, White Quartz, Black Onyx and Grey Granite. Just Like the real thing, they are made to last for ages.

TurfStone Tee Markers are precision moulded from a thermoset polyester compound that is ten times stronger than other similar compound. It is a dense, non-porous material that resist chipping, cracking, fading and even staining. It is impervious to golf course chemicals and available for immediate delivery.



They can be ordered TurfStone Markers plain, or have them engraved with your Club logo, in one colour, or any other one colour design, or with hole numbers.

For further information telephone 01753 537410.

■ A new golf driving bay – which can be constructed in single or multiple bays – has just been launched onto the UK market by the Shropshire-based golf equipment specialist, Links Leisure.

Said to have been designed to allow both golf clubs and golfers to make the maximum use of the space available for practising facilities, the new PRO-TEE bays are both robust, require little or

PHOTOCAST TEE SIGNS

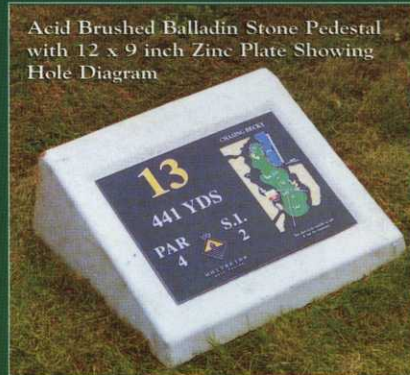
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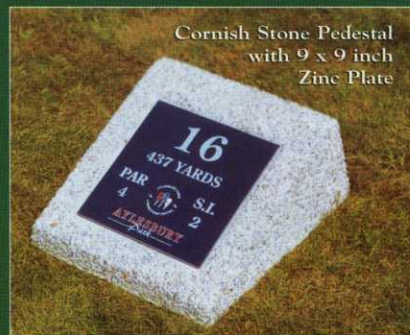
EAGLE PROMOTIONS

THE SCORECARD COMPANY

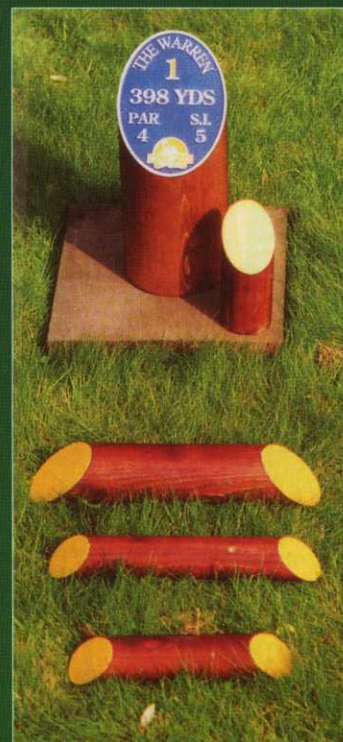
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Acid Brushed Ballad Stone Pedestal with 12 x 9 inch Zinc Plate Showing Hole Diagram



Cornish Stone Pedestal with 9 x 9 inch Zinc Plate



Full Range of Wood Log Mounts for Tee Signs

Fairway and Point of Play Markers



Monolith Style with Zinc Plate

Double Pedestal with Sponsor Position



Golf course accessories

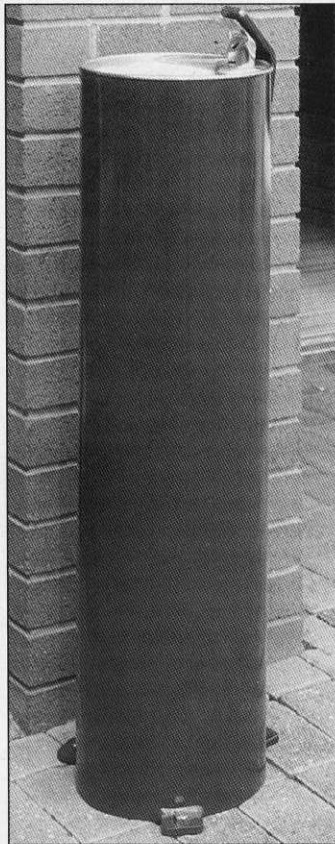
no maintenance, and they are easily erected.

Measuring 3.5 x 3.5 metres in single bay multiples, the driving bays consist of a rust-resistant frame either galvanised or coated in green plastic – and long-life baffle nets.

Easily installed – each bay comes with a detailed set of installation instructions – Links Leisure are also offering, as an alternative, a complete installation service if required.

The company can also provide all-weather and user friendly golf mats for use with the new bays. These consist of a durable glass reinforced cement base and three individually replaceable artificial turf sections, each with a rubber shock pad backing.

Full details of the new practice bays can be obtained from Links Leisure Unit 22, Civic Industrial Park, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1TT Tel: 01948 663002.



■ The ability to have a drink of fresh water while playing a round of golf will appeal to most golfers, especially in the summer months. Progressive golf clubs now provide drinking fountains at strategic points around the course. Facilities of this type need to be hardwearing and robust to withstand the effects of weather and possible rough usage. Ideally, they should also blend in with the surrounding environment to enhance the appearance of the course.

The Maestro Model 35 drinking fountain, pictured left, achieves all this. It is attractively styled with simple lines and a fern green finish which will enhance any outdoor location.

It is also extremely robust and vandal resistant. The column is made of 1/8" mild rolled steel and the receptor is stainless steel for strength and hygiene. The bubbler is also specially

designed with a public environment in mind. It features a steel guard and an anti squirt head to prevent vandals from flooding or spraying surrounding areas. Operation is via a push button which is recessed into the body of the unit for protection. Tamper resistant screws are used for all fixings.

To give long lasting good looks, the receptor is made of stainless steel, the bubble's finished in chrome, the valve is chrome plate and the body of the fountain has a scratch resistant epoxy finish.

The Maestro Model 35 features standard connections and is simple to install. It is available now from Maestro International, Europe's leading manufacturer of drinking fountains and water coolers. Maestro is also registered to BS5750.

For further information telephone 0181 302 4035.

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AD
REF
35

NEW
SITESAFE
 MODULAR SYSTEMS

...make all the difference to secure
 storage & accommodation units.



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WORKSHOP

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 Cleveland. TS14 6RQ.
 Tel: 01642 475009 or Fax: 01642 471036.

**CLEVELAND
 SITESAFE
 LIMITED**

AD
REF
56

■ Easy Picker Europe Ltd have launched an ingenious Golf Ball Tee-Up device which is ideal for every Golf Range.

Easitee will eliminate back strain, save costs on rubber Tees, speed up practice and increase revenue at busy Ranges.

Easitee is simple to install, directly onto the floor, under a Rubber Mat. Each Range Ball can be raised or lowered by simply pressing the club head down alternately onto each tee, so lifting the ball to the desired height.

Easitee is a British invention and patented world-wide.

For further information telephone 01508 528828

■ Tildenet, the international netting company is able to offer tailor-made indoor netting systems for a variety of sports

Tildenet has recently converted Bridgewater Mill, Eccles,



Manchester into a 7-bay indoor golf range, allowing the fair weather golfer to practice all year round!

Other projects installed by

Tildenet include a 6-bay system at Lord Wandsworth school near Basingstoke.

For further information telephone 01179 669684.

Indoor golf netting at The Belfry

KEEPS FOOD FRESHER ON YOUR GREENS

The Maillon Line coolbox from Portable Refrigeration Company offers an economical and straightforward

solution to the problem of transporting smaller loads of food safely.

With a capacity of 68 litres it fits in the boot of most vehicles and can be equipped with wheels for easy carrying. Its superior insulation will keep fresh, chilled or frozen food safely for hours at a time, while for longer storage periods eutectic plates or a special 'dry ice' system can be used.

Manufactured by Melform/Monetti the Maillon's polyethylene body is tough, lightweight, easy to clean and entirely safe. The external dimensions are: Length 850mm Width 450mm Depth 390mm
Another great idea from PRC!

For information, prices and brochures phone or fax the Portable Refrigeration Company on 01428 707622.



MAILLON[®] line

THE 68 LITRE CAPACITY LINK IN THE COLD CHAIN FOR THE SMALL RETAILER OR CATERER

- ❄ Provides no break in the Cold Chain with eutectic plates for chilled or frozen food.
- ❄ Transports both chilled and frozen foods, at the correct temperature in the same container with dry ice dividers.
- ❄ Units stack on top of each other.
- ❄ Helps you comply with the requirements of the Food Safety Act and avoid the penalties that infringement involves.



FOR USE WITH EUTECTIC PLATES OR DRY ICE

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- The UK's largest fleet of chiller/freezer trailers.
- Comprehensive range of modular cold rooms.
- Refrigerated containers and mini containers.
- Superb range of salad counters, multi-decks and serve over counters.
- A useful range of upright cabinets and chest freezers.
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AD
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552



Amazone Ltd has joined BIGGA as a Golden Key Sponsor and joined the Association and Rhône Poulenc as co-sponsor of the Environment Award it initiated two years ago.

In recent years the name Amazone would lead you to think less about the great South American river and more about Amazone Ltd, the company which conceived the Amazone Golf Environment competition two years ago and ran it with conspicuous success.

Amazone has now joined forces with BIGGA and Rhône Poulenc to give the competition a further boost under the new name of the BIGGA Environmental Award in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc. Amazone has also become a BIGGA Golden Key sponsor.

A GROWING FORCE IN THE INDUSTRY

Amazone Ltd was formed in 1983 to market the products of Amazone, one of Germany's best known and largest agricultural engineering companies. With a history of over 100 years Amazone is the market leader in Europe for its fertiliser broadcasters, a piece of equipment which has been developed and refined since the 1950s.

The product range now includes Amazone seed drills, sprayers, power harrows, and ground care equipment, the latter of which is handled through a separate division – Amazone Ground Care – which was launched in

1989 to market the Amazone Groundkeeper flail type mower as well as the fertiliser spreading, seeding, cultivating and spreading machinery.

The philosophy of the company is based on innovation and of the need to provide equipment which is environmentally friendly. The reasoning is simple – Amazone equipment is designed to apply materials such as agrochemicals and nitrate fertilisers and these have to be applied with great accuracy to ensure that their effect is optimised and that there is no ecological danger involved.



One "first" Amazone introduced was the boundary spreading discs for its fertiliser broadcasters which prevent fertiliser landing in hedgerows and streams – the arrival of which superseded the European Union ruling covering boundary spreading.

Amazone's commitment to develop precision application equipment is best demonstrated by the development of the Global Positioning Satellite system (GPS) with Massey Ferguson. It was for this work that Amazone was awarded a Gold Medal at this year's SIMA show in Paris. With this system an application map is produced using yield information gathered from the combine and nutrient information from soil samples. With this information it is possible to assess the varying nutrient requirements of different areas within a field and assign different application rates to them. Having done this the information is then entered into the computer controlling the spreader. As the tractor moves across the field its precise position is plotted by satellite and the spreader is automatically adjusted to vary the application rate according to the field position.

The company philosophy was easily transferred to the Ground Care Division as golf courses are prime areas of potential ecological interest and prompted the company to launch its environmental competition. This was a positive attempt by Amazone Ltd Managing Director Rod Baker to promote more interest in golf course conservation and environmental work.

"Amazone Ltd has always been particularly concerned with promoting the responsible use of machinery and input and the Golf Environment competition was designed to highlight the benefits that golf courses can bring to the natural environment, in a climate in which they too often tend to receive negative comment from both press and public who perceive destruction of natural habitats and intensive use of inputs," explained Rod.



"The fact is that the opposite is more often the case. Golf courses cover large tracts of land with often only a small area that is actually 'in play'. The remainder contains areas of natural terrain that can, and often do, provide habitats for a huge range of bird, insect, animal and plant species.

"Many greenkeepers have become concerned with these areas and actively manage them to encourage species diversity. The BIGGA Environmental Award in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc seeks to both enliven this interest and also promote work that is being done to improve the public image of the industry as well as the interests of the club management and membership," he said.

"We know that many greenkeepers face ignorance within their own working environment and often have to battle to protect species or particularly rich areas or to raise the cash to invest in areas with low environmental value.

"By achieving recognition of the good work that is done we hope to both encourage greenkeepers in this area of their work and also to help provide increased support for their efforts from club management and members."

Having launched the competition in '95 the link with BIGGA and Rhone Poulenc has given the competition wider industry recognition and

helped to increase its stature and importance and give it an added educational dimension.

The expansion of the UK company has been fairly dramatic during the last 14 years. Turnover has gone from less than half a million to approaching £12 million and staff and facilities have been increased to keep pace. There are now two centres with the administration at Saltash in Cornwall and the machine sales, parts and services based at Harworth near Doncaster.

As a measure of the company's success the Harworth premises have already seen three phases of expansion so that today machine stocks can be stored under cover and the overall facility includes latest state-of-the-art parts storage and retrieval systems as well as a magnificent new training school. The latter has been provided to give in-house training for both dealers and their staff as well as end users. The school offers the ideal environment to demonstrate how machines work and the technical aspects of their design and operation.

Harworth is also the base for Amazone's Ground Care operations which produces machinery for grass maintenance, scarifying, power coring seeding, cultivations, sand and fertiliser spreading and leaf and litter collection plus specialist machines for maintaining artificial sports surfaces.



Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small
Tel: 01259 731445

Ayrshire

After the driest January on record we have now had the wettest, windiest February on record. This must have had some effect on the communication links in our Section as no news has come to hand. We shall take it that no news is good news and everything in the area is going to plan and we can all look forward to a good start to the season ahead.

I am looking forward to meeting everybody at the Spring Outing on April 22 at the Wigtownshire County GC.

Derek Wilson

Central

How is everyone coping with this weather? The driest January, the wettest February and by the way March started it looked as though we were going to be blown all over the place. Never mind, things can only get better and by this time we should all be expert painters.

On a lighter note everyone should have received an entry form for the Spring Tournament/Hayter Challenge qualifying event on April 29 along with forms for some of the various events which we intend to organise this year.

As you will appreciate it is expensive for companies to provide lecturers and organise demonstrations etc so please give us your support at as many events as possible. Bring along your Green's Convener or a member of your Club's Committee, everyone is welcome.

If you intend to support any events please return your forms as soon as possible and where applicable please enclose the correct remittance.

We extend a warm welcome to Steven McKee and James Clowry, from Thornton GC; Stephen Bruce, from Dunnikier GC and Colin Smith, from Drumoig GC. Hopefully we will see you all at some of our forthcoming events. At the moment we are averaging one new member each week so we must be doing something right for membership to still be on the increase and it would



appear that the problems of last year may soon be resolved.

A challenge football match against the West Section was played in March (at the time of writing it has not been played so I can't give you the score!). It is hoped to arrange a return match and eventually an Inter Section Tournament so if you are interested just fill in the appropriate form and we will take it from there.

I have a complete list of what is available from the BIGGA Library so if anyone is interested in borrowing books or videos just get in touch and I will send you the list with the relevant forms.

John Crawford

West

Spring is upon us and courses are busy putting final touches to their season preparations and clearing up the winter work. Spring hasn't really been too good so far with high winds and plenty of rain, maybe next year we'll get a good start...

The Conservation Day was held at Kirkehill and East Renfrewshire GCs. There was a good turn out with various views expressed, differing ideas and new concepts and hopefully more and more clubs will look to the future and adopt some of these ideas. Our thanks go to Gordon for the day and also to Jonathan Smith for his interesting outlook.

The Game's Night arranged for February 27 saw 26 participants with a few late arrivals (no names mentioned!). Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves with the eventual winners on 80 points being John Scott and Robert Hogarth, pipping myself and John Scott Snr! Thanks once again to John Scott Snr for organising the pies and the facilities. Please convey our thanks to Claremont Bowling Club for accommodating us.

Remember to put your entry for the Spring Outing in quickly as numbers will be limited. Next month's issue will include the Perth Conference, the football match and the Loch Lomond Day so look out!

J S Taylor

North

The Scottish Region Conference

in Perth was a great success with a large turnout of delegates especially North members I am pleased to report. The morning and afternoon sessions were ably chaired by North men Alisdair McLaren and Sam Morrison, the latter having not quite recovered from his son's wedding reception a couple of days earlier. A vote of thanks to all who helped to organise the day. Just one request for next year, could the weather be bad on the day in 1998 as for the second year running the weather was lovely, dry and sunny, leaving a lot of greenkeepers sitting in the hotel and cursing missing the best day's weather for quite a while. Indeed as I write this the following day it is pouring with rain again here in Tain. It was good to see the BIGGA Chairman Pat Murphy present and also James and Janet from Headquarters.

Congratulations to Neil Ballingall on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Moray GC, Lossiemouth. Welcome to the Section, we look forward to seeing you at outings etc if possible. Congratulations also to Richard Atkin Jnr on his recent marriage down in Hull.

Section Secretary Dougal Duguid is wondering if anyone has a spare kidney as he is experiencing problems with his, seriously we wish Dougal a speedy recovery from his problems.

Two reminders for members, firstly have you sent back your 200 Club money yet, time is running out as the first draw is next month at Duff House Royal. Secondly, but not quite so urgent, BIGGA are running management courses again this Autumn, probably at Falkirk, and I know they were not full up in Scotland last year. This is ridiculous when you consider the cost is only £50 as the remaining £150 per delegate is paid from the Golden/Silver Key Fund. Clubs should be more willing to send staff on these two day courses as they are so heavily subsidised so get working on your Committee now, I am sure you will both benefit.

Finally I have received a letter from a young man in Canada who after seven years experience in greenkeeping in Canada and USA is looking for a job in Scotland. Unfortunately we are not

currently looking for staff here at Tain, but I thought that maybe someone out there in Scotland might have a place for him. His CV makes good reading, he even has a degree in turf management. Anyone interested in finding out more about Mark Obee can contact me on 01862 894402 and I can send you his CV.

Iain Macleod

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750539

North West

The vacancy of the North West Section Presidency that occurred through the retirement of Arthur Harrison has been accepted by John Walker, Director of Rite-feed. The North West Section Committee voted unanimously to offer John the opportunity to become President of the Section because of his genuine efforts in trying to better the cause/efforts of the greenkeeper. I was delighted that John accepted and know that we will see him at many of the Section events.

Some good news, North West Water assures us that the reservoirs are full and that this year there will be no water restrictions. I only hope we don't have a cold spring again giving a late growth on bent and fescue greens.

You will all see from your fixture lists that we have a full year of golf tournaments with the roses match and the stewards match requiring teams of 16. The Spring Tournament which is the Hayter Qualifier is on May 1 and you will need to register with Bill Merritt, 255 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool, L49 9RB enclosing £15 made payable to BIGGA N/W no later than Thursday April 24. Soup and sandwiches will be available from 12 noon to 1pm with tee off from 1.30pm.

Bert Cross

Sheffield

On February 6 we held our winter lecture at Rotherham GC. Our thanks go to Michael Palmer, from Supaturf, who gave a very interesting talk on water management which was thoroughly enjoyed by a good number of our members.





AMENITY
TECHNOLOGY

TURF COLOURANTS & WATER MANAGEMENT

Professional Solutions for the Green Environment

DRENCHER PELLETS

With the summers getting longer and hotter there is an increasing demand on the water supply and its application into the amenity sector. Through normal irrigation methods the spread patterns of water may give adequate coverage, but this does not mean that there is an even absorption of water into the soil. High spots on greens can be particularly prone to hydrophobic conditions caused by surface water run off due to insufficient water absorption.

For this reason, it has always been necessary to apply additional water to high spots, by syringing. To increase the effectiveness of this procedure it is advisable to apply a wetting agent along with this extra water. The easiest and most cost effective way to add this wetting agent is through the Drencher hose end applicator.

This has been designed to incorporate a chamber for a solid wetting pellet which is eroded as the water passes over it.

The Drencher pellet range consists of a straight WA (wetting agent) pellet and the 123 Premix pellet, a combined wetting agent, biostimulant, and micronutrient feed, both of which are supplied in cases of six pellets with each pellet treating between 3 and 6 greens.



DRENCHER GUN

The Drencher Gun is the most advanced hose end applicator of its type in the UK.

The applicator gun is easy to connect and operate and gives the operator total control at the hose end, where it is needed.

Designed and manufactured in Europe, the applicator has improved hose connector couplings, a simple shut off valve, brass spray nozzle and clear chamber which is tested to 120psi, making it easy and effective to use. An optional rose attachment is available.



GREEN LAWNER™



Greenlawnger™ turf colourant will restore the natural appearance of turf which has been damaged or discoloured by fertilizer burn, winter yellowing or other problems such as chemical or oil spills. It is ideal for sports turf, golf greens, tees and fairways, along with commercial application.

Greenlawnger™ turf paint is easily applied with any tank or knapsack sprayer to give a healthy, natural look to all turf grass. It will not wash or wear off turf after it has been applied, and the colour will last 10-14 weeks, or until the coloured grass is removed by mowing.

Greenlawnger™ is available in both 1 and 10 lts. for spray mixes, and should be applied at 1 lt. per 500m² or in Ready To Use (RTU™) aerosols for spot treatment. RTUs come in a case of 6 cans with a free applicator gun. Greenlawnger RTU™ is available in two colours, Standard Green for all applications and Agrostis Green for darker turf.

Greenlawnger™ Sand Concentrate is also available in 100 lt. drums for colouring sand/divot mix.



WATER MANAGEMENT

Crystal Clear™ WSP

Crystal Clear™ WSP is a concentrated microbial based lake clarifier containing 4 billion CFUs (Colony Forming Units) per gram of a proprietary blend of 17 bacillus bacterial strains. Crystal Clear WSP will biodegrade the nutrients, organic matter and hydrocarbons reducing surface scum, algae blooms, sludge and organic sediment, improving water clarity and quality. In addition, Crystal Clear will control methane and sulphide odours.

Crystal Clear™ WSP is packaged in easy to use water soluble packets. It is non-toxic and harmless to humans, animal and aquatic life. Crystal Clear WSP is fully compatible with all aquatic colourants.

For initial application each WSP will treat 250m³ of water, with a maintenance rate of 1 WSP per 1500m³ every 2 weeks. Available in cases of 6 WSP.

Lake Colorant™ WSP

Using Lake Colorant™ WSP to create natural looking blue water is easy and inexpensive. It is the perfect colourant for lakes, ponds, water hazards or large fountains.

Lake Colorant™ WSP is a highly concentrated blend of dry-flowable colourants in water soluble packets. Unlike liquid colourants, these totally eliminate any need for measuring or for any applicator contact with the colourant, so there is no mess. The packets dissolve quickly and completely, leaving no residue.

Lake Colorant's exclusive formula disperses the colourant quickly, and since the water soluble packet floats, colouring occurs from the top down for much faster results. Lake colourant is available in cases of 6 WSP. Each WSP will treat 1500 m³ of water.



DRENCHER LIQUID

Drencher liquid is a performance enhanced organic soil penetrant, combined with natural sugars to aid in the treatment of dry patch and stimulate soil microbial activity. Formulated for use on fine turf, Drencher liquid is an essential weapon in the fight against hydrophobic soil conditions.

- **ENHANCED WATER PENETRATION**
- **AIDS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRY PATCH**
- **STIMULATES SOIL MICROBIAL ACTIVITY**
- **NON SCORCHING FORMULATION**
- **100% ORGANIC**

Maintenance Rate

750 ml. - 1 lt. per 500 m² in 40 lts. of water (15 - 20 lts. per hectare in 800 lts. of water)

Extreme Hydrophobic Conditions

1.5 - 2 lts. per 500 m² in 40 lts. of water (30 - 40 lts. per hectare in 800 lts. of water)

Dew Control

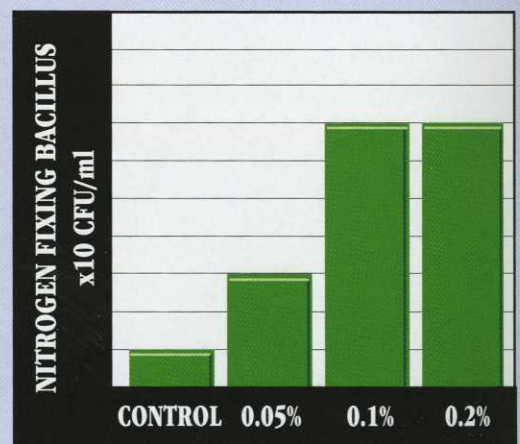
A treatment of between 625 ml. - 1250 ml. per 500 m² in 40 lts. of water will provide a dew control of between two and three days. This is, however, dependent on climatic conditions and irrigation levels and therefore the longevity of dew control may vary.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Independent research carried out in the USA shows the effectiveness of Drencher as a soil penetrant. The data below shows just a few of the beneficial results you can achieve with Drencher liquid.

PRODUCT	TIME (min)
Drencher	8.60
Aqua-Gro	15.26
Distilled Water	21.75

**In the above test, an 8 cm. column was filled with peat and various solutions of equal concentration were added on top of the peat, then timed to measure how long it took the solutions to penetrate.*



**The above test shows that Drencher is an effective microbial inulator of beneficial bacteria.*

*Full copy of results available on request.



If there is anyone interested in taking a First Aid Course would they please contact Ron Ullathorne on 04105 765322. The course will be filled on a first come first served basis as there will be only 12 places available.

If anybody has got a trophy from a 1995-96 golf competition please return it to Barry Heaney for insurance valuation.

Golf dates: Annual Tournament - July 7, Silkstone GC at 10am; Autumn Tournament - September 22, Sickleholme GC at 1.30pm; Christmas Tournament - November 24, Rotherham GC. Ron Ullathorne

North East

Slaley Hall are having a busy winter extending the 8th and 13th holes in readiness for the European Tour event in July. Work has restarted on the new 18 hole championship course designed by Neil Coles and Associates and just another reminder that they are looking for volunteers again this year.

Tony McLure, Course Manager at Whickham GC, informs me that they are opening their new 8 acre practice area shortly. Paul Moore, from Lindum Turf, has just gained a valuable order from Tony for supplying turf on two new tees there.

Derek Cruddass, of Garesfield GC, informs me that they have now changed all their bunker sand to the white Levenseat monosand. Two of his staff are to be congratulated. Firstly, Gary Needham on gaining his Phase 4 and having the letters LCGI after his name and, secondly, it just shows you that you are never too late to go to college as Alan Harrison, aged 48, is studying for Phase 2. Well done to both of you.

Glen Barker, of South Shields GC, is obviously getting the course ready for the Spring Competition in April as they are having a new irrigation system installed by Par 4. Apparently David Jennings, of Morpeth GC, has moved further afield by going to Australia!

Hopefully in December this year we are having a competition at some course which will coincide with the Christmas dinner followed by an AGM and prize giving. The chosen course will be announced at a later date. Another idea we are thinking about is a knock-out, based on a pairs format. Members should have a club handicap and the entry fee will be approximately £10 per couple. The details will be announced later.

New members to the Section are as follows: Kevin Mould - Whickham GC; Andrew Tolly -

Beamish Park GC, David Neil - Consett GC.

New members elected on to the Committee are A McLure, D Cuthbertson and D Cruddass. Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland

I am sorry to report that Bill Burt, the SISIS retired rep, died in January aged 80 years old. Bill was a perfect gentleman. He was our first President from 1979 for five years and was a regular attender at events and loved to go to exhibitions to meet old friends. Our sincere condolences go to Elizabeth, Martin and Richard Burt.

Our February meeting was on trees and was presented by John Nicholson, from Eamon Wall of Durham. He advised on checking your local area to see which trees grow well there. He told us not to plant trees in straight lines, use kerb or glyphosate to treat one square metre around the base of the trees and plant small trees for the best results. He can also advise on grants available for golf clubs wishing to plant and can help with plans for copes of trees. John then introduced Peter Facey from Ouston, Chester-le-Street, who grows trees from seed on his tree nursery.

First Aid Courses are available regularly at St Johns Ambulance Cleveland Headquarters, 236 Marton Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, telephone 01642 218131. A 4-day course costs £120 and includes a free 1-day top up after 18 months to comply with growing changes in treatments. All my staff are now qualified, are yours?

Chris Fiddell is back at work one year after his serious motor cycle accident. We wish you well Chris.

The Spring Tournament is to be held at Bedale GC on Thursday May 8 at 9.30 am.

New member Mark Aspden, from Northallerton, has successfully completed his Diploma in turf science and will be learning his trade from the Americas as he will be travelling to Shoal Creek GC in Alabama to work. Bruce Burnell

North Wales

A bit of news, contrary to my report in last month's issue of this magazine the entrance fee for members wishing to play in our golf competitions this year will be £11. This is due to the fact that the Section will be receiving our subscription refund for this year after all.

By now you should have received your entry forms for our Spring tournament at Frodsham,

please ensure that you return them to Terry Evans by the closing date of Sunday April 13. Our teeing times are between 0900 and 1300hrs and it is expected that "locals" will take the earlier times, leaving the later starting times for those that have further to travel.

Please note that all trade representatives that are not playing golf but who wish to attend our tournaments are requested to contact Terry Evans on 01352-720692.

It is provisionally hoped that our Autumn tournament will be at Abersoch GC on 8 October.

Finally, a welcome to two new members, Gareth Wyn Jones, from Henllys Hall GC, at Beaumaris, and Paul Drennan, of Maesdu GC. Gareth is our 14th member with the surname of Jones which represents exactly 10 per cent of our Section membership - can any other Section better this?

Trevor Johnston.

Northern

Our annual dinner dance was held at Bradford GC and what a superb evening it was. The food was excellent. Thank you to all the staff at the club for their hospitality and making it a very enjoyable event.

A total of 113 people attended the dinner, which I believe is the best turnout to date. Many thanks to Dave Thackray and Mel Guy for their help in arranging the function and to everyone who contributed towards the raffle prizes. Plenty of effort went into the organising but I'm certain all who attended will agree it was worthwhile.

May I thank Pat Murphy, our National Chairman, and his wife for attending in a year which I'm sure is exceptionally hectic. Thanks are extended also to Ian Holoran and his wife and Bob and Sara Lupton for coming. Sara always puts a smile on the face of a certain small stout rep's face! I wonder who that could be?

An excellent event and I hope we have as much support from greenkeepers, trade and friends at future dinner dances. Finally thanks to you all for your support to the Section.

Spaces are rapidly decreasing for the Hayter qualifier at Wakefield GC. Some people will be disappointed for not booking earlier.

I hear down the grapevine that things are happening out there in the Section, but unfortunately nobody gets in touch so that I can put it into the magazine. Please let me know of retirements, promotions, change of

club etc so that I can let everyone know.

My numbers are Home 01484 519829 (answer machine); Work 01977 690117 (12-1pm) and Mobile 0585 268136. Simon Heppenstall

MIDLAND REGION

Peter Larter

Tel: 01480 437507

East of England



The Section's winter education seminar seems to go from strength to strength. The turnout was excellent for our small area nearly half our membership. The informative talks were from John Hacker on soil sampling, Jay Dobson on thatch and a talk on Ecology and Conservation from Mike Schofield.

The afternoon session was a tour of the course with Mike Schofield assessing the conservation and ecology at Kenwick Park GC.

Many thanks to Ian Morton of Kenwick for providing the venue and helping to organise the successful event.

A warm welcome to new members of the Section: Philip Oldman, Newark; Colin Hutchcraft, Oasby; Graham Millard, Lawnmower Services; James Cuthbert, Boston, Craig Knight, Gedney Hill and Mathew Francis, Oundle. Retirement Members, Fred Cobb and George Knowles.

Dates for your diary:

April 9, Thorney Lakes GC, PGM Cup; May 1, Holme Hall GC, Rigby Taylor/Hayter Qualifier; June 17, Rutland County GC, Purdy's Cup and July 24, Boston GC, Lambs Cup.

People on the move. Phil Belton, Ramsey GC to St Neots GC and Kevin Hodges, Northshore to Cambridge Lakes.

If you have any news, ideas etc please telephone 01733 260297. Graeme Macdonald

Midland

I would like to start by informing you of two members making moves to new golf clubs, the first being Michael Green who has left his position at Evesham GC. Congratulations! The second being myself, I have now moved to be Course Manager at Ross-on-Wye GC from my position at Enviu, so the future for both of us is a busy one.

By the time you read this report all of you who intend playing in the Spring competition should have sent your applications along with those intending playing in the singles or doubles knock out.

There has been a steady return of people who are interested in the trips to championship

courses, I will contact those people involved.

Toro, along with Alexanders, are holding an Open Day and demonstration at Perton GC on June 11. This will start at 9am and there are also a limited number of places to play golf so the first to apply will take priority. This should be a good chance to see all the new Toro range.

I would like to welcome our new members to the section – Simon Ingham, Trevor Asken and Adrian Howells.
Jonathan Wood

East Midlands

By now all members should have received their entry forms for this year's Spring Tournament which will be held at Cosby GC, on Thursday May 1. Anyone who has not received a form can contact me on 0116 289 0301 and I will gladly forward a copy. Please remember that to enable you to play in this competition (which is also the qualifier for the Hayter Regional Final) you must have paid your yearly membership and your form must be returned to me before the closing date.

This month we welcome the following new members to our Section – Paul Norton, Longcliffe GC; Richard Saunt, Birstall GC; Lee Baines, Lingdale GC; Ross Wallace, Kettering GC; and Paul Roe, Tony Penty, Steven Wheelton and Andrew Baker, all of Kedleston GC.

Brooksbury College have arranged two lecture evenings and all members are welcome to attend these lectures. They include a talk from David Bibble on "Dealing with Stress" on Thursday April 17 and on Thursday April 24 the weather is the subject of Dave Mutton's talk. Both talks begin at 7.00 pm. For further details contact Paul Greene at the College.

The Betterball Stableford competition on March 5 at Lingdale GC was very poorly supported by members with only six teams tak-

Around the Green



ing part. Hopefully the next Tournament will attract a better turnout. Results will appear in next month's article.

Finally if any member has anything they would like to see in this report please do not hesitate to contact me.

Antony Bindley

Berks, Bucks and Oxon

Once again a new season beckons, I wonder what's in store for us all this year? As we enter Spring my thoughts go back to before I entered this profession when my only interest was to play golf. I used to look forward to the US Masters on the telly, the sight of that manicured playing surface was something to behold. Not anymore! This one tournament causes so much grief for many of us as we approach the start of another season. The sight of those lush fairways and fast true greens causes comments in many clubhouses to the effect of "How come our course is not to that standard?" Do we really have to explain?

Despite my comments I will still be glued to the television on the Sunday evening watching the drama unfold once again.

I mentioned in last month's article that we were putting together the Fixture Card. This has actually gone to print with all the dates and venues confirmed: Spring – Castle Royle; Summer – Badgemore; Autumn – Lambourne; Turkey Trot – Richings Park. As well as confirming the venues we have lined up sponsorship for the first two events and are in the process of tying up the remaining two.

We have appointed a Handicap Secretary for the coming season

so be warned, please leave the sombreros and guns at home!

As well as the golfing events we have been approached by a local company who wish to sponsor a family fun day in the summer. This will be a social event with food and drink, probably a barbeque on a Saturday or Sunday evening. Details of this event will be posted soon, in the meantime if you have any ideas about events you would like us to hold then contact myself or Ray Clark.

I have recently attended a Regional Board meeting at Northampton. If anybody wishes to glance over the minutes of this meeting then please contact me by telephone.

I look forward to seeing many new faces this coming season at the various events.

Lindsay Anderson

Mid-Anglia

Our first golf tournament of the year takes place on April 17 at Wellingborough GC. All entries should have been sent in by now. This will be a 36 hole event with one round counting as the qualifier for the Regional Final of the Hayter Tournament.

The Regional Final, should you qualify, will be held on Thursday June 26 at the Warwickshire GC.

There have been several new appointments at golf club's in the Section recently. Good luck to Phillip Belton, the new Course Manager at St Neots GC, and Neil Whittaker, who has moved from Woburn to Arkley. Also, Andrew Trainell takes over as First Assistant at St Neots.

The Lodgeway fourball will have been drawn by now and you should all know which league you are in. I know April and May are particularly busy times on our golf courses but please do not leave your matches to the last minute as this only causes problems with arranging times to play and can disrupt the final league tables.

Paul Lockett

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956



South East Region

The Gentlemen's Dinner at Walton Heath is often beset with weather problems, in the past it has been known for players to tee-off in snow. This year however the weather was very kind to us, being very pleasant even if turning a little chilly towards the end of the day.

It is comforting to know that a Golf Club with the stature of Walton Heath can make Greenkeepers and their guests so welcome, with Administrative, Bar and Catering Staff doing all that they possibly could to make the day a success.

The course, as usual was in prime condition for which Clive Osgood and his team should be justifiably proud. The New Course however is not easy and this tough test of golf was reflected in the scores, with even scratch players struggling to achieve respectable scores. Of the 76 starters 13 managed to play to their handicaps or better. Nigel Stapley, Darent Valley, and Graham Winckless, Secretary, Abridge Golf Club, each managed 40 points, a fine effort from both of them. The Trade, as ever, gave the event wonderful support both by taking part and contributing to the prize fund and some fine prizes were won by Members, Guests and Trade alike. Prize Winners were: 0-9 Handicap: Winner (and The Shulockie Putter) 1. Ian Semple, Old Fold Manor; 2. Mike Smith; 10-17 Handicap: 1. John Hill Birch Grove; 2. George Booker; 18-24 Handicap: 1. Nigel Stapley, Darent Valley; 2. David Howells, Coombe Wood. Guests and Associates: 1. Graham Winckless, Abridge; 2. Mark Day, CMP Equip. Nearest the Pin. 2nd Bill Machin, Home Park; 6th, Huw Morgan, Wilderness, 10th John Vivers, Bentley.



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After an excellent meal enjoyed by all, the Membership were welcomed in a humorous speech by Michael Simmonds Captain of Walton Heath GC and then Joe Goodman, a "bandit" off 18 but a Comedian "Par excellence" entertained all present with his hilarious 45 minute act. The event although a great success was undersubscribed this year.

If you would like to attend next year, contact your Section Secretary to make sure that you get a chance to apply for tickets. Derek Farrington

Essex

First of all we would like to thank those who returned the questionnaire. It is vital in these early days to have your views on how you would like to see the Essex Section run.

We would also like to thank Kings Horticulture for sponsoring the questionnaire and especially Graham Paul for all his hard work he has put into the project.

Following our first golf day on April 22 at Chigwell GC, the next meeting will be held at Writtle College, Chelmsford. The date is Wednesday May 14 (note the change of our usual Tuesday night) starting at 7.30pm in the Main Building Room L60. The two lectures "The Life Circle of the Grass Plant" by Roger Levitt and Jeff Taylor of Johnsons Seed and "Fungicides Functions - All You Need to Know" by Andy Crawley.

See you all at the golf, lectures or both!
Dave Wells

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Gordon Child
Tel: 01803 844056

South Coast

On Wednesday February 5 the



Section held its quiz night at Bramshaw GC. Unfortunately I was not able to make it but our Chairman informed me afterwards that it was quite successful with seven teams of four competing. It would be nice to see a few more attending next time with perhaps a few more ladies, and don't worry, the questions were on general knowledge, not greenkeeping! Congratulations to the winning team who were from High Post.

Our Regional/Section Seminar was held at Sparsholt College on Tuesday February 18 and was very well attended with around 100 delegates. The Education Committee once again has done us proud and arranged some very good speakers for us. Our first speaker was Duncan McGilvray who spoke on "Greenkeeping - A Developing Industry". Duncan discussed the titles Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager and illustrated this with some very good slides. The question of "working head greenkeeper" also came up, I'll leave you to think about that one! He then went on to talk about education and NVQs as Duncan is solely committed to educating greenkeepers.

Next we listened to an interesting presentation by Scott MacCallum, our Editor. He spoke about his past appointments in the golfing world which was very amusing and then talked about the magazine and what he had in mind for the future.

We then came to the first of our student presentations. Mike Cartwright from Salisbury and South Wilts GC gave us a talk on the environmental programme at his golf course. As soon as he had cracked his first joke there was no stopping him!

Our second student was Steve Privett from Hampworth GC. His talk was about the autumn/winter programme at his golf course and he also gave

his own views on the future of the industry.

Both students prepared themselves well and should be congratulated on their presentations.

After lunch John Le-Mar from Bio Lube spoke on "The Green Alternative". John's firm specialises in bio-degradable oils. These are to replace mineral oils that can do so much damage to a green when a hydraulic pipe bursts. He gave us a good insight into all his products and showed us how effective the cleaning agents were along with how water and oil separate.

Our final speaker was Joe Paulin who spoke about his club, The London GC. Joe has been there from the beginning and has two 18 hole courses. All the greens are a bent mix, hence at the peak of the summer there is a staff of 35. Joe illustrated his talk with some excellent slides. When he tells us that on one of the courses there are 179 bunkers you can see why he has such a large staff. The whole complex is a real eye opener. Joe is very keen for the Section to visit The London GC and if there is a large enough interest we will book a coach.

Please let your committee member know if you are interested and we will make the necessary arrangements.

At the end of the day our Chairman thanked the speakers for giving up their time and providing us with some very good papers. He also thanked Sparsholt College for allowing us the use of their facilities. Our thanks also go to the sponsors of the day: Huxleys Grass Machinery, Driving Force Leisure, Gem Professional, ISS Aquaturf Systems Ltd and Winchester Garden Machinery for their support. On a personal note I would like to thank all of you who attended. Without you the Seminar would not have

been the success that it was.

A final reminder for Westurf 97 to be held at Long Ashton GC on April 30. As I said in the March Report this will be Gordon and Marion Child's last Westurf so lets make a big effort and give them all the support we can. We are looking for a record attendance this year. There are new stands, a new layout, plenty of demonstrations and an improved PA system! Anyone who has any spare seats please let me know, likewise anyone who requires a lift please contact me on 01329 282362.

Ken Lodge

Devon and Cornwall

April has arrived and at last those dark winter nights are starting to fade in our minds as our thoughts turn to presenting our courses in the best possible condition during the season ahead. What better way to help you achieve your goal than to visit Westurf on April 30 at Long Ashton GC, Bristol where you will be able to see all the latest products and technology at your local turf care show. On arrival just pick up and complete Westurf's short questionnaire and you could walk away with a travel voucher for £200. This will be Gordon and Marion's last show in charge so what better way to thank them for all their efforts over the years, then to all of you who attend the show to make the day unforgettable.

REMEMBER - APRIL 30 - LONG ASHTON GC, BRISTOL.

The Section's February meeting was held at Perranporth GC on Wednesday 26 on a cool and very windy day. Our golfing members played over the excellently presented links course for the Avoncrop Trophy. The playing conditions got a lot tougher when the hail showers arrived early on in the day. As usual our non-golfing members had a

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

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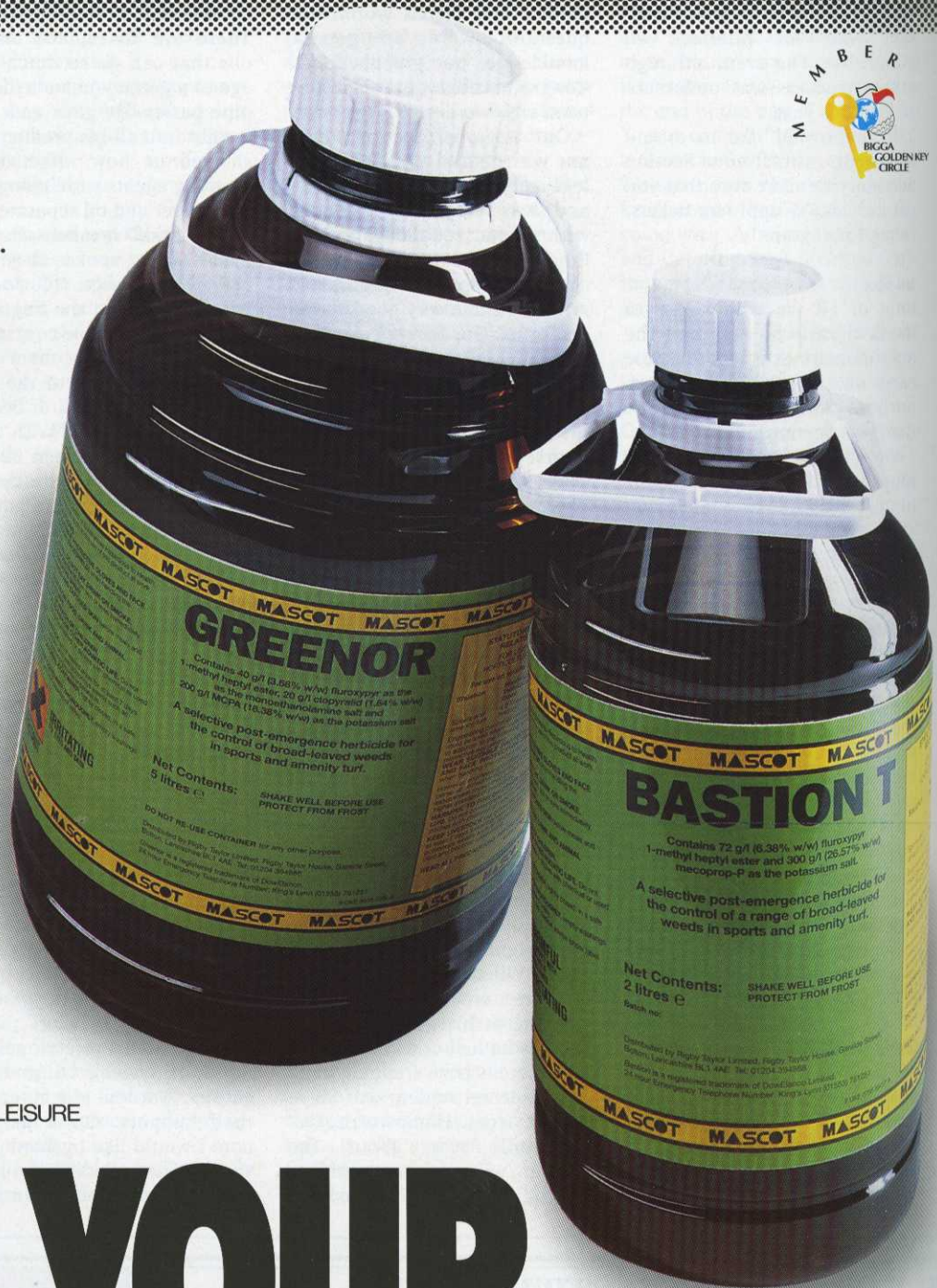
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