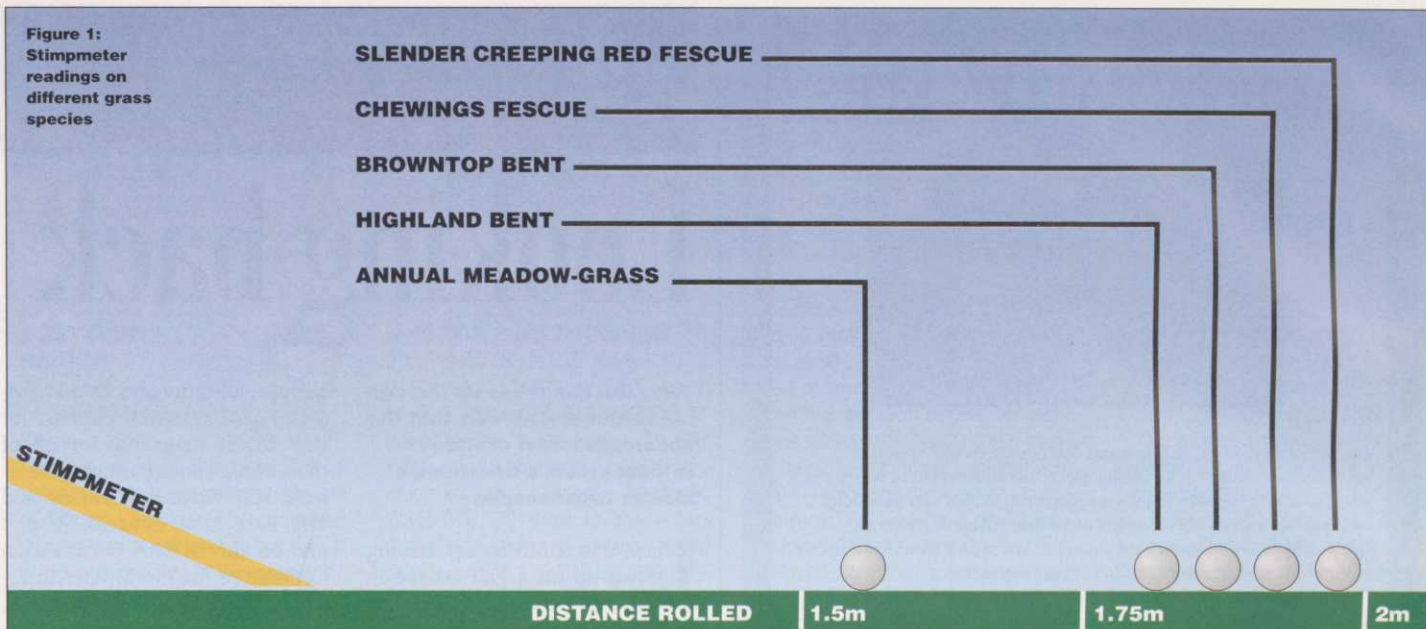


Figure 1:
Stimpmeter
readings on
different grass
species



increased from zero to 50 kg/ha per year but differences were only statistically significant when nitrogen levels were more than 200 kg/ha per year. This effect did not occur on the topsoil or USGA constructions and almost certainly reflects less vigorous grass growth on the pure sand rootzone where phosphate had not been applied.

■ Effects of cutting height It is inevitable that ball roll should increase as the turf is cut more tightly, but very little work on the effects of cutting height on ball roll has been published in the United Kingdom, so I have to refer to American studies to assess the magnitude of the effect. Work from the New Jersey Agricultural Experimental Station and the USGA showed that reducing cutting height from a quarter of an inch (6.4 mm) to three sixteenths of an inch (4.8 mm) increased distance rolled by 13% for upslope putts and a massive 57% for downslope putts. Their results also showed that ball roll measured in the direction of cutting was between 7-15% greater than roll length against the direction of cut.

Research from Penn State University published a year later showed that mowing at three thirty seconds of an inch (2.4 mm) increased distance rolled by about one third compared with mowing at three sixteenths of an inch (4.8mm). They also found that mowing seven times per week, instead of thrice weekly, increased distance rolled by about 15%.

■ Effect of other maintenance practices There appears to be very little published work on the effects of other management practices on green speed. A recent trial at Bingley showed

that although variations of irrigation rate from up to 40% above and below the theoretical evapotranspiration demand had major effects on hardness and ball impact properties, the effects on ball roll were small.

American work from the University of Rhode Island in 1981 showed some differences associated with varying top dressing programmes and for example turf receiving a sand-soil mix based on loamy, coarse sand every four weeks had significantly lower green speeds than turf receiving twice yearly top dressing treatments.

Light rolling can also increase green speed without the need to reduce cutting height and many tournaments now have rolling as part of the preparation programme e.g. the use of a Turf Iron. Work from Penn State University published in 1994 showed that light-weight rolling increased Stimpmeter readings by an average of 38 cm. The effect was short-lived (less than 24 hours)

and the amount of thatch present may have an effect on how much green speed is increased. The results from Penn State showed no significant effects on infiltration rates or bulk density but this perhaps needs to be examined over a wider range of soil types and in studies of longer duration than their 95 day project.

There appears to be very little work on the effects of mechanical treatments such as verticutting and scarifying on green speed. This is perhaps surprising in the light of the fact that thatch accumulation is often listed as one of the main factors responsible for slow green speeds.

KEEPING THE GREENS UP TO SPEED

In a recent study – *Greenkeeper International* March 1997 – we concluded that Stimpmeter values between 1.6 m and 2.8 m were normal for the United Kingdom and that values below 1.5 m were too slow. A practical upper

limit of 3.0 m was suggested because it is felt that with current technology and grass types available in this country sustaining ball roll values above 3 m would have long term consequences on the quality of the putting surface.

Nevertheless it should be an objective to achieve firm, fast putting surfaces and the research summarised in this paper suggests that there are a number of ways to accomplish this without recourse to major reductions in cutting height.

Firstly ensure that greens are not over-fertilised. For the majority of soil dominated greens around 100-200 kg/ha of nitrogen are needed on an annual basis to sustain reasonable growth and for sand dominated rootzones this figure rises to about 250 kg/ha of nitrogen. For phosphate and potassium levels the key is to keep values on the low side.

Secondly, do not over-water. In hot, dry weather around 20-25 mm of water will be required to replace evapotranspiration losses. In cooler conditions this figure will fall substantially and allowance must also be made for natural rainfall. If there are any localised dry areas it is better to rely on hand watering, selective spiking and the use of wetting agents, rather than risk over watering the entire green.

Finally, although there is perhaps little research evidence on this point it is essential to control thatch development. Moderation of fertiliser and irrigation inputs discussed above will certainly help in this respect but a good aeration programme and regular grooming and verticutting will help deal with procumbent, matted growth.



Measurement of green speed on a rootzone trial using an inclined ramp

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A GREENKEEPER'S DIARY

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Looking back

Terry Buchen takes us through his career and reveals that the accomplishment of which he is most proud is becoming a Master Greenkeeper.

I have had a fun career, having grown-up on a golf course in the Chicago suburb of Glenview under the mentoring and guidance of my father and grandfather, both Golf Course Superintendents for most of their lives. After graduating from Penn State University in agronomy/turfgrass management in 1968 and the University of California-Irvine with a certificate in golf and park facility administration in 1974, I have worked in all four corners of America and most areas in between, having grown every type of turfgrass used on golf courses, including Kikuyugrass fairways at storied Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles.

My travels have included being the Golf Course Superintendent during grown-in on 10 new golf courses, designed by such famous architects as George & Tom Fazio; Pete Dye; Ted Robinson; Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish, Robert Bruce Harris and Jack Nicklaus, in the three distinct growing medians in the US. Being an agronomist for the PGA TOUR was a grand experience, setting-up 47 tournaments on the regular tour, in 20 different states and one in Canada, as I shall always treasure this as a very important milestone in my further learning of the art of greenkeeping.

The accomplishment that I am most proud of was being awarded the Master Greenkeeper Certificate by The Right Honourable The Lord Griffiths, MC, during BTME '94 in Harrogate. It was my first trip across the pond and my wife, Debbie, and I had loads of fun as we made many new friends in the process and had many, many laughs with the nice people of the UK.

I keep very busy as a contributing editor for *Golf Course News* magazine while writing the monthly column titled "The Savvy Superintendent" and other

feature columns and as an advisory board selection panelist for *Golf Digest* magazine for all of their rating contests, such as America's 100 Greatest Courses and The Best New Courses. Also, I and on the GCSAA Certification Committee for the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation, Green Section Committee for the United States Golf Association, and a Research and Advisory Board Member for Total Quality Management (TQM) in Golf & Country Clubs. One of my proudest moments was while I was golf course superintendent at the Double Eagle Club in Columbus, Ohio, *Golf Digest* magazine in their May, 1995 issue ranked Double Eagle the 2nd best conditioned course in America, Augusta National was ranked in first place. *Golf* magazine, in their

'Last year I decided to give full-time agronomy consultancy a try'

June, 1996 issue ranked in first place. *Golf* magazine, in their June, 1996 ranked the Double Eagle Club 4th best conditioned course in the US.

Last year, after doing agronomy consulting work for 20+ years part-time, I decided to give full-time agronomy consulting a try and formed my own company, travelling worldwide to share my many experiences with greenkeepers, superintendents and other course officials. Most of my consulting work entails grown-in during new construction and restoration/renovation projects; tournament conditioning on established courses, due diligence agronomy audits for course officials and routine maintenance issues. Gordon Irvine, MG, and I have discussed the possibility of working together on some selected projects as well as hopefully with Jeremy Slessor of European Golf Design. Thank you and have a great summer.

■ Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG, Consulting Agronomist, Terry Buchen Golf Agronomy International

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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Elliott Small
Tel: 01259 731445
East



The quiz night at the Black Bull in Dalkeith had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. Is the social committee wasting their time? Next on the agenda is the spring outing at Winterfield GC. In Dunbar, a great day was had by the 50-plus members and trade who attended. There are a few people to thank – the captain and council for courtesy of the course, the club master and club mistress for the refreshments (by the way, that Belhaven best is something else) kitchen staff for the meals – they were extremely good. Last but not least Craig Pennyquick, Head Greenkeeper and his staff. The course was a credit at this time of year, it was in excellent condition. Craig, keep up the good work. To the trade thanks for your support, raffle prizes etc. Also to Tom Murray and Graham who look after all your cards on the day and kept everything running smoothly, thanks lads.

All scores and names are below, one thing to mention though, trade representative Tom Brannan, from Souters of Stirling, had a hole-in-one on the par-3 4th (it bounced along the fairway onto the green then into the hole) Tom was jumping about and shouting so much I thought Celtic had won something. Congratulations to him and a quote from Tom himself – "It cost me more that night than it did when my twin daughters were born a few months ago." (PS: Tom, wait until they both decide to get married. You ain't seen nothing yet!)

Next golfing on the calendar is the Summer Tournament, on 24 June at Harburn G.C. which is teams of two playing a Stableford. Partners will be drawn on the day this is so members will get to meet different people in the Section. This is something new, the committee are trying this year as well as making all outing afternoons only this gives you time to get some work done on your courses in the morning before you head off to the section event. BIGGA is a golf club friendly association. It was also good to see a lot of new faces at the spring outing, the committee hope that this continues. If you think different to any of the above or have any views of your own give me a call or drop me a line.

Results – Spring Outing 1997, Winterfield G.C. Scratch-G. Wood 72, 1st Class – 1. S. Crawford 67, 2.; S. Green-

wood 72, 3. I. Bell 73. 2nd Class – 1. S.J. Russell 69, 2. C.J. Yeaman 71, 3. G. Purves 73. 3rd Class – 1. S. Hayes 71, 2. G. Stavert 74, 3. A McCleish 77. New Member – Ian Cowan 70 B/H; Trade – Ian Thompson 67; Veteran – Ralph Bullock 72; Guest – R. Martin, Winterfield, 70; Hole in one – Tom Brannan, Souters of Stirling. Hayter Qualifiers. Cat 1. I. Bell, G. Wood, S. Greenwood, A. Holmes, Res T. Murray. Cat 2. S.J. Russell, R. Thomson, K. Anderson, J. Nielson, Res S. Dixon. Cat 3. A. McLeish, G. Trotter, S. Hayes, B. Duthie, Res A. Forrest. Worst score of the day D. Jefferies, T. Sherriff, 122, worst aggregate on par 3's G. Blair 52, Ratho Park GC.

At our committee match at Gullane Golf Club on May 20, a great day was had by all the Committee (so I was told). We also had Paul Sago, Course Manager, and Bill Robertson Head Greenkeeper both from Gullane. The weather on the day has to be the worst I have played in for a long time, it was torrential from the night before and still when we left the club that night, not ideal for golf. The winner of the Eddie Holt Trophy this year was Craig Pennyquick, so well done to him. By the way Craig I will get it back off you next year. Yet again a different name on the trophy – no committee person has won it twice since it was first played for back in 1991, and we hope that's how it will remain. Eddie would have liked it for everyone to get a chance of winning. The Chairman v Vice Chairman for the Shield was won by the Vice Chairman's team.

Thanks must go to the Gullane GC for the courtesy of the course, Paul Sago/Bill Robertson for the condition of the course(s), they were in great shape considering the weather. Also the club house staff for the meals and refreshments which was indulged in considerably over the day and thanks to our sponsors for the day Lothian Tractors. A big thank you to Suzanne Gilles, Lothian Tractors, who played golf with us that day. Thanks to you and the company.

The Skittles night in May was cancelled due to lack of numbers – we had only about seven members some with a partner so I would think that will be the demise of the Skittles nights, as that is the fourth one to be cancelled in a row. At £40 a time that is a total of £160 lost for four events. At the end of the day that is your money.

Next on the agenda is the Summer Tournament at Harburn GC on June 24 – report next month. Section member-

ship is continuing to go up – I don't have exact numbers to hand but if you know of anyone in the trade that is not a member get them to give our secretary a call on 0131-6603965 and he will tell them the benefits of joining BIGGA, and will also send them out an application form. So if you're a greenkeeper get into BIGGA. It's worth it.

Myself, Steve Dixon, (secretary), and our wives were very pleased to be invited to the official opening of King Acre Golf Course on May 31. We would like to thank Tom King and his family for the very kind invitation, this has to be one of the best new courses I have seen for a long time. You would think it has been there for quite a number of years. All I can say is give Tom a phone call and get down to play it, but watch the lake at the left of the 18th! I would also like to congratulate George Purves and his team for the amount of work that must have gone on to have it ready for opening day. It was well worth it in the end. Well done to everyone concerned with Kings Acre Golf Course, it is a credit to you all.

If anyone has any news, information to pass on, simply pick up the phone (0131-4457165 office, 01620-842037 home) or drop me a line at Muirfield Drive, Gullane.

That all this month folks, see you next time.

Chris Yeaman

North

The spring outing at Duff House Royal was a great success with almost 90 members and trade golfing, and several others along for the day. The weather was excellent as was the course thanks to Willie Forsyth and his staff, prize winners were as follows:- Scr:- 1. M. Wilson, Forres, 71; 2. K. Peace, Inverurie, 73 Class 1:- 1. N. Sadler, Grantown-on-Spey, 71-5-66; 2. P. Don, Demway, 74-4-70; 3. S. McBain, Hazlehead, 78-7-71. Class 2; 1. S. William, Peterculter, 70-8-62; 2. C. Cumming, Fortrose; 3. M. Keay 76-9-67. B.I.H. Class 3 – 1. D. Marnoch, Peterculter, 84-16-68; 2. D. Robertson, Newmarcher, 85-14-71 B.I.H; 2. R. Donald, Oldmeldrum, 75-6-69; Apprentice:- 1. J. Morson, Westhill, 86-16-70; 2. P. Watson 91-18-73. Trade:- P. Allan, Stewarts, 72-5-67. Guest:- B. Edmund 72-3-69. Longest Drive:- Class 1 N. Sadler; Class 2 S. Morrison, Royal Aberdeen, Class 3 S. Hogg, Fortrose. Nearest the hole:- D. Green, Huntly. Draw for BIGGA Blazer:- D. Anthony, Duff House Royal, 200 Club winners were as follows: January No.35 D.

Duguid, Westhill, February No 114; Mrs P. MacLeod, Coventry, March No.31; A. Dobbie, Boat of Garten, all £30. April £100 No.21; B. Cocker Jnr, Alyth.

The following members will represent the section in the Norrie Whytock competition this August – H. McLatchie, S. Williams, C. Cumming, and C. Burgess, Forres. Finally on the outing, this is the first time we have had to turn away entries so next outing get your form back quick to ensue participation.

The Hayter Qualifier at Troon Lochgreen was not a great success for the Section with no qualifiers, Colin Mackay, Elmwood GC, and Chris Cumming, Fortrose, are reserves in Class 1 and 2 respectively. The Section dinner dance this year will be at the Clover Leaf Hotel, Bucksburn, Aberdeen, on Saturday November 22, price remains £12.50 and rooms are available at the hotel for £38.00 B&B for two. If members want this event to continue a good turnout is required, as friends and guests far outnumber members in previous dances and we are running this for members really, although others are more than welcome.

I hear Colin Forbes and Doug Boyle have moved from Aboyne to Terland we wish them well, also we wish Martin Dodds well in his new job in Aberdeen after leaving Cullen.

Iain Macleod

Central

Apologies for there being no Section news last month, the reason being that I was in hospital at the time the magazine went to press. Thanks to everyone who sent their good wishes, I appear to be on the road to recovery and hopefully things will get back to normal, whatever that is, pretty soon.

No sooner do we welcome Jim Ellis's return to the Section when he ups and leaves for pastures new, in Germany. Every success in your new appointment Jim, I hope everything goes well for you. (Perhaps we may now get a contribution from Germany for the section news!)

While we are on about members it is great to welcome the following new ones, Scott Watson and Ben Durkin, both Aberdour; Marc Brownlie, Pitreavie; Gregor McNee, Glenberrie; Craig Hopkins, Elmwood College; Andrew Crawford, Kinross; and Ian Smith, Bishopshire, and we look forward to meeting them at some of our forthcoming events.

We have gained 18 new members so far this year, that's down on our target of one per week, so if you know of any

greenkeeper near you who is not a member, encourage him/her to join. If you wish, bring them along to any of our events, as a guest and let them see for themselves what they are missing by not being part of BIGGA.

The first golf tournament of the season was held over The Dukes Course at Craigtoun, St Andrews, in April, when some 55 members and guests enjoyed the courtesy of their excellent facilities. Our sincere thanks go to Course Manager, Owen Browne and his staff, for having the course in tip top condition on the day, a great achievement when you consider it is a new course and the terrible weather conditions in the early part of the year, a special thanks to Heidi Orr, Golf Administration Manager, for all her help in making the arrangements and for helping to make sure everything ran smoothly on the day – that includes granting extra tee times for those who did not return entry forms!

Scottish Chairman, Sam Morrison, made the long journey down from Aberdeen and we appreciate the support Sam gives to Section events. I would also like to thank all our Patrons and everyone who contributed to the raffle prizes and helped to make the day a great success.

Prize winners were as follows: Best Scratch:- D. Leith, St Andrews, 74; Best Nett:- K. Mitchell, St Andrews, 72; 1st Class, H/cap:-1. T. Braid, Lundin Links, 74; 2. H/cap S. Robertson, Elmwood, 75; 2nd Class, H/cap:- 1 I. Ross, The Dukes Course, 77; 2. H/cap – S. Sime, Leven Links, 78; 3rd Class, H/cap:- 1. P. Brown, Falkland, 83; 2. H/cap – S. Campbell, Stirling, 84; Stewart's Quaiçh:- I. Ross/K. Stirling, The Dukes Course, 151; Patrons:- S. Barbour, A & J Bowens, 75; Guest's:- G. Prendergast, Greenma UK Ltd, 73.

The Inter-Club Tournament is now under way and with an entry of 16 teams the competition to stop Auchterarder from winning the trophy three years in a row looks even tougher this year, although Archie and James will be all out to make it a hat trick of victories.

Congratulations on their recent marriages to Owen Browne, of The Dukes Course, and Robin Hadley, of Pitreavie GC. Unfortunately I don't have the names of their spouses so have to

Around the Green



remain rather formal. Anyway, best wishes for the future Mr & Mrs Browne and Mr & Mrs Hadley from everyone in the Central Section.

Arrangements are being made to organise some of the events which were on the list sent out earlier this year, although going by the number of forms returned (36 out of 240) it would appear that events are not going to be that well supported. John Bashford will be organising the fishing on Loch Leven during the season so there maybe some interesting stories being told at the Autumn Tournament, at Auchterarder in September. Andy O'Hara is hoping to organise a further football match, but unfortunately it will not be representative of the Section as only seven members showed an interest in forming a Central Section team. Kevin Brunton is helping to arrange a visit to Parkhead Stadium, Glasgow, which will allow members to see the work involved in the renovation and preparation of a pitch prior to the start of a new playing season. Details of all Events will be mailed out as soon as possible. (Probably only to those who took the time to return their forms). So if you failed to return your form you may miss out!

John Crawford

Hayter Challenge Scottish Regional Final

The Scottish Region had another glorious day for the Regional final of the Hayter Challenge. The Loch Green course was in excellent condition all thanks to Bill Fletcher and his staff and it certainly provided a very stern test for the competitors. We were pleased to have Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayters, joining us. Mind you he was only coming home as Troon is his home town. It was also nice to have our BIGGA Chairman Pat Murphy and John Pemberton from HQ with us for the day. With Hamish Macfie and then Pat Murphy acting as

starters everything ran exactly to time, (Cecil and Harry look out) and the last three teed off on the dot, pale faced greenkeepers these three, obviously spending too much time in their offices.

It was a long way round for many of the lads over 6500 yards and between the heat and the strong breeze, yes it was, just a breeze up here, there were a few weary travellers at the end. The first pint never touched the sides, and so to the results; Cat 1. 1. D. Leith, St Andrews, 73-1-72; 2. S. Taylor, Killermont, 74-1-73; 3. D. Wilson, Irvine Bogside, 81-8-73; 4. C. McKay, Elmwood, 79-6-73. Cat 2. 1. A. Wilson, Kirkhill, 86-14-72; 2. J. Johnston, Turnberry, 86-13-73; 3. A. Torrance, King James, 86-11-75; 4. C. Cumming, Fortrose, 87-12-75. Cat 3. G. Shearer, Balmore, 91-22-69; 2. S. Carmichael, Fincs GC, 92-22-70; 3. D. Nelson, Brunston Castle, 91-21-70; 4. A. Robertson, Grangemouth, 91-20-71.

So what a team we have this year everyone dedicated to giving the team manager a winning finale to his time as Administrator, yes I'm sure they are!

Elliott Small

NORTHERN REGION

Bob Lupton
Tel: 01782 750539

North West

A good attendance at the spring tournament ensured good competition to qualify for the Hayter regional final at Matten hall on Wednesday July 9. The spring tournament was at Didsbury Golf Club on Thursday May 1, and although I was otherwise engaged and could not attend, I was assured that Alec Davis and his staff had the course in excellent condition.

The qualifiers for the Hayter regional final are: Cat 1 1. P. Pearce; 2. S. Moon; 3. F. Platt. Cat 2. 1. L. McAndrew; 2. A. Bennett; 3. B. Turner. Cat 3. 1. S. Moseley; 2. J. Fitzgerald; 3. A. Davis.

I would like to thank all the companies who provided prizes for the day. Unfortunately Alec Davis has the list of companies, and he's in Florida at the moment, but I will name the companies in my next Section news. On Monday August 4 we have a match against the Northern Section. I require two teams of 16 players, and both matches are

sponsored so the day will cost you nothing, both matches will be played to win, but at the same time are always very enjoyable.

There are several supervisory and management courses both at Aldwark Manor and regional. If you are available for the golf matches or require a further information about the courses contact me on 0151 7245412.

Bert Cross

Sheffield

There is not a lot of news this month, but there are quite a few new members to the section they include: John Evisan, Neil Vernon, David Ingleton, Paul Jarvis, Ian Scott, Geoffrey Wells, Glenn Hearn, Richard Evison and Colin Jessop all from Gainsborough GC. Jonathan Knowles and Mark Knowles from Rufford Park GC and John Darroch from Hirst Priory GC.

Our next golf will be our autumn competition to be held at Sicklehome GC on September 22 at 1.30pm.

John Lax

MIDLAND REGION

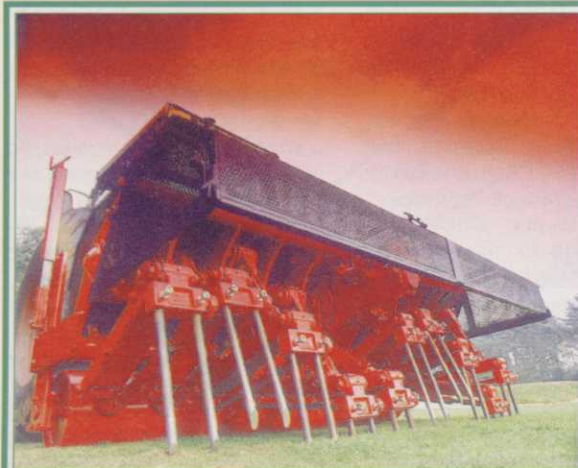
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

Midland

July has come around quickly again bringing with it the usual concerns about water usage and all the grievances which seem to go hand in hand with this seasonal crisis. Well I suppose it could be worse, we could all have the troubles of Yorkshire Water which never seem to be rectified. After all we have had one of the better starts to the season regarding weather for some time and actually being able to get a better degree of growth on those usually dormant areas.

On May 13 the annual President's Day took place at Handsworth GC. This always proves to be an enjoyable evening and this one was no exception many thanks to all the greenkeepers who took part and especially to Eric Thomas for organising the greenkeepers' team so admirably.

Can I remind anyone who is participating in the Rite Feed singles that the first round needs to be played before July 18? Also, to any pairs playing the Rigby Taylor to make sure that you get



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your games played before the deadline dates to save the back up of games.

There is the possibility of arranging 5-a-side football matches, Keith Weston from Kenilworth GC is hoping to get things organised so if anyone is interested could they please either talk to myself or Keith at the next tournament or give Keith a call on 01926 411948.

Anyone wishing to give me news or information would they please give me a ring as this article is all about getting information and news to the members of the Midland Section and I can not possibly be able to get all the information which you need to know so anything you can tell me I will be pleased to print in this article.

Jonathan Wood

Bucks, Berks and Oxon

The first golf event proved very successful with 40 competitors battling it out for the prestigious prizes. Castle Royle proved to be a very good test of golf with nobody beating par on the day (very little work for our newly appointed handicap secretary!). Allan Collis and his staff are to be congratulated on the superb condition of the course.

The main sponsors of the day were Rigby Taylor and Hayter so many thanks to both companies.

Prize winners as follows:- 1. S. Putt; 2. T. Evans, 3. J. Socket. Longest Drive:- T. Webb, Nearest the Pin:- P. Whelehan. This event was also the Hayter qualifier for the Regional Final to be held at the Warwickshire on June 26. Cat 1:- 1. C. Evans; 2. P. Whelehan; 3. M. Smith; 4. G. Divers. Cat 2:- 1. S. Putt; 2. D. Jones, 3. R. Fletcher; 4. D. Edwards.

By the time this article goes to print hopefully the team will have done us all proud! The draw for the Rigby Taylor knockout has taken place and all competitors should have received their copy. Please remember the top names in the draw have home advantage. Maximum handicap allowance is 18! Good luck to everybody especially my partner Paul. I will post results in the magazine throughout the season. The next golf event is at Badgemore Park on Thursday July 17 (go easy on me please). Prediction for the forthcoming Open at Troon: Tiger Woods to miss the cut.

Lindsay T Anderson

East of England

Rutland County was the venue for the Purdy's Cup which saw a good turnout of members, playing in fine weather over a course in magnificent condition. Thanks go to Chris Squires and his staff for producing a challenging test of golf. There being little wind "we had it easy" said the Captain and the scores indicated that. The eventual winner is now cut two shots, and was Sheamus Coggin, from Belton Woods, 38 pts, second was David Griffon, also Belton Woods, 35 pts, and third Richard Owen, Beston Wests, 34 pts. Graeme Macdonald, Ryston Park, picked up nearest the pin. As usual the prize table was overflowing, a big thank you to Les Purdy for sponsoring a fine day on a fairly new course in good condition. Other prizes were donated by Peter Fell, Aitkens, Leigh Siddon, Colliers, Stewart Jeffs, Rigby Taylors, and Roy Harrison, Stoke Rochford.

"Mac's on the Move" - I mentioned in my last report that Charlie Macdonald had left Newark to take up the post of Course Manager at Crieff Golf Club. Well, your secretary is also on the move, Graeme Macdonald is leaving Ryston Park Golf Club to take over from Charlie Macdonald at Newark. Graeme Macdonald

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

Surrey

The Cresta Cup was held at West Surrey GC on June 10 on a very hot and humid afternoon. The course needless to say was immaculate, well done Mike and his team. We were treated royally by the management, for which we thank them.

The food under the helm of Mrs Kirkham was superb, a carvery no less, this was a first. The results were:- 1. R. Tydeman (Mr Old Reliable) with 36 pts; 2. M. Todd also with 36 pts on count back and 3. D. Williams with 34 pts also on count back with about five others, don't do this to me lads, you know I have trouble. The next tournament is the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale, I don't know yet the numbers Brian can manage, so get in quick, first come first served. You will receive the entry form



very shortly. A little news from around - Lee Strutt is now Course Manager at Richmond Golf Club and he has aboard with him David Patterson as D/CM Lee and Adam Hartley (RAC) have now joined the committee. The good news for some of you is that I am retiring on July 31, the bad news is I will still be around! The Drift have done me a great deal whereby I am still playing golf here and try to be useful as well. But I shall be out and about on my motorbike to keep an eye on you.

Ted Stiles

Sussex

I've just returned from a week of lying in the sun in Rhodes to realise it's time for another write-up. So as I have not had time to catch up with the news, I thought I would take the opportunity to broach another subject.

Education is always at the forefront of BIGGA's agenda. So before your Course Manager has spent all of his budget on summer fertilisation it might be worth talking to him about college courses to be taken over the autumn and winter months. Maybe your club would find it difficult to lose members of staff during the working day, if so why not approach your local college about evening courses. I, along with nine other greenkeepers, have just completed an NVQ course a Plumpton College. It consisted of an evening session once a week with projects and studying to be carried out in your own time. This is the first year the course has been run like this and I found it very informative. Apart from gaining a qualification, it keeps you in touch with other greenkeepers through the long winter months. On behalf of all the lads who attended, I would like to thank David and Colin for making the course such a success. We need more courses of this kind and if enough interest is shown, I'm sure more colleges will hold educational classes in the evening. If you wish to find out more about this or any other courses contact David Blackmur at Plumpton College on 01273 890454 or contract you local college.

Congratulations to Tony Bremmer who has been promoted to Deputy Course Manager at Gatton Manor GC. I worked with Tony at Slinfold Park GC two years ago, before he moved to his

present club. Although Patton Manor is just into Surrey, Tony has stayed with the Sussex Section.

Finally, we still need venues for our golf days in 1998. Anyone who thinks they may be able to help with this, please contact a member of the committee.

Results of the summer meeting at Haywards Heath in next month's write-up.

Colin Cathie

Essex

The Essex Section held a golf day a Five Lakes Golf and Country Club, playing the European Tour Course. A good day was had by all but, Martin, we would just like to have the greens a bit quicker next time! Thanks to Martin, his staff and all at Five Lakes for making us welcome. Our thanks also go to Earnest Doe's for sponsoring the event and in particular to Andy Turbin for his efforts on our behalf.

Prize winners were as follows: Cat 1:- 1. C. Crocher, 2. R. Pride, 3. S. Cox; Cat 2:- 1. C. Ward, 2. D. Wells, 3. J. Selwood; Cat 3:- 1. J. Shelton, 2. M. Stopps, 3. M. Forrester; Guest:- P. Keeble; Trade:- A. Turbin; Nearest the Pin on 13th and Longest Drive 18th:- M. Fance.

I had a great day watching Volvo PGA Tournament at Wentworth thanks to the hospitality of Ransomes.

Our next lecture evening will be at Writtle College, Thursday September 25 at 7.30pm in the Main Building, Room L60. Dr Tim Lodge, from STRI, will be talking on the use and misuse of top dressing and recent research concerning golf green maintenance and construction.

Dave Wells

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

Devon and Cornwall

You may be aware that following the approval of the Association's revised constitution at the 1996 AGM the BIGGA Board of Management request that all Regions should have a paid part-time administrator in place before the end of this year. Paula has subse-



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Charterhouse



Deep aeration on an intensively used golf course is vital if the grasses which we require are to survive.

We purchased our first Verti-Drain back in 1983 and very quickly bought a second. Both these machines have been working on a continuous basis providing excellent results and utilising only a minimum of spare parts.

Comment From Walter Woods
St. Andrews Links Golf Course supervisor

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COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

quently been appointed to the post of Regional Administrator.

The funding for the new part-time Regional Administrator will be from central funds, although the Section and Region will have to forgo their sub refunds to help cover some of the costs. The loss of our refunds means that the Section has to become self-sufficient to survive. To help finance the section, the Committee has decided to offer the companies already involved in donating golf prizes at our meetings first refusal on sponsoring the whole meeting. This would entitle the companies involved to put up a sponsor sign on the 1st tee or 18th green and the use of their display boards in the club house (both are subject to host club's approval). They will also be entitled to present their Company's golfing prizes having taken up the new sponsorship deal. The section would like to thank Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden Machinery, PJ Flegg, Rhône Poulenc, Roffey's and Supaturf for their continued sponsorship and support of our section.

The section would also like to thank DGM for their sponsorship of our fixture cards over recent years, after a Section committee some two years ago it was decided to offer other companies the chance to sponsor the cards on a two-year sponsorship deal, which takes effect from this year with PJ Flegg taking up the sponsorship package. Look out for next month's article for more details of venues, dates and sponsors. Richard Whyman

South West

May has been an interesting month for us all in the region. At last we have had a spring with some genuine rain in it. The resultant growth and recovery from the severe winter and early spring has forced me to apologise to some of my members as for a brief moment they don't have anything to complain about. We have come through the Augusta syndrome relatively unscathed and as I write are drawing battle plans for the US Open syndrome which always seems to clash with that other "Major" our club championship. I have guaranteed them perfect lightening quick greens, cross cut fairways mown at 6mm, three tiers of lush green monostand rough and a fresh load of crushed marble in the bunkers. The only catch being that they will have to go to the club down the road to get it. One of those clubs down the road is Chippenham who very kindly hosted our members and guest day. Our thanks to Secretary, Doug Maddison, and the club for their courtesy in allowing us the use of their facilities, particularly as half the contingent were not greenkeepers. The course as ever was immaculate thanks to Chris Sealey and his staff.

The scores were as follows: 1. Michael Fawcett (no surprise there) and partner K. May 44 pts. 2. Phil Greenway and partner Nigel Hopper 42pts. 3. Tim Dabernett (Placed pins to suit his fine draw) and partner Ian Widows 41 pts.

Around the Green



We were then treated to some fine cuisine from the caterer, Neil Simpson, and enjoyed a few witty words from the club Captain Brian Elliot. Tim Dabernett then handed over the nearest the pin prize which was won by a some off fluke from Marc Haring. This particular competition which has just been started and will hopefully become a permanent fixture raised £50 for the clubs charity the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Thanks to Tim for his organisation and donation of the prize of a bottle of Scottish produce which is rapidly becoming depleted. The day was nicely rounded off when Dave Harper, one of the guests from Cumberwell Park, bought everyone a drink following his hole in one at the 6th.

While on the subject of Cumberwell Park, this is the venue for our summer tournament on July 23, so it is my turn to endure the sleepless nights and endless worry that goes with this responsibility. This is the first visit to Cumberwell for the greenkeepers tour and I can recommend it as an excellent course, well worth a visit. As the members say all they need to do is sack the Course Manager and it could be one of the best around.

Marc Haring

South Coast

It is with regret that I have to inform you that Bill Young has passed away. He was 84 years old. Bill was Arlesford Golf Club, his links with the club go back to the 1920s. He started off as a caddie and then became a member of the club, he was later made club Captain. Bill was also the Head Greenkeeper/Professional, he was an active member of BIGGA and was a founder member of the South Coast Section. He was made a life member when he retired, he retired from greenkeeping in 1997, quite an achievement for one man, our sincere condolences go to Bill's son Barry and all his family at this sad time.

Jeff Drake, our Secretary, is organising a trip to the London Golf Club on November 6. You may remember that Joe Paulin from the London Golf Club gave a talk at our spring seminar at Sparsholt college early on in the year. Joe invites the South Coast Section to a day at his club to see the complex first hand. This has got to be a must to see how a top class golf complex operates. Will all those wishing to make the trip let Jeff know as soon as possible, he can then make arrangements for the coach and pick up points, Jeff can be contacted on 01722 503938.

We do not know the price of the coach yet, however there is a strong possibility that the trip will be sponsored. For those of you who have not

entered, your names for the Summer Tournament and Bramshow GC, there is still time if you are quick. All entries complete with current handicaps of yourself and your partner to:- Tony Gadd, Cherry Trees, Lymington Road, Milford on Sea, Hants. SO41 0QL. Tel: 01590 643746. At the time of going to press we still have not got the price for the tournament. By the time this report gets to the magazine Tony will be able to let you know the cost, all entries are to be with Tony by first post July 28. Ken Lodge

South Wales

The results of the recently contested Hayter Qualifier and Spring Tournament held at Kington GC in Herefordshire were; Best nett and winner of the Cardiff Cup was Richard Patterson with a 63. Best gross and winner of the Brown's Shield was David Gladwin with a 63. Winner of the John O'Gorman Cup was Maesteg's David Jenkins with a 71. Despite the poor attendance an excellent day was had by all. The course was in excellent order and the quote that I was given was "the greens were superb" so congratulations to Course Manager, Ian Gough, and his team for their efforts. My personal thanks to Mike Jones who ran the day on my behalf as I was unable to attend. Thanks also the Kington Golf Club for making us so welcome and allowing us the courtesy of their super hillside course.

Qualifiers for the Hayter Regional finals at the Burnham and Berrow GC on June 11 are:- Cat 1; Mike Jones, Daryl Bray, Andy Roach, Jamie Probert, Vince Nortley. Cat 2; Dave Gladwin, Rob Frater, Andy Hatcher, Andy Cosh, Peter Edwards. Cat 3; Ian Gough, Richard Patterson, David Jenkins, Gareth Evans, David Ward. Good luck for the event, bring back the winning team shield, please!

Shortly we will be organising the forthcoming winter evening lecture programme, if anyone has any recommendations or requests then please contact myself or Education Chairman Malcolm Davies as soon as possible, so that we can include in this series of lectures. I hope that you have already booked your place on one of this year's supervisory or management courses. "Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers" is to be held at the Marriott Hotel in Swansea on Wednesday and Thursday 6 & 7 of November later this year. The cost will be only £50 for BIGGA members, inclusive of all tuition, meals and accommodation. This is the first course to be held in South Wales, so please support it and ensure that it is not the last!

The Pencoed College Open Day is to be held at the college in Bridgend on Saturday June 28 for 2pm until 6pm. Please come along and say hello to your committee members who will be manning a BIGGA stand and will be only to pleased to answer any queries that you may have. Have a browse around the college and visit the all new

lecture theatre and conference complex. Bring the family, walk the farmyard and see the animals. A worthwhile day out. Please support it and us!

If you could be interested in attending a one day pesticide update course, please let me know. It is possible, if there are enough interested parties, that we may run the above course in the not too distant future. The course would be available to twelve people and would provide information on the changes in law, new legislation, pesticide labelling, calibration and application techniques. The cost would be in the region of £40 per person.

Congratulations are in order for Mr and Mrs Huw Morgan for they were blessed recently with the arrival of Thomas Jack weighing in at 9lb 2oz. Well done, another budding greenkeeper, possibly?

Lastly, if anybody has not received their 1997 fixture card then please let me know. This years fixture card sponsored by "Power Cut" John Deere dealers of Carmarthen has been sent out, (better late than never) but if for any reason your card has failed to appear, then let me know!

Peter Lacey

Hayter Regional Qualifier – South West & South Wales Region

What a superb venue! The course is second to none and nothing but compliments were heard all day. Congratulations go, of course, to Jock Millar and his team for the splendid condition of their course. The welcome and facilities provided in the clubhouse were wonderful and the catering magnificent.

The night before the competition there was torrential rain which looked as if it would never stop. However, I told everyone that I do not run wet golf competitions – I always order sunshine! Low and behold, Wednesday morning dawned bright and sunny – if anything a little too hot – and there was not enough wind even to fly the BIGGA flag! – we had to bin it onto the back of a bench!! Gordon & Marion Child were in charge of the starting and everyone went off spot on time. We were honoured to have the Chairman, Pat Murphy with us and also Scott MacCallum from HQ. Kim Macfie from Hayter attended with Robin Boyse and Peter Hampton and Kim kindly presented the prizes which Hayter donated – rather splendid hip flasks which I am sure will be treasured. Gwillim Kellows and BS Motors kindly provided a half way house, which was greatly appreciated.

Results:- Cat 1 – 1. R. Daly (D & C) 65; 2. L. Millar (S. Coast) 69; 3. D. Bray (D & C) 74; Res. C. Bland 74. Cat 2 – 1. A. Knight (S.West) 71; 2. P. Wentworth (S. Coast) 73; 3. M. Porrih (D & C) 73; Res. A. Cosh (S. Wales) 73. Cat 3 – 1. A. James (D & C) 68; 2. J. Cooper (S. West) 76; 3. A. Rideout (S. Coast) 77; Res. J. Braithwaite (S. West) 77.

All in all it was a great day. Good luck to the qualifiers in the final. Paula Humphries



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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.

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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.

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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.

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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

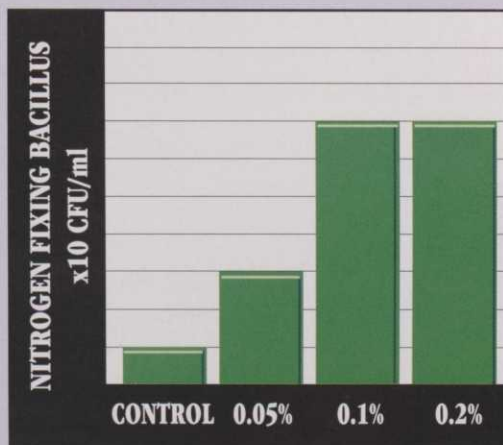
A treatment of between 625 ml. - 1250 ml. per 500 m² in 40 lts. of water will provide a dew control of between two and three days. This is, however, dependent on climatic conditions and irrigation levels and therefore the longevity of dew control may vary.

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

*Full copy of results available on request.



Hugh Tilley takes a look at the one of the golf course's workhorses and speaks with the people who know them best - the greenkeepers

Highest profile of all greens machinery is the greens mower, and pedestrian or hand operated machines are preferred by most greenkeepers. Most clubs operate a fleet of these and replace them on a regular basis although one 20 year old machine - a 'reserve' - was found. About four makes are in common golf course use, with three or four others not uncommon. Part of the reason for this bias is dealer support, and their active selling of the product. Nevertheless Lloyd, Allett, Hayter and Dennis all have users who believe their machines are in every way equal - if not better than - higher profile and usually more expensive makes, nor did they usually consider that the back up was inferior. Few clubs have undertaken comparative on site testing before purchase - most greenkeepers know what they want.

While reliability is important, perhaps more important to the greenkeeper are other attributes such as ease of use and setting,

quality of cut, ability to keep an edge and how well the set is maintained. Most if not all machines are available with groomers or brushes to set the grass up prior to the cut, however not every greenkeeper is happy with these so not all use them even if fitted. Certainly the variety of grass does have an effect as does how well the club wishes to present its greens. One non-user greenkeeper said, "if this was a championship course I would always use them."

Hayter has recently introduced a totally new greens mower, and states that most of these have been sold into Ireland. The company is currently taking greenkeepers' comments and expects to make a few minor modifications before generally making the model available across the UK. For this reason there was little point including them in this feature. However Hayter is keen that greenkeepers should be aware that it is still in this market.

Sharpening and/or replacement of bottom blades (bed knives) also seems to vary more by user (and location) than by machine. In situ grinding would seem to be the ideal, however not all clubs have this facility, and as a result many rely on back lapping through the season with an out of season dealer service and cylinder sharpen. How frequently this is carried out again varies more by club than by machine - and what is used after top dressing - most greenkeepers spoken to for this give their ride-on triples all the hard and aggressive work - like verti-cutting and cleaning up after top dressing.

Lloyds Paladins at Mendip Spring, Somerset

Course Manager, Ian Harrison, has been a Paladin man for 20 years although his current three main machines are only three years old. One of the most important reasons for his like of the machines is their basic simplicity with a well proven design. He

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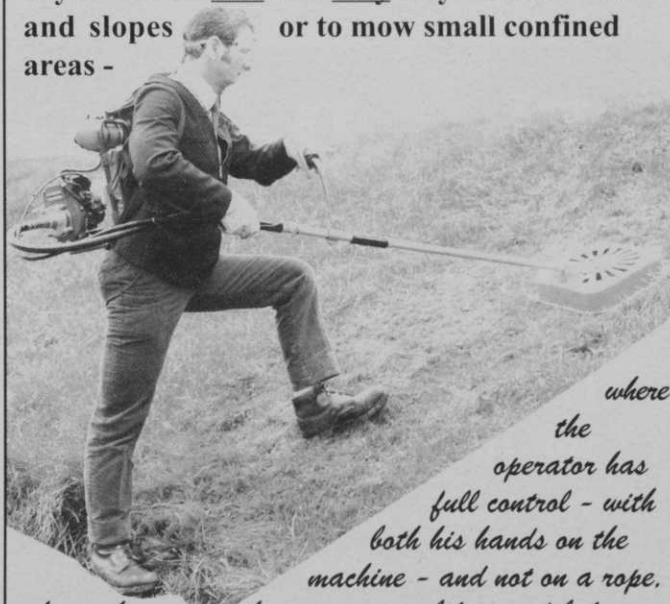
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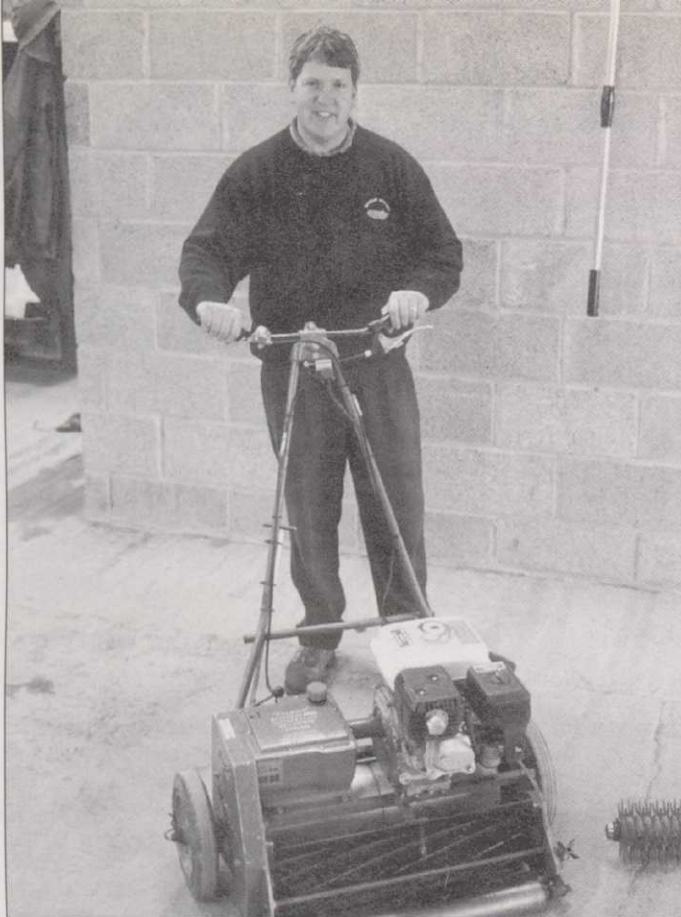
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Ian Harrison with the Lloyds Paladin

considered that the original machines were ahead of their time and that as the design has proven itself there was little need for a change. Additionally the price is right. Another plus point was the clutch design which is more gentle and smoother than most others.

In particular he commented that this simplicity allowed him to explain to trainee greenkeepers how and why the machines worked – which allowed them to get the best from them. Simplicity and accessibility also promoted ease of maintenance. Sharpening is carried out off site about twice a year, with about two bottom blades used per cylinder grind. Back-lapping is carried out by hand about twice a week and each operator is responsible for setting 'his' machine.

Ian maintains that the Paladin produces as good a cut as any machine, he has found the avail-

ability of spares excellent and while – out of patriotism – he would like a British rather than a Honda engine, he admitted that this engine is reliable and almost

everlasting.

The use of roller bearings on the cylinder are an example of the engineering quality which Ian sees as epitomising the design.

The club uses a ride-on triple in the summer, but the pedestrian machines in winter and for all perimeter cuts. No groomers or verti-cutters are used. Verti-cutting being done by the triple, as are first cuts after topdressing.

In simple terms with the Paladin, Ian stated, "what you see is what you get."

Super Certes 51 at East Devon, Budleigh Salterton

The three main machines are now about three seasons old having replaced a competitive make with which the club had considerable trouble. Paul Newcombe, Head Greenkeeper, attributed the trouble to the very pebbly and bumpy nature of the tracks between greens (and shed) which took its toll on clutches, gearboxes and drives. Since changing to the Ransomes machines he said that he has experienced no reliability problems (just one clutch cable), although he admitted that the club had modified the transport wheels, replacing

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Paul Newcombe and the Super Certes

them with larger softer pneumatic tyred ones. There has also been the occasional need to adjust the clutches.

The club does not use groomers on their pedestrian machines although these and verti-cutters fit to the ride-on triple which is

the mainstay of summer (March-August) cutting.

Each operator tends to use and be responsible for a specific machine, but Paul sets and adjusts all before they go out. This allows for some individual preferences such as handle height

and clutch cable setting. Cut heights range from 4mm to 6mm, the latter for winter.

Machines are back lapped as required but may not be resharpened for up to two years – little top dressing is used, certainly not in front of the Super Certes. Paul would like to be able to cut all greens all the time by hand but staffing does not allow this.

In Paul's opinion the Ransomes machines offer good value and solid robust reliable engineering.

John Deere 220A at Wincanton Golf Course

This racecourse centre nine hole pay and play club was built about five years ago and has only known hand mowing on its greens. The current pedestrian mower recently replaced one of a similar make and has several significant improvements. The machine is equipped with groomer, brushes and verti-cutters, the latter being used about twice a week while the brush may only be used for special occa-

sions, perhaps monthly, if 'nice stripes' are needed. The course is relatively new and has US spec fescue/bent greens. The original JD machine was 'put in' by the constructor, and by fortunate coincidence local dealer Rochford Garden Machinery have taken on the JD franchise. The new machine has an eleven blade cylinder giving it a better cut, and it is also faster than the previous machine. Another significant improvement has been to setting, this is much easier, reported head greenkeeper Richard Cartwright. The Honda engine also has more power than the predecessor, thus it is altogether quicker and better. Improvements have also been made to the grass box.

Back-lapping is carried out 'when required' while the cylinder is reground annually and a new bottom blade is fitted as routine. Routine greasing is a weekly requirement. Cutting height is adjusted between 5mm and 7mm.

This machine has an operator

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presence handle, however this is of light pressure and easy to hold, in fact the operator liked it and was happy with using it. He also liked the operator friendly layout of the controls and in particular the ease of operating the throttle, which could be shut down with simple thumb pressure at the end of each run. The machine has a centrifugal clutch.

Jacobsen Greens King 522 at Orchardleigh Golf Club, Frome

This new 18 hole course has recently taken delivery of a new Greens King 522 for its US spec greens which are based on Pencross creeping bent. Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Ian Roberts, said that they had found distinct lines where the mower had cut with the groomers down. Detailed examination has suggested that this is caused by the groomers not extending across the full cylinder width. Considerable concern has

been shown by the supplier, Bristol dealer - B.S. Mowers and by Jacobsen UK - and significant time has been spent on trying to solve it. In fact there is no effect to actual cut, nor on play, the lines being purely cosmetic where the Pencross is not set up for the cylinder, and this seems to be unique to Orchardleigh, and perhaps Pencross greens. Ian said that both supplier and maker get



Richard Cartwright and the JD 220A

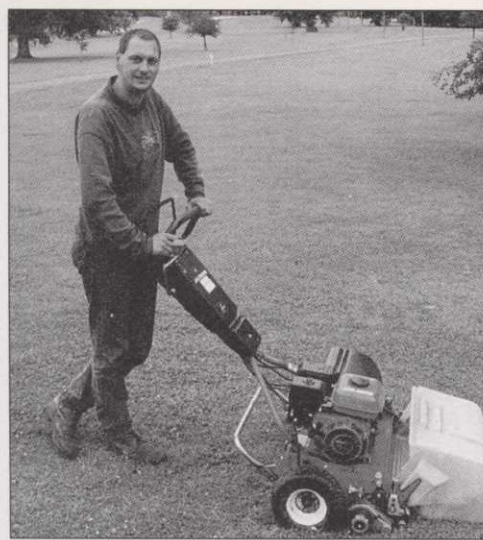
100% for effort, and they are now going to produce a 'special' full width groomer specifically for Orchardleigh. This is not quite as simple as it may seem as the front roller needs extra grooves and the groomer needs extra discs and modification to the bearing housings.

The club operates a one man, one machine policy with its pedestrian mowers, however there are triples for weekend work and for verti-cutting.

Otherwise the club is very pleased with the machine which is lighter than the make it replaces. There have been no problems and the operator is delighted with it.

Allett Tournament at Alesford Golf Club in Hampshire

The price was right, significantly



Ian Roberts and the Greens King

lower than most of the competition, the cut quality was equal and it was British, stated Darren Hatcher, Head Greenkeeper at Alesford Golf Club.

The club has recently purchased a single machine, but anticipates buying an additional two before the main hand mowing season this autumn.

Thus while Darren admitted that they have not really tried the machine extensively, the club did have most makes out on demonstration before selecting the Allett.

To date for the work it has

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D. Ward, Course Manager
Royal Porthcawl Golf Club

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Mick Lathrope, Head Greenkeeper
Eaton Golf Club, Norwich

Products tested by Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, and found to increase grass cover.



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