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Another significant advantage of the machine was its flexibility to reduce the tine spacings without the need for spanners. At Bristol both hollow and solid tines are used, mostly at spacings of around two inch and three inch. Operating depth is down to four inches but this was wear dependent, with about two sets being used per season, but this was not regards as excessive.

Maintenance and servicing is "quite easy" with guarding easily swung aside. John said that setting up the rockers correctly was particularly important.

Last year the club hired a Shattermaster which improved drainage so that it is virtually certain that one will be hired again or even purchased this year.

Toro Hydroject, at Walton **Heath Golf Club, Tadworth**

Clive Osgood, Course Manager at Walton Heath, stressed that the



Clive Osgood, right, with the Toro Hydroject

hydroject should not be seen as a complete answer, but simply an additional and complementary option to other methods. At Tadworth, with two courses, they have a range of equipment including a deep tine aerator as

well as slitters.

The principle use is to reduce surface capping on greens, however the machine is also used to treat areas of high wear and trafficking. The most significant advantage of the machine is that it leaves a clean surface which can be played over imme-

Although the name Walton Heath implies light sandy conditions, in fact the native soil is acidic heavy clay which needs regular opening up. Having two heavily used and prestigious course makes it possible to justify the Hydroject, but Clive admitted that it was not a cheap machine to buy. Nevertheless running costs are not high, there have been no repairs and minimal maintenance, and water usage is not heavy. Clive considered that the provision of a trolley to carry the hose (behind the machine) between holes would add to its attractiveness as would a lower price

At Walton Heath they have no problem in getting the jet to penetrate down to 10". The machine is now in its fourth season and was first bought because the concept looked right to Clive. Certainly the fact that play is only interrupted while the machine is on the green gives it a significant advantage over most other forms of aeration.



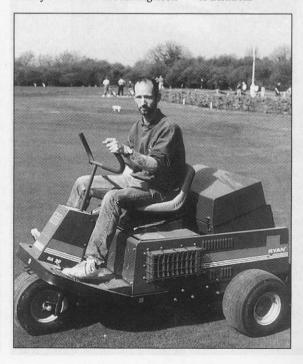
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- Closing date is 30 June 1997
- Judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.



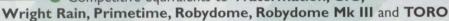
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There is still time to enter, or nominate someone, for the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping. **May 30** is the closing date for entries. ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER
Profile

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club. Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star...



Name: Gary Nimmo Club: Oundle Position: Assistant Greenkeeper Age: 37

- 1. How long have you been a greenkeeper? Six years
- 2. What education are you currently undertaking?

NVQ Level III Sportsturf

- 3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
 Handmowing greens in the
- early morning
- 4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
 Lifting cores after hollow coring
- 5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?

Landscape gardener

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

My wife, Jayne, who has given me constant support

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?

Encourage improvements in communication between golfers, committee and greenstaff

8. What are your hobbies?

Golf, cycling, walking and gardening

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Constant updating on greenkeeping matters

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?

Head Greenkeeper on an organic-based course



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Judges' decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff.

Retired greenkeeper John A Taylor, of Forres, Morayshire, was the lucky winner of last month's competition. A crisp £50 is on its way John. YOU could be the next winner - get searching now!

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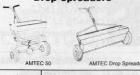
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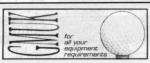
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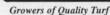
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