

by Richard Barker, Ian Needham and Roger Willars. More information on results will appear in next month's article.

Finally if anybody has any information that they would like to see in this column then please give me a ring.
Antony Bindley

SOUTH EAST REGION

Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260956

London

Our summer tournament was held at Bush Hill Park GC in July. The course was in excellent condition and I would like to thank the Course Manager, Tony Taylor, and his staff for all their efforts.

I would also like to thank the Secretary, Peter Allan and the Club Captain, David Turner for their hospitality and for the use of the club facilities. I would also like to thank all the trade for your valuable support and in particular the following companies - Kings for providing the nearest the pin prizes, Parker Hart for paying for the postage and sundries and Johnny Beck from Miracle for providing the refreshments.

The results for the day were as follows:- 1. Neil Pereira, 40 pts; 2. Simon Ringrose, 37 pts; 3. Roger Mace, 36 pts; Guest - Richard Lewis, 38 pts; Longest Drive - Roger Mace.

Finally, I would like to remind all members that a jacket and tie must be worn for the presentation and meal. Jackets can only be removed during dinner with the approval of the Club Captain.
Tony Dunstan

Surrey

The McMillan Tankard was held on Thursday July 31 on the New Course at Sunningdale. 45 members turned up to play, which for me as Secretary is very gratifying. Thank you fellas, it does make life worthwhile!

Brian Turner and his team turned the course out in the usual superb Sunningdale condition and he even got the weather to behave so we owe a vote of thanks to the management for a great day. The Artisan Section allowed us to use their Clubhouse again where we were looked after by Bob Reynolds and his assistant and our thanks go out to them. The buffet was prepared by Mrs Kirkham ably assisted by our

Chairman and her husband Mike. The food was great and there was plenty of it!

Jack McMillan gave a short speech and Rita presented the prizes. I again forgot the raffle tickets so the prizes went down to 6th place and were as follows:- 1. Mark Todd, Nizzels, 38 pts; 2. Jimmy Russell, Lingfield, 38 pts; 3. Nigel Colley, a newcomer to the Section now at Roehampton, 35 pts; 4. John Davidson, Gatton Manor, 35 pts; 5. Dave Langhiem, Foxhills, 35 pts; 6. Kevin Boxall, Liphook, 34 pts. The Trade Prize was won by Ian Sellars, for Gem Professional. Our thanks to the trade for the prizes they donated.

One more item of note, Billy eagled the par 5 6th hole. Well done Billy! I can give you his telephone number if you would like him to talk you through it! By the time this goes to print we will have played the Parker Salva at Effingham, I say this just to let you know that it is important to get your entries off early. As most of you know I am now retired but you can still reach me most evenings, that is unless I am swanning around the countryside.

Unless the Editor corrects them I expect Northants staff to let me know how many spelling mistakes I have made.
Ted Stiles

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

Devon and Cornwall

With the summer drawing to a close our thoughts turn to our Autumn and Winter meeting programme which start with the Rofeys meeting at Bowood GC on Wednesday October 8. The mornings golf start times for the D O Hunt Trophy will run between 8.30am and 10.22am with as usual the non-golfing course walk leaving the clubhouse at approximately 10.30am. Lunch will be from 1pm followed by the golf presentation and a short Company presentation by Rofeys, our sponsor for the day. Concluding the day, our educational talk will be presented by Cannington College on "Winter Golf".

When attending meetings and any BIGGA event please remember that you are representing

BIGGA and our profession. Please ensure you are smartly dressed with collar and tie for lunch and no jeans at all.

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

To reduce postage costs I will continue to send details of meetings to one member per club (Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper) plus those of you who have asked to be added to the mailing list last year. If you don't receive details and would like to please let me know.

Finally a reminder that your local Regional Supervisory Management course will be held at the Manor House Hotel, Moretonhampstead on November 3 and 4. For more details ring Ken Richardson today to avoid disappointment at BIGGA HQ on 01347 838581.

Richard Whyman

South Coast

Our regional seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 26. The main sponsors for the day will be Rigby Taylor Ltd. Some very good speakers have agreed to give us their time and they include Jack McMillan, who will be speaking on Golf Course Preparation; Cameron McMillan, who will be talking about Golf Course Construction; John Stirling will be giving us some pointers into how a golf course should be set up for important tournaments and Andrew Lawrence will be speaking about BIGGA insurance. We then have Rod Baker from Amazone whose subject will be The Importance of Working with the Environment and Nick Blasdale from Time/System UK Ltd will be telling us how to make the best use of our time. Finally we have our two students from the colleges. The cost of the days proceedings is £15 for members and £22 for non-members. With all those names this has got to be a bargain. All enquiries should be made initially to Jeff Drake on 01722 503938. You should all be receiving your seminar application forms very shortly. All that remains to be said is see you all on the day. Any problems with transport let me know. My telephone number is

01329 282362. Likewise anyone with empty seats let me know so that we can fill them up.

On July 8 I had the privilege of being invited by Sparsholt College to witness their annual award ceremony. This was held at Winchester Cathedral and the Bishop of Winchester presented the awards. There were quite a number, the one that was of most interest to me was John Groombridge who was the top student greenkeeper of the year. John was presented with the BIGGA Shield which is donated by the South West and South Wales Region. John is the Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Petersfield GC. Well done John and good luck with your career in greenkeeping. I would like to thank Sparsholt College for allowing me to witness such a moving event. Everything was so well organised and went off without a hitch. The cathedral was packed with Mums, Dads and guests - I would imagine the Bishop would like to see that amount of people every Sunday!

Alan Mitchell, our Section Chairman, has left his position as Course Manager of the Hampshire GC. Alan is now working for himself within the industry developing training initiatives. He will be working closely with Sparsholt College and the GTC. I am sure that we all wish Alan every success in his new venture.

Just another reminder about the trip to The London GC on November 6. Jeff has now booked the coach and all we required now is to fill it up. All those of you who wish to make the trip, contact Jeff Drake. He will be sending out more details when he sends the fixture lists out for 1997/98.

This is the last reminder for the Autumn Golf Meeting at Barton-on-Sea GC on Thursday October 9. All entries complete with current handicaps and cheques (£15 per person) should be forwarded to:- Tony Gadd, Cherry Trees, Lymington Road, Milford on Sea, Hants, SO41 0QL. All cheques should be made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section. All applications to be with Tony by first post on Tuesday September 30.

Ken Lodge

South West

A warm and pleasant day greeted



Around the Green



34 enthusiastic greenkeepers for our summer tournament at Cumberwell Park in late July.

Modesty forbids me from dwelling too much on the course and the winner on this occasion but I am sure everyone agreed it is a very good venue and I think we all enjoyed the day.

Thanks go to Sarah Bickland for providing her usual high standard of haute cuisine and to the Club Captain, Keith Townsend, for joining us for the day.

Students of greenkeeping may have noticed how we have perfected the art of cultivating an especially fibrous form of poa annua capable of producing several hundred seed heads per tuft but apart from that I think everything went pretty well and I would like to thank my staff Andy, Nigel and Paul for their usual hard work. Our sponsors for the day as our Vice Chairman, Chris Sealey, pointed out in his introductions were Scotts UK formerly Miracle Amenity formerly

Zeneca formerly ICI or one of the above depending on what day of the week it was.

Anyway our thanks to them for providing the prizes and for the much needed halfway refreshments.

The results were as follows:- Head Greenkeeper - 1. M. Haring, 73; 2. P. Worster, 76; 3. R. Hook, 76. Assistant Greenkeeper - 1. A. Knight, 68; 2. A. Turner, 71; 3. A. Parker, 77. Nearest the Pin - M. Pierce. The Nearest the Pin prize raised £34.00 for the Captain's charity, Dorothy House. The Head Greenkeepers Tournament comes with a particularly elegant piece of silverware but we are unable to ascertain the winners from 1987 onwards and so cannot update the engraving. We would therefore very much appreciate it if anyone could provide us with this information. So if you were a winner or know who has won from 1987 onwards then could you please contact any committee member and let

us know.

Although the 34 present at the summer tournament had a very enjoyable time they represent a very small percentage of the 273 members in our section.

Now we no longer receive funding from Headquarters it would be especially nice to see some new faces.

These events are not about playing good golf but are there for meeting up with ones friends and colleagues and having a chat, exchanging ideas and generally enjoying the social aspect as much as the golf. You are guaranteed an enjoyable round of golf and an excellent meal for just a few pounds so please make an effort and come along to support the Section.

While on the subject of funding, if anyone has got some good ideas or would be willing to organise an event other than golf to help the Section then please come forward, all help is greatly appreciated.

One such idea of cutting costs is to send an initial circular to all members at the beginning of the year asking if they would like to receive information on forthcoming events. If they would not then they would not receive particulars on future events and we would then cut the costs of stamps and stationary for the rest of the year.

This idea and any others could be discussed at the AGM in November.

On the education front we will be running the following short courses from October onwards:- Chainsaw, First Aid, PA1, PA6, PA2 and hopefully an abrasive wheel course. Some of you may already be on the lists to do a course but if you are not and you want to do one then give me a ring on 01380 828380 and I will put your name on the relevant list but hurry as places are limited and on a first come first serve basis.

Marc Haring

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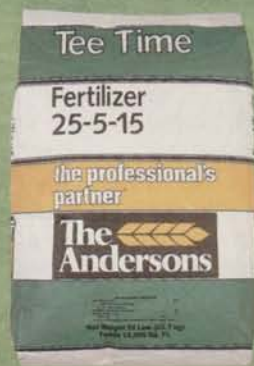
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PRODUCT ANALYSIS	SIZE GUIDE NUMBER	RATES			kg/NUTR/hect*			NUTRIENT SOURCES		SPREADER SETTINGS		
		gms/m ²	kg/hect	bag/hect	N	P	K	NITROGEN	MICROS	LESCO	SCOTTS R8A	AMTEC 50
13-2-13 w/ 100% Ammonium Sulfate	100	20	200	9	26	4	26	13.00% Ammoniacal N	18.3% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	D 1/2	I 1/2	3 3/4
19-5-19 Spring Starter w/ 25% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	38	10	38	1.95% Ammoniacal N 12.88% Urea Nitrogen 2.44% SAWSN* 1.73% WIN**	6.5% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	D 1/2	I 1/2	3 3/4
25-5-15 w/ 50% Nutralene®	125	20	200	9	50	10	30	1.96% Ammoniacal N 12.14% Urea Nitrogen 6.40% SAWSN* 4.50% WIN**	5.1% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	F	L	4 1/4
14-28-10 Seed Starter w/ 50% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	28	56	20	5.60% Ammoniacal N 2.27% Urea Nitrogen 3.59% SAWSN* 2.54% WIN**	3.4% S	E	J	3 3/4
18-6-15 w/ 65% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	36	12	30	2.35% Ammoniacal N 5.41% Urea Nitrogen 6.00% SAWSN* 4.24% WIN**	5.1% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4

Tee Time® Premium Fine Turf Summer Fertilizers

22-0-22 w/ 65% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	44	0	44	9.3% Urea Nitrogen 7.5% SAWSN* 5.2% WIN**	7.5% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4
18-6-15 w/ 65% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	36	12	30	2.35% Ammoniacal N 5.41% Urea Nitrogen 6.00% SAWSN* 4.24% WIN**	5.1% S, 2% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4
21-3-16 w/ 97% Nutralene®	100	25	250	11	52.4	7.5	40	1.18% Ammoniacal N 1.97% Urea Nitrogen 10.45% SAWSN* 7.40% WIN**	5.4% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E 1/2	J 1/2	4
15-0-30 w/ 100% Nutralene®	100	20	200	9	30	0	60	1.87% Urea Nitrogen 7.69% SAWSN* 5.44% WIN**	10.04% S, 1% Fe, 0.1% Cu, 0.1% Mn, 0.1% Zn	E	J	3 3/4

Tee Time® Premium Fine Turf Autumn and Winter Fertilizers

10-5-25 w/ 50% Nutralene®	125	20	200	9	20	10	50	1.95% Ammoniacal N 3.67% Urea Nitrogen 2.57% SAWSN* 1.81% WIN**	8.5% S	E 1/2	K 1/2	4 1/4
14-0-24 w/ 65% Nutralene®	125	20	200	9	28	0	48	6.05% Urea Nitrogen 4.66% SAWSN* 3.29% WIN**	8.16% S, 2% Fe, 5% Mn	E 1/2	K 1/2	4 1/4

Tee Time® General Purpose Fairway & Sports Grounds Fertilizers

28-3-10 w/96% SCU	215	20	200	9	56	6	20	1.12% Ammoniacal N 26.88% Urea Nitrogen 26.88% CSRUN***	14.29% S	F 1/4	M 1/2	4 1/2
37-0-0 w/100% SCU	215	15	150	7	55.6	0	0	37.00% CSRUN***	15% S	H	L 1/2	4 1/2

*Slowly Available Water Soluble Nitrogen

**Water Insoluble Nitrogen

***Coated Slow Release Urea Nitrogen

NOTE: Tee Time spreader settings were established using the standard equipment available from the spreader manufacturer at swath widths and speeds typically used within the industry. It is recommended that all spreader equipment be calibrated at the time of application to achieve the desired application rate.

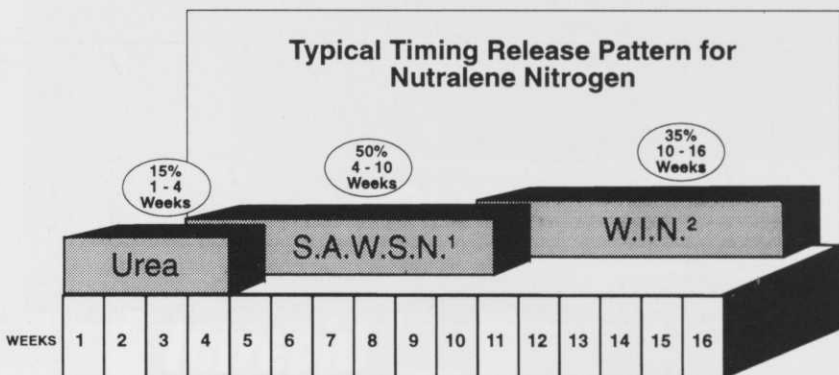
•Bag Weight = 22.68 Kilos



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¹ Slowly Available Water Soluble Nitrogen
² Water Insoluble Nitrogen

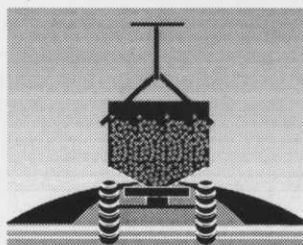
This chart demonstrates Nutralene's fractional release availability over time. The water soluble portion, slowly available water soluble portion and water insoluble portion have overlapping release to provide efficient nitrogen availability as plants require it.

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The Andersons precise screening and processing ensures that all particles are consistently uniform in size. As a result, we've been able to eliminate the majority of variability and resultant "speckling" that can occur due to the "flight path" of particles. You can count on getting an even application of product that you need for your fertilizer program to be successful.

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- .5 mm / 4.2 ft.

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Preparing for the...

Drama

Valderrama hosts this month's Ryder Cup. Scott MacCallum visited the course and spoke with the man who has created the jewel in Europe's golfing crown.

The ambition to be the best is one which drives many but few achieve. Indeed, whether the feat has even been achieved is often a very subjective matter. There are some areas, however, where the top spot can be identified. Tiger Woods, for example, is currently top golfer as assessed

statistically by the world rankings, Pete Sampras is the same in tennis. Others occur by vote by agreed experts or the general public with the Oscars, phone-ins etc.

In golf Pine Valley generally comes out on top in the "Best Course in the World" Poll but one course is the undisputed Champion in the "Best on Mainland Europe" category having won the vote in a British golf magazine for the past six years.

That course is Valderrama, in Sotogrande, Southern Spain, the course which later this

month becomes the first non British or non American venue for the Ryder Cup.

That a course so young – it is only 12 – could be chosen, from all the wonderful courses Great Britain and Europe has to offer, for the the year's top sporting event in the world would perhaps be a surprise if nothing of the background of Valderrama and its illustrious owner were known.

Jaime Ortiz-Patino is by any yardstick a remarkable man. He was President of the World Bridge Federation for ten years

before deciding in the mid '80s to devote his time to golf. Since then he has become one of the most influential figures in the game.

The venue for the Ryder Cup match began its life as Sotogrande New, and was originally designed in 1975 by Robert Trent Jones Sr, regarded by many as the greatest living golf course architect.

He was given the rare opportunity of redesigning and refining the layout freed of the budgetary handcuffs that had shackled him first time round.



...at Valderrama

This he did with "Jimmy", as he is universally known at his side to ensure that, while the course was just as the revered architect wanted, it also passed the test laid down by the man who paid for the changes. It was in 1985 that the course took on the name for which it has become famous.

With Augusta National as Mr Patino's model the attention to detail shown by he and Trent Jones Snr was incredible.

"I brought in 4000 pine trees because I don't like seeing houses when I play golf. I want

to see green that's why I love playing Pine Valley and The Berkshire," he explained, adding that he is a member of 18 golf clubs.

"I also put in 400 cork trees which are very difficult to transplant and 600 olive trees.

"Everyone laughed when I brought these big stumps and planted them and I was told that I'd lose 20% the first year and 15% the second. I made sure they got no water and lost five trees the first year and ten the second.

"I have the course now just

how I want it. I have more work to do in maintenance but the golf course is perfect," he says with all the satisfaction of a contented man.

Now you would assume he would seek out, head hunt and lure to Valderrama one of the world's top Course Managers. But not Jimmy Patino. He developed his own knowledge of the complex areas of agronomy and general course maintenance, picking some of the finest brains in the world, and is proud to be Valderrama's Head Greenkeeper, Course

Manager, Course Superintendent - however you want to describe him.

Having hosted the season closing Volvo Masters since 1987 the Ryder Cup fell into the Patino sights and it was little surprise, when it was decided that Spain would have the event, that he would prevail.

Since the confirmation came through Valderrama has been preparing itself for the three days when the course will be the centre of every golfer's attention. And nothing has been left to chance.

Preparing for the... *Drama* ... at Valderrama

"From September 1 we are down loading the entire irrigation system and there will be no more automatic irrigation while we will not irrigate anywhere outside the ropes," explained Mr Patino from his vast office overlooking his pride and joy.

"We will only irrigate from the satellites stations during day time so we will know what is going on and no accidents can happen. If a sprinkler head (there are 3,700 on the course) gets clogged we will see it."

All the sand is removed from the bunkers every four years and replaced – they use crushed granite taken from up in the mountains – and the overseeding is also done every four years but both practices were brought forward this year to coincide with the Cup match.

In the main, however, the maintenance programme has remained at the same intense level which has seen the course in such peak condition for the Volvo Masters.

"We close the course down for four weeks every year around the middle of May. We don't close earlier because the poa is still seeding and we don't want to aerify the greens when it is still in the air."

The maintenance programme starts with the closing of one nine when all the fairways are heavily sliced, aerified and verticut. The verti drain is used in the rough and the Bermuda rough is cut down, top dressed and fertilised.

"I believe I was the first to top dress fairways and now three or four clubs in the States also do it."

Once the top dressing has been brushed in the first nine is reopened and the first phase of the procedure has been completed. The second nine is then closed for a fortnight to allow for the same work as the first nine to be completed as well as all the greens and areas around the greens done as well. Once this has been completed they return to the first nine and do the greens and surrounds.

The programme is worked out by Mr Patino and Bill Bangerfield, formerly the Director of the USGA Greens Section, who spends time at Valderrama every year supervising the work.

"Bill and I set up the maintenance programmes for six months at a time and this includes everything that needs to be done on a weekly basis. For example, now until the Ryder Cup we will hand brush greens with brooms every afternoon against the grain," he explained as we talked in early June.

Valderrama has Penncross greens but Mr Patino is not convinced that it is the right grass for the Spanish climate.

"Despite my love of Robert Trent Jones I don't think he did the right thing in bringing Penncross down to the Costa del Sol. It is too delicate, it needs a lot of care, a lot of chemicals and a lot of water. I have got the resources, the manpower to keep it – we have two girls who hand weed the greens five days a week to get the poa out, so they are poa free – but it is very costly and other courses can't do it. Furthermore we have very little play – 1200 rounds a year."

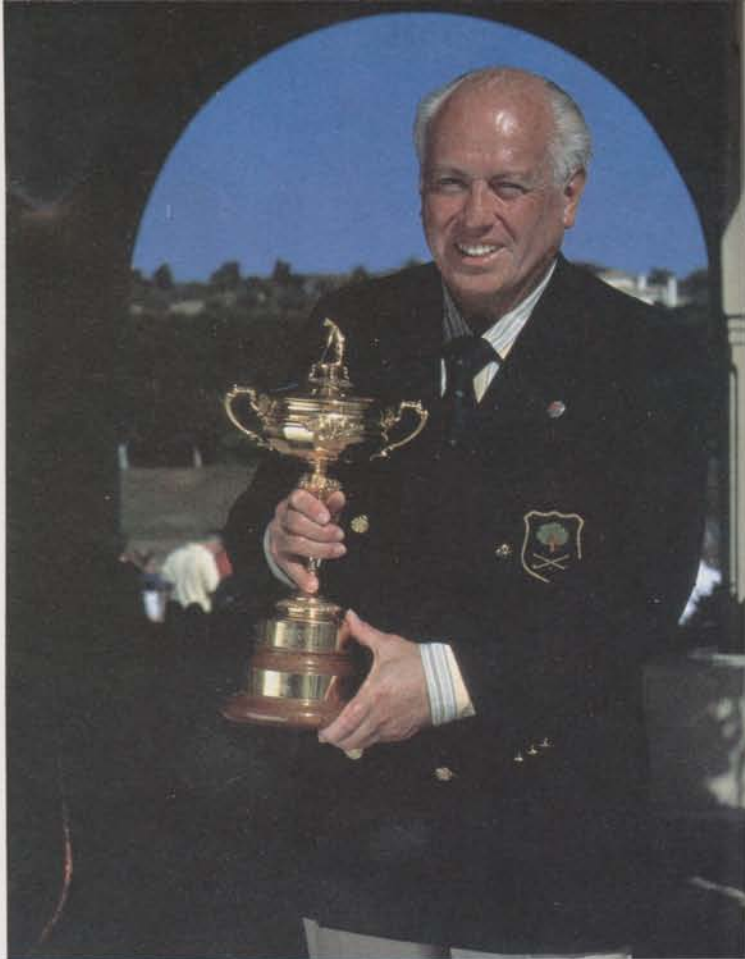
He is also adamant about what the green should be – Bermuda, which doesn't need much water and is much stronger than Penncross.

"I don't think Robert Trent Jones did the right thing in bringing Penncross to the Costa del Sol. It is too delicate, it needs a lot of care, a lot of chemicals and a lot of water"

"Every time a new golf course is built in the area I tell them to put in Bermuda but they ask what I've got. When I tell them I know the comments that come back Jimmy wants us to put Bermuda in because he's the only one who wants to have good greens'. It's a no-win situation!"

To say that Valderrama "has got the resources" is akin to saying that Bill Gates has a little bit tucked away for his retirement.

The greens staff numbers 70, broken down into two crews of



Jaime Ortiz-Patino with the Ryder Cup

Picture: PHIL SHELDON

35, which are then broken into crews which cut greens, crews which do bunkers, another which do tees etc.

"They work for seven days non-stop – a 56 hour week – and then have seven days off. You may feel that is very expensive but it isn't really when you think about it because they work on Saturdays and Sundays, when you would normally have to pay double and they also work on holidays including Christmas and New Year's Day if they happen to fall on a working week.

"So for 26 weeks one crew is working and the other crew works for the other 26 weeks.

"Then when I have maintenance or tournaments I give them extra pay and they all work. I have had a lot of problems with the unions but I told them that the workers like it and if they were to take a vote they'd all stand against the unions," he explained.

There are also three mechanics, a painter and a brick layer.

"Supervisors work a system whereby they work five days and then take four days off so a supervisor works with all the crews as they overlap. Then every tenth day both supervisors are there and they can compare notes."

Mr Patino also leads from the front when it comes to training his men in the use of equipment.

"I try all the machines when they first come out and then, as the manuals are in English and

not Spanish, I explain to the men how to use them.

"I like Toro equipment. I started with it but I deal directly with the Head Office in Minneapolis. The local Toro dealership is in Marbella which is fairly local but I find I've got more spare parts than he does."

"We do everything we can with walk behind machines – aprons, collars, tees. Then everything on the fairway is the lightest equipment you can have – we use a triplex which most people use on the greens. I know Toro has some very good fairway mowers and gangs which are very light but I said 'Leave me alone, I will cut them with your greens mowers. We always pick up our clippings on the fairways.'"

He has also found a unique way on curing the Spanish habit of being hard on equipment.

"They do not know about preventative maintenance. They fix it when it is broken. Red lights go on or flash and they don't stop.

"I saw someone driving a big 4500 five gang recently and could see a light flashing. I pointed it out and he said 'It's alright it's been flashing all day. There must just be something wrong.' I sent him straight back to the maintenance centre.

"Mowers never used to last here. A walk behind would be broken after a year when it should last ten.

"So I said 'OK. I'll give you each a mower.' There are eight people

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The little devils have proved so reliable that we can include a 5 year warranty! A first for the industry!



AND THAT INCLUDES LIGHTNING PROOFING

Yes, the built-in lightning protection works so well that we will include that in the warranty too. Remember, we actually test our designs for the effect of strikes.

Our decoder sales have surged again this year, in particular TORO, Watermation and CIC equivalents. We also offer Wraithtrain, Primetime, Robydome and Robydome MkIII versions. Extensive field experience (thousands installed world-wide) and the completion of accelerated life tests allow us to confidently predict a useful decoder life of 10 years plus.

So, why compromise? – re-wire with TONICK and put an end to decoder hassle.

TONICK IS NOW A MAJOR CONTROLLER REPAIR CENTRE

We will repair and test that dodgy controller for you. Our local distributor will arrange collection and will re-commission it for you after repair.

QUICK TURNAROUND AND A RELIABLE GUARANTEED REPAIR – ALL AT A SURPRISINGLY LOW COST

Our specialist engineers will service most controllers including Wraithtrain Mk I II III; Robydome; Primetime; TORO SC1000/3000; Watermation TW1 TW2; CIC I, I+, 4; ISS Aquaflow; Rainbird Master II, Master II Junior, Master III; Buckner.

If yours is not listed, call us for information.

and it gets better.....

THE TONICK CONTROLLER WINTERISATION SERVICE IS READY AND WAITING

For a modest fee, your precious controller can be stored over the winter in our new, dry, secure storage facility. During its stay, it will be serviced, recalibrated and cleaned up ready to be returned when you wish.

We guarantee its operation for 3 months following re-installation so you can relax and avoid the nightmare of "start-up grief" in the Spring.

OUR DISTRIBUTORS & INSTALLERS ARE WAITING FOR YOUR CALL

Company	Town	County	Tel No:	Company	Town	County	Tel No:
Filpumps Ltd	Inverurie	Aberdeenshire	01651 873333	I.L.S. Irrigation Systems & Equipment	Peterborough	Lincs	01832 272450
Evergreen Irrigation Ltd	Leighton Buzzard	Beds	01296 688317	British Overhead Irrigation Ltd	Shepperton	Middx	01932 788301
Aquaflow Irrigation	North Ascot	Berks	01344 882398	D.D.M Irrigation Installations	Sunbury-on-Thames	Middx	01932 781449
SJS Irrigation	Milton Keynes	Bucks	01908 669287	Vesta Irrigation Ltd	Belfast	N. Ireland	01232 458760
Irrigation Control	Winsford	Cheshire	01606 558927	T & G Turf Irrigation Services	Knaresborough	N. Yorks	01423 864963
Bredy Agricentre (Dorset) Ltd	Sturminster Newton	Dorset	01258 473301	Autoflow Systems	Barnham Broom	Norfolk	01603 759701
Electric Irrigation	Verwood	Dorset	01202 824580	Irrigation Services	Norwich	Norfolk	01603 720217
Lakes and Greens Ltd	Nr. Uckfield	East Sussex	01825 790483	Kiem Irrigation Engineers & Consultants	Ludlow	Shrops	01584 856606
Denis Broderick (Electrical & Pump Systems)	Youghal, Co. Cork	Eire	02492705	Ocmis Irrigation (UK) Ltd	Martock	Somerset	01460 241939
Clearwater Ltd	Co. Dublin	Eire	018461025	North Staffs Irrigation	Stone	Staffs	01785 812706
CMW Equipment Co.	Coggeshall	Essex	01376 562569	Turf Machinery Ltd	Woking	Surrey	01483 764467
H T Davies & Partners	Newport	Gwent	01633 893449	Pierre Vaughan Irrigation	Sutton Coldfield	W. Midlands	0121 354 5350
Mist Irrigation System Controls Ltd	Ringwood	Hants	01425 474614	Golf Course Maintenance	Stoneleigh	Warks	01203 416271
Architectural Landscape Design	Beckenham	Kent	0181 658 4455	Ocmis Irrigation (Scotland)	West Calder	West Lothian	0131 220 2102
City Irrigation Ltd	Bromley Common	Kent	0181 462 4630	Albourne Irrigation Services	Hassocks	West Sussex	01273 832233
Greenkeeping Services	West Malling	Kent	01732 843969	Flanderblade Irrigation	Littlehampton	West Sussex	01903 724545
Autorain Ltd	Preston	Lancs	01772 611654	Rainmaker Irrigation Co. Ltd	Littlehampton	West Sussex	01903 734524
L S Systems Ltd	Preston	Lancs	01772 815080	M.J. Abbot Ltd	Salisbury	Wiltshire	01722 716361
Glen Heat & Irrigation	Spalding	Lincs	01775 722327				

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, LOOK OUT FOR MORE EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM TONICK WATERING SOON.

Tonick Watering
THE GREENKEEPER'S FRIEND

2, Prince William Close - Worthing - West Sussex - BN14 0AZ
Tel: **01903 262393** Fax: **01903 694500**



See us at
**SCOTSTURF and
SALTEX**

Preparing for the... *Drama* ... at Valderrama

who cut greens so eight mowers. Eight with other regular jobs so eight other pieces of equipment.

"People said it was ridiculous because the mower would only be working one week in two but the mowers have now lasted eight or nine years and are as good as new. They look after them, wash them and generally take an interest in their equipment. It is an interesting concept."

Walking around the course during the maintenance period, despite the fact that work was going on and the sand had been removed from the bunkers it was still possible to imagine the Ryder Cup matches and what would be facing the likes of Colin Montgomerie, Nick Faldo, Tiger Woods and Tom Lehman some three and a half months later... until we reached the 16th.

Arriving at the end of the fairway we were met by the sight of the green staked out and in the very early stages of being completely relaid.

"We are rebuilding all the greens to USGA spec," explained Mr Patino without a hint of concern that had it been The Open and the UK that the same proce-

dure was being undertaken time would have been very much at a premium and the press would have been having a field day.

Because of the climate and the labour intensive practices the green would be back in play in a couple of weeks.

"We do the work in-house so the people who are putting them in are the same people who are going to be looking after them.

"I follow all the pros recommendations because on the whole they've been very constructive... Nearly all," he laughs as the corrects himself. "I didn't take out the rough at the 17th," referring to the par-5 re-designed by Seve which although controversial is bound to be the scene of some significant action during the match.

"I'm talking about people like Montgomerie, Langer, Faldo, Olazabal, Johansson and Forsbrand - our own professional. They are good boys and have given us some good tips.

"That's one of the reasons they like coming here because they know that every year they will find something better."

Valderrama is also going to host

the first green Ryder Cup. The club is the first European course to join the USGA-Audobon Cooperative Sanctuary Programme for golf course and Mr Patino works closely with the European Golf Ecology Unit headed by David Stubbs - who captained the European Bird Watching Ryder Cup team which, with Valderrama as a key player, defeated the American team.

Valderrama has set aside ten sanctuaries the wild area between out-of-bounds which provide an ideal habitat for wild flowers. During one of the course surveys 78 species of birds, 11 mammals, four reptiles, three amphibians, 20 butterflies and three dragonflies were logged. Anyone attending the Ryder Cup will also see the wonderful display boards describing what Valderrama has to offer sited around the course.

Aware of the need to improve greenkeeping knowledge in Spain he has introduced a scholarship to Michigan State University where he sends an English speaking Spanish graduate on a two year course. They work here for six months in the winter to be sure he really wants to be a greenkeeper then when he comes back I find him a golf course.

Although closely allied to the American system he has seen improvements in European greenkeeping in the last 12 years and he has some interesting observations of the differences on either side of the Atlantic.

"It is a very respected profession in America but in Britain the greenkeeper is often not allowed

in the clubhouse. This is beyond my comprehension. It is a highly professional and respectable career and it should be treated as such.

"If that doesn't happen you won't be able to attract the best people but I do think improvements are beginning to be seen.

"The more it improves the more the quality of people wanting to do the job with improve. It is the best thing that can happen to the game. I think BIGGA is very important in the role it is fulfilling."

Hosting the Ryder Cup is a dream Mr Patino has fostered for some time.

"In 1989 I started to think that it could become a reality and I think it will be a great thing for Spain. This part of Spain could be the Florida of Europe and if the Spanish do things well it is a great opportunity to promote themselves."

When it is all over, and bearing in mind the Volvo Masters has moved to pastures new, what will he do then.

"For nine years I've been privileged to have the best players in Europe for the final event of the European Tour ever year. In the 10th year I now have the best players in Europe and the best players in America. The only thing left is to get the best players in Europe and the best players in the rest of the world for a tournament. That is what I'm working towards."

And you know. I think he'll just do it.



"It is a very respected profession in America but in Britain the greenkeeper is often not allowed in the clubhouse. This is beyond my comprehension. It is a highly professional and respectable career and it should be treated as such."



BTME 98 show space expands to accommodate extra exhibitors

Almost at the end of summer and here at BIGGA headquarters our sights are firmly fixed on winter as we work towards producing the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition for 1998.

Here at last we are able to reveal the plans for this show and the regular visitors among you will see that changes have been made. The most significant of those being the addition of a new Hall, a marquee (Hall G) situated at the front of Hall C.

The success of the last show with a record visitor attendance of 5,486 has resulted in many requests for more stand space from existing exhibitors and a growing list of companies wishing to attend for the first time – Hall G has given us the opportunity to accommodate all these requests.

There are at present 148 exhibitors attending the '98 show offering visitors the widest possible range of products and services

for the fine turf professional.

"We believe that in expanding into Hall G we have been able to increase the size of the show without losing its unique atmosphere," said show organiser James McEvoy.

New companies to BTME include Flymo, Olivers Seeds, City Irrigation, Bailey's of Norfolk, Verde Sports, Data Form, Par 4, Merrist Wood Golf Club and returning from a four year break Fairfield Turf Limited. When asked what had prompted their return, Ellis Cummins, from Fairfield Turf, said: "I have been a visitor to the show for the past two years and have been very impressed.

"I feel we would be missing out on a great opportunity if we did not exhibit this time."

There are limited spaces left so anybody wishing to exhibit at BTME 98 should contact Amanda Mayo on 01347 838581.

HOW THE SHOW IS SHAPING UP: THE EXHIBITION PLAN SO FAR, OVERLEAF

BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION



BTME 98

A DECADE OF SUCCESS

HARROGATE
The Number One Choice
& EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME

WELCOME TO THE 1998 BTME QUIZ!

Come to the show FREE!

★ Here's part two in our competition where you as a Greenkeeper can go to BTME 98 ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Together with the BTME, the Learning Experience 1998 will provide a varied and informative education programme. The workshop programme for 1998 once again includes the very successful golf course design and construction, and levelling and surveying, with the introduction of a NEW workshop on irrigation and drainage.

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of the three superb prizes is to answer six questions – there were two last month, two in this issue, below, and the final two plus the entry form appear in October's issue.

- FIRST PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three night's accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate and entry to all the education seminar sessions.
- SECOND PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus two night's accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all the education seminar sessions.
- THIRD PRIZE:** Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus one night's accommodation in a top Harrogate hotel and entry to all education seminar sessions.

SEPTEMBER QUESTIONS

1. Name BIGGA's Education Officer.
2. Name the new workshop.

Don't miss your chance to attend the largest indoor turf management exhibition in Europe.



For more information about BTME 98 contact Amanda Mayo or James McEvoy on 01347 838581

Exhibition plan and guide to exhibitors to date: August 1997

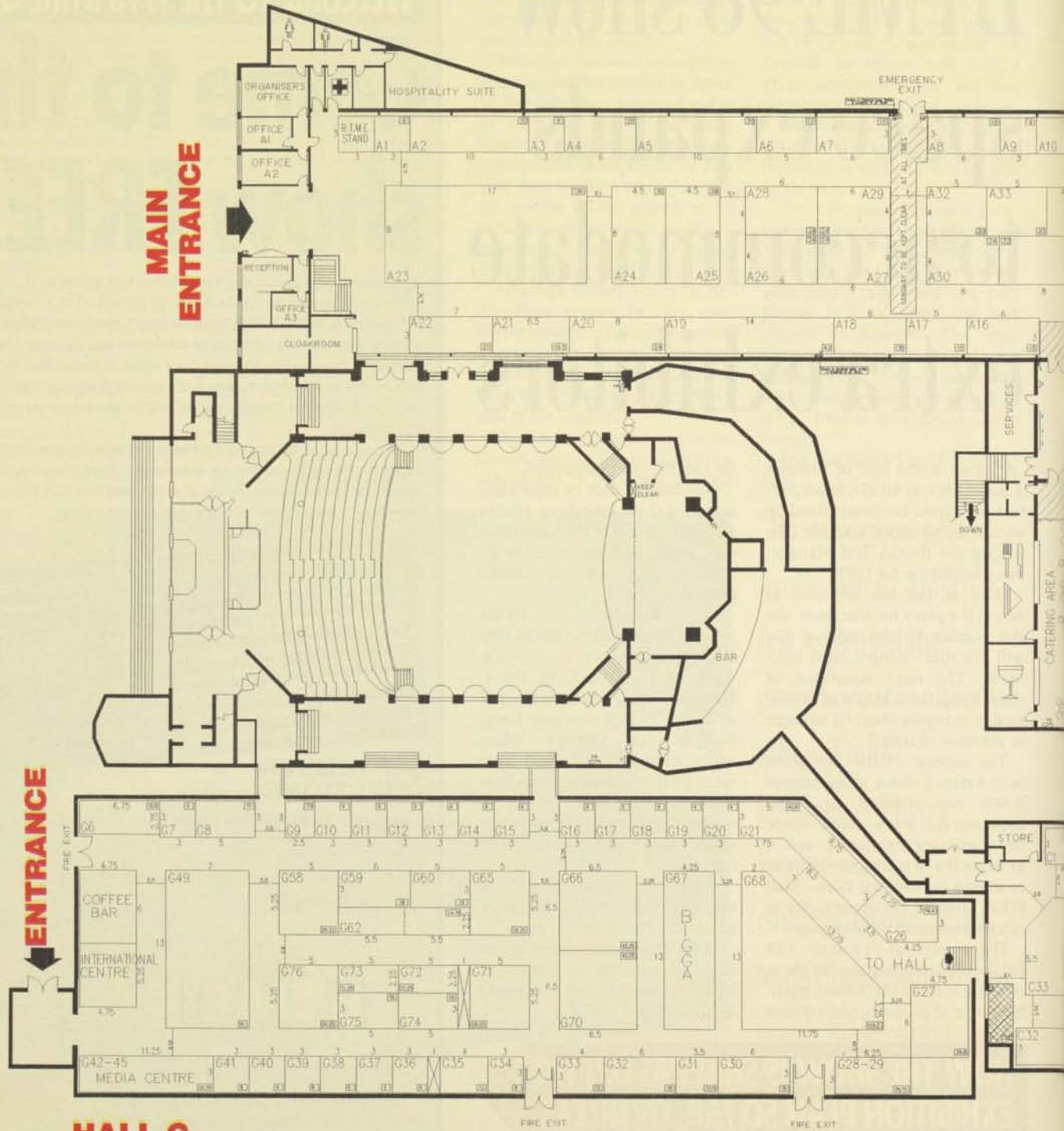
A1.....NORTH WEST TURF
 A2.....WATERMATION
 A3...GREENKEEPER SUPPLY CO
 A4
 A5.....OCMIS IRRIGATION
 A6.....ATTERTON & ELLIS
 A7 SPORTSGROUND IRRIGATION
 A8.....AMENITY LAND SERVICES
 A9.....PSD AGRONOMY
 A10.....BRITISH SEED HOUSES
 A11.....TOTRAX
 A12 - A14.....KUBOTA
 A15.....TURFMECH
 A16.....FARMURA
 A17.....JOHNSONS SEEDS
 A18.....BRITISH OVERHEAD
 IRRIGATION
 A19.....RITEFEED LTD
 A20.....BARENBRUG
 A21...RUFFORD TOP DRESSING
 A22.ALLEN POWER EQUIPMENT

A23.....RANSOMES
 A24.....ROLAWN (TURF
 GROWERS) LTD
 A25.....HUXLEYS GRASS
 MACHINERY
 A26.....WIEDENMANN LTD
 A27.....SUPATURF PRODUCTS
 A28.....SPORTSGROUND
 IRRIGATION
 A29.....MARLWOOD
 A30.....AITKINS
 A31.....INTURF
 A32.....VITAX LTD
 A33.....RISBORO TURF
 A34.....BOYD GOLF
 A35.....KUBOTA
 B1.....TACIT
 B2.....LEVINGTONS
 B3.....M J ABBOTT
 B4.....UNDERGEAR
 B5.....LINDUM TURF

B7.....AVONCROP AMENITY
 B8.....YORK & MARTIN
 B9.....KING'S HORTICULTURE
 B10.....TURF MANAGEMENT
 B11.....GREENTECH
 B12.....MULTI-CORE
 B13.....TALBOT
 B14.....MAJOR EQUIPMENT
 B15.....HEPWORTHS
 B16.....GROUNDSMAN
 INDUSTRIES
 B17.....COUNTY CROP
 B18
 B19.....SYMBIO
 B20.....CLEVELAND SITESAFE
 B21.....GARFITTS
 B22..SHARPES INTERNATIONAL
 B23.....MARTIN BROTHERS
 B24.....SAXON INDUSTRIES
 B25.....OLIVERS SEEDS
 B26.....GOLF SIGN COMPANY

B27.....PRIME WATERMAN
 B28.....BETTER METHODS
 B29.....LLOYDS & CO
 B30.....STANDARD GOLF
 B31 & B32.....JACOBSENS
 B33 & B34.....MIRACLE
 B35.....LELY UK LTD
 B36.....PAR 4
 B37.....TIL
 B38.....CHARTERHOUSE
 B39.....ETESIA
 C1.....SWAN PLANT SERVICES
 C2
 C2A.....VERDE SPORTS
 C3.....MOMMERSTEEG
 C4...INDUSTRIAL POWER UNITS
 C5.....PERRYFIELDS
 C6.....TURFACTANT
 C7.....EP BARRUS
 C8.....WHITE HORSE
 CONTRACTORS

C9.....ALLETT MOWERS
 C10.....HEADLAND AMENITY
 C11.....LINKS LEISURE
 C12.....KAWASAKI
 C13.....BOURNE AMENITY
 C14.....COURSE CARE
 C15
 C16.....BANKS AMENITY
 C17.....COURSE WEAR
 C18
 C19.....SOVEREIGN TURF
 C20.....J D GREARSLEY
 C21.....HAYTER
 C22.....FARM & GARDEN
 MACHINERY
 C23.....TILDENET
 C24.....NATURE FIRST
 C25.....MAXICROP
 C26.....HYDROSCAPE
 C27.....HUMATE
 C28.....SEWARDS



HALL G