



Figure 2

annua and the symptoms observed were small nodules on the roots (Figure 1). The nodules were in the order of 2mm wide and 3mm long and each had a small portion of the root extending from the lower part of the nodule. When viewed under the microscope, the nematodes could be clearly seen and were identified as *Ditylenchus radicola*. This nematode is not a new problem on turf and indeed was discussed in the 1959 Journal of the Sports Turf Research Institute as one of the gall-forming nematodes of grasses in Britain. It is of interest that this nematode is colonising turfgrass roots and affecting turfgrass quality. It would be useful to know just how extensive the problem is country-wide.

The second sample that arrived in the laboratory, was from Thetford Golf Course in Norfolk. The turf in the affected areas had changed colour to a ginger-brown and the symptoms had been seen on two roughly parallel fairways. The Course Manager had seen the same symptoms during 1997 around two bunkers and he had thought the damage likely to be due to drought or possibly chafers. This year, however, the symptoms developed earlier in the season, around late March/early April and whilst looking for chafers, the Course Manager had noticed swellings at the base of the fescue plants (Figure 2). Our regional agronomist, Dr Tim Lodge, had telephoned me prior to the sample arriving in the laboratory, asking if I had ever seen swollen bases on fescues and if so, what the problem was. I had to confess at the time that this was a new one on me. I asked Dr

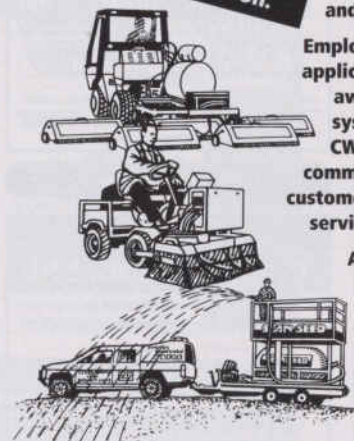
Jackson for his thoughts but speculation was not going to identify the cause of the problem formally. When the sample of turf arrived, it was found that the stem bases were infected with the stem nematode *Ditylenchus dipsaci*. This nematode occurs worldwide in temperate areas and is capable of infesting many plant species. As far as I am aware, it has not been commonly found on *Festuca* spp. in the UK and because of this, we were extremely interested in this "find". This nematode has a relatively short life cycle and can therefore rapidly increase its population size in a year. It is possible for the nematode to remain viable for several years.

As with other nematode problems, there are no chemical controls which have approval for use against these two nematodes on turf in the UK. Control options for agricultural crops include alternation of the plants grown, but for a turf situation, this is not possible. Generally, nematode problems will affect the plants water and nutrient uptake ability and therefore affect the colour and vigour of the turf. It is likely that, if you have an area of turf which is well fed and watered but which is not responding and appears a little "off-colour", nematodes are at the root of the problem. I am presently trying to gauge the severity and extent of nematode problems on amenity turf across the UK and would appreciate any assistance that you can offer. If you have any areas of turf on your course which continually seem to be "lagging", even after all of your efforts, please give me a call or drop me a line and I'll get back to you.

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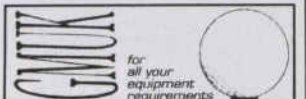
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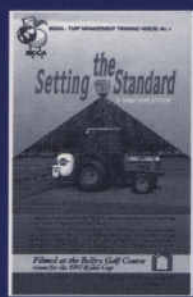
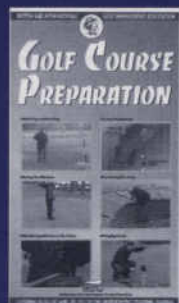
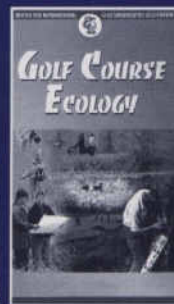
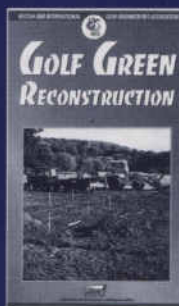
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We are seeking a top class Greenkeeper / Course Manager with proven record as a Head Greenkeeper or First Assistant.

Knowledge of course construction and alterations required. Applicants must be fully versed in modern greenkeeping methods with proven man management skills. The ability to prepare and monitor work programmes and budgets is essential. Interest in wildlife conservation desirable.

Salary is negotiable but no accommodation is available.

Please apply in writing before 23rd August 1998 enclosing a CV to:
The Chairman of the Greens Committee, Clandon Regis Golf Club,
Epsom Road, West Clandon, Surrey GU4 7TT



ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

Murrayfield Golf Club invites applications for the position of Assistant Head Greenkeeper.

Applicants should have a minimum of 5 years experience as an Assistant Greenkeeper and be suitably qualified.

In addition to assisting on the 18 hole golf course at Murrayfield, the successful applicant will be given major responsibility for the adjoining 9 hole course at Ravelston.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, Murrayfield Golf Club Ltd, 43 Murrayfield Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6EU. The closing date for applications is August 31, 1998

DAVYHULME PARK GOLF CLUB

requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The ideal candidate will be experienced in all aspects of Greenkeeping and possess all the necessary qualifications as laid down in BIGGA's job specification.

Applications in writing, with C.V. to: The Secretary, Davyhulme Park Golf Club, Gleneagles Road, Davyhulme, Manchester, M41 8SA.

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Please apply in writing to: The Secretary, Oxley Park Golf Club Limited, Bushbury, Wolverhampton WV10 6DE.
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Applicants should have a minimum of two years experience in all aspects of Golf Course maintenance.

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Apply with full CV to:
The Secretary, Coventry Golf Club, St Martins Road,
Finham Park, Coventry CV3 6PJ

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Mark Drake Golf Course Manager Birchwood Park Golf Centre Birchwood Road Wilmington Kent, DA2 7HS Closing date 28th August 1998.

The Old Course Ranfurly Golf Club

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