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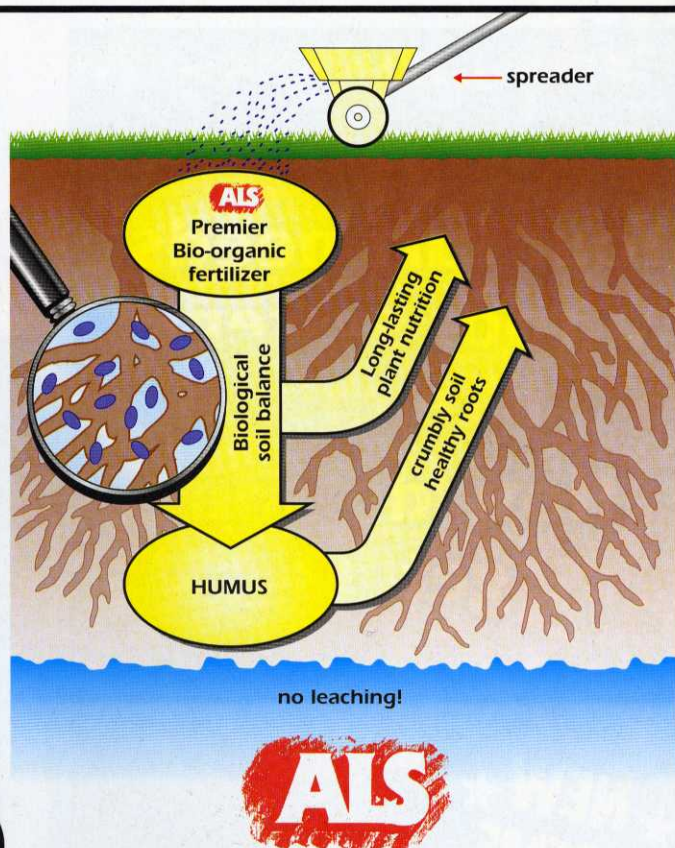
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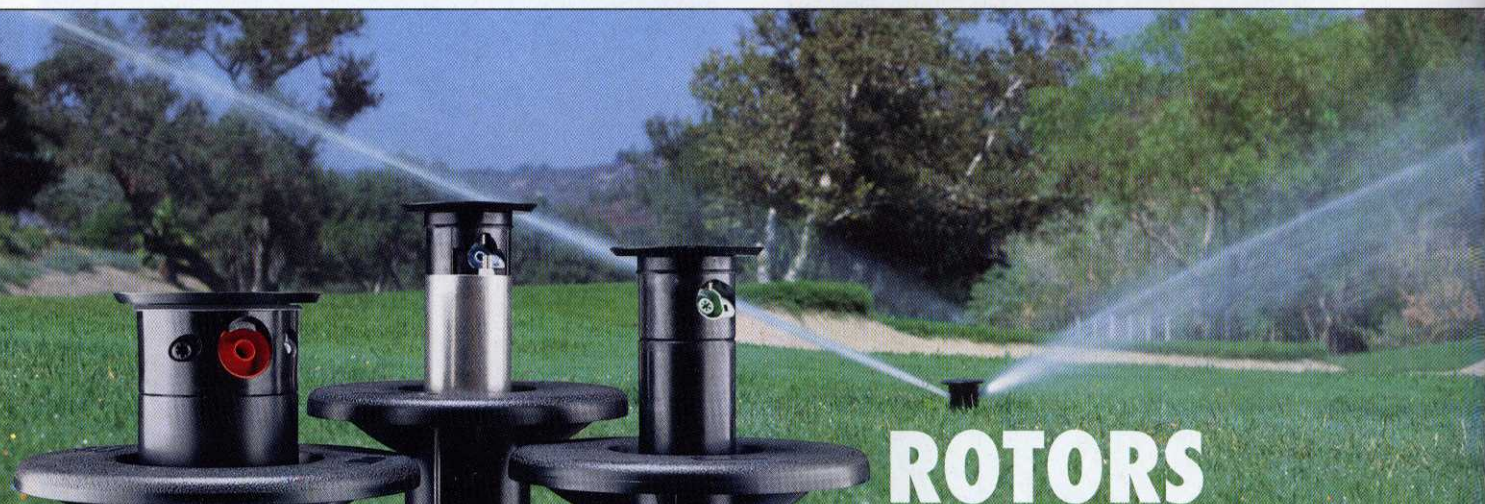
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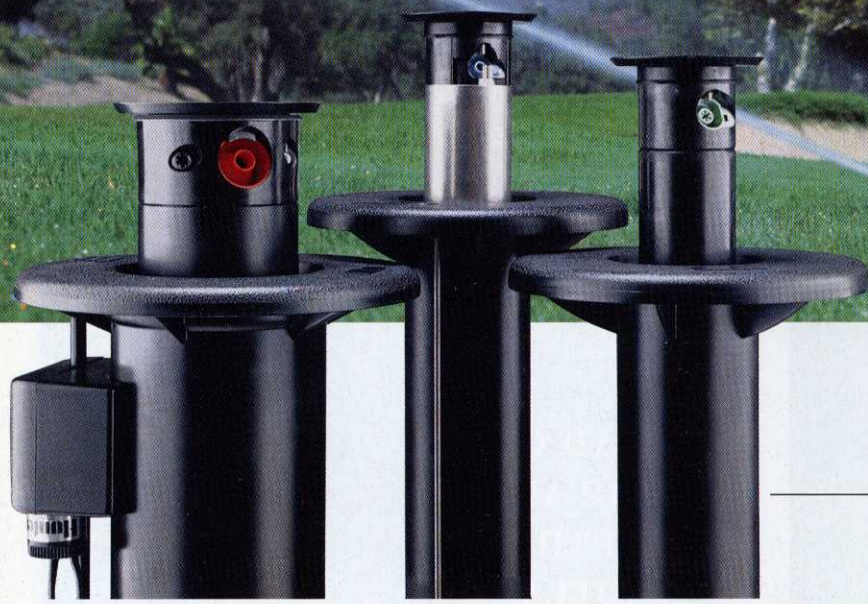


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ROTORS FOR TEES, GREENS AND FAIRWAYS



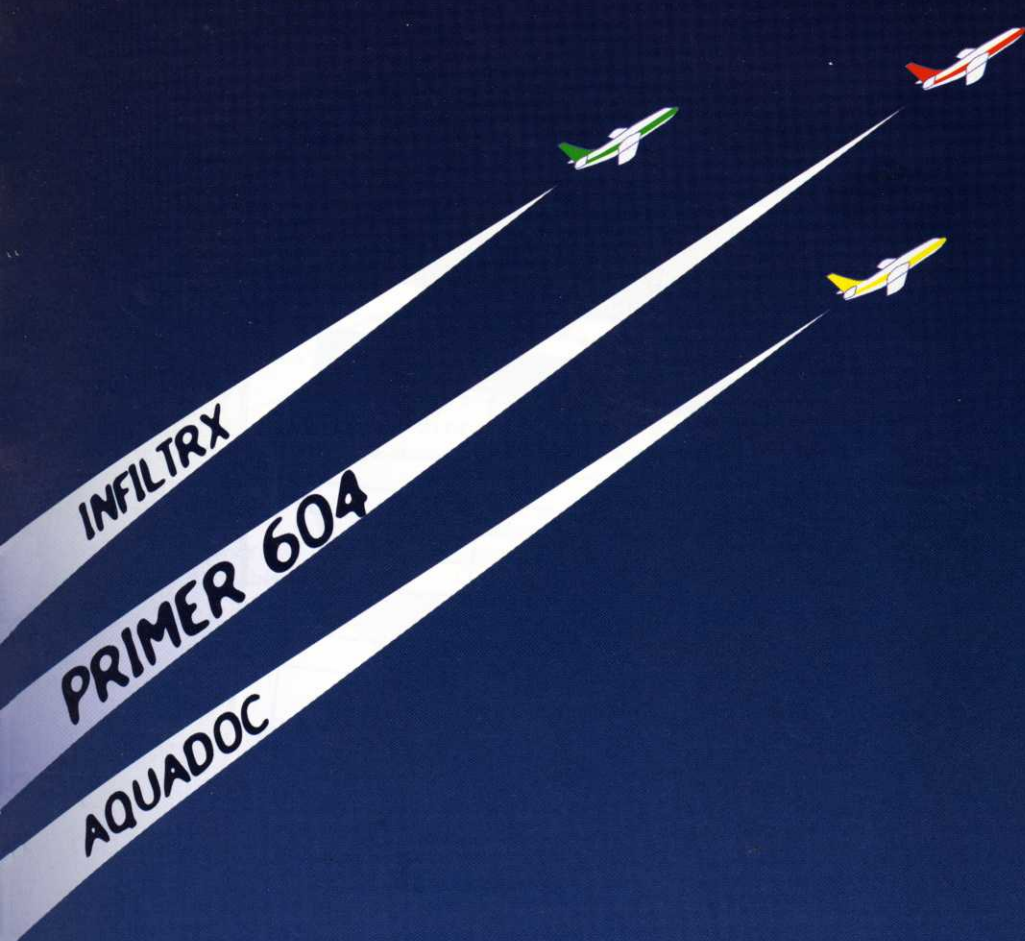
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Which Product To Use And When !

Aim / Need	Primer 604	Primer 604 Granular	AquaDoc	InfilTRx
Creation of a uniform playing surface	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emergency treatment of dry spot			✓	✓
Make irrigation water more effective			✓	
Fast removal of standing water	✓	✓	✓	
Assist fast germination when over seeding		✓	✓	
Prepare effective divot repair mix	✓	✓	✓	✓
Improvement of grass coverage on mounds and slopes				
General improvement of large areas	✓	✓		
Create matrix flow of water in the root zone	✓	✓	✓	
Improve appearance of approaches and aprons	✓	✓	✓	
Minimise the visual effects of fairy ring	✓	✓		
Restore uniform quality to tees	✓	✓		
Year round maintenance	✓	✓		

Application Rates and Product Benefits

PRIMER 604 - Matrix Flow Soil Surfactant

- Safe non-ionic surfactant
- Will not scorch
- One 600L tank sprays 18 greens
- Requires no watering in
- Creates unique matrix flow

Pack size	Outer size	Pack coverage	Outer coverage
2 Litres	6x2 L	1,081 - 1,600 sq m	6,486 - 9,600 sq m
5 Litres	4x5 L	2,702 - 4,000 sq m	10,811 - 16,000 sq m
20 Litres	1x20 L	10,811 - 16,000 sq m	10,811 - 16,000 sq m
210 Litres	1x210 L	113,514 - 168,000 sq m	113,514 - 168,000 sq m
Granular	20 kg bag	1,111 - 1,667 sq m	1,111 - 1,667 sq m

APPLICATION PROGRAMME

Initial application pre and early Spring	185 mls in 7 litres of water per 100 sq m
Rate per 10,000 sq m (Hectare)	18.5 Litres in 700 litres of water
Monthly application 5 or 6 per season	125 mls in 7 litres of water per 100 sq m
Rate per 10,000 sq m (Hectare)	12.5 Litres in 700 litres of water
Granular spread rate	1.2 kg / 100 sq m
Regular	1.8 kg / 100 sq m
Initial	

AQUADOC- Rapid Recovery Localised Treatment Soil Surfactant

- Does not burn
- No watering in
- Safe non-ionic surfactant

Pack size	Outer size	Pack coverage	Outer coverage
1 Litre	10x1 L	400 sq m	4,000 sq m
5 Litres	4x5 L	2,000 sq m	8,000 sq m

APPLICATION PROGRAMME

Apply weekly until symptoms are relieved	250 ml per 100 sq metres in 4 litres of water
--	---

INFILTRX - Wide Area Soil Penetrant

- Does not burn
- No watering in
- Safe non-ionic surfactant

Pack size	Application rate irrigation	Application rate spray
20 or 210 Litres	2.5 L / Hectare once or twice per month	25 ml/100 sq m



WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT THE PRIMER 604

"After applying Primer 604 there was a remarkable improvement in the greens"
Head Greenkeeper
Ansty Golf Club

"Drought conditions are a thing of the past and dry patch problems are no more thanks to Primer 604"

Chris Pearson,
Head Greenkeeper
Murcar Golf Club

"My greens this year are much better after using Primer 604. The dry patch has been reduced by 75%"

Frank Kempster
Course Superintendent
Glen Gorse Golf Club

"Since I started using Primer 604, I now have 100% grass cover on all greens after many years of dry patch problems I said I'd want my money back if it didn't work; I'm not asking for a penny"

Jim Paton, Head Greenkeeper
West Kilbride Golf Club

"Using on a monthly programme we were delighted with the results. We will use Primer 604 again next year"

Head Greenkeeper
Sherwood Forest Golf Club

"After applying Primer 604 there was a remarkable improvement in the greens"

Head Greenkeeper
Ansty Golf Club

"The best wetting agent on the market; I found it does what it promises"

Head Greenkeeper
Erewash Valley Golf Club

"I have found Primer 604 easy to apply with no watering in even after one application"

Mr Finlay
Port Stewart Golf Club

"It is the best wetting agent I have ever used"

John Wells
Brocket Hall Golf Club

"In only half a seasons usage, I have noticed marked reductions in my dry patch. I would highly recommend Primer 604"

Paul Crouch
Puttenham Golf Club

"Using on a monthly programme we were delighted with the results. We will use Primer 604 again next year"

Head Greenkeeper
Sherwood Forest Golf Club

"Very easy to apply - the best wetting agent used on sand based greens"

Adrian Porter
Greetham Valley Golf Club

"In only half a seasons usage, I have noticed marked reductions in my dry patch. I would highly recommend Primer 604"

Paul Crouch
Puttenham Golf Club

"Primer 604 has greatly reduced labour costs due to less hand watering and has reduced the dry patch on the greens"

Ken Barber, Course Manager
East Sussex National Golf Club

"We have had excellent results from Primer 604 during our summer spraying programme on both the championship and Burnside courses. It outperforms all previously used products"

John Philp, Links Superintendent,
Carnoustie Golf Links

"The best wetting agent on the market; I found it does what it promises"

Head Greenkeeper
Erewash Valley Golf Club

"Very easy to apply - the best wetting agent used on sand based greens"

Adrian Porter
Greetham Valley Golf Club

AND THERE ARE MANY, MANY MORE

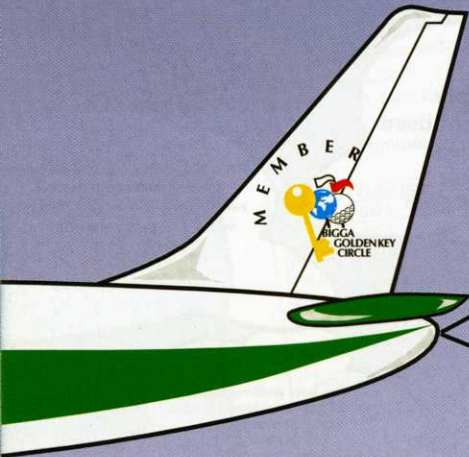
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SOIL PENETRANT

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- For Rapid Water Penetration

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4. Effective management of your water resources is central to all turf maintenance.
5. Uniform quality turf is encouraged if you use soil surfactants.

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GREEN FINGERS

by IAN DAIR

But Bob Taylor is regretting what he said in the November issue of *Greenkeeper International*. In writing about the winners of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, Bob described fellow judge Keith Duff as "one of the seemingly few golfing conservationists"

The Royal Mail have made a bomb on stamps as letters of protest and denial have hurled through Bob's letter box.

I play regularly with a nature conservationist and he isn't Keith Duff. This chap can tell what bird is singing, invisible in a far away tree. He often picks up snails (they're like that, nature conservationists) and identifies, them. Funny, most snails seem to be unnamed. He once, got very excited by a black dot in the sky. A rare Pomarine Skua (so rare it's not in my bird book). I believe him – golfers always tell the truth.

Most golfers wouldn't claim this depth and breadth of knowledge, even if they had it. But most appreciate, in a general way, the wildlife that surrounds them as they go round their course. And this is my point. Every golf course plays its part in conservation. While I must applaud the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, I wouldn't like it to be taken that the runners up, or even the courses that didn't enter, are somehow unimportant.

Imagine a visitor from outer space cruising at three thousand feet in his spaceship. Spread out below is the countryside. A collection of colours. Black for roads, red for roofs, yellow for oil seed rape, blue for flax, dirty brown for set-aside. Where is the green and pleasant land? Ah, there. Standing out proudly as the last guardian of woods, meadows, ponds and long grass is – the golf course.

Every golf course is a conservation area. Courses old and new are green fingers in a land which is increasingly hostile to wildlife. If it's not already under brick and concrete it soon will be. Or if it isn't built on, it will either be under-managed and neglected or intensely over-managed eg. an arable field ploughed and treated

several times a year with chemicals. Compared to this golf courses are permanently stable, low-input environments where wildlife has a chance. Courses make up about 0.7% of Great Britain's 22 million hectares. Not much? It's double that of the RSPB's reserves And over four times the area of country parks.

But you greenkeepers know all this because you went on one of BIGGA's environmental courses or you've got the books (if you haven't, contact Aldwark Manor right away) or you've read about it in this magazine. Amid the enthusiasm I want to mention a word of caution. You might find this hard to believe, given all that has been said and written in its favour. Yet there are people who are anti-conservation. Sometimes, it's the conservationists who are their own worst enemies. I recall a seminar at Aldwark where a course designer was moaning about the difficulties of course building in Germany. There, the local conservationists tried to insist on green sand in the bunkers, to blend in better with the landscape. Then, there's the opposition right in our camp. I was at the First World Scientific Congress of Golf at St Andrews when a really, really famous American course architect described conservationists as being like water melons – green on the outside and red on the inside.

There are prejudiced and ignorant folk in all walks of life, although a higher than average percentage seem to make their way onto golf club committees. Them aside, I acknowledge that all golfers are not conservationists and all conservationists are not golfers – Bob Taylor was right there. But every greenkeeper, however humble his or her course, is a conservationist, an environmental manager looking after one of the few bits of the countryside which are green, wildlife-friendly and accessible to people, whether or not they have time to look up from the golf ball and smell the flowers. You may not have won an award from BIGGA this time round, but you get one from me

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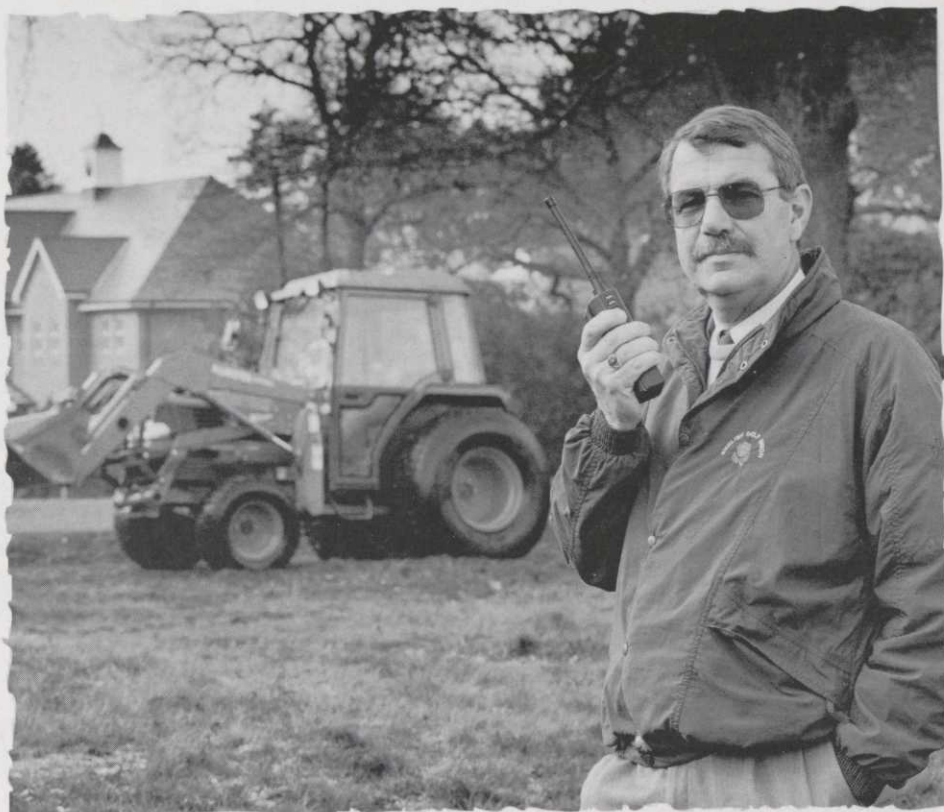
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– Peter Wisbey, Courses Manager,
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Golf traffic management:



ON THE RIGHT LINES

by MARGARET STEWART

With an average of 40,000 rounds per year now not an unusual total, golf clubs are basking in an unprecedented boom. The combination of more and more people taking early retirement, the greatly increased proportion of women players, and golf's appeal as a social focus as well as a game have meant it is riding high on a wave of popularity.

Good news for clubs, developers and suppliers, but – in a way – bad news for greenkeepers who are fighting a rearguard action against far more wear and tear than they had ever anticipated on their courses.

Most courses were originally planned around the knowledge that winter's bad weather would make the surfaces unplayable, and so give the ground a well-earned rest, while giving green-

keepers a chance to repair the season's damage.

Now, however, with year-round playing, the ground has little chance of recover, making soil compaction and pathway maintenance two issues which have taken the science of ground maintenance some time to address.

Another problem – partly due to the increased number of retired players, who wish to conserve their energy, and those who are less fit – is that many golfers are now using power caddies.

"Three out of four players use power caddies on our hilly course," says David Weston, of Enmore Golf Course near Bridgewater in Somerset.

"The combination of the battery's extra weight and the power caddy's third wheel meant that soil compaction was becoming a real problem for us.

"It was particularly noticeable on the approaches to the greens where players had to go between bunkers. We were finding that the soil was compacted to the extent that the ball's behaviour was being affected, as well of course as the ground's slope being altered from its original angle.

"We wanted to find a permanent way of reminding players to keep off these areas. Marking paint was not really the answer for this situation: the grass is cut so often there that it would have been far too time-consuming to re-mark every time we mowed."

David dealt with the situation by using one of the latest – and most ingenious – marking devices to indicate trolleys paths which avoid the edges of the greens as well as keeping players from running their caddies between the bunkers.

Developed in France, Plifix – the Bowcom Carrot – is a durable polypropylene screw set with white fibres. Once fixed into the ground and filled with natural granules, the fibres are cut off in the normal mowing operation: a permanent bright white spot is left, clearly marking areas to be avoided.

"After just a few weeks of using the Carrots, we could see that the soil was loosening up and the turf was reviving to a good springy quality," says David.

"Although they were puzzled at first, our players have responded to the Carrots and many have commented on the improved playing surface on the approach to the greens.

"Another useful benefit is the saving of the greenkeepers' time and effort, since they can simply mow, seed or scarify over the top

Golf traffic management

'The saving in time and effort... plus the fact that it is much less painful on the greenkeepers' backs, has made this a good investment!'

of the Carrots, without having to remove and replace them as they used to do sticks."

So much for dealing with soil compaction: but there are other aspects of traffic management around the golf course which demand consideration with year-round play.

Although the tees themselves can be saved by using winter tees – often artificial turf mats – the paths leading to winter tees come under concentrated use due to the volume of traffic making its way over the same area all day long.

In addition to winter tee paths, the wear caused by trolleys and power caddies has to be distributed as evenly as possible across the fairways, meaning that, particularly on parkland courses, greenkeepers must allow the ground a chance to recover by designating routes which can be moved each week.

Since aerosol paint sprays are

in common use to mark out 'Ground Under Repair' and other messages on the course, many greenkeepers have been using aerosols to indicate pathways to follow.

However, Course Managers on courses such as Abbeydale, Sheffield, have realised that while aerosols are ideal for short lines, or intricate marking such as lettering, there are other products which are specifically designed to mark out longer lines.

"A little lateral thought made us realise that a sports pitch line-marking machine would do the job faster and better," explains John Coleman, Abbeydale's Course Manager. "That being so, we have now bought a three-wheeled line marking machine.

"It's unique, and ideal for our purposes since the paint spray is driven by the front wheel, meaning that we can lift it up and use it like a wheelbarrow when we



need to manoeuvre round tight corners.

"Apart from that, it is light and stable with a sturdy chassis, so as well as marking long straight lines last, its pneumatic tyres are not adding to our problems. Another plus for us is that the paint comes in sealed buckets, so doesn't slop out when we are going up or down slopes.

"The saving in time and effort, the cash savings we are making by using a water-based line-marking paint, plus the fact that it is much less painful on the greenkeepers' backs, has made this a good investment!"

The chief difficulty in managing

traffic on the golf course is a matter of finding an approach which will be clear and easy to follow, then in persuading players to respond to the request. It's not always easy to make people recognise that what they are being asked to do is for their own long-term benefit, by protecting the course.

However, it's a problem which greenkeepers must address if they are to maintain a playing surface which will meet the demands of all-weather golf: new ideas and strategies such as these will soon come to be adopted by more and more courses as golf becomes ever more popular.

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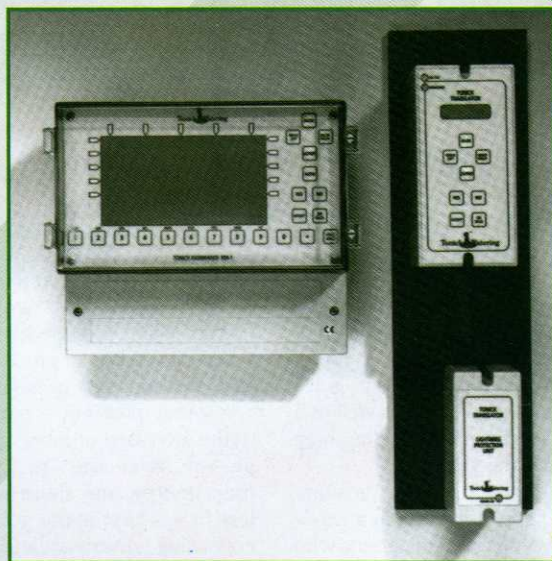
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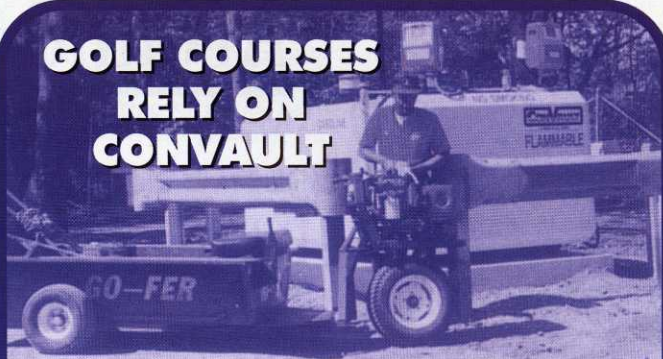
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Around the Green

Keeping in touch with news and comment from the regions

SCOTTISH REGION

Peter Boyd
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Central

Well, we are into another year and hopefully everyone has recovered from the festive activities and getting ready for another season on the course... or are you stuck in the shed painting things for the umpteenth time because of the weather? There's not a great deal happening with regards to Section activities at the moment but it won't be long before we are back into the swing of things.

Everyone should have received notice of the visit to Scottish Grass Machinery's new premises at Inverkeithing next month and the visit to Stewart's top dressing plant and premises at Dalkeith in March. As both these companies are making their facilities available to us on those days please give them and YOUR Section some support. If you wish you are welcome to bring along a member of your club committee and it will give them an insight into a side of the golf course which they probably give little thought to.

Another date for your diary is the Spring Tournament/Ritefeed qualifying event which will be held by courtesy of Ladybank GC on Tuesday April 28 so if you wish to participate in this event please return your form as soon as possible. At the time of writing I have not had confirmation of the venue for the Autumn Tournament but as soon as I know I will let you know.

We extend a welcome return to the Section to Duncan Peddie, of Alloa GC, and we also welcome new members Ethna Canniffe, Stephen Hain and Callum Munro, all from Elmwood College.

No doubt there will be a large contingent of Central Section members descending the BTME at Harrogate this month when I am sure everyone will enjoy the seminars and exhibition, not to mention the nightly tours of the Harrogate refreshment areas! Section members Stuart Sime and Kenny Duncan will be attending as part of their Patron's Award and with a bit of luck they may share their experiences with us in next month's magazine, that's if they can remember what happened

during the week there.

It would appear that a certain Andy O'Hara has gained nationwide fame (or is it notoriety?) regarding his exploits in the sporting world as everywhere he goes he is asked if he is THE Andy O'Hara whose name keeps appearing in the magazine! Well this may be the last you will hear of him (for a while anyway) as he has vowed to get revenge on me for making him the topic of conversation across the country, but if you wish to join the Andy O'Hara Fan Club he can be contacted c/o Leven Links, Fife!

Well, that's all folks! See you next month unless I happen to meet up with a certain Section member before then.

John Crawford

North

The Section AGM was held at Macdonald GC, Ellon preceded by the annual Chairman versus Vice-Chairman golf match. The weather was good and 25 members contested a close fought match with Chairman Hugh McLatchie's team triumphing by 3 matches to 2 with one match halved. Thanks to John Geddes and his staff for the great condition of the course and the bar and catering staff for fulfilling our inner needs. Thanks also to Alex Cruickshank, of Daval Products, for presenting a trophy to the winning team at this competition.

There were two committee members stepping down this year, Sam Morrison and Andy Wilson. Sam, as you already know, has left the Section and Andy has also moved on. He has left Letham Grange to work at Carnoustie. We wish both all the best and thank them for their contribution to the Committee over the years.

Ian Gunn, Strathpeffer, has joined the committee. The committee and their duties etc are as follows:- Chairman - Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead, 01779 470173; Vice-Chairman, Magazine and Education - Iain Macleod, Tain, 01862 894402; Secretary - Douglas Duguid, Westhill, 01224 740329; Treasurer - Wilson Morrison, Alford, 01224 826289; Raffles - Kevin Pearce, Inverurie, 01467 625125 and John Geddes, Ellon, 01358 723034; Outings and Handicaps - Stephen Sullivan, Craigie Hill,

01738 643778 and Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer, 01997 421219 and last but not least 200 Club - Stewart McBain, Aberdeen, 01224 733347.

The Section is in a good financial position and running smoothly. We have decided to donate £1000 to the new BIGGA Headquarters fund and plan to have Hugh McLatchie hand over the cheque at BTME this month. Patron Winner Bradley Wood, Westhill, was unable to take up the offer of a trip to BTME so John Morton, Alford, will take his place.

We had to cancel the Section dinner due to a poor response and lost our deposit. Next year's outings are Fortrose and Rosemarkie in May and Alford in September, more details to follow.

We are also planning a bus trip to the Stewart's turf farm, anyone interested get in touch with Douglas now. There are still some library books missing, anyone who can help find them please get in touch.

We are planning a conference for November this year, anyone with ideas for speakers please let me know as soon as possible. This is your chance to choose the programme that you would like to see on the day.

Congratulations to Andrew Macrae, who moves from Royal Dornoch to be Head Greenkeeper at nearby Golspie where he hails from.

The final four winners in our 200 Club were as follows:- September £30 - Gordon Mackie, Edzell; October £30 - Michael Clar, Kingussie; November £30 - Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer; December £100 - Alex Cruickshank, Ayr. The 200 Club was a great success again with all tickets sold so let's keep the trend going this year to raise funds for the Section.

Finally, I hope to see as many Section members as possible at BTME this month as well as all old friends for what promises to be another great week. One of the highlights must surely be David MacIndoe's talk during the Seminar programme. I can hardly wait.

See you all at Harrogate.
Iain Macleod

West

A Happy New Year to all West Section members - may we have as

good a season as last year. For my sins (of which there are plenty) I now take over the reins as Chairman of your Section. I hope everything runs smoothly. I would like to thank all the committee members on behalf of John Scott for their help last year and to John we would like to say a big thank you for your efforts during the year. A lot of John's time was spent on the phone smoothing things over and getting people to commit themselves in different ways. Well done John we wish you well.

Now I have your attention - where are all the members, are you speechless or just not interested with what is going on. We as a committee try to organise events to satisfy a need but the reaction are less than enthusiastic. Feedback would be appreciated for suggestions, comments, complaints or even just a good argument then contact me at 0141 942 5554. Last year I received not a single call about individual personal points of interest, thank god for trade members. Well, now I've said my piece.

A report on events recently - the Gentlemen's night was a success from all accounts with some 35 people from our Section in attendance being entertained by two very pleasant young ladies. Derek Wilson, from the Ayrshire Section, has to be thanked for his efforts, glad the night went well. Our apologies to those who didn't get enough of the finger food - we will endeavour to rectify the savagery in future.

Now for the Annual Dinner at the Admiral Bar. On the night a poor turn out was in evidence but other than the short delays the evening was successful. The comedian, Mike Cash, spoke fast and furiously - if you turned your head the punchline was gone - we thank him for his one liners. The meal was well presented - home style cooking and very enjoyable. Thanks to the main organisers for the evening, Brian Hillan and Sandy Bulloch for their efforts. Thanks also to the sponsors of raffle prizes, this was much appreciated helping towards the funds for the eventing and for the enjoyment of those in attendance. Next year a change could be in the offing, suggestions are welcome.