

Saxon's launch floats away

Saxon Industries launched its their new, top of the range, 'Floating Head' greens mower at BTME

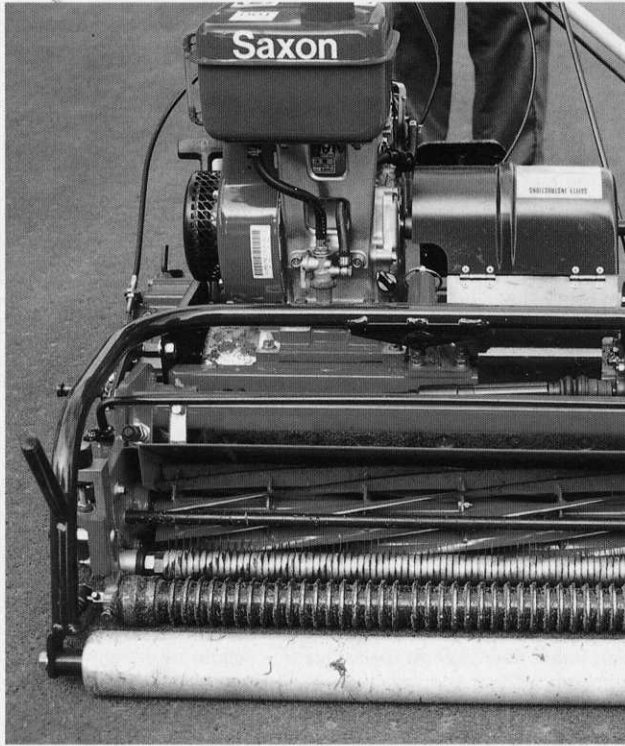
"The height of cut of the nine blade, 22-inch cutting cylinder of this top spec machine is continuously variable from as short as 2.5 millimetres up to 10 millimetres," claimed Richard Horn, Saxon's Horticulture Division Director.

"But the fully floating head provides the ultimate finesse, accurately following the contours of the slightest undulation to give a consistent height of cut over every green, including McKenzies."

Easily transported on quick release pneumatic tyres, the Floating Head mower is powered by a 3.5 hp Robin petrol engine, linked to an all gear drive transmission, which gives a speed of 3 - 5 mph.

Electronic ignition and hand operated drum brakes make control simple and a Light plastic, quick fit and- release grass box handles cuttings.

For further information Tel: 01488 684545



Going up?

The London Golf Club has installed a Rotary TL07E turf maintenance equipment lift, designed for service and maintenance work on grass cutting and golf cart equipment.

The Rotary TL07E is extremely easy to load and operate - wheels are automatically chocked and engaged for safety. Twin hydraulic cylinders with minimum moving parts give smooth lifting operation. Robust 'double S'-shaped columns provide a smooth bearing surface for extended column life. It has a lifting capacity of 1,100kg for three wheel machines and 2300kg for four-wheel plant.

A key benefit is the baseless construction which affords excellent access and a floor area clear of hazards. Checking and adjusting roller height for optimum efficiency is quick and simple. Clear access to the mowers' facing front plates on the bottom blades means they can be cleaned, sharpened, adjusted and measurably improves grass cutting performance. Access to areas such as linkages, hoses and previously inaccessible grease nipples, means planned maintenance is more comprehensive.

For further information Tel: 01322 294949.

Pumped up!

Recently introduced into Spalding's range of workshop equipment is a high performance 30cc petrol driven 7-stroke clean water pump.

The unit say Spaldings, is ideal for the fast movement of water around many farm applications including emptying tanks and supplying emergency water supplies to stock.

The high performance electronic ignition petrol engine has a forged steel crankshaft and control for strength and reliability. The pump has a 150l/min capacity and is capable of pumping water up to a maximum head of 35 metres and drawing water a maximum of seven metres.

The pump unit features a large plastic base with rubber shock absorbers for maximum stability whilst still maintaining the pumps lightweight and compact design.

For further information Tel: 01522 500600



Movement at Rhône-Poulenc

Following the promotion of Jonathan Hill to the European Zone Headquarters in Dusseldorf Rhône-Poulenc Amenity is pleased to announce the appointment of David Agar to the post of Market Development Manager.

David has been promoted from the Rhône-Poulenc Agriculture team where he managed a group of herbicide products that included Asulox. Having joined the company eight years ago as a graduate entrant, David has held several positions including a successful period in Customer Services.

College gets boost from NTC

The National Turfgrass Council is donating £16,000 to Myerscough College to enhance its comprehensive library of turfgrass resources. The money will be used to supplement the John Shildrick Memorial Collection of books and slides, already held at the college.

The Memorial Collection was donated to the college following the death of Mr Shildrick, the first NTC Chief Executive, in 1994. This new bequest will enable the college to further develop the collection, providing sportsturf students, researchers and academics with one of the

most comprehensive turfgrass reference points in Europe.

Myerscough was selected ahead of a number of other colleges and research institutions, because of its high standards of education and the excellent facilities it possesses to support the turfgrass industry.

**THE
FACTS
~
NOT
THE
HYPE**

"I HAVE USED PRIMER 604 SINCE IT CAME ON THE MARKET - WITH GREAT RESULTS. IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN MY PROGRAMME FOR 1998"

MARK CHESMAN
COURSE MANAGER
SONNING
GOLF CLUB

PRIMER
PRIMER 604 IS MANUFACTURED IN ENGLAND
BY SUPATURF PRODUCTS LTD UNDER LICENSE FROM
THE AQUATROL CORPORATION OF AMERICA.
TEL: 01488 234677

AD
REF
164

Kubota event gets a new look

Kubota, is sponsoring a new knockout golf tournament for teams of two players representing golf clubs from throughout the United Kingdom. Known as the Kubota Golf Club Challenge, the event succeeds the Kubota Golf Challenge which had been sponsored by the Thame based company over the past 15 years.

Organised by Sporting Concepts Ltd, the Kubota Golf Club Challenge is open to the first 500 clubs to accept the entry invitation by the closing date of 31 March 1998.

Ideally, the team representing the

invited golf clubs will comprise the Secretary and the Head Greenkeeper to provide continuity to Kubota's long-term relationship with the Association of Golf Club Secretaries and BIGGA.

The Kubota Golf Club Challenge is to be staged in two parts. First will be a series of carded match play rounds played between pairs of randomly drawn clubs on a knockout basis from April through to August. Following the knockout stage, the 15 remaining clubs will contest a Grand Final at Woodhall Spa Golf Club in Lincolnshire.

The winning club will be decided on the aggregate scores of the two team members over 36 holes, on October 5 and 6.

"Kubota recognises the close association being forged between golf club Secretaries and Head Greenkeepers and is delighted to be sponsoring a tournament which brings the two together to represent their club," commented Rene Orban, Kubota's Director of Agricultural and Grass Machinery Sales.

"Instead of competing against each other as previously in the Kubota Golf Challenge, they will now be

playing as a team, better reflecting their day to day relationship at their own golf course."

Director of the Kubota Golf Club Challenge, Peter McEvoy, pointed out that the event's predecessor had proved tremendously successful over 15 years. "However, we felt that the time was right to move to a new format where secretaries and greenkeepers played together as a club team," he said.

"The final at Woodhall Spa, the home of the EGU, promises to be a memorable occasion for all those taking part."

The Building Fund needs you!

The Building Fund Needs You! BIGGA is looking for volunteers to build on the magnificent launch given to the "Buy a Brick" raffle in aid of the Association's new Headquarters and Training facility at BTME.

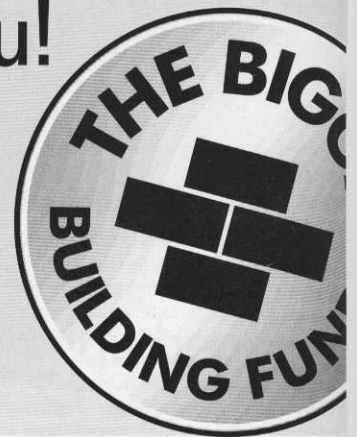
During Harrogate week Board of Management Members proved themselves to be superb salesmen when it came to selling raffle tickets and the number of Gold Brick Badges on lapels showed just how

many people had bought £50 worth of tickets. Silver and bronze badges, at £25 and £5 respectively, also found their way on to various items of clothing and the money raised during this one event alone reached many thousands.

Since then Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries have been issued with packs of tickets and badges to sell at various events throughout the next few months but if anyone would wish to lend

his or her support to the Building Fund by selling tickets and badges we would be delighted to hear from you.

The campaign will end at BIGGA's annual golf day in June with the drawing of the raffle prizes. Please contact Tony Cocker at BIGGA Headquarters Tel: 01347 838581.



NORTH STAFFS IRRIGATION

Ivy Mill, Longton Road, Stone S115 81B



"The important aspect in choosing the specialist equipment is to choose the right sprinkler and controller rather than the make" Greenkeeper International, March 1997

With 30 years experience of providing sports turf irrigation systems our specialist company is completely independent of a brand manufacturer. Each bespoke system is designed by our qualified engineers to the highest specification and according to the individual requirements of the course, and with a thorough knowledge of the products produced by the top manufacturers we are in the best position to provide top of the range service care.

Our current portfolio includes: Woodsome Hall, Werneth Low and Royal Lytham & St Annes.

**At the end of the day the system has to work
Ours do - Beautifully**

Call us to arrange a free consultation on

01785 812706

We have only changed our name

don't blow your

TOP

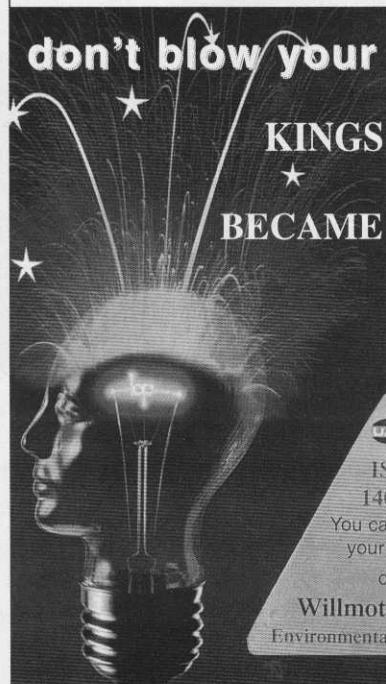
KINGS

HORTICULTURE

BECAME

**Willmot
Pertwee**

AMENITY & GROWER



**New Telephone No: 01787 226100
Facsimile: 01787 226126**

THE RiteFeed CLASSIC

The chance to represent your Region at Gleneagles is incentive enough to spend more time on the practice range in preparation for the Ritefeed Classic Sectional and Regional Qualifiers.

As was the case with the previous Hayter Challenges three qualifiers from each of the three handicap sections 0-9, 10-18 and 19-28 will win a place in the Regional Finals which are also being played at superb venues with the same three groups of three making up the team for the final.

- June 11**
Scottish Region - Royal Dornoch GC
- June 29**
Northern Region - Mere Golf & CC
- June 24**
Midland Region - Stoke Poges GC
- June 29**
South East Region - Wildernesse GC
- June 4**
South West and South Wales Region
St Mellion Golf and Country Club
- Oct 7**
Ritefeed Classic National Final -
The Gleneagles Hotel

Even when it pours...

Amenity Technology has launched a new digital rain gauge which can be easily fastened outside and has a digital display which is mounted inside which displays daily and cumulative rainfall. The gauge does not require to be emptied and provides precise rainfall information at a glance with the minimum of effort. For further information Tel: 0118 951 0033.

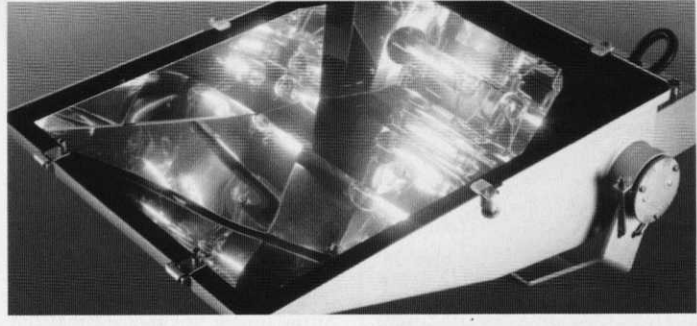


Management lead buy-out at Rolawn

Rolawn has been the subject of a successful £3.35 million management buy-out following a complex agreement with the company's 475 shareholders.

The buy-out was led by the company's Managing Director, Ken Dawson, and Finance Director, Paul Hopewell and was funded by Lloyd's Development Capital.

"We can now concentrate on the business 100% without any of the distractions that a diverse shareholder base brings," explained Ken Dawson, who co-founded the company 23 years ago.



Design enhancements to one of Sill Lighting's most popular floodlights, have resulted in a luminaire of even greater efficiency.

The precision engineered Sill 400 series floodlight, made in high pressure diecast aluminium and has a computer calculated and designed reflector, which is made of super-purified aluminium, produces a 66

degree beam and makes for an outstanding 87% efficiency.

The lighting technology allows the floodlight to be mounted parallel to the illuminated area - with no upward tilt commonplace with other luminaires - so completely eliminating glare and lightspill.

For further information Tel: 01844 260006.



One step ahead in golf club finance.

Finance for golf clubs with no handicap.

When it comes to golf club finance for both private member clubs and proprietary businesses, FAF are one step ahead. As a market leader we offer a range of innovative finance options for the lease and purchase of equipment to help you keep your course in top condition. We also offer low cost secured finance for course expansion, purchase of freehold, new club houses, major capital projects or refurbishment.



GROUNDS CARE
Flexible finance for golf clubs



A member of the Lombard Group

To keep one step ahead in the game contact us on 0800 225567

FARMING AND AGRICULTURAL FINANCE LTD, NEW AGRICULTURE HOUSE, BARNETT WAY, BARNWOOD, GLOUCESTER GL4 7RT.

AD REF 197

This month, Tim Kirk looks at the protective clothing issues connected with chainsaw use...

Sharp dresser

Last month we looked at the Health and Safety issues involved in the training of chain saw operators. This month we will look at the requirements of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

As from July 1, 1995 manufacturers are not permitted to produce leg protection (trousers and leggings), foot protection or head and ear protection that does not comply with the relevant European Standards and CE requirements that apply to them. All items of chainsaw protective clothing must have its relevant EN number on the article and packaging. This does not apply to PPE that had entered the chainsaw prior to July 1 therefore there will be a natural overlap until the 'old' equipment has worked through the system.

All items of chainsaw PPE do not protect by utilising the same method. There are three main functional principles involved; to pro-

vide a surface that the chainsaw will not readily bite into; by using fibres that have a high resistance to cutting and absorb rotational energy which reduces chain speed; and the use of long loosely woven fibres that will be pulled into the cutting train and clog the chain rotation.

All operators of chainsaws must wear PPE which consists of a safety helmet, suitable eye protection, ear defenders, gloves with protective guarding on the back of the left hand, leg protection incorporating clogging material, safety boots with protective guarding at the front vamp and instep with a good grip and non snag outer clothing. They should also have with them a first aid kit including a large wound dressing and hand cleaning materials waterless skin cleanser or soap and water.

Any item of chainsaw PPE that is damaged, worn or no longer serviceable should be replaced immedi-

ately. The worn piece of equipment should be discarded so that there is no danger of it being 're-issued'.

chainsaw PPE only acts to mitigate against injury and does not prevent accidents occurring. Operators should be trained in its correct use and care.

Routes to certification - The first chainsaw Certificates of Competence appeared as a direct result of the Health & Safety Executive Guidance Note GS48 and were issued by the NPTC (National Proficiency Test Council). At the time it was thought that the relevant Vocational Qualifications (VQ) units would have equal recognition.

Various problems arose and trainees wishing to claim the NPTC Certificate paid twice for confirmation of the same competence. The Forestry & Arboriculture Safety & Training Council then took the decision to partner the Business

and Technology Education Council in England and Wales. BTEC was happy to take on board FASTCo's ideas to improve the VQ units and at the same time issue competence certification based on the new VQ units.

In effect there are now three different routes to certification, the first by way of a stand-alone competence test administered by the NPTC, the second by a BTEC/SCOTVEC competence certification derived from a VQ achievement and finally by NPTC competence certification derived from a NPTC VQ achievement.

In the next issue we will look at the safe working practices when using a petrol powered chainsaw.

For further information on training courses and consultancy contact Agenda Training Limited (Jean John on 01282 831973) or Tim Kirk of T. Kirk Forestry on 01484 685114.

ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION

Practical Greenkeeping by Jim Arthur

No one knows more about golf greenkeeping than Jim Arthur, who with a career spanning six decades has given priceless guidance and advice to over 350 golf clubs throughout the U.K. and Europe, while also acting as consultant agronomist to the Championship Committee of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. Now, in Practical Greenkeeping, Jim Arthur reveals how golf courses can flourish by following traditional methods, which the reader will soon discover are not only the most simple but also the most effective.

For the new generation of student and trainee greenkeepers, Practical Greenkeeping will be indispensable, providing a valuable insight into the nuts and bolts of traditional golf course management, while it should be required reading for all golfers who seek a greater understanding of what goes on behind the scenes. Seasoned golf course managers also will be inspired by Jim Arthur's championing of their cause, while prizing the confirmation that they are firmly on the right lines; his words their finest ally.

Finally, every chairman and member of a golf club green committee, clutching their copy of Practical Greenkeeping, should beat a path down Jim Arthur's well-proven route. It could well lead to the salvation of their golf courses, while making them look awfully clever into the bargain!



Golf Course Presentation

"This booklet is a must for all course managers because when a tournament player, or even an amateur golfer, leaves a golf course they remember how it looked, not how fast it played." Mike Merrick, Course Manager, Penina Golf Complex, Algarve, Portugal.

"Presentation is one of the most important features for the staff to devote their time to and this booklet is full of valuable advice." Jack McMillan, ex-Course Manager, Sunningdale and Course and Consultant.



Golf Course Preparation Video

£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

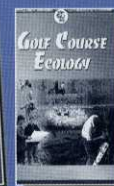
Golf Course Reconstruction Video

£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members



Ecology Book

£3.00 to BIGGA members
£7.00 to non-members



Ecology Video

£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members



Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video

£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members



Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video

£14.95 to BIGGA members
£29.95 to non-members

Avoiding creepy crawlies

Destructive Turfgrass Insects

by Daniel A Potter

Published by Ann Arbor Press
 ISBN 1575040239
 Price £45

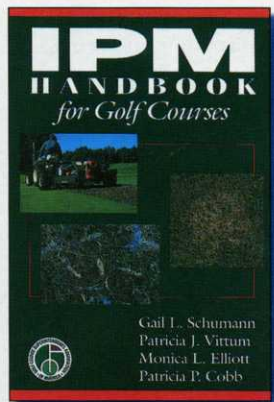
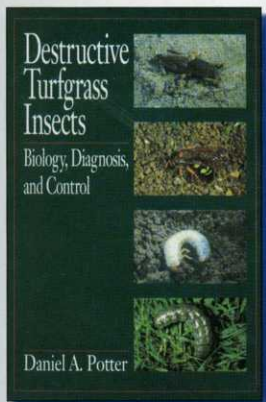
Designed primarily for the American market, this book never the less contains some useful, general information on the management and eradication of turf grass pests, including a general chapter on Turfgrass and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Some of the references to insects, and mammals are of little concern to British greenkeepers eg. I have yet to hear of a nine banded armadillo damaging turf in this country. However, it does look at many pests which cause damage or threaten golfers, eg. wasps, on British golf courses. Care should be taken when considering chemicals to control pests as chemicals registered in the US may not be available here and vice versa. In general, this book, would be useful as a general reference book and a source of some very useful information if care is taken to ensure that the advice conforms with British Regulations. (The nine banded armadillo is found in the South Western States of the US and creates problems when digging for worms and grubs).

IPM Handbook for Golf Courses

by Gail Schumann, Patricia J Vittum, Monica L Elliott
 Patricia P Cobb

Published Ann Arbor Press for the GCSAA
 Price £37

The joint authors of this book are all academics who have been involved in research on turfgrass diseases, insects, biological controls and pesticide application. The book originated from the ideas presented at a GCSAA seminar on IPM, which has been presented across the US. The book suggests that as more controls are introduced on the use of chemicals, greenkeepers need to introduce a system of pest and disease management which takes full advantage of natural checks and balances to keep turfgrass healthy. Each chapter gives detailed procedures for Site Assessment, Monitoring, Cultural Controls, Chemical Controls, Pest Management, New Technologies and How to Introduce an IPM Strategy. As in the previous book, some of the pests, diseases and control methods may not be familiar to British Greenkeepers, however, the general ideas and procedures are of value and this book would be a very good guide to anyone wishing to introduce an IPM plan or, indeed, anyone wishing to compare their methods to some used in the US.



Both books are available by mail order from; Cassell Plc,
 Stanley House, 3 Fleets Lane, Dorset BH15 3AJ.
 Telephone (01202) 665432 Fax (01202) 666219

NEW

Put yourself in the driving seat



The Greenmaster® range now includes a comprehensive range of liquids, as well as the renowned mini-granular products. The four liquid fertilizers contain added wetting agent and trace elements to assist root zone penetration and nutrient uptake. Also all the Greenmaster liquids can be tank-mixed to give additional ratios.

- N Plus is a nitrogen plus iron solution for quick green up.
- Spring and Summer Plus for main season use.
- NK Plus is a phosphate-free and low N feed for year-round use.
- Autumn Plus is a high potash feed for autumn and winter.
- Seafeed® is a concentrated seaweed-based soil and turf tonic to boost sward recovery and improve appearance.

GREENMASTER PUTS YOU IN CONTROL



For more information call our
 Technical Services Manager on 01473 203143
 or contact your local Area Sales Manager:

South - Chris Briggs
 Tel: 0378 603103 (mobile) or 01273 675966

Midlands and Wales - Roger Moore
 Tel: 0378 603052 (mobile) or 01832 710076

N. England, Scotland & N.I. - Richard Walton
 Tel: 0378 603091 (mobile)

GREENMASTER, SEAFEED and THE LEVINGTON DIFFERENCE are registered Trade Marks
 of Levington Horticulture Ltd. © Levington Horticulture Ltd. 1997

AD
 REF
 102

Trevor Smith, Superintendent at Predator Ridge, in Canada, talks about the need to produce more than an excellent golf course to enjoy a prosperous career...

If the cap fits...

As superintendents (greenkeepers) there are a number of situations where, although your golf course is in good shape and you're doing all the right things agronomically, you can find yourselves out of work.

Why is that? Well, it doesn't have anything to do with agronomics, but it has a lot to do with politics and economics.

How many of us are willing to listen to someone tell us that we're wrong? That is something that we have to be able to do if we are to keep our jobs and be competitive in the job world. We have got to be able to sit down and listen objectively.

Another question would be. How many of you are happy working just where you are right now and don't want to move and how many of you would like to move into higher management positions?

Being a superintendent is what I started doing, but because the game is so diverse, and the business is so diverse, I find myself

b e i n g



involved in a number of different areas. It's my feeling that you don't have to stay just with being a superintendent. There's a lot of opportunity out there, and it's important for you to take advantage of it.

It's about realising your potential, because you are an untapped source. It's not going to cost the club any more money to have you think than they're already paying right now, and I think that we can control our situation a lot better than we do right now.

One of the little techniques to help you understand what you're doing and what your value is to your employer is to do your CV. Look at all the things that you've done for your club, all your accomplishments and list them. If it's only one thing, it's better than no things. But if there's nothing down on that CV then maybe you should look at yourself.

We can all sit down at our golf course and say, "I hope it doesn't rain tomorrow, because I've put the fertiliser on... and if this works, and this works and this works, then you know, I'll maybe have Saturday and Sunday off." Well, Saturday and Sunday, whether you're at work or not, you're at work.

It's a matter of how you use your ideas, take a chance, do



something different - try a new way to apply fertilisers - if you've been using granulars all your life, work out an opportunity to spray. If you stay the same, that's where you're going to be, and it's important.

You want to invent something. When you wake up in the morning there's this little guy inside you who says "Why don't you try doing this?" and 20 minutes later you think "No, no, no, people will think I'm foolish or I'll make a mistake. I'll get fired." Well nine times out of ten that guy is right, but we don't take the opportunity. Listen to him, make calculated risks because if you take that chance, then something's definitely going to happen for you.

What was the last golf course

management innovation you saw which took your breath away? When was the last time you saw something amazing? I haven't seen anything in a long time. We've chugged along, improving certain things, but there's nobody out there just jumping in with their great outstanding new management tool. And I think that that's the kind of thing that we can do.

There are several main issues that face greenkeepers today, and this was a study that was done through the GCSAA and these came to a head. One of them is job security, there's a lot of very, very uncomfortable golf superintendents out there.

Replacement by lower salaried employees was identified as one of the problems.

Basically the issues amount to one and the same. How can you show your employer that you're worthy of your remuneration? Well, it's down to you and whether you're going to sit back and worry about someone taking your job, or whether you're going to be proactive and make sure that your job security is based on the value that you give your employer.

The key to success is attitude and how you relate that attitude to those around you, especially your employers. Growing grass just isn't going to be enough. It takes people

Three leading **MM** golf mixtures, quality





to do it, and how you manipulate those people or how you get those people to do the job for you is probably just as important as the technology that you have to apply.

As greenkeepers, if we sit back and allow the world to push us around and dictate what it is that we're going to do, then we're powerless. We don't have that ability to make an impact or to control the destiny in our lives. What we have to do is just take advantage of every little opportunity that's out there.

You have to understand yourself. What do you want? If you want to stay in one place all the time, that's fine, but do a little bit. A little more value added business will keep you in that position for longer. Don't sit still because powerlessness is basically a state of mind and it's up to you to improve it.

As a greenkeeper do you have anything to do with sales, revenue, marketing, accounting or customer satisfaction? Well, you actually have everything to do with all four of those things. If you don't think having a golf course in good condition doesn't generate sales, you're crazy.

I like to think about many different ideas. Lots of golf clubs have Starters who get the people off on time. Well, why not



have a Finisher?

Why not have a person who goes to the 18th hole and says "Gee, Joe, did you have a good game? Well let me write that down, and I'll take note of it." Why don't we give that person's day good, even if he's had 17 bad holes.

That's coming from a greenkeeper. That's not the Clubhouse Manager having that idea, that's my idea. Those can be your ideas, and those are the things that don't have to cost the golf club very much money. If they don't work, it doesn't really matter, but they might and it will make the difference once again in your security.

Being a greenkeeper is really a "wow" job.

I've had great opportunities.

It's such a diverse industry, that it's no wonder everyone and their dog wants to be involved in the golf business. But take advantage of it.

your systems up so that you have probationary periods for new employees. Watch them work.

Or you see a waiter who does a great job. He hustles, he watches his manners, he's there when he should be, he's not there when he shouldn't be. What would be wrong with hiring someone like that? Look for talent in other areas as well because if they've got the attitude, you can train them to run that greens mower. What you want is attitude.

But be fairly certain about what it is that you want once you get them through the door, because there's very few bad dogs, there's just lots of bad owners. We train them how to be bad.

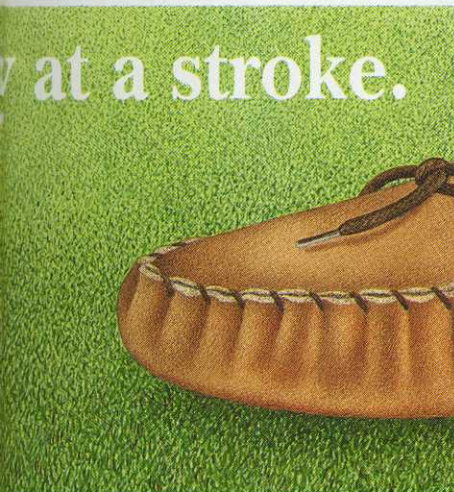
Don't let the thoughts of job insecurity bother you. Be pro-active in that regard. Do those little things that really make you think, or make your employer think that he's got somebody that's worthwhile. You're in control of your destiny.

Canadian Wayne Gretsky is the greatest ice hockey player in the world, and one of his statements, is "If you don't take a shot, the puck's not going to go into goal". It's just as simple as that.

Here's another idea. Share. Hoarding is not good, it doesn't give you job security. Just because you know how to run the irrigation system, and you want a secure job, you don't tell anybody how the pump starts. Give your knowledge away to those who work for you, those who are around you Don't be afraid to share it with someone.

The best way to evaluate people is to set up systems where you can watch them. Don't just hire the first person off the street that looks like they've got a good attitude, set

Edited extracts from Trevor Smith's, paper "Golf Course Economics and Politics (When Turf is Not Enough)" at this year's National Education Conference in Harrogate. Trevor is a Past President of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents' Association.



These three mixtures have been specifically designed for the golf course - from tee, to fairway to green.

MM10 is a mix of fescues and bents, with the slender creeping red fescue 'Mocassin', giving a dense, close knit, resilient turf for close mowing on greens and tees.

MM12's adaptable blend of species - also including 'Mocassin' - gives good colour and texture on tees and fairways, withstanding wear and giving excellent divot recovery.

And MM11, a traditional 80-20 greens mixture, fine in appearance and playing quality, offers a very stable sward with all-year-round performance.

For free technical advice on how you can take the lead with MM mixtures, or for your nearest distributor, call the **Mommersteeg Main Line on 01480 459500.**

Mommersteeg  **Number one seed.**

MOMMERSTEEG INTERNATIONAL, THE ANDERSON CENTRE, SPITFIRE CLOSE, ERMINE BUSINESS PARK, HUNTINGDON, CAMBS PE18 6XY.

AD
REF
171

BUY ONE, GET 12 MONTHS FREE

Looking for an easy life?

A single application of 'Spearhead's unique chemistry gives year round control of a wide variety of turf weeds, including clovers and speedwells.

Compare that with the huge cost of twice yearly applications required by traditional selectives.

With knapsack approval and low dose rates, 'Spearhead can also be applied on turf as young as two months with outstanding results.

Enjoy your free time.
It's standard with 'Spearhead.



 **RHÔNE-POULENC**
AMENITY

Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex CM5 0HW. Telephone 01277 301115.

*SPEARHEAD contains MCPA, clopyralid and diflufenican. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL : USE PESTICIDES SAFELY (MAFF 07342).

*SPEARHEAD is a trade mark of DowElanco. © Rhône-Poulenc Agriculture Ltd 1998.

Leamington & County Golf Club green staff have been busy over the winter months as Scott MacCallum found out...

Cold comfort



There was once a perception among some golf club members that as soon as the final putt was downed by the final threeball in the final summer medal of the year that the greens staff went into hibernation. Not the conventional sort of hibernation we read about in nature books or which all of my generation can remember Blue Peter's tortoise enjoying.

Cold comfort

We thirtysomethings are bound to recall the world's first transsexual pet - Fred becoming Freda with nothing more than the simple addition of a non toxic painted vowel. No, apparently greenkeepers enjoyed a different type of hibernation. With grass growing, at worst, slowly and without the number of golfers braving the elements winter months were spent painting out-of-bounds and lateral water hazard markers, revarnishing benches, sending machinery out to be serviced, tidying the mess room, oh yes, and playing cards. Every so often, so rumour had it, they would look up from an unpromising hand of three card brag, gaze out of the window, and depending on the weather, decide to move the pins either off or on the temporary greens.

To some club members the greenkeeper's job appeared as seasonal as that of the lifeguard on Blackpool beach.

If that was what club members might have thought in the past there is certainly no excuse for thinking that fewer pints of blood, sweat and tears are spilt in the bleak mid winter than at any other time of the year. Certainly not if you were to visit Leamington & County Golf Club where so much has been achieved over the winter months the staff should, by rights, be tested for performance enhancing steroids.

Head Greenkeeper, Des Compton, and his five man team have been busy and when the fair weather members dust down their Calloways for their seasonal debuts later this month they will see some significant developments to their course.

Not only will they find a brand new 11th tee to go with a brand

new 11th green, they will be able to see the green from the clubhouse window for the first time in living memory due to the extensive scrub clearance which has been done. In addition, preparation work for the new greenkeeper maintenance facility has been completed while the team has had to keep on top of the additional winter mowing brought about by the unusually mild conditions.

"The first major job was the 11th green. It had deteriorated very quickly over the summer with the annual meadow grass dying off and we couldn't bring it back," explained Des, of the short tree lined par-3 which is one of the feature holes on the course.

Des works extremely closely with his Deputy, Robin Wilcox.

"Originally we had looked at redoing our two putting greens first as an experiment so as not to disturb the course and then, on the back of that, start of the course," explained Rob.

In the end the 11th's downturn made the decision for them but the fact that Leamington boasts 19 greens anyway meant that there was no disruption to play.

"Our proper 1st in the summer becomes the winter 11th and our spare green becomes the 1st. At the end of the summer we mow out a fairway to the practice green and move the fairway over.

"What it meant was that even if the 11th green hadn't gone it would have been the perfect one to have started with as it is out of commission in the winter anyway," explained Des.

Having taken the decision to go ahead last September the club com-



missioned John Greasley to build the new green and Andy Cole, of the STRI, to oversee the work.

"I met with them at the beginning of November when we did the ground work - assessing how the machinery was going to get in, the actual design and what trees we would have to remove. Andy Cole then went away and did a report on the agronomy. We were doing it to the USGA guidelines," said Des.

The green was completed the day before Christmas Eve, taking around four weeks in all, and Andy