

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GREEN COMMITTEES—AND THE PGA PLEASE NOTE

Dear Sir,

I READ with particular interest Willie Blair's report from East Scotland, and entirely agree with his comments, as do, I suspect 90% at least of my colleagues! He has highlighted a real bone of contention regarding greens committees.

When will these people realize that when they are dealing with a Head Greenkeeper, he is an expert in his profession, or presumably he wouldn't be doing the job. I believe the real problem is probably a question of approach and diplomacy. Instead of trying to tell the head greenkeeper how to do his job, committee members should adopt a much more conciliatory or enquiring attitude, and in this way would avoid annoying a hand-working and conscientious head greenkeeper.

As a matter of interest, I consider myself fortunate in not having problems of this nature; most French people I meet seem to have the impression that all British people, regardless of profession, are experts when it comes to growing grass.

However, to put matters in perspective, and looking at the other side of the coin so to speak, we as head greenkeepers should also understand that greens committees, like ourselves, really have only the well-being and reputation of the golf club at heart. After all, they are elected by members to represent them, and in some instances these members pay a great deal of money in subscriptions for the right to play golf.

In closing, I must admit that observations by Neil Thomas on the lack of appreciation shown to the marvellous work of head greenkeepers Derek Ganning and his staff at the Belfry at the conclusion of the Ryder Cup, are only too evident. In my view, this is a serious omission in most tournaments, and I sincerely hope that golf professionals will also take note, and when they have the ability and good fortune to win, will kindly thank the hard working greens staff who have made it all possible.

Iain Dobson, Course Manager,
Barbaroux Golf Club, France.

BEING a member for just about a year, I have thoroughly enjoyed your monthly magazine. It has really put me forward in my job as an assistant greenkeeper.

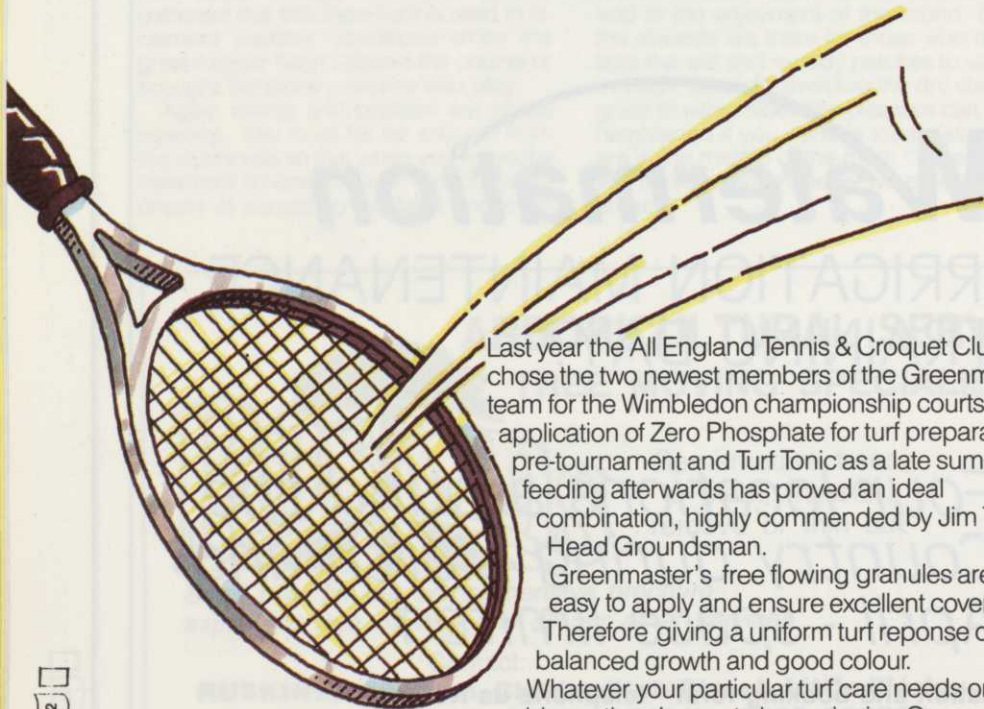
But the Course I work on used to be old farmland as probably most courses are, and we've had nothing but bother with moles.

We do of course hire someone in to kill them but of course he tends to miss a few they don't really do a thorough job I was wondering if there are any courses held locally to be trained to use the chemical's to kill moles, as chemicals are really quite effective. I'm not really all that keen on killing these godsent creature's, for they do a great job - but in the wrong places.

So trapping would also be an idea, where could I obtain moletraps?

Yours faithfully,
Robert Vance,
35 Whin Street,
Clydebank,
Dumbartonshire,
Scotland
G31 3JD

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GREENKEEPING
MANAGEMENT



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AFTER reading the December issue of Greenkeeping Management. The article on Chris Kennedy (page 43) in this article he stated that Scotland's education system is a decade ahead of that in England.

This, in my opinion, is a very biased comment, to say the least. If the case is so, this would reflect on a higher standard of greenkeeping north of the border, putting Scottish golf courses in a league of their own.

This is certainly not the case. England, not to mention Ireland and Wales, have first class greenkeeping standards, with golf courses on a par with that of Scotland. I would agree that in the past our colleges did not meet the standard achieved in Scotland, but in the last 4-5 years greenkeeping education in England has been developed to a high standard, proven by the strong representation of England colleges in the new Toro Award scheme.

I for one am very proud of the achievements made by English colleges in their forward thinking on greenkeep-

ing training. This, coupled by in-house training given by our association, will give all BIGGA members the same opportunities and progress forward together into the 1990s.

**Mr I. Harrison,
67 Kilmarnock Road,
Darlington,
Co. Durham.**

Dear Sir,

BEING involved with golf course construction and maintenance in Germany, I'm concerned about the present education for German greenkeepers and associated personal.

The only system of which I'm aware uses multiple choice question papers obtainable by post at various stages throughout the years and covering topics such as soils, water, machinery, fertiliser etc.

Harmless enough it may seem, but unfortunately these questions are often ridiculous in their technicality, vague in their interpretation, and are sometimes withdrawn.

Twice a year, candidates are called together for three week periods for intensive discussion on the topics covered in the questionnaire and some practical work. This then produces the label "Greenkeeper" and unfortunately too much stress is put upon the importance of labels in Germany.

I've already met a few who have been dissuaded from the profession because it appears impossibly technical.

And so I would be most interested in any college offering a similar possible education package for overseas greenkeepers. This might include the use of videos, books and papers culminating in an annual two or three week congregation at a financially feasible, strategic location.

A German translation would not be a problem, and with the doors open in '92, it's only fitting (and possibly necessary) that BIGGA lead the way for an educated Europe.

**David Abercrombie,
Rosenstrasse 22,
8904 Haberskirch,
West Germany**

TO whom it may concern. I am writing to you for some information regarding golf course construction.

I am a member of BIGGA and I am very interested in golf course construction, and I cannot seem to get the address for the British Assoc. of Golf Course Constructors, and I was wondering if you have it at your disposal.

If you do would you be so kind to send it to me.

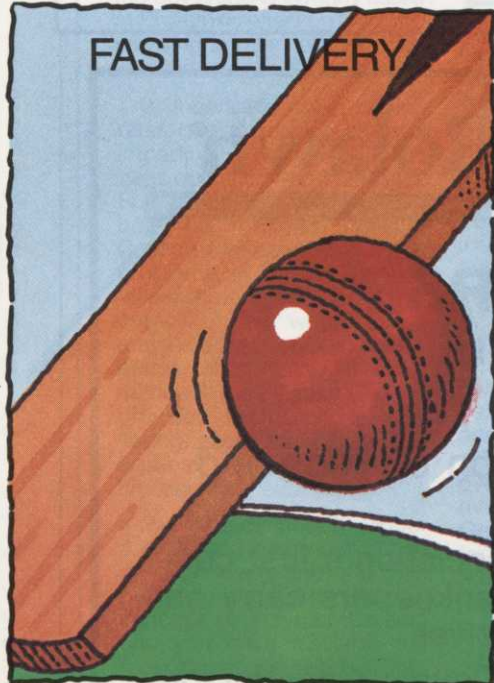
I would be most grateful if you would do this for me.

I hope I am not causing too much inconvenience to you but it is much appreciated.

**Gordon I. McKie
7 Scotsburn Road,
Tain,
Ross-shire
IV19 1PR**

• Editor's note: "This request indicates that the BAGCC needs to promote themselves more . . . we were pleased to send details of the Association to Gordon."

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