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Our front cover picture, taken at the recent BALI Show in Stoneleigh, reflects the growing demand in golf for improved landscape management. Turn to page 31 for an in depth report on the show.



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In my view . . .



WITH
EDITOR
MIKE McCLENNAN

THIS month I turn my attention to what I see as fast developing into a chronic problem for golf in this country, namely the gradual but growing "skill drain" of our best greenkeepers to the continent.

If this drain is allowed to continue the quality of maintenance on our golf courses will be gradually eroded, thus inviting the fury of players over the whole skill range.

The reasons for this movement abroad are simple.

Too many clubs are living in the past when it comes to their treatment of and appreciation for the greenkeepers skills, and the role he needs to play in the management of the club.

Far too many clubs see their greens staff as merely paid hirelings who should unthinkingly do their bidding whether they agree with it or not.

Bearing in mind that many clubs do not have the necessary qualifications on which to base a sound judgement on course management one can see why there has been a growing mood of resentment among greenkeepers over the past ten years.

Many of our younger head greenkeepers are now well qualified men both in practice and on paper. It is they who should be managing the course in a senior role within the club. They should also be paid accordingly. This is recognised on the continent, and that is why so many greenkeepers are prepared to go abroad to achieve both the pay and status they feel they so rightly deserve.

Let us hope that more and more golf clubs throughout the length and breadth of this country wake up to the need to welcome their greenkeepers on board as senior club managers.

For without this enlightenment the quality of golf courses will be eroded and confidence within the industry ultimately destroyed.