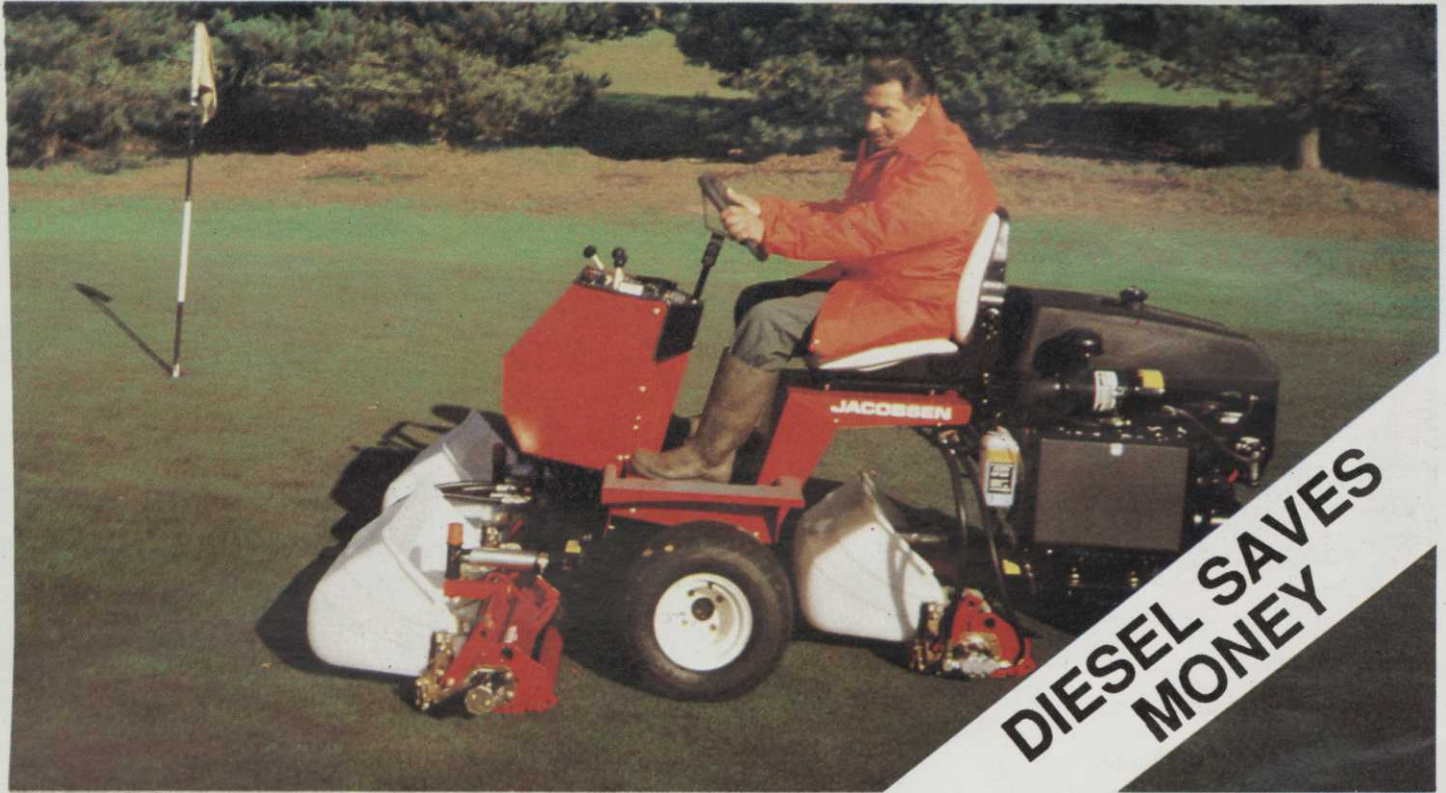


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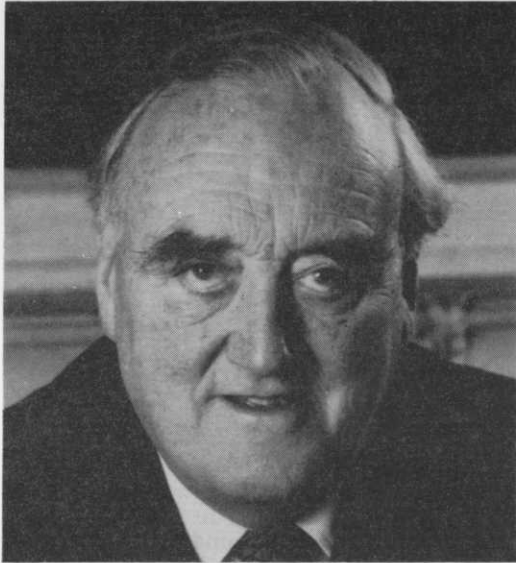
About our cover: From an oil painting by John I. McClymont c.1900 - Old Tom Morris, perhaps the first Keeper of The Green? - sold recently at Sotheby's for over £20,000.

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David White

We live in a crowded island, cramped in leisure terms by the limitations of space made available for development of golf courses in urban areas, and by a deep seated misunderstanding in the eyes of very many local authorities that golf is a rich man's pastime.

A classic example came to light recently when Watford Borough Council, a left wing controlled body in a heavily populated area, reluctantly conceding the need to give golf to the ratepaying populace at large chose a cheapskate way out, that of attempting to claw back into public ownership a private golf course and club that had operated successfully and profitably for approaching one hundred years.

Their failure is seen, certainly in my eyes, as a victory over bureaucratic bungling, but it does pose the problem of just where today's overspill players and future generations of young tyros are going to find suitable sites for their teeth cutting.

The plea of limitations on finances, ground space or population often prevents development of a full 18 hole layout, and where this occurs authorities look to nine holes as the only alternative. This has not always been the case and records of olden days demonstrate just how varied golf courses were in their hole numbers.

Odd Numbers

The old links at Musselburgh, where I recently witnessed the grasping vandalism perpetrated by the racecourse authorities and where play is now limited to a mockery of former times, were originally played over just five holes, later extended to eight; until 1870 Wimbledon had only seven, until Tom Dunn extended it to 19! (one for luck?) Gullane began with 13, adding two later. The very first Open

Championship, won by the innovative Willie Park at Prestwick in 1860, was played over a 36 hole total of three times twelve holes. North Berwick were content with seven while Montrose for some inexplicable reason had 25! Bruntsfield, where a shortened variety of the game is still played, began with only six. Blackheath, as influential in setting standards then as the R. & A. is now, played their earliest matches over three times seven.

Of equal importance historically is the length of holes. Our forefathers had no need for monsters, for the old feather ball, and later the guttie, didn't travel nearly as far as its modern counterpart. Perhaps there is a case now for further restricting the length attainment of the modern ball, or in certain circumstances imposing the use of the innovative Cayman ball, which travels approximately half the distance of its big brother. I've played the Cayman and can vouch for its entertainment value.

Accidental Eighteen

With the move of authority from Prestwick to St. Andrews came an acceptance of their own particular and peculiar course layout of eighteen holes, albeit played over nine double greens, home and back. The seal was set and eighteen became a standard from which we may not deviate.

Clever course designers now ensure that ninth and eighteenth greens return to the clubhouse and though few, if any, give credence to double greens (which I feel add spice to the game, placing putting at a high premium and, surely, making maintenance easier?) the loop permits the shorter game of nine holes to be played with ease.

The space/cost factor however, even for nine holes, is one that will not go away. With present day construction costs alone running at between £25,000 and £38,000 per hole there is much in favour of looking at smaller sites, disused gravel pits, reclaimed land, school, university or hotel outfields and unused and neglected industrial land, where authorities or



smaller communities who feel they are unable to afford or maintain a full length course would be more readily able to construct and maintain a useful and competitive six hole course.

The schools could include golf in their curriculum, recruiting assistant professionals as group coaches, and industrial giants could have facilities at hand for their personnel — a therapeutic release valve for the pent-up frustrations of the day. As for the aged, a six hole course may well provide all they want, leaving the full length courses to those more able to stand the weariness which 6000+ yards often brings.

Six(th) Sense

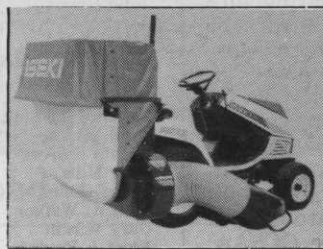
Golf over six holes, even six short holes, need not be dull, indeed with sensible use of multiple tees, large enough to withstand the extra usage, a layout could be devised with variable hole lengths that would bring in every possible combination of the game. Nor should we lose sight that perfection in the short game, the skill of holing six-foot putts and placing chip shots to within one-putt distance every time, would make remarkable players of us all. Banging the ball a mile with wood is not the way to perfection.

Let us examine the benefits. First the land needed, often unsuited to any other sporting application, will be about 25% less than for a nine holer. The course construction costs will be substantially lower and maintenance could, in most cases, be handled easily by one or two greenkeepers. No longer would it be necessary to write off the better part of a day for a round and its trimmings. Six holes may easily be slotted in, say ninety minutes at most. Above all six hole courses would serve as a relief canal from overcrowded courses whilst providing those without access to such full facilities to experience the joys of this most glorious game — that surely would be no bad thing?

**DAVID WHITE,
EDITOR**

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Details are now available of the BIGGA trip to Florida to attend the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show, which will be held at the Orange County Convention Centre, February 19th-26th, 1990.

Flights are direct from London Gatwick to Orlando Airport. The party will be based at the stylish Wynfield Inn, close to the Convention Centre and convenient for all local attractions, e.g. Disney World, The Epcot Centre, Sea World and Wet and Wild Park.

Depart from Gatwick, Thursday 15th February - 11.15 hours - arrive Orlando 15.45 hours.

Return from Thursday 1st March - 18.20 hours - arrive Gatwick 07.25 hours (2nd March).

14 nights accommodation on twin-bedded basis, at Wynfield Inn: Adult: £545 plus insurance at £34. Child: £320 - based on sharing with two adults - 50% insurance reduction if under 11 years.

NB. These prices are *inclusive of a free rental car* for the full duration of the holiday.

Though details of Conference registration (not included in above) are not yet available from the GCSAA, the Association will seek to negotiate discounted rates for BIGGA members joining the trip, as applied at the Anaheim Conference earlier this year.

Booking must be accompanied by a deposit cheque of £85 per person, inclusive of insurance, and must be received at Headquarters by September 30th.

For all bookings and enquiries, please contact Samantha Flint at Headquarters.

NEIL THOMAS

Welcome to our New Members

GREENKEEPING MANAGEMENT is always happy to tell the world of success stories throughout our profession. And when the need arises we'll not be above a little trumpet-blowing on our own behalf. One such success story is the remarkable growth in our membership over the past few months. With the figure zooming well over the three thousand level and with new members responding positively to the reply card form at the rate of twenty five new members each week, BIGGA is very proud indeed to welcome those new members listed here. To them all we extend the hand of friendship and professionalism - built on a solid foundation of growth and understanding of all that is so good within this fine industry.

- | | | | |
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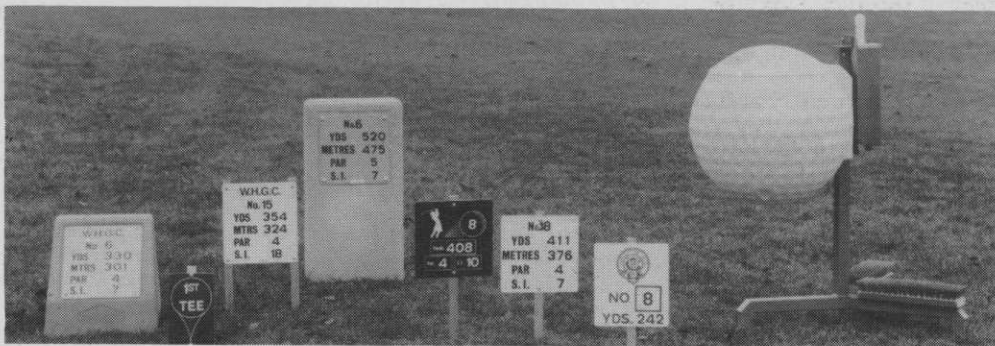


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The National Association of Public Golf Courses threatened

The National Association of Public Golf Courses, for sixty one years the accepted and recognised administration body for the public course club golfer, are indignant at the recent news — out of the blue — that the E.G.U. are to discuss a privately published paper. 'The English Golf Union and the Non-Status Golfer' without consultation with NAPGC, **even though their Association represents over 100 of the present public course clubs and over 80,000 public course players!** Insulted and indignant as they are over the seeming insensitivity of the E.G.U. on such an important issue, they made the point to Greenkeeping Management that to make attempts to support and recognise the non-status golfer without involving the ONLY organisation with real experience is tantamount to their being dismissed!

Some of the questions posed in the paper, with NAPGC comments, are given here:

1. The Non-status golfer (NSG) wants some official recognition of his golfing ability. **Answer - Let him join the club at the public course he plays upon.**

2. The NSG wants to become a better player and enter the 'real' world of golf by competitive and social play. **Answer - By joining a public course club he gets his 'passport' through a handicap certificate.**

3. The NSG wants ultimately to join a club or society. **Answer - Public course clubs would welcome him into their ranks.**

4. The NSG wants to improve his knowledge of rules and etiquette. **Answer - The first priority of NAPGC is to teach new players the rules and etiquette of golf - with committee members of the Association always on hand to guide and counsel.**

The NSG wants an opportunity to play in an organised competitive arena. **Answer - NAPGC organise numerous competitive events at both local and national level.**

6. The NSG wants a passport to extend his play beyond the municipal course. **Answer - All public course clubs are affiliated to their County Union, and each member receives a recognised CONGU handicap, enabling recognition at other courses.**

Before passing judgement, Greenkeeping Management will want to learn the views of the E.G.U., but on the face of it, they appear to have alienated one of their best possible allies.

Murphy on Golf: 2

"A golf ball will always slice, except when the rub-bish is on the left, when it will inexplicably hook", to which we might add, when making allowance for a slice, the ball will always go straight!



ANOTHER DEAD MOLE

A RARE ALBINO MOLE TRAPPED BY G. MOIR.

Greenkeeping enemy number one, the mole, is seen here in a different guise. One of four of the same little varmints trapped by Fraserburgh Golf Club head greenkeeper, Gordon Moir, all within a matter of weeks. All pure white when trapped, Gordon makes the point that this specimen had turned a little yellow by the time he had photographed it, being well dead and smelly, having been in the trap for a few days. Gordon says of this rarity, 'I am sure many greenkeepers have never seen a white mole before'. Our feelings are that these obnoxious creatures, albino or regular, male or female, big or small, whatever their disguise, are better dead than alive.

Poseur's Pose!

A chance for fame and glory awaits those competing in the **BIGGA National Golf Tournament**, to be held at Lyme Regis on August 14th, 15th and 16th. Quite apart from the awards and trophies, your intrepid editor will be in attendance, complete with zoom lens, to record posterity (and a two page colour spread in the September issue) the daily swings and the après swinging! So... as you gaze at that Ultra, with its 432 icosahedral dimples, soaring majestically towards the target, remember — hold that pose!

Footnote for latecomers: A call to Gordon Child (0803 844056) may still get you a place, but hurry...

N.B. Poseur — a person who strikes an attitude or assumes a pose in order to impress!

Rosemount record shattered

From Gordon Moir, a man justifiably proud of Scotland and its wonderful golf courses, came a report of the annihilation of Rosemount by two Frenchmen... in the Scottish Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship. Tournament winner Francois Illouez knocked one stroke from Greg Norman's previous record, scoring 65 in the first round, only to see his compatriot J. Giscard lower the number to 64 in the final round. As Gordon so rightly points out, this reflects well on the marvellous condition of courses in his part of the country.

Player on Architecture

In talking about courses, Gary Player, another of the growing band of golfers-cum-architects making a lasting impression around the world — especially the USA — expressed an opinion recently. In discussing the trend of the wealthy American set wanting to build 'monuments' to themselves, and requesting architects to build to tough specifications, he said "they're creating monsters!"

He can envisage, when the novelty wears off and members tire of having to make freak putts all day or of taking five hours for a round, that some major surgical re-modelling of these white elephants will be necessary. "At a lot of golf courses, people just want to get the heck out." And his answer? "... I want to start a new trend — building golf courses that people will enjoy."



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- And Rolawn Advantage is actually **guaranteed** supplied free of annual meadow grass.
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■ There's fast delivery nationwide (within 12 hours of harvesting) from Rolawn's own network of Turf Depots.

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From Sussex we delight in announcing to the greenkeeping fraternity the engagement of Nick Beadle to Karen Johnson. We join with the Sussex Section in wishing them good luck.

★★★

Also in Sussex, we hear that section Chairman, Alan Butromovicz, has changed locations, moving from Ifield to Tunbridge Wells as Head Greenkeeper. **Greenkeeping Management** joins with the section in wishing him every success.

★★★

From Bob Lupton we learn that his committee man Dennis Cockburn has moved his job, from Colne (in Lancashire!) back to what Bob describes as 'the right side of the Pennines'. Dennis is now head greenkeeper at the Silsden Golf Club and good luck goes with him from all the Yorkshire Terriers.

★★★

La Manga's Course Manager Steve McMahon is one of the better known greensmen who have joined BIGGA . . . one of over 200 new members who are joining at the rate of 25 per week. European based greenkeepers are joining at the rate of 2 per week from Sweden, Germany, Holland and France.

New at ICI



Richard Minton is the most recent recruit to join ICI's Professional Products UK sales team.

Richard has been appointed to cover the Midlands, South Wales and South West England as Technical Representative supporting the activities of ICI's network of specialist distributors.

Lineage and photographs should be sent to David White, 13 Firl Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL Tel. 0323 891291

One into three does go!



The 'new' team charged with taking ICI Professional Products into the nineties are Roger Mossop, David Hatter and David Siddon (pictured above). This follows the promotion of Keith Cleverly to another business and sees the new ICI formula placing major emphasis on utilising their specialist personnel skills to the full.

Roger Mossop brings specialist marketing and product development skills to the operation, David Hatter has business development and financial management as his responsibility and David Siddon directs the ICI team of representatives and distributor sales development.

From the time, six years ago, when ICI entered the sports amenity industry with their range of fungicides and herbicides they have grown into market leaders, a position that the team are charged with maintaining and further developing.

Not content with resting on their laurels, the strategy is one of continued product and market development, further expanding into areas of opportunity they see as strategically acceptable.

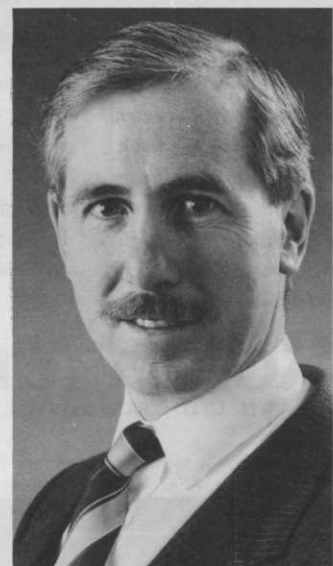
In a statement, Roger Mossop talked of the thirty products launched over the past six years, saying 'our first consideration is safety, nothing gets even near the marketing stage until we are satisfied that our products meet the standards laid down by the Ministry, only then do we progress to the marketing stage. All our pesticides have Ministry approval for their intended use.

Well known and well liked by many BIGGA members, we at **Greenkeeping Management** wish the new threesome continued success in staying to the fore.

★★★

From the London section we have news of Nick Baldwin, who has left Sandy Lodge Golf Club for a position with T. Parker & Sons, (Turf Management) Ltd. We also learned of a move by Alan Grew, who has taken a first assistant post at Brickendon Grange Golf Club. To them both we echo the best wishes of the section in wishing them well in their new careers.

NEW AT RSJ



Joining Ransomes as Group Financial Director from London International Group, where he was Group Treasurer, Geoffrey S. Comer, a Chartered Accountant.

Lindum's strong network



Lindum Seeded Turf have rolled out their new appointments: Geoff Hodson, their new appointed Sales & Marketing Manager; and SODNET, The USA made netting product, for which Lindum have been appointed the UK's sole distributor.

Geoff has wide experience, for the past 5 years having held a position of seed specialist with one of Europe's largest breeders and his appointment is seen as adding yet more strength to an experienced management team.

SODNET - the name under which this product is marketed - is designed to prevent soil erosion of newly-sown beds, acting as a mulch and reducing moisture loss.

Geoff Hodson (on right of picture), newly appointed Sales and Marketing Manager for Lindum Seeded Turf, seen here with Stephen Fell, Director of H.R. Fell & Sons, who is responsible for the Lindum operation.