

ICI Agrochemicals

All the skill and effort in producing some of the finest putting surfaces in the world of sport today is not applied so readily to the off-course areas from which many club visitors take their first impression.

There are many horror stories told by visiting societies of weeds growing around the club house, through cracks in paths and drives and invading the car park; of ornamental gardens and rose beds covered in bugs and blemishes and hastily arranged beds sparsely planted out with straggling flowers. It is this off-course area that often looks neglected when compared to the results of on-course activity.

Is the reason a confusion of roles and responsibilities between the Greenkeeper, Committee, Secretary and owner? Does the Greenkeepers responsibility end when he steps off the 18th green. Is the Secretary too busy or preoccupied with playing times and members' subscriptions? Whatever the reason very little attention is given by many clubs to the landscaping aspects of the club house areas, car parks, drive and shrubberies.

ICI Professional Products have a range of products that can provide a full programme of weed, pest and disease control as well as landscape enhancement products without having to search through the many catalogues on the market.

Weed control on the off-course grassed areas can be obtained through the use of Super Verdone which will probably be in the chemical store already.

Preventing and treating weeds on paths, around buildings, in car parks and on drives does not present a difficulty either providing the right product is selected for a specific problem. ICI have a range of products available to provide control of weeds in all situations from safe selective control in all ornamental planting situations without damaging plants, to total weed control on non planting areas without risk of "creep" into the grass edges.

"Speedway" provides immediate knock-down of weeds and grasses that leaves behind no

harmful residues and is very useful for treating weeds in bunkers, as any sand knocked out onto the turf will not contain weedkiller.

The application to ornamental plantings of both "Soltair" and "Speedway" can be followed by the laying of ICI Forest Bark and Ornamental Chips to add a highly decorative finish to shrub and rose beds. Both products will suppress weed growth and retain soil moisture and can last for up to three years when used as a mulch.

A further product from the ICI range can be used to provide total control of unsightly weeds. "Groundhog" differs from the two previous herbicides in that it will kill all vegetation it comes into contact with and is therefore very useful for long term weed control.

Completing the off-course manicure is "Casoron" G-4, a powerful residual herbicide which controls broad leaved weeds and grasses around established roses, ornamental trees and shrubs.

Terralift

The Terralift is doing its own round of golf; relieving subsoil compaction on golf courses around the country.

The Terralift drives a hollow probe into the soil up to a depth of 30" and releases a charge of compressed air at a pressure of between 100 and 300 psi via three holes at the base of the probe. This release of air causes the soil to heave and fracture while leaving the surface relatively unaffected. At the same time products can be distributed through the soil with each charge of air and normally a soil filler and a dried seaweed soil conditioner which expands on hydration is injected. These help to keep the fissures created by the Terralift open. To stabilise the probe holes coarse grade, Fullasorb or Perlag are used as a back fill.

The applications of the Terralift on golf courses are many and varied to include: old greens, poorly constructed new greens, thatch control, tees, wet areas on



The highly mobile Terralift aerator.

fairways and waterlogged bunkers.

The 350 kg pedestrian operated Terralift can also inject other therapeutic products, pesticides and fungicides. Good results have been achieved by the Terralift in STRI trials on the control of type 1 fairy rings by the injection into the soil of fungicides.

Colin Pryce Terralift has recently purchased one of the latest Terralifts with an increased output. A second Terralift is now being operated by Richard Shipp and Partners of Ely. The two companies work in close co-operation with each other and aim to continue giving an efficient soil restructuring service throughout Great Britain. Free demonstrations are offered and wherever possible a site visit is made in order to give an quotation.

Contact: Colin Pryce Terralift, Crowcroft Road, Ipswich. Tel and Fax: (0449) 741012.

Vermeer at Longleat

A major tree shifting operation is currently under way at Longleat in Wiltshire as part of the development of a new children's

play complex due to the opened soon.

130 semi-mature trees in all - a mixture of native English species - are being lifted from the nearby estate forests, transported and re-planted by a Vermeer TS50 Tree Space, owned and operated by Dorset tree surgeon Keith Banyard.

The stately home's new 3-acre attraction is designed to resemble a medieval castle, complete with ramparts and towers, and larger trees rather than saplings were preferred to complete the landscape. According to Longleat's Head Forester, Mr. John McHardy, ten times the number of saplings would be required to achieve anything like the same effect.

The tractor-mounted TS50, supplied by sole UK distributor Vermeer Equipment (UK) Limited, has four hydraulically-operated steel spades and is capable of moving trees of up to five inches in diameter. The resulting root ball - 50 inches across and 48 inches deep - ensures the best chance of survival even where trees have to be transported some distance, in this case about two miles.

For further information contact: Vermeer Equipment (UK) Limited. Tel: (0258) 54226.

Continued on page 32

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Greenkeeping Management 31

Our bite is as good as our bark



ICI were pioneers in the introduction of bark to the landscape garden. It transformed the look of beds and borders, conserved vital moisture, suppressed weeds and brought safety to play areas. But 'Forest Bark' products are only part of the modern range of Professional Products. They have some pretty lively partners:

SITE PREPARATION

'Speedway' A contact herbicide that kills all broad-leaved weeds and grasses. Widely used pre-rotavating or as a clean-up prior to planting out and reseedling.

'Enmag' A unique granular compound fertilizer (4:19:10) that provides plant nutrients in a slowly soluble form throughout the growing season. Applied to the top soil or to the root area when planting trees and shrubs.

TREE & SHRUB PLANTING

'Planting Compost' The complete quality planting medium based on sphagnum peat, enriched with 'Enmag' and fritted trace elements. Formulated to supply the vital nutrients needed to build new root systems and encourage establishment.

'Forest Bark' Composted Bark A soil conditioner, planting medium and mulch. Lasts at least 3 years in the soil and provides nitrogen over an extended period.

SITE MAINTENANCE

'Forest Bark' Ornamental Chips Long-lasting decorative bark for shrubberies, beds, paths and forest walks. Lasts for 3 years when used as a mulch and provides a resilient springy surface in play areas.

'Casoron' G, 'Casoron' G-4 Residual weedkillers for total weed control in non-crop areas, and for weed control around trees, roses and certain ornamental shrubs. Granular formulation makes application simple and convenient.

'Groundhog' A total herbicide for use on paths, drives, play areas and waste ground.

'Nimrod'-T The professionals choice for the prevention and control of mildew, blackspot and other diseases on roses and ornamental plants.

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'Speedway', 'Enmag', 'Forest Bark', 'Groundhog' and 'Nimrod'-T are trade marks of Imperial Chemical Industries PLC. 'Casoron' is a trade mark and product of Duphar B.V., Weesp, Holland. 'Speedway' contains paraquat. 'Casoron' G and 'Casoron' G-4 contain dichlobenil. 'Groundhog' contains aminotriazole, diquat, paraquat and simazine. 'Nimrod'-T contains bupirimate and triforine. READ THE LABEL BEFORE YOU BUY. USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.

Axba Tipper

The 'Tippit' is ideal labour saving equipment for landscapes, golf clubs, parks, sand & gravel producers, builders, farmers, market gardeners, vehicle hire, stables and local authorities for all their tipping requirements, as it converts a standard pick-up truck into a tipper truck.

The installation of the 'Tippit' body consists of removing the tail-gate and drilling four holes. (Approximate fitting time 1 hour). The body protects the pick-up bed and hydraulics from damage, and replacement of the tail-gate adds higher resale value if transferring the 'Tippit' to another vehicle.

The 'Tippit' is made of heavy duty steel welded construction and protected with an enamel finish to match the colour of the pick-up. It is designed to fit all pick-up type vehicles marketed in the UK and Europe.

The 12 volt power unit and hydraulic cylinders are supplied by a leading British hydraulic manufacturer, and fully warranted for one year, with push-button switch operated from the cab, or with a wandering lead to the rear of the vehicle for measured control of the 40° lift. This is useful if using the vehicle for spreading sand, grit, salt or grass seed while in motion.

For further details about any of the companies advertising in the magazine or mentioned in Product Focus, simply circle the number that appears within the 'flag' on the Reply Paid Reader Service Card and send it off to us.

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) Ltd

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) Limited was founded in 1977 and has been responsible for the construction and alteration to over 80 courses, including alterations to most of the Open Championship venues.

This Wimbourne based company are presently operating major construction and alteration projects on 12 golf courses at St. Andrew's, Bodmin, Goodwood, Wrangaton, Chichester, Mill Ride, St. George's Hill, Northampton, Forest of Arden, Tarpoley, Dalmahoy and Chantilly. This is in addition to other specialist maintenance and sports ground construction projects.

The company is now well established within the industry, offering experience combined with proven performance.

Both the landscaping, sports ground section and the specialist maintenance side of the company have expanded rapidly with three Captain Vertidrons.



The practical efficiency of Bark Products is evident.

Aeration & Drainage Services

Aeration & Drainage Services was formed in 1984 by Paul Wright, who was at that time Head Greenkeeper at Dale Hill Golf Club, Ticehurst, E. Sussex.

Starting with one tractor and one Verti Drain, operated by Paul himself, the business has gone from strength to strength. At present there are five Verti Drains and other machines such as a Wizz Wheel Trencher with high level conveyor and back fill hoppers for all kinds of trenching, drainage systems and sand/gravel slits. There is also a Twose turf conditioner, soil ameliorator (Robin Dagger compressed aerator), top dressers and over seeders.

Paul says that with more and more demands being put on the Greenkeeping staff, as a result of the ever increasing amount of play, there is less time for clubs to carry out their own construction/alterations. It is a natural progression for Aeration & Drainage Services to follow and it makes good sense to carry out construction work during the

summer months, meaning a project taking months over the winter period (when staff are available and weather conditions permitting), can be completed in a matter of days or weeks.

S.C.C.

Steven Curtis, emphasised the importance SCC attach to the benefits of proper aeration. "We have invested heavily in marketing the dramatic and immediate effect which the Verti-Drain system can provide. The combination of soil penetration and the breaking up of compaction without damage to the turf gives us the opportunity to treat golf courses, greens, fairways, bowling greens, cricket pitches and outfields, soccer and rugby pitches, race courses, tennis courts, parks and lawns.

In the 9½ years since SCC Lands Maintenance was born, the company have developed a comprehensive range of services including golf course construction, maintenance, alteration and drainage, plus verti-drain hire.

Bark Products

Bark Products (H&L) Ltd. has developed grades of bark to economically meet the differing requirements of individual landscaping projects. The company also supply graded bark required for more ornamental uses, such as the decorative enhancement of borders, rose/shrub beds and play areas as a safety surface.

Bark Products have five production sites, ensuring alternative grades from localised sites and that the haulage element of the total cost is kept to the minimum, whilst at the same time matching the landscapers main quality requirements.

As the uses of bark have become firmly established over the last ten years, Bark Products has also concentrated its efforts into not only offering the total range of products but into ensuring that its customer service is maintained at the highest level.

For further information contact: Bark Products (H&L) Ltd. Tel 0522 537561. Fax 0522 513609. Telex 56367.

Brian D. Pierson has a reputation for service through mobility.





*Island Green construction.
The 7th at Round Hill.*

So . . . you want to build a golf course?

Mel Lucas Jnr, a past President of the G.C.S.A.A. and a highly skilled and qualified golf course superintendent, took on the mammoth task of building a golf course in environmentally sensitive Massachusetts. This is his story . . .

It was Jim Snow who coined the phrase 'So . . . you want to build a golf course?' as the title for a number of speaking engagements which I have given over the past year. In these I've set out to explain to my fellow superintendents the trials and tribulations I've encountered in my task of building a nine-hole golf course in an environmentally over sensitive state.

In the U.S.A. each state has its own environmental agency. In Massachusetts ours is called the Department of Environmental Quality Engineers (D.E.Q.E.). Within the state there are many towns that set up their own environmental agencies, known as Conservation Commissions (ConCom).

Ideologists at work

The state agency is headed by very knowledgeable people. However, as we go down the ladder, we find the field teams made up of young people who have been formally educated in botany. Many have been trained through the Peace Corps in some of the most depressed countries in the world. Most are ideologists.

The ConCom is made up of local townspeople of varied occupations and they serve as volunteers. There is a salaried ConCom officer, who generally comes from the same background as the state agency people.

The state agency is classic bureaucracy, being top heavy with

paper work and, at lower levels, few decisions can be made. This group will only come if it is called, with the call usually coming from the ConCom officer.

The ConCom is the pivotal group, often the only way a town can control its growth with regard to housing, industry and, you've guessed it, golf courses.

The third party is the chosen engineering company, with every proposal submitted having to be drawn up by such a company. Proposals are called orders of conditions and it is vital to work closely with the company to ensure correct working of the documents. To allow an engineering practice to draw up proposals without the close consultation of golf course architect, course builder and greenkeeper could spell disaster, with land lost and construction costs rising to an astronomic figure.

Two years and £250,000 later . . .

The developer should anticipate spending not only a quarter of a million pounds, but also two years in getting final approval before the first shovel has entered the soil!

Our problems began in August of '86, during an inspection of a pond being excavated. A ten acre Red Mample swamp was cleared, stumped and excavated to create a six acre pond at

a depth of six feet for irrigation. There was to be an island green, the muck soil being used, mixed with sand, for greens and tees and as material to build an earthen dam and to enhance several home sites. The swamp had a small stream running through it, exiting into a salt water marsh.

Precautions were taken, with a silt fence and hay bales strung out on the marsh side of all excavation. The stream kept flowing and excavation was carried out on both sides of it.

During excavation a dock builder was jetting down pilings for the green and the water was coffee coloured.

Never trust a ConCom man

Enter ConCom inspector, who thought there was insufficient protection to ensure that sediment would not flow into the marsh. Here we learned our first lesson . . . NEVER trust ConCom inspectors! His visit seemed favourable enough, walking the site and talking positively about the project, whilst indicating things he wanted done, such as more hay bales placed in streams, which we did. He left and we felt O.K. But the following morning he had ordered a 'cease & desist' until an inspection was made and they had reviewed all of our files.

There were no options. Work came to a halt, the local contractors pulled out in favour of other jobs and our wetlands work ceased.

The irrigation system was being installed by my crew, working in grassed fields. We did not plough the whole place under, but I was given orders of conditions and a go ahead. But 'they' failed to give me orders for what 'they' wanted before trenching. During an inspection, and well after two thirds of the mains were underground, we were cited another 'cease & desist'. Reason? We had not placed hay bales or silt fence. We were not in wetlands, but by ConCom reckoning anywhere within 100 feet of wetland must be treated as wetland.

Only after the purchase of 3,000 feet of silt fence and hay bales, to be placed along the sensitive areas, were ConCom satisfied and the 'cease & desist' for irrigation was lifted. To place the silt fence in you must dig a 3 inch trench so the material will form an 'L', then the bales must be set into this 3 inch depth - all to be dug by hand.

During this time the spill way and stream were blocked off. Then the rains came and filled the whole area with water.

We now had a major problem, with



Drainage Piping. The 7th at Round Hill.

14 days to complete. Late February saw all of us putting in drains to the greens - stone, sand and mix - leaving two loads extra for repairs. The last pilings were in, an access road excavated and teeing grounds built. Ten days of ten degree weather & done!

Came the spring, together with torrential rains. None of the greens had been seeded, being still under 'cease & desist'.

Erosion was doing its environmental worst, all due to the environmentalists. The pond filled and became a major concern to the dam. A pump was brought in and 1,400 feet of 6 inch PVC pipe took the water off into a grass meadow to cleanse it before it entered the marsh. The issue of the chemical had still not been addressed by the engineers and I was eventually drawn into their laxity and despair, requesting that I should do the sleuthing for them on chemical information. Blessed with good colleagues and university turf specialists, I was eventually directed to Stuart Cohen in Maryland. Ten days of direct involvement with him brought forth the required documentation and a clean bill of health from DEQE. The 'cease & desist' on the pond was lifted and

water - glory be - was allowed to travel its own course.

But, throughout the period of inactivity the pond had been pumped dry, leaving the banks open to erosion and we were forced to lay in a wood fibre matting throughout.

'Cease & Desist' - again

Work commenced on erosion repairs and by mid-summer seeding of greens and tees on seven holes had taken place, the remaining two remaining under yet another 'cease & desist'. The pond had failed to fill to capacity and the thought of seeding fairways worried me, fearing the water requirement shortfall. We hydroseeded in February 1988 and with the final two holes released from ConCom jail we completed seeding in August.

Now we are growing & mowing on this Trent Jones links on the peninsula into Buzzards Bay. On his second visit, observing that gimmick golf in the shape of an island green had arrived, he turned away with a grin, saying: "No doubt about it, this is a LUCAS course." For the 80 residents at Round Hill it represents privacy and a quality of life that they feel is well worth their investment.

The cost of course construction was around 1¼ million pounds, though engineering and other fees had to be quite enormous and over this figure - I don't know just how much and the developer hasn't told me.

I've enjoyed the whole exercise, seldom feeling great pressure, thanks to my background of 25 years as a greenkeeper on Long Island. I've pampered to aloof self proclaimed agronomists and held my own with over indulgent egocentric chairmen in the past, and have a sharp edge when it comes to pressure. Building a golf course is - ahem - a piece of cake...

But there is a final unsolved problem. Our illustrious engineers wrote into an order of condition that no pesticides or fertilizers may be used on over 60% of the golf course. The amendment has been made - with my wording - and now we wait, and wait, and wait...

MEL LUCAS Jnr.

no solution forthcoming from ConCom. Thus the engineers had to come up with answers and I discovered that this group were short on experience and long on toro manure. Finally they found the chemical that would clear the water problem. First hydrated lime was poured into the pond - from boats - to raise the Ph of the water, followed by aluminium sulphate. In two days the pond was crystal clear, ConCom were happy and allowed us to open the spill way. Water was down, contractors came back and excavation was completed. The pilings continued and the coffee water appeared. Throughout this time we had a daily visit from the ConCom inspector, who walked every inch of the development site and questioned every aspect of our work. Finally in October he brought in the DEQE. The project was given another 'cease & desist', spill way closed.

We were back to the coffee water again, with only about 25 feet of the piers left to complete. An access road was still in place but the DEQE individual was concerned that pressure treated pilings might affect the salt water marsh and that the chemical used in the pond would also do harm. The engineers got busy, though only through research material which the pressure treated wood institute had already documented.

14 days to finish

Winter arrived and with everyone urging the faceless ones that we be allowed to finish the job, before the spring thaw and rains, we were given



The Pond at its lowest level.



Taking of turf samples for assessment, part of the turfgrass cultivar evaluation programme.

The Sports Turf Research Institute, affectionately known as 'Bingley', is sixty years old. At an Open Day a group of sportsturf journalists and agronomy experts were privileged to see at first hand the comprehensive nature of the work carried out at this nerve-centre of our industry. For your Editor it was a delight, though clearly a single day was insufficient for the eye and mind to absorb all that is taking place. I would have been happy to spend a further day in the library alone, for this fine collection, ably masterminded by Roger Evans, is a wealth of information. I content myself in the knowledge that every worthwhile piece of literature pertinent to turf grass and agronomy is preserved for all time. I am reminded of the A.A. advertisement, which could apply equally to STRI, "I don't know the answer, but I know a man who does!"

Though sixty years old, STRI is as up to the minute as tomorrow, staffed as it is by young scientists and technicians who breath enthusiasm and dedication into their every action.

One such place is the Biology Laboratory, where the identification of diseases is an essential part of the disease control programme. Identification techniques take many forms, and I was shown the more common ones. Visual symptom observation is a rapid method when seen through the eyes of a skilled observer, though it cannot be used in many situations due to similar symptoms being produced by different diseases. A more time con-

suming method is where a fungi which causes disease is isolated and grown in a dish, the characteristic spores then being identified. Or an examination may take place under microscope, the spores which may cause disease often being found in grass tissues when observed under high magnification. Finally, there is a biochemical method in which each turf disease reveals its biochemical features which can be detected, using laboratory test kits. This method is both rapid and reliable.

Over-watering has probably been one of the main causes of deterioration of British golf greens. The effects of varying the water supply to a green cannot be considered in isolation and any attempt to study this must take into account factors which will effect the water availability to the grass. Foremost amongst these is the construction of the green and the material used as a rootzone. This in turn will have a profound effect on fertilizer requirements of the green and an experimental construction of three different types is one that I found quite fascinating. The types undergoing test are pure sand, the USGA mix, a mixture of medium sand and peat, and the local top-soil. Irrigation, nitrogen and phosphorus supplies are to be varied in the hope that the optimum requirements for each construction may be found. Early days yet, but it is hoped that the results of this and fertilizer experiments may provide the basis for the creation of a management 'key' to assist greenkeepers in dealing with specific problems pertaining to green management.

I have never seen so much experimental machinery, much of it developed by the STRI boffins, and none more delightfully Heath Robinson — though highly effective — than

'BINGLEY' ... sixty glorious years

*David White reports on
60 years of progress
at Bingley"...*

one for firing golf balls on to greens. It can fire balls at speeds of up to 100 mph and can impart harsh backspin to balls if simulation of, say, a seven iron shot is required. If a turf is to be found that eliminates those tiresome pitchmarks you may be sure that STRI will find it.

Space restrictions will not permit description of the many and varied tests of amenity grass species, wear tolerances or other vital experiments being undertaken. It would take a whole magazine to cover it all. Suffice to say that STRI are doing all that is possible to take greenkeeping safely forward into the twenty first century.

Below: Disease diagnosis of turfgrass specimens by microscopical examination.



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minute as
tomorrow"*

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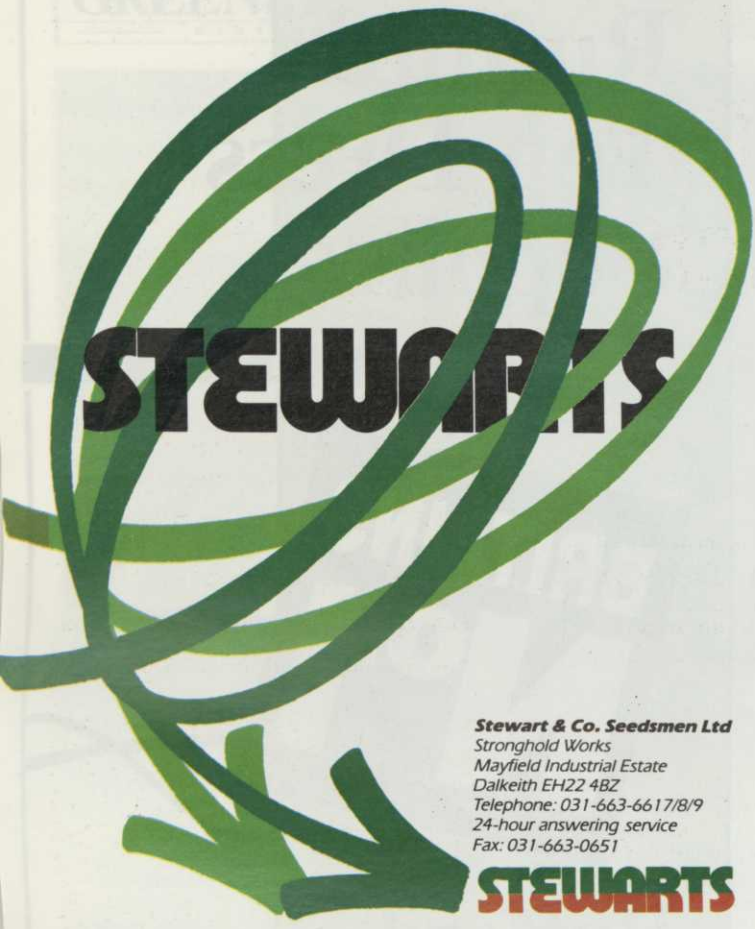
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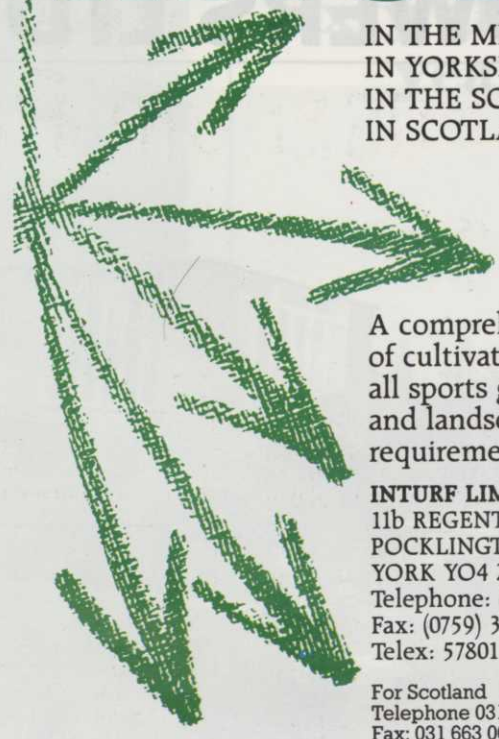
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IN TOUCH WITH
"THE BEST TURF ON EARTH"

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Golf course irrigation?



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Autumn Maintenance and Fusarium Patch Disease

During the autumn months, greenkeepers are preparing their courses for the rigours which lie ahead in the rapidly approaching winter.

One of the major problems to contend with is the damaging and disfiguring effects of fusarium patch disease. Last autumn few greenkeepers would have predicted the exceptionally mild winter, with the consequence that it was one of the worst for fusarium patch on record. With this in mind it is appropriate to review the cultural and environmental conditions which favour the disease, and to describe the most effective disease control strategies which can be deployed.

Whilst undertaking autumn maintenance there are two key cultural conditions, namely turf surface moisture and turf fertility to be considered, which are important with respect to disease. Regular slitting from late autumn onwards combined with switching helps to reduce surface wetness and will consequently retard fusarium patch (Fig. 1). Fertility during the winter months, particularly with regard to nitrogen also has a large bearing on disease severity.

As fusarium patch disease is

By Dr Neil A. Baldwin

Plant Pathologist, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley

favoured by high nitrogen conditions in combination with cool, wet weather, the most severe disease outbreaks are often seen where autumn fertilisers or top dressing has been applied too late in the season, it can smother the grass and create conditions ideal for disease attack (Fig.2). Of course, the best time for fertiliser and top dressing will vary greatly according to individual situations, but generally speaking the later the application, the more risk of disease.

It is now standard greenkeeping practice to apply calcined sulphate of iron to turf for its beneficial effects on colour, moss, weeds and earthworm casting. As the fungus which causes fusarium patch, *Microdochium nivale* is most active under neutral or alkaline conditions, sulphate of iron, by acidifying plant tissues and thatch to which it comes into contact will help control the disease. Common greenkeeping knowledge combined with experiments at STRI (Fig. 3) have indicated that the regular use of sulphate of iron, although not as effective as a fungicide, will help prevent outbreaks of disease.

Although probably not needed immediately, stock of fungicides should be checked in the autumn and fresh stocks ordered as appropriate. Once disease occurs its spread can be rapid; valuable time can be wasted in ordering and waiting for delivery of fungicides.

Recent trials at STRI in collaboration with Agrochemical companies have shown that a well timed spray at the first signs of disease can give excellent results (Fig. 4), whilst it is extremely difficult to control established disease.

Comprehensive advice on the use of fungicides for the control of fusarium patch is given in "The use of turf fungicides" and "Fusarium patch disease" in Issue No. 165 (April-June 1989) of the Sports Turf Bulletin.



Fig. 1. Effect of moisture on fusarium patch. The rh turf plug, colonised by fungal mycelium has been incubated in damp conditions for 24 hours.



Fig. 2. Extensive damage by fusarium patch caused by applying fertiliser in early winter. The disease is favoured by high nitrogen conditions.



Fig. 3. Experiments at STRI evaluating liquid and chelated iron products for effects on fusarium patch.



Fig. 4. The centre plot was treated with a systemic fungicide in late autumn. Compare to the extensive disease in the lower plot which was left untreated.

SCOTTISH REGION

The region has had a very busy time of late, with two major competitions held in the space of three weeks.

The ISEKI Regional finals were held on May 30th over Glendoch House Golf & Country Club, set in the hills at Langbank and overlooking beautiful River Clyde countryside. Few could fail to be impressed by the views from the course and Gordon Kerr, having recently taken over as Head Greenkeeper from Raymond Day, had prepared the course superbly, a credit when the limited irrigation facilities are considered. Play was, on the whole, of the very highest standard though there were a number of 'no returns' from the class 3 entrants. Our thanks go to **Reekie Plant & Ken Petrie**, and of course, **Peter Powell of ISEKI Tractors U.K.** for all their help and financial assistance, and to **Steven Broad**, the organiser. Everybody had a great day at Glendoch House and the winners are looking forward to the finals at Moor Allerton in October.

The winners were: First Class: C. McKay, Craig Golfing Society (77-8-69); S. Taylor, East Kilbride Golf Club (73-1-72); C. Pearson, Arbroath Golf Club (77-5-72) (B.I.H.); I. Ritchie, Ladybank Golf Club (81-8-73).

Second Class: A. Fraser, Alloa Golf Club (79-12-67); D. Lauder, Douglas Park Golf Club (85-16-69); S. Ross, Kyle & Carrick District Council (87-17-70); J. Coleman, Dumbarton Golf Club (89-18-71).

Third Class: N. Henry, East Kilbride Golf Club (105-25-80); D. Duguid, Westhill Golf Club (107-25-82).

SCOTTISH REGION 18 HOLE TOURNAMENT - 15th JUNE

Over 80 players enjoyed one of our best golf days ever. The weather was quite perfect for playing golf and the setting at Cawder Golf Club was the icing on the cake. Set in a beautiful Estate with large trees and rhododendron bushes in full bloom and water hazards 'a plenty', this was a first class venue. Course Manager, Alistair Connell had reserved the big course for the Championship, which left the Keir Course for his members. Alistair and his Head Greenkeeper, Jim McCormick had their Course in great condition as usual with fast greens and some tricky pin positions which made scoring quite difficult, but as usual, the good players came through. The Cawder Clubhouse setting, with three large lounges and dining areas was great for players to relax afterwards for meals, drinks and presentation of prizes. Our Scottish Region Chairman, Elliott Small, along with Cawder Captain John Gourlay presented the prizes to the best players on the day. Our thanks go to Cawder Golf Club for their warm welcome and kindness in giving us the courtesy of the Course for a wonderful day.

The winners were: Scratch: D. Leith, St Andrews Links (70); Best Nett: C. McKay, Deeside Golf Club (78-7-71) (B.I.H.).

First Class: G. Brown, Turnberry Golf Club (73); S. Taylor, East Kilbride Golf Club (74) (B.I.H.); Sullivan, Craigiehill Golf Club (74).

Second Class: J. McKenzie, Renfrew Golf Club (69); S. Melville, Lothianburn Golf Club (71); W. Fletcher, Troon Golf Club (73).

Third Class: S. Harvey, Cawder Golf Club (74); N. Henry, East Kilbride Golf Club (85); J. Wallace, Glenbervie Golf Club (88).

Best Head Greenkeeper: I. MacLeod, Tain Golf Club, (75) (B.I.H.).

Best Apprentice: I. Kerr, Buchanan Castle Golf Club (77).

Best Assistant: G. Paterson, Fortrose Golf Club (77).

CHRIS KENNEDY

EAST SCOTLAND

The annual Summer Tournament was held over Burntisland Golf Course on June 13th and although the event was played in heavy rain the turnout was first class. Our thanks go to the Captain and Council for the courtesy of the course, to Bob and Ray Thomson for the delicious meals and to Head Greenkeeper Norman Wood for the excellent condition of the course.

This is the first time since 1967 that we have played at Burntisland but if comments are anything to go by, we shall return before too long. The lucky (should this read skillful, Ed?) winners were: Scratch: G. Wood, Dunbar. 1st Class: S. Crawford, Ratho Park. 2nd Class: J.W. Neilson, Murrayfield. 3rd Class: A. Nimmo, Alloa. The new member prize was won by D. Easingwood of Dunbar.

Our congratulations go to all East Section players at the ISEKI Tournament held at Glendoch House. All of you put up a splendid performance. The qualifier for the finals, A Fraser from Dunbar, goes forward with our hopes pinned on him and our sincere good wishes.

There have been a vast number of changes in the section regarding Head Greenkeepers. Almost every week we hear of a club placing advertising. Does anyone know the reason? Is the pressure becoming too much? Do committees and secretaries have too much to say? There MUST be a reason. First class greenkeepers with many years of experience in the field are suddenly out of work or seeking other employment. Could it have something to do with the influence of the Agronomist?

I would like to hear from anyone who can shed some light on this subject.

My own theory, which is shared by many of my older

contemporaries, is the lack of communication between greenkeeper and council. Let them know what you are doing, and the reason why. We must create a climate in the club where all members think of the Head Greenkeeper as the number one person to consult about course matters. We must be seen as capable of managing courses to very high standards if left in control and alone. If we fail to communicate adequately with committees or members, or are subject to constant interference, disillusion and discouragement sets in and by settling for a 'do as you are told' edict one crisis after another will result.

We all know how club politics and politicians lead to disastrous effects on the course; and the politics are not about to go away by themselves. Quite the opposite, they are worsening, with niggardly complaints, vis: not strimming around tee markers. The publicity given to Poa Annua, a weed grass, has made its impact on the club member. What they fail to understand, however, is that THEY help to create the problem.

It is wrong to condemn the greenkeeper with 100% poa annua greens when the membership pressure factor of close mowing is constant. Of course we would all like pure fescue greens, but if we are to achieve more than 60% agrostis, spread evenly through the green, we are doing well. The only place where you can achieve more is on limestone heathland and links, both of which are free draining with a high PH factor. It is rare to find it on more acid soils. Agronomists please take note.

WILLIE BLAIR

WEST SCOTLAND

Once again we are into the busy season of endless cutting and watering, applying fertilizers, fungicides etc and preparing for club competitions, and still we find time to compete in B.I.G.G.A. matches.

This years lucky West Section qualifiers to represent Scotland in the ISEKI National Tournament are: S. Taylor, N. Henry, D. Lauder, J. Coleman (reserve).

We congratulate you all and wish you good luck.

The Scottish National outing was held this year at Cawder Golf Club in Glasgow, with our section, West Scotland, being the hosts.

Cawder Golf Club were very welcoming and looked after each and every one of us. A special word of thanks goes to the Club Captain, John Gourlay, for his kind words and hospitality, and also to Alistair Connell, the Course Manager, for preparing a course that was a joy to behold and a delight to play upon.

Incidentally, the Captain of Cawder holds Alistair in such high esteem that he provides medication (a special Scottish formula) for him on various tees

around the course!

Thanks again to all at Cawder for a great day. We hope to meet you all again.

Organisation is now under way for the West Section Autumn Meeting at Cathkin Braes Golf Club, to be held on Thursday, September 14th. There will be additional information to follow regarding fees, catering and times. Would all members take note that in order to qualify for prizes in competition they must possess a National Handicap Certificate. If anyone has difficulty with this please contact me on 0786-64098 (work) or 0786-72548 (home). Also in the process of being organised is the Annual Dinner, which was such a success last year. Tickets for this will be on sale from the Autumn Meeting. Do please remember that this popular event will have limited places - popularity has seen to that - and you are urged to buy your tickets early.

Until the next issue, enjoy your holidays and if you have any queries, or information for inclusion in our report, do please contact me.

ROBERT BREWER

MIDLANDS

One of our Association's oldest members, Jim Bevan, has passed away following a short illness. Jim, who was affectionately known as 'Ginger', had spent a record twenty five years at Little Aston G.C. alone. This, apart from brief spells with Sandwell G.C. & Aldridge G.C., was his life and he has left an indelible mark at the club. Even in retirement Jim worked on his beloved Little Aston and it was there that he was honoured to be selected as caddie for the Prince of Wales, back in 1932. He was a stalwart supporter of our Association and its sporting events and he will be sorely missed. We extend our sympathy to his family.

Our annual R. Taylor Green-somes Knock-out Pairs Tournament is progressing well, with 8 pairs still remaining. I shall give further reports next month.

Still on the R. Taylor theme, the annual East Midlands v Midlands Golf Challenge will be played at the Longcliffe Club on Monday, October 2nd. To qualify for this, your best nett score from any of the three 27 hole competitions will be included in selection of the best twelve scores for our team line-up.

Finally, and forgive me if I repeat myself, do please contact me, by 'phone or in person, if you have any items of news for insertion in **Greenkeeping Management**. I heard recently that one or two members had not received their membership package. If you are amongst them, ring me and I'll see to it for you. I hope to meet more of you at one or other of our golf fixtures, or at our winter lectures, about which I shall make an announcement in a future issue.

IVAN TOON