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## • AN EXHIBITION & SEMINAR •

FOR THE DESIGN, FINANCING, CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPEAN GOLF COURSES AND FACILITIES.

**SANDOWN PARK, ESHER, SURREY. NOVEMBER 20, 21 AND 22, 1990.**

### SEMINAR PROGRAMME

**VENUE:** Royal Garden Hotel, London **DATE:** Monday 19th November

#### MAIN TOPICS:

- \*THE DEMAND FOR GOLF (Main findings of the R & A Report)
- \*DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS (to outline all the various types of golf provisions which are possible)
- \*THE AVAILABILITY OF LAND
- \*PRINCIPLES OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE
- \*GOLF COURSE DESIGN AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- \*PRINCIPLES OF GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
- \*SOURCES OF FINANCE
- \*GOLF AND ASSOCIATED PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT
- \*GOLF AND TOURISM
- \*MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMMES AND ADMINISTRATION
- \*PLANNING PERMISSION
- \*PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- \*THE GOLF COURSE - A MARKETABLE ASSET
- \*A CASE STUDY

The Seminar has been designed to appeal to those in the Financial Community. Directors of public companies and their advisors, large landowners, representatives from Government. Local Government agencies and those involved generally with Golf Course Development.

### WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

#### Golf Course Management

**VENUE:** Sandown Park Exhibition Centre  
**DATE:** Tuesday 20th November, 1990

#### MAIN TOPICS:

- \*CATERING FOR THE INCREASE IN PLAYERS ON EXISTING COURSES
- \*GOLF COURSE REMODELLING AND EXTENSION
- \*GREENKEEPING IN THE 90'S
- \*MODERN DEVELOPMENTS IN IRRIGATION
- \*MODERN PUTTING GREEN CONSTRUCTION
- \*TURF MAINTENANCE MACHINERY - THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

#### Golf Club Management

**VENUE:** Sandown Park Exhibition Centre  
**DATE:** Wednesday 21st November, 1990

#### MAIN TOPICS:

- \*NEW CHALLENGES FOR GOLF CLUB MANAGEMENT
- \*CLUB HOUSE DESIGN FOR THE 21st CENTURY
- \*MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION STRUCTURES
- \*THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE CLUB PROFESSIONAL
- \*GOLF CARTS - A MENACE OR A MONEY SPINNER?
- \*FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Workshop has been designed to appeal to those actively involved or seriously considering becoming involved with the management of golf facilities. The subjects will be dealt with in some detail assuming the audience will wish to acquire special knowledge of these matters.

**For further information contact: Exhibition: INTER-GOLF EUROPE LTD 0903 883381  
Seminar: BSAIF Tel: 081 681 1242**

# THE BIGGA TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION

23rd - 25th January 1991, Harrogate, North Yorkshire

## PRE-REGISTRATION

SAVE TIME AND MONEY and ensure automatic price draw entry\* Entry into Exhibition by Catalogue £2.50. If you complete and return this postage paid reply card you will automatically be pre-registered, handed your catalogue and identification badge at the entrance and **admitted without charge.**

I will be attending and wish to receive details of:

(a) The Exhibition

(b) The Seminar Programme  commences 21st January

(c) Both  
EXHIBITION

If your organisation has not already booked space and wishes to exhibit goods or services please tick in:

(d)  
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Name (Block capitals please).....Occupation.....

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\*Prize winners will be announced and prizes must be collected during the Exhibition.

## MANAGEMENT COURSES OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1990

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Following the success of the 1989 management courses held at BIGGA Headquarters, Aldwark Manor, the courses are to be repeated this coming autumn/winter.

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WEEK 3 5-9 NOVEMBER INCLUSIVE  WEEK 4 12-16 NOVEMBER INCLUSIVE

Please register.....person(s) for the management courses.

Name.....

Address.....

Signature.....

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**Get Educated**

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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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03473 581/2

## In my view . . .



WITH  
EDITOR  
MIKE McCLENNAN

**T**HIS 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.

# **B.I.G.G.A. TURF MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION AND SEMINAR PROGRAMME HARROGATE, 23RD - 25TH JANUARY, 1991**

Confirmed Exhibitors include:

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For Exhibition details and brochure please contact:

**Debbie J. Savage, BIGGA,  
Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, North Yorkshire, YO6 2NF.  
Tel: 03473-581/582. Fax: 03473 8864**

*Exhibition and Seminar Schedule*

Mon 21 & Tues 23: All Day Seminars and Workshop Sessions.  
Wed. 23, Thurs 24, and Fri 25: Exhibition and General Seminars.

# HEAD OFFICE

## USA AND EUROPEAN COMPANIES TO EXHIBIT AT HARROGATE

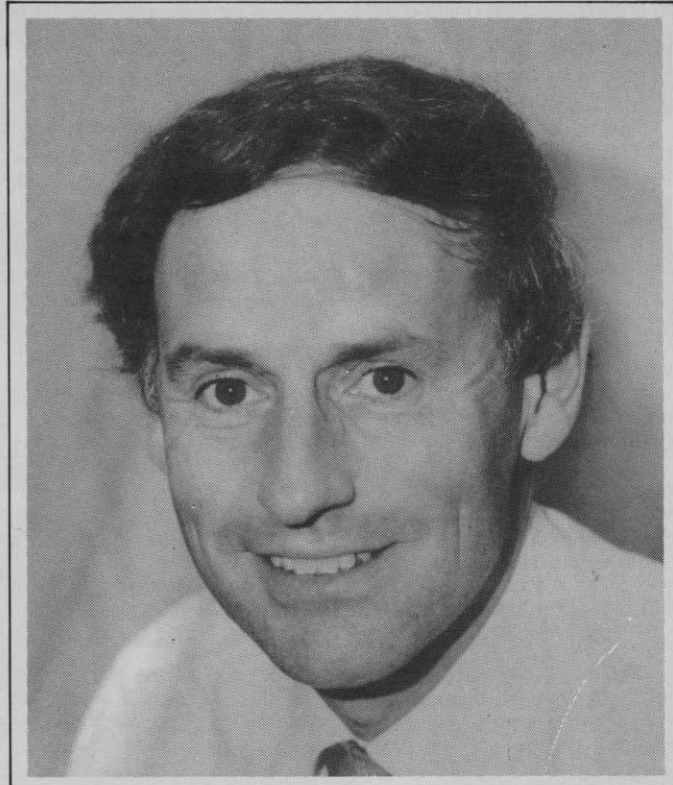
**B**IGGA are delighted with the number of American and European companies interested in exhibiting at next January's Exhibition and already firm bookings have been received from both the USA and Europe. Reviewing progress to date BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas commented: "It became clear during the GCSAA Exhibition in Florida last February that a large number of American companies are now interested in expanding into the European market and this is reflected in the interest being shown in exhibiting at Harrogate. The exhibition already has a European identity and a steady growth of interest on the part of European companies is anticipated."

Looking ahead to improvements in quality which exhibitors can anticipate for 1991. Neil Thomas commented: "We have recently visited Harrogate to view another exhibition set up by our own exhibition contractor. As a result there will be a number of innovations at the 1991 event. Three halls will be used instead of the previous two and a revised layout as well as improved circulation of delegates attending the seminar programme should meet with the approval of exhibitors."

New catering arrangements will include enhanced and attractive seating areas.

The Moat House International Hotel has been designated as the BIGGA Exhibition and Conference Hotel and favourable rates have been negotiated for exhibiting companies. This hotel will be the focal point for the pre-exhibition seminars and the social programme as well as a meeting place for both exhibitors and delegates. I would hope that companies will make the hotel their base. The Steering Committee representative of Exhibiting Companies has adopted a positive approach and this augurs well for 1991 and future years."

For companies working within the fine turf industries, the Harrogate Exhibition is clearly their 'own' exhibition and next year's event is looked forward to with much anticipation. Companies requiring details of rates at the Moat House International Hotel should contact Debbie Savage at BIGGA Headquarters - 03473-581/2.



*BIGGA Executive Director Neil Thomas.*

## NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 1990 GANTON GOLF CLUB 6 - 8 AUGUST

**Format:** 3 x 18 Holes Medal Play.

**Handicap Categories:** Scratch - 14 Handicap - Senior Division, 15 Handicap - 28 Handicap - Junior Division.

**Monday 6 August** 18 Holes Medal, 1st Nett THE 'FISONS BOWL', NB: No Handicap Categories.

**Tuesday 7 August** 18 Holes Metal, 1st Nett THE 'MAXWELL HART TROPHY', NB: No Handicap Categories.

On completion of the round competitors will play for the 'VITAX PUTTING CUP'.

**Wednesday 8 August** 18 Holes Medal, 1st Nett the 'SISIS TROPHY'.

NB: For the 54 Hole prizes, Handicap categories apply.

**54 Hole Prizes** Senior Division 1st Nett THE 'RANSOMES CUP'. Junior Division 1st Nett THE 'PATTISSON TROPHY'. Best Gross THE 'TORO TROPHY'. Jubilee Trophy, Regional Team Prize.

NB: There will be prizes for 2nd and 3rd places in all competitions provided by the Association. The first eight players in the Nett over 54 holes to represent the Association at the Kubota Challenge. Venue - The Belfry - 17 and 18 October, 1990.

- All competitors note that there are three separate competitions - (one per day) plus the overall 54 hole competition. All competitors must provide a handicap certificate.
- Team of three to be drawn on the Monday morning prior to the commencement of play. Three per region. All nett scores to count.

The seven sponsors of the tournament are: Fisons, Maxwell Hart, Vitax, SISIS, Ransomes, Pattissons and Toro. BIGGA wishes to thank them for their continued support to this prestigious event.

BIGGA also thanks the PGA European Tour for the kind use of a scoreboard.

All 24 of the trophies which were played for during the BIGGA days will be on display at the banquet to be held on the Tuesday evening, 7th August at the Royal Hotel, Scarborough (tickets available from Headquarters). Some of the trophies date back to the formation of the Golf Greenkeepers Association in 1912. For those members who have not seen this superb display of trophies this evening should not be missed.

**Any member still wishing to enter the BIGGA National Tournament should ring headquarters NOW!**

Two interesting trips for the

leaders have also been arranged. They are:

**Monday 6 August 1990 - Yorkshire Dales.** Pick-up point at the Southlands Hotel, West Street, Scarborough at 10am, to include a trip to Pickering (for the Open Air Market), a tour of the Yorkshire Dales and spending some time in Whitby. Luncheon to be taken at the Goathlands Hotel at 1pm. To arrive back at the Southlands Hotel for 4.30pm.

**Tuesday 7 August 1990: Tour of York.** Pick-up point to be Southlands Hotel, West Street, Scarborough at 10am, to include free time for shopping in the morning and lunch in York (ladies to choose themselves). In the afternoon, a trip around the Castle Howard. To arrive back at the Southlands Hotel for 4.30pm.

## THE TEAM'S GETTING BIGGA!

**A**S YOU know by now, Howard Evans provides the BIGGA PERSONAL PENSION PLAN which is available to all Association members. The demands on Howard's time in the last year, however, have been enormous and so he has recently recruited three people to assist him in the job of advising Greenkeepers on Personal Pension Planning.

The team has a distinct Welsh flavour to it, and whilst all three men are prepared to talk to length about pensions, the subject of the current state of Welsh rugby, is not one which is entered into with great enthusiasm for the time being. But just wait until next season...

Mark Titley has represented Wales over 15 times, and plays for the Swansea Club. Also a Swansea player, and just returned from a successful tour of Namibia with the Welsh Team, is Stuart Parfitt. Mark Lewis has played for the Welsh Youth, and as well as playing for Swansea he plays for the top West Wales league side, Tumble.

All three pension advisors are available to Greenkeepers from all over the UK at any time, and can be contacted via Aldwark Manor on 03473 581/2. Where necessary they will call on Greenkeepers or golf clubs to personally discuss their own particular situation.

So, good luck to Howard and his new men. And don't forget, good pensions advice from experienced people, is only a phone call away!



# LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you as a mother of two greenkeeper sons, and thought it would be interesting for you to hear a woman's point of view on what I have learnt over many years of listening to and being very interested in the young greenkeeper in England.

My two sons have been greenkeeping since leaving school one being 27 years and the other 29 years old. The eldest being at the same private club is on what I call a pittance of a wage.

He knows all aspects of greenkeeping having been to college for two years, and is reliable, efficient and trustworthy, conscientious and takes pride in the golf course, but for "a poor wage packet"!

Couldn't something be done

to enforce clubs to pay the correct wage, a livable wage to these young men. I honestly feel sorry for all young English greenkeepers.

Now to my second son who had worked at his private club for eight years and on the same low wages.

Enough was enough for him, he was wanting to get married which was quite impossible on his low wage, so he applied for a job in West Germany as an Assistant and was successful.

As soon as he arrived at the club, the German people couldn't do enough for him.

They respected, praised him and his wages are treble to what he got here.

He worked hard, so much so that after two and a half years he is now the Course Manager. He has his ups and

downs like everyone else in his position but he expects that for the good wages he is earning, and let's face it, that is why he left England.

He has many English greenkeeper friends out there and not one would come back home. But can you tell me why should our good young English greenkeepers (and they are who matter) have to go abroad to earn a proper wage.

From what I hear there will be more working abroad than here if the wages in England are not revised.

Having one of my sons living abroad is heartbreaking for me, but there is no comparisons in the two greenkeeping countries and I know my son prefers the respect and equality in Germany.

They certainly know a good

thing when they see it and take the chance. I could write a book about it all, but feel better for writing this letter to you.

So let's keep English Greenkeeping in England and give the young ones a fair deal with wages, they earn every penny they get.

Kindest regards,  
S. GOLDTHORPE

*Editor's note: Thank you for that marvellous letter Mrs Goldthorpe. You merely echo my views on the subject of low wages and the skill drain to the Continent they are causing.*

*I wonder how much longer it will be allowed to continue before clubs open their eyes to the economic necessity of paying a fair day's wage to our skilled greenkeeping staff.*

*Rest assured Greenkeeping Management will be hammering this message home until wage levels rise. The alternative is too worrying to contemplate.*

Dear Sir,

HERE have been many comments made in recent years about the decline of golf greens, and the lack of quality head greenkeepers in this country.

Most of these remarks have come from people involved in golf at a high level be it R & A officials, tournament pros, golf writers, and above all many well known agronomists. In this letter I would like to put the viewpoint of one modern course manager and state the two main reasons why, in my opinion, our profession is the recipient of such adverse comments.

Firstly, I would like to say that golf clubs in this country place huge budget restrictions on the course maintenance side of their affairs. This means many important tasks cannot get done because the money is not available.

The wages are so poor that all our good greenkeepers are moving abroad, where their skills are amply rewarded. What a sad indication of attitudes in this country towards greenkeeping.

If many course managers in this country were given reasonable maintenance budgets and sound levels of capital investment they would be able to give members higher standards of course presentation. If golf clubs fail to invest money in their courses then they should expect to see a decline in their conditions.

I feel the second and most important reason that many adverse comments are being made is our own obsession with ridding our urban parkland courses of Poa Annua.

Greenkeepers today are being trained into producing Fescue-bent turf, and quite

rightly so. However, I believe that the ecology of each individual golf course dictates what will grow there and what will die. In many situations around the country, greenkeepers have been trying to rid their courses of Poa Annua in the belief they are doing the right thing.

This has had disastrous effects on playing surfaces at many courses as traditional links type management policies are being adopted to parkland urban courses where Poa Annua is the native grass. Over recent years greenkeepers have started to believe that if they have Poa Annua greens they are no good at their job, that is rubbish.

In my opinion we have become obsessed with grass species instead of managing putting surfaces. We have been misinformed by certain agronomists that "one type management policies" can be applied to every soil type.

I myself am a keen believer in traditional methods of greenkeeping but in many situations they just don't work. There is no shame in having Poa Annua greens, today's course manager should not expect his members to putt on bare earth as he carries out links type management on Poa Annua on a parkland course.

Yours faithfully  
Terry Huntley  
Course Manager  
Ashford Manor G.C.

● Got something to say? Write to the editor with your views on any subject relevant to greenkeeping and we will be glad to publish them.

Dear Sir,

I am currently employed at the Royal Pahang Golf Club in the Malaysian state of Pahang as a greenkeeper for the last 2½ years. I am also a holder of the GCSAA class B certificate and also furthering my continued education units in golf course management.

My other experience also include the following whilst I was a trainee at Royal Kedah Golf Club with an American firm. Below are the duties entrusted to me:

- Formation of new greens/surrounds/tees and bunkers.
- Installation of sprinklers system (Rotary pop up).
- Maintenance of golf course.
- Labour co-ordination on site.
- Hydroseeding and sod planting.
- Equipment purchase and recommendation and
- Installation of sub-soil drainage.

It is my sincere deep intention to participate in a work and study programme with a distinguished club for a year and hereby extend my humble request and application for your kind consideration.

I am also prepared to avail myself at your distinguished club for any interview at your convenience.

Thanking you in advance for your highest consideration and in the meanwhile I remain your humble servant.

Yours sincerely,  
Palani Manickam  
Royal Pahang Golf Club  
Golf Road 25700  
Pahang Darul Makmur  
West Malaysia

Dear Sir,

THANK you for your letter of April 2 and I apologise for the delay in acknowledging.

We are a relatively small "village club" - 9 holes, 150 gents members, 65 ladies members, and 45 juniors.

We have one Greenkeeper who has been with us for almost 16 years, who is very hard working and does a good job.

A few of us give periodical "small jobs" to help out. Our Greenkeeper has no formal qualifications - but practical experience, and is good on maintenance of our limited equipment.

We hope to start an appren-

tice next year with a view to also attending Elmwood College, Cupar, Fife on possibly block release, or as can be arranged.

Could you please advise me of the following:

i Qualifications/conditions for Membership of your respective grades.

ii Subscription/Fees for respective grades. Any other information required or available on these points.

Yours sincerely  
S.H. Davidson  
Greens Convenor  
Killin Golf Club

● Editor's note: Thank you for your letter Mr Davidson. The necessary information is on its way to you.

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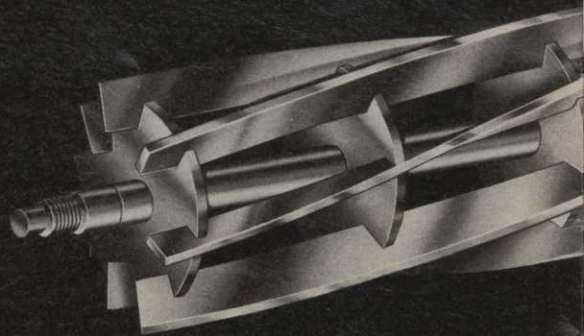
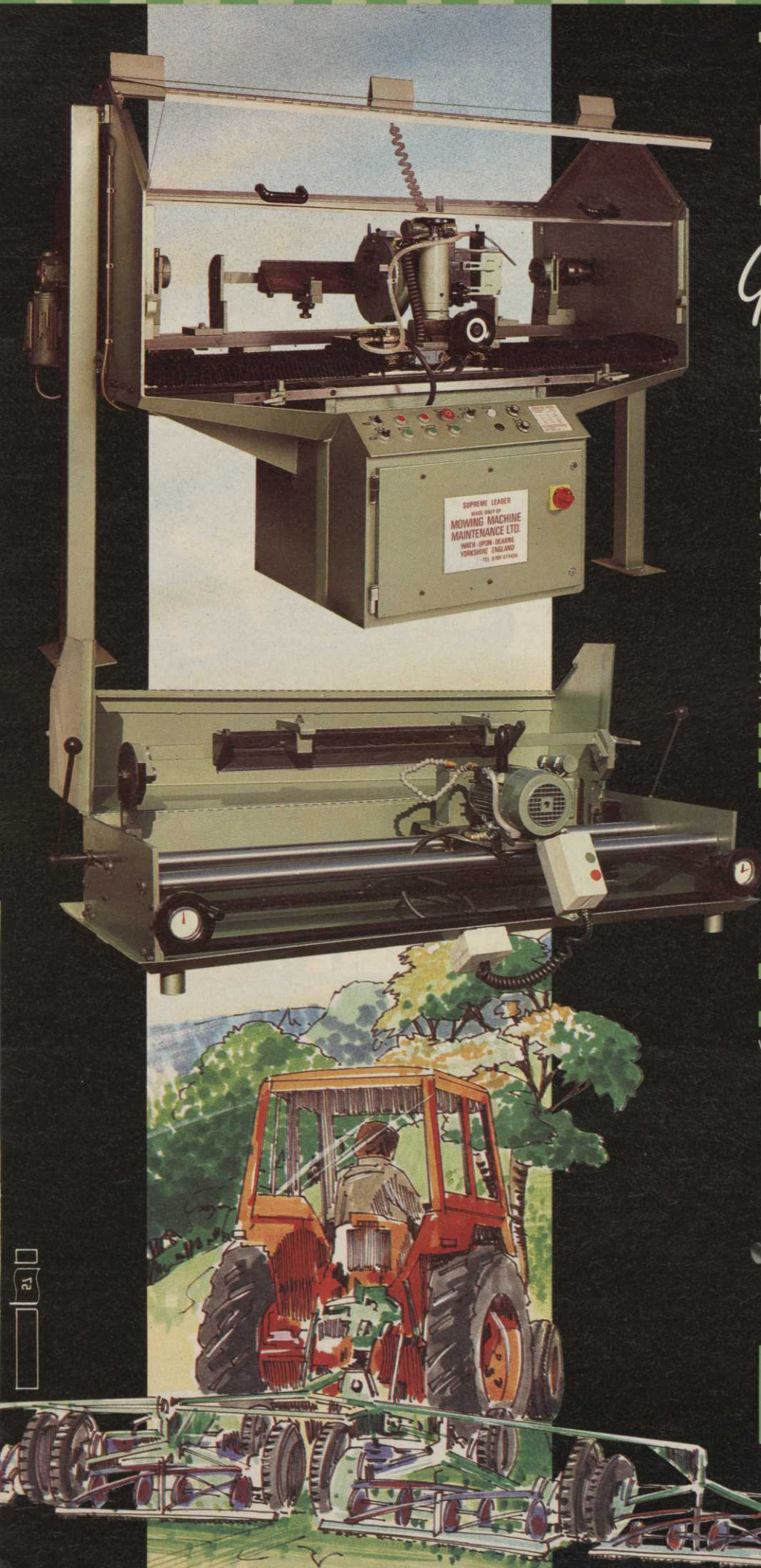
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  - Dual purpose wheelhead incorporating two grinding wheels enables cylinders and bottom blades to be ground with equal efficiency
- Bottom blade bracket and selected inframe mounting brackets
- Well proven technology and modern design

With these features we have the **leading edge.**

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