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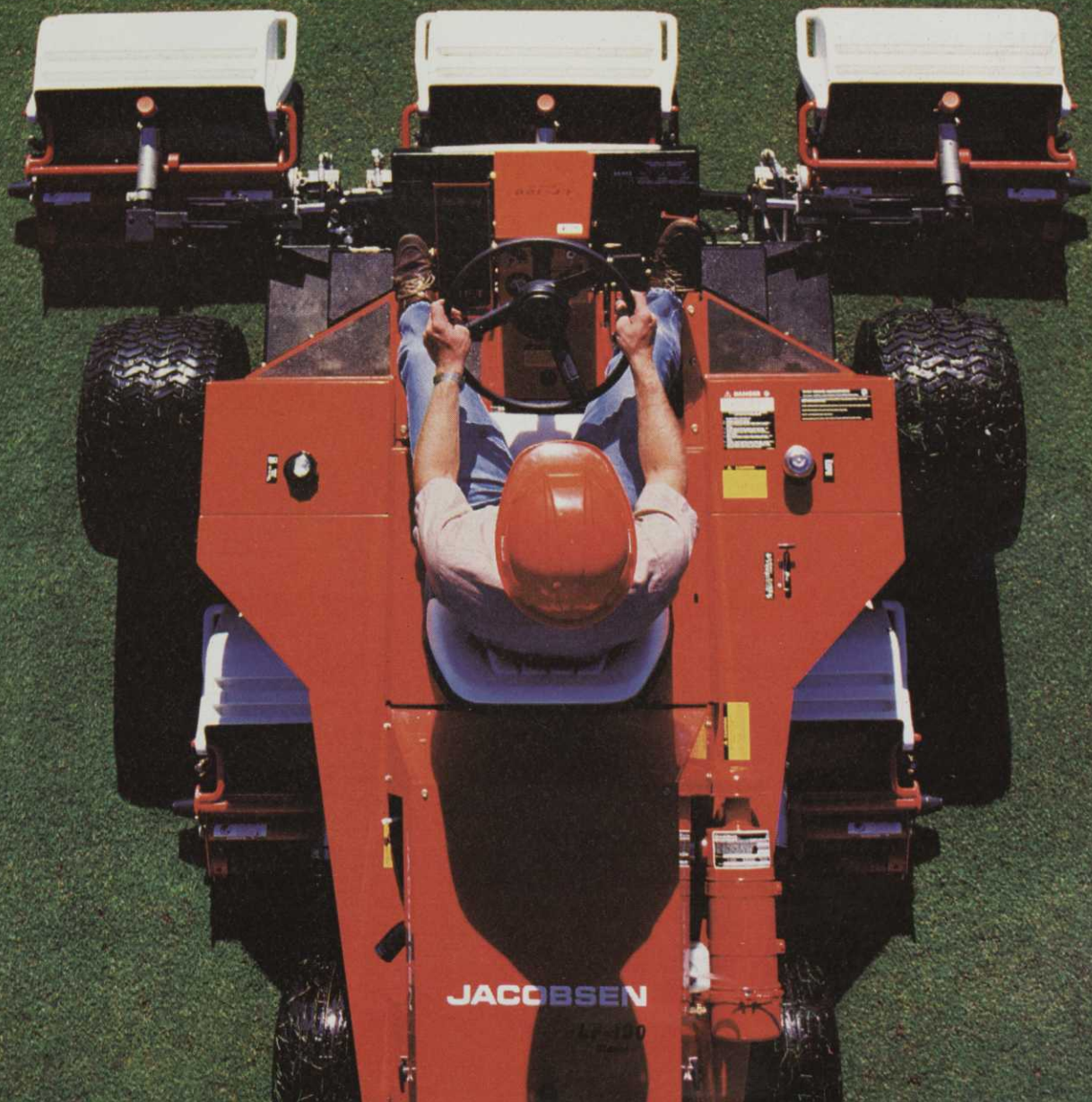
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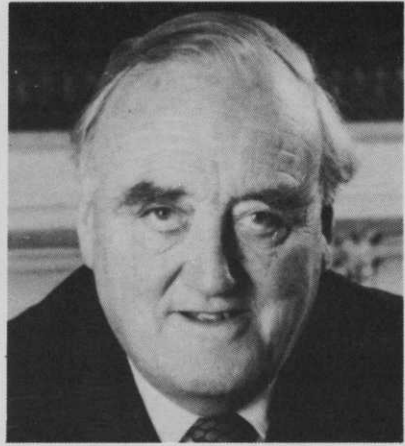
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Front Cover: Unlucky for Some - the 13th hole at King James VI Golf Course, Perth - four days after the floods of the second week in February, the level had only dropped by about 18 inches.

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## PAR 4 Irrigation System Service

For the installation, maintenance and repair of irrigation systems on golf courses, bowling greens, tennis courts and any playing areas, farms and garden sites.



Suppliers of galvanised PVC and polythene pipes and fittings, valves, pumps, agricultural and pop-up sprinklers and associated equipment.

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# HEAD OFFICE

## IMPORTANT TAX BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

**T**HE Inland Revenue has confirmed that the Association is now recognised as an approved body under Section 201 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Members can therefore obtain tax relief on their membership subscriptions. The Association's name will appear in the next edition of the list of approved bodies, which is due for issue later this year. Inspectors of Taxes will not receive notification of the Association's approved status until then. Therefore, if members wish to obtain a deduction for their subscriptions for 1990/91 before the new list is issued, they should explain when contacting their local tax inspector that the body has only recently been approved and quote the Head Office reference show below.

SAPP/T1644/47/1989  
NEIL THOMAS

## THE 119TH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, ST ANDREWS 19th-22nd JULY

**I**F you wish to be considered for the Greenkeeping Support Team at St Andrews, please forward your name and address to BIGGA Headquarters as soon as possible.

Please note that preference will be given to members who will be available for the period Wednesday July 18th - Sunday 22nd inclusive.

## 1990 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT GANTON GOLF CLUB 6th-9th AUGUST

**E**NTRIES are invited for the above event to be played over three days at the majestic Ganton Golf Club in Yorkshire.

A banquet will take place at the Royal Hotel, Scarborough on the Tuesday evening and the prize presentation will be held on the Wednesday, following completion of the third round at Ganton Golf Club.

The event will be multisponsored and coach trips will be arranged on two of the days for companions.

Entries to BIGGA Headquarters enclosing a cheque for £30.00 to include one banquet ticket.

Extras: Banquet per ticket £14.00; Coach trip: Monday-Yorkshire Dales £7.50; Tuesday-Trip to York £5.00.

## SISIS SPONSOR BIGGA REGIONAL FINALS

**S**ISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Limited have a longstanding and close relationship with the greenkeeping profession and are therefore pleased to announce their sponsorship of the 5 Regional Seminars scheduled for 1990.

Speakers will cover all aspects of Golf Course Management and SISIS will work closely with BIGGA Regional Administrators to organise and promote these interesting and worthwhile events. All BIGGA members will receive a personal invitation to attend the Seminar in their Region and full details of the programmes will be published in future



Neil Thomas.

issues of Greenkeeping Management. Dates and venues known so far are:  
March 20, BIGGA Scottish Region, Dunfermline Golf Club.  
November 6, BIGGA South West & South Wales Region, Cannington College, Bridgewater.  
November 21, BIGGA Midland Region, Warwickshire College.  
November 14, BIGGA South East Region, East Sussex National Golf Club.  
October 9th, BIGGA Northern Region, Askham Bryan College, Nr York.

## JOINT INITIATIVE IN GREENKEEPING CONSULTANCY

**I**NTERNATIONAL Golfers Club and British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association are pleased to announce their joint initiative to create a greenkeeping consultancy service for golf clubs and developments throughout Europe.

They will offer the services of highly experienced greenkeepers for: regular inspection visits; staff training and advice; trouble shooting for particular major problems, and employment of teams for new developments.

The service will commence from April 1st and can be booked by clubs who wish an initial day's report on their current requirements. The first greenkeeper consultant to be appointed by IGC/BIGGA is Jack McMillan, who will be relinquishing his position as head greenkeeper at Sunningdale Golf Club at the end of March.

The BIGGA national education conference at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College from March 30th to April 1st is also being totally sponsored by IGC as part of their overall commitment to improving the quality of greenkeeping throughout Europe by education and specialist advice.

Total membership of the association at 1 February 1990 is as follows:  
Greenkeepers.....3324  
Assoc/Trade.....297  
3621

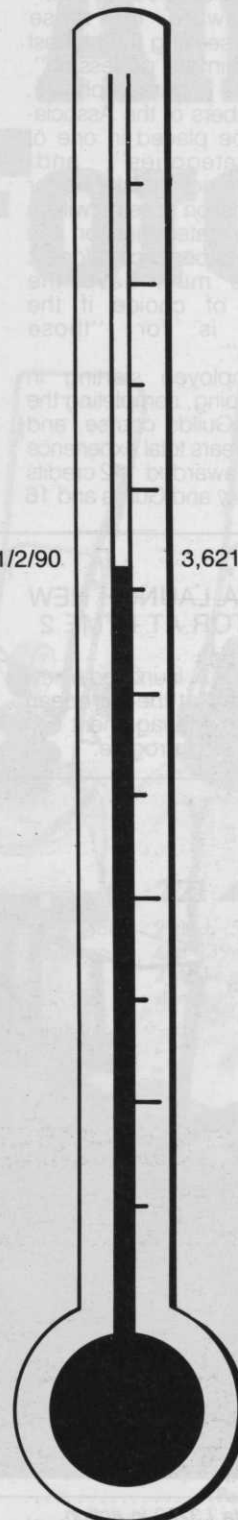
Total Membership at 1 October 1989:  
Greenkeepers.....3040  
Associate.....92  
Trade.....230  
3362

Total Membership at 1 June 1989:  
Greenkeepers.....2700  
Associate.....84  
Trade.....215  
2999

Total Membership at 1 March 1989:  
Greenkeepers.....2100  
Associate.....71  
Trade.....202  
2373

1/2/90

3,621 members



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate BIGGA on the introduction of the Master Greenkeeper scheme outlined in the December issue of Greenkeeping Management. This must be a step forward for greenkeeping. Having said that I would like to make the following observations and suggestions

I hope the Association will be democratic. As stated in paragraph one From Head Office. "The introduction of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate award for those members seeking the highest status within the profession". And not as in paragraph five. "All members of the Association will be placed in one of these categories", and: "Members not registering for the certification scheme will be placed in categories on the basis of experience alone". Members must have the freedom of choice if the scheme is for "those members".

An employee starting in greenkeeping, completing the City and Guilds course, and with four years total experience would be awarded 142 credits (136 for City and Guilds and 16

for four years experience). This would be equal to thirty five years for experience qualification. In some cases the head greenkeeper could have less credits than his assistants!

If the maximum experience allowed is thirty five years, it should be remembered at that time there were no colleges offering the qualifications we have today. I feel the credits for experience could be graduated, ie. four per year for the first ten years, five per year eleven to twenty, six per year twenty one to thirty, and seven per year from then on, this would make the scheme more attractive to the more experienced members and may encourage others to join the Association.

The recruitment pages of the December issue have thirteen adverts for course managers/head greenkeepers. Eleven of them have the word "experience" used to some degree in the advert. On this evidence alone experience is the main requirement for the job. The new scheme must reflect this to gain credibility from our employers.

The scheme does not differentiate between nine, eighteen or thirty-six hole courses,

but the Association already recognises this in the recommended wage scale.

Credits could be awarded for being in charge of a course hosting national and open championships and Euro/tour events. This must be worth extra.

No mention is made of why we are doing this job i.e. the playing of golf. More greenkeepers could be encouraged to play the game by having credits linked to handicap, i.e. one credit for twenty four and above, two for twenty three, three for twenty two and so on down the handicap scale.

The discipline of members is an important matter. For instance, the Association should reserve the right to withdraw credits from anyone that may be disciplined by section committees.

The scheme is a good idea but I feel it must be started from a broader base to encourage all members to join. There is little encouragement for the older men who have passed down their skills over the years. The colleges do a good job in their way but there is no substitute for experience, so "credits" where credit is due!

DAVID A. GALL

Dear Sir,

I regularly read your magazine with interest, especially the recruitment pages, which is why I am writing to you now.

For the past few months I have been looking for an opportunity to gain some experience of working on Continental golf courses but frankly have had no success whatsoever. In particular I was hoping to find temporary or seasonal work for the summer period and was wondering whether any of the larger golf clubs in Europe take such workers on and if they do whether a magazine such as yours hears of any vacancies.

Indeed I feel I need as much advice as I can find at the moment and would greatly appreciate any assistance you could give.

I enclose a s.a.e. for your convenience.

I.C. Butcher  
15 Norfolk Street  
Leamington Spa

● If you have any letters to the editor address them to: The Editor, Greenkeeping Manager, Spencer House, Swalwell, Tyne and Wear.

## PRODUCT FOCUS

### KUBOTA LAUNCH NEW TRACTOR AT ETME 2

**K**UBOTA, launched a new tractor at the European Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate.

The Kubota L3250 is a 40 hp tractor with 32 PTO-hp and 4WD, has integral power steering as standard and is particularly suited to meet the turf maintenance needs in the

gold, sports grounds and local authority markets.

The L3250's additional horse-power, heavy duty dual clutch and gearbox provides the extra power needed for turf maintenance on banks and inclines using vertidrain or larger gang mower units. The improved linkage geometry also provides the operator with more than 100lb additional lift capacity.

The Kubota L3250 is a real workhorse but its lightweight means less ground pressure and for applications such as on golf courses special smooth profile turf tyres are available to provide complete turf protection.

The mechanical shuttle transmission offers 8 forward and 7 reverse gears and creep speed as standard for vertidrain operations. The partially synchronised transmission enables the operator to bring the tractor up to full speed quickly and easily for road travel.

With the operator in mind the main shift and shuttle shift levers are mounted on the steering column which provides more leg room and makes shifting quicker and easier.

### HOVERDRY'S NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

**T**HE adoption of the Hoverdry by the PGA European Tour, at St Andrews and Gleneagles testifies to the proven ability of the machine to cope with the severest of rainstorms while leaving the finest grass playing surfaces unscuffed and unscathed.

Operating on the hover principle, the one-man lightweight machine of only 80 lbs is able to combat the heaviest of downpours to remove standing water at a rate of 60 gallons per minute; its 1.5 inch hose, which can be supplied in whatever number of 50 foot lengths the customer requires, then pumps the water out of harm's way; and its simple trolley attachment makes it easy to transport when not in use.

At the specific request of golf course customers over the past year, Hoverdry have also developed a way of removing water from bunkers, which, with a conventional pump, has been hitherto impossible.

By attaching skids to the bottom of the machine, the Hoverdry is now able to pump out bunkers and with hardly any disturbance to the sand.



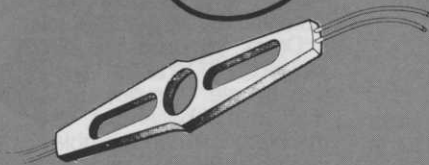
The Kubota L3250 in action.

Allen Air Cushion Mowers are tough, rugged, no-nonsense machines especially suited to the rigorous mowing role demanded by the professional user.

- Snorkel air filter – lets the engine breathe clean air
- Folds flat for easy storage
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- Tecnamotor or JLO engine option on 18" model
- Optional transport wheels available

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The **ALLEN**  
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Already proven in professional use, the Allen Safeway Mowing System is the ultimate in safety blades. It uses the unique nylon line cutting principle first developed by Allen – putting safety first. **Grass cutting has never been this safe!**

**218 JLO**

18 inch (46cm) cutting width, JLO 2-stroke 98.5cc engine. Used throughout the contract and public authority market, this machine is powered by the 98cc RM100 JLO engine with a three bearing crankshaft for longer life and less vibration.

**218**

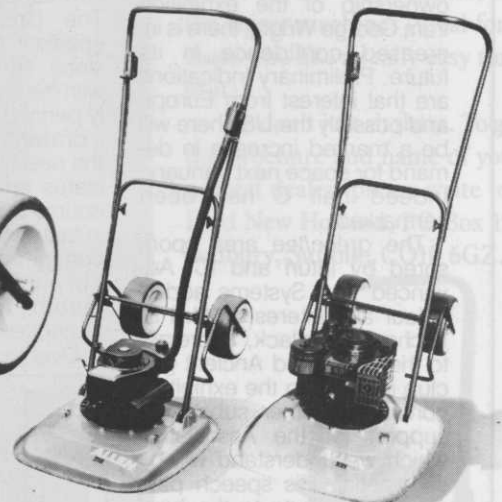
18 inch (46cm) cutting width, 3½hp 98.5cc Tecnamotor 2-stroke engine. Our most popular model – suits all requirements. Optional transport wheels are available – ideal for effortless transportation and use in long grass. The wheels can be removed in seconds without use of tools.

**221**

21 inch (53cm) cutting width, 4hp 139cc Tecnamotor 2-stroke engine with cast iron sleeve. Built to withstand prolonged mowing conditions on larger areas, the 221 is often purchased by local authorities and professional grasscutters. All the features of the Allen Air Cushion range are built into this model and transport wheels are optional.



# The Allen Air Force



**218** ▲

18 inch (46cm) cutting width, 3½hp 98.5cc Tecnamotor 2-stroke engine

**221** ▲

21 inch (53cm) cutting width, 4hp 139cc Tecnamotor 2-stroke engine with cast iron sleeve

◀ **218 JLO**

18 inch (46cm) cutting width, JLO 2-stroke 98.5cc engine



Allen Power Equipment Ltd, Dept GM,  
The Broadway, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 8ES  
Tel: 0235 813936

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Equipment Ltd,  
Dept GM, The Broadway,  
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Please send Allen Air Cushion Mower details

Tick if demonstration required

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....



# ETME 2

## REVIEW

If the success or failure of exhibitions and trade shows is based solely on attendance and their continuance based on their recognition as an essential market place, then ETME 2 was the former.

Official attendance was announced as 4,062 which proved to be a significant increase over the first show. Despite inclement weather with gales lashing the South and snow drifting into Northern areas, the trade were generally happy with the turnout.

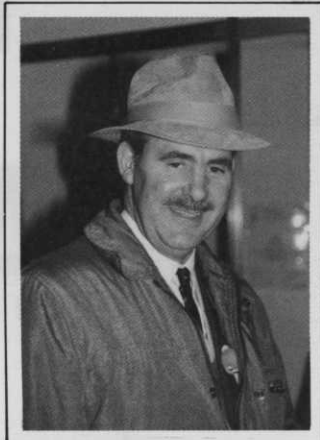
Many companies expressed satisfaction with the level of enquiries and the quality of audience. Indeed more than several also participated in the social programme including the magically cold mystery tour which preceded the medieval banquet within the fortified walls of old York City.

The standard of exhibit presentation was noticeably professional and consistently good. And, now that the Association has taken over ownership of the exhibition from George Wright, there is increased confidence in its future. Preliminary indications are that interest from Europe and possibly the US, there will be a marked increase in demand for space next January. Indeed hall C has been earmarked.

The green/tee area sponsored by Inturf and ICI Advanced Turf Systems added colour and interest to Hall B. Michael Bonallack, Secretary to the Royal and Ancient golf club in opening the exhibition confirmed further substantial support for the Association which we understand will be substantial. His speech paid generous tribute to the hard work of Neil Thomas, the Association's Executive Director, and the tremendous progress of the past 3 years. The exhibition also marked the occasion of the launch of the R & A and Nature Conservancy Council backed publication *On Course Conservation* provided by The Golf Course Wildlife Trust.

H.R. Fell and Son, known as Lindum Turf, also announced a major deal to sponsor the new *Greenkeeping Yearbook* to be launched at The Open in July as well as a major contract awarded to supply turf to the 1991 National Garden Festival at Swansea.

Many new products were on show and as many will confirm there were some very prominent and exciting buyers and visitors at the show including Mr "Metrocentre" John Hall, John, who has planning per-



Eric Hughes . . . on safari.

mission for at least three golf courses at Wynyard Hall and one overseas, was very impressed with the show. "I like to see and hear for myself" he said.

Michael Williams of The Daily Telegraph, who along with other major scribes, is now a firm supporter of BIGGA and The Greenkeepers, was a speaker at the seminar sessions. He too was impressed with the show and subsequently penned a superb article - DT - drawing further attention to the need for improved wages, status and standards of golf course management. Michael in fact has also contributed his comments about "The Way Forward" (published next month exclusively in *Greenkeeping Management*).

Over to you in 1991 Debbie!



Michael Bonallack and BIGGA Chairman Paddy McCarron on Golf Course Wildlife Trust Stand.

Enquiries about the 1991 show should be addressed to Debbie Savage, Exhibition Manager, BIGGA HQ, Aldwork Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. Tel. 03473 581/2.



Derek Edwards and that retractable pin!

timised tool!

Some lesser mortals were complimenting Derek on marketing a new periscopic pneumatic pin while others were trying to purchase a potential terrific practical joke.

Derek, pictured above, explained to GM that the "secret" was simple. 'We put our little man in the basement, using the electrical conduit hole, to control all the fun', said Derek, barely unable to disguise yet another laugh.

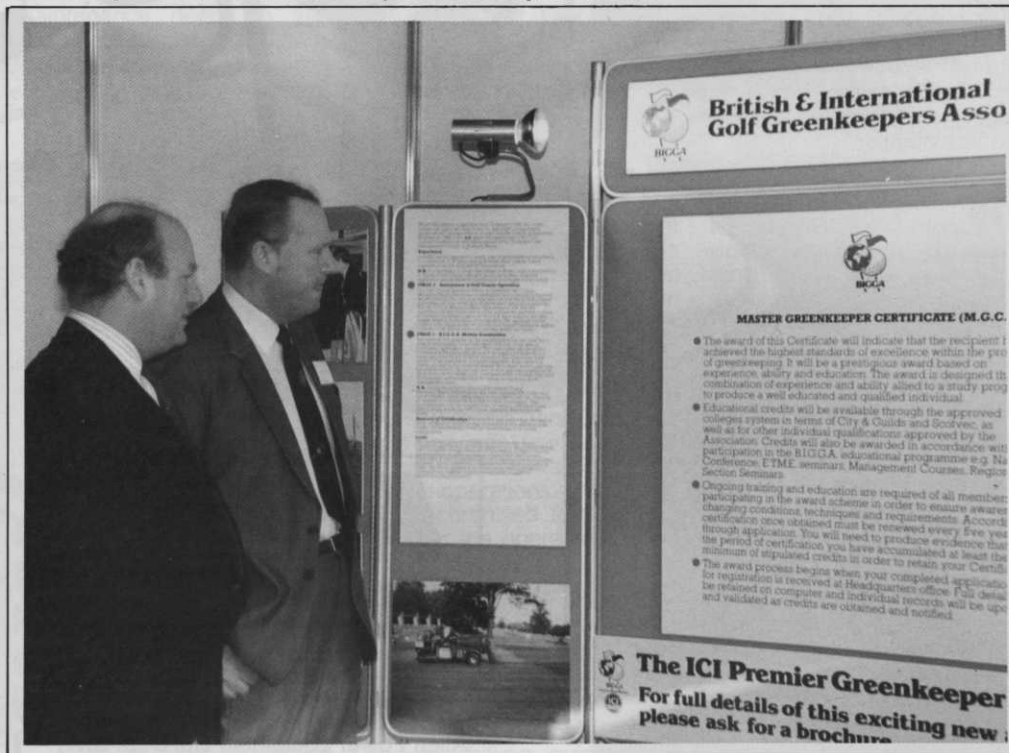
Commenting on the show, Derek said, 'Inturf were very happy with the show and impressed with the presentation of the surrounding stands, including BIGGA, the International Golfers Club, Greenkeeping Management and The Golf Course Wildlife Trust.

### UP PERISCOPE

PRIZE for joker of the show must surely go to Inturf's Derek Edwards.

Derek, who sponsored the putting green and tee areas in Hall B, spotted a golden opportunity for the installation of a retractable pin.

On the first day, John Shildrick of the National Turfgrass Council was observed scratching his head as the pin complete with flag disappeared down the cup. Next day Dr Peter Haynes was vic-



Michael Bonallack and BIGGA Vice-Chairman Ivor Scoones study the Master Greenkeeper Certificate stand.

# Hard work, and how to avoid it.

A little light reading of this booklet can actually help boost your work output, and save you from the heaviest of tasks.

It details the hard-working Series 20 Compact Tractors from Ford New Holland. Six superbly-styled and engineered tractors ranging from 14.5 to 41.3 hp.

All with class-leading hydraulic capacity. Quieter, more fuel-efficient engines. And most with 4 wheel drive either as standard or optional.

You'll learn how clever ergonomic design makes them easier, more comfortable machines to operate; and how Ford New Holland back-up will keep the Series 20 working hard for years to come.

You'll also read about the smart deluxe cab available on the larger machines (ideal for those who like a really easy time of it).

So don't just sit there. To get the brochure and name of your nearest dealer, please write to Ford New Holland, PO Box 193, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6GZ.



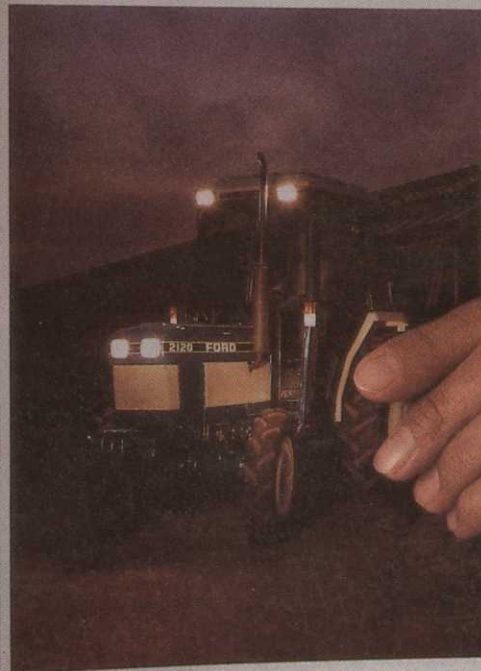
— The Series 20 —  
Compact Tractors



**FORD**



Series 20 Compact Tractors  
Models 1120 1220 1520 1720 1920 and 2120



A quality company.  
A strong dealer

Most compact tractors demand that you make your body fit the way they are designed. With Ford Series 20, it is the other way around.

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You will find that Series 20 controls are not just "reachable". They are all within easy, natural reach. The main shift lever and

hand throttle are up on the dash, conveniently close to the steering wheel.

The high backed contoured seat adjusts fore and aft on an inclined track. That puts you in just the right position to reach the pedals and controls, whether you are tall, short or in-between.

The deck is large and wide. It gives you room to stretch and contributes to the comfortable overall feel of these tractors.

Wide expanses of floor only give you excellent visibility. A large door provides easy access and the snug-fitting side and rear windows can be locked in open or closed position. Standard cab equipment includes a heated burner and demister.

Quiet plus.

The Series 20 cab is available for all Series 20 tractors from 15.5 hp to 41 hp. This deluxe cab shields the operator from inclement weather, noise and vibration.

Wide expanses of floor only give you excellent visibility. A large door provides easy access and the snug-fitting side and rear windows can be locked in open or closed position. Standard cab equipment includes a heated burner and demister.



The main shift lever and hand throttle are up on the dash, conveniently close to the steering wheel.



The high backed contoured seat adjusts fore and aft on an inclined track. That puts you in just the right position to reach the pedals and controls, whether you are tall, short or in-between.



The wide expanses of floor only give you excellent visibility. A large door provides easy access and the snug-fitting side and rear windows can be locked in open or closed position. Standard cab equipment includes a heated burner and demister.

For more information on the Series 20 Compact Tractors, please write to Ford New Holland, PO Box 193, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6GZ. Tel: 01473 831111. Fax: 01473 831112.

For more information on the Series 20 Compact Tractors, please write to Ford New Holland, PO Box 193, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6GZ. Tel: 01473 831111. Fax: 01473 831112.

For more information on the Series 20 Compact Tractors, please write to Ford New Holland, PO Box 193, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6GZ. Tel: 01473 831111. Fax: 01473 831112.



# GROWTH RETARDANTS

## GRASS GROWTH REGULATORS FOR THE GOLF COURSE

John Hacker  
Msc., Dip. Hort. (Kew), C. Biol., MI Biol., MI Hort  
Senior Lecturer in Sportsturf, Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Myerscough Hall, Bilsborrow, Preston

**T**RADITIONALLY the growth of grass on golf courses was 'regulated' by grazing animals. Sheep were, and still are on several rural courses, commonly used to graze almost all the course with the exception of the greens.

On most courses, however, the mower now reigns supreme. The mower saves the golfer not only the inconvenience of having to jump over an electric fence to putt but also the less than pleasant task of carefully removing unmentionable objects between the ball and hole.

For some years now there has also been a third option for the greenkeeper although few, to my knowledge, have tried it and even less use it widely on their course. Chemical growth retardants have been tried and used in various parts of the world for some 40 years, although their success in reducing grass growth has been somewhat unpredictable for many of those years.

Over the last ten years, however, better rainfast formulations and new chemicals have come on to the market, which are much less variable in their results.

There are now three chemical grass growth retardants on the market in the UK: Maleic Hydrazide, which is sold under the names Mazide and Regulox; Mefluidide, sold under the names Mowchem and Echo - a new product soon to be released by ICI Professional Products; and Paclobutrazol, sold under the name Holdfast D.

### The Options

So which should you use? Well, there are advantages and disadvantages for each chemical and they can be briefly summarised as follows.

Maleic Hydrazide (Mazide, Regulox) was, until the last few years the main grass growth retardant. In the late 70's Plymouth Parks Department saved some 60 per cent of their mowing costs by implementing a mowing and retardant spraying regime using Maleic Hydrazide.

The chemical is taken up by

the plant through the leaf and is more effective in reducing the growth of coarse leaved species. This means that the finer grasses are favoured by Maleic Hydrazide in a mixed species sward. It may, therefore, have little effect when sprayed onto a pure fescue area. One of its side effects is that it reduced seed head production.

This is important as the overall appearance of a sward can be badly affected if the leaves are retarded as the seed heads are then much more obvious. The rate of application is critical with some formulations causing discolouration of the leaf if over applied; accurate mixing and application is very important. Maleic Hydrazide is also available in mixtures with broad leaved herbicides to suppress broad-leaved weed growth (Mazide Selective).

Mefluidide (Mowchem, Echo) was used in Europe and the USA for many years under the name Embark before it became available in Britain. Like Maleic Hydrazide it is taken up through the leaf requiring rain-fast formulations to be used for best effect.

It also tends to be more effective on coarser species thereby encouraging the finer grasses. seed head suppression is better than either of the other two chemicals and its use tends to improve grass colour to a rich green after minor initial discolouration.

Paclobutrazol (Holdfast D) is the newest retardant on the market and, unlike the other two, is taken up by the plant through the roots. This means that the material is unaffected by rainfall immediately after application but is almost inactive in very dry conditions.

The latter effect is of no real concern because grass growth itself is reduced by drought conditions. Paclobutrazol does tend to dwarf the finer grasses such as the fescues more than the deeper rooted coarser species.

So a mixed sward, as is usually found in the UK would tend to become dominated by the coarser grasses with time. In addition, Paclobutrazol does not suppress seed heads at all although it does reduce the height of those produced. paclobutrazol causes some discolouration. This is more pronounced on the bents where its very good retardation effect on the leaves caused the stolons to be more obvious. Holdfast D contains 2.5% dicamba in addition to paclobutrazol so that the

growth of broad-leaved weeds is also suppressed.

### MIXTURES

After reading the attributes of each retardant it can be seen that choosing the 'best' chemical is difficult. This is because each grass species, and indeed often different cultivars, react differently to each chemical. In Britain, where almost all grassed areas are sown as mixtures of different species this can cause problems.

Trials work undertaken by Tom Kavanagh in Ireland and others has shown that the best overall retardation effect is

gained by applying a mixture of Paclobutrazol with either Maleic Hydrazide or Mefluidide. This is suggested on the paclobutrazol label and is therefore according to ICI Professional Products a safe mixture.

In fact, the production of Echo (Mefluidide) by ICI is a recognition that mixtures of the two chemicals mixed together produce better results on mixed swards. Such a mixture will retard both fine and coarse grass species and suppress seed head production.

### WHAT ABOUT COST?

Retardants are costly both to buy and spray. However,

Three stages in the effective use of growth retardants.

