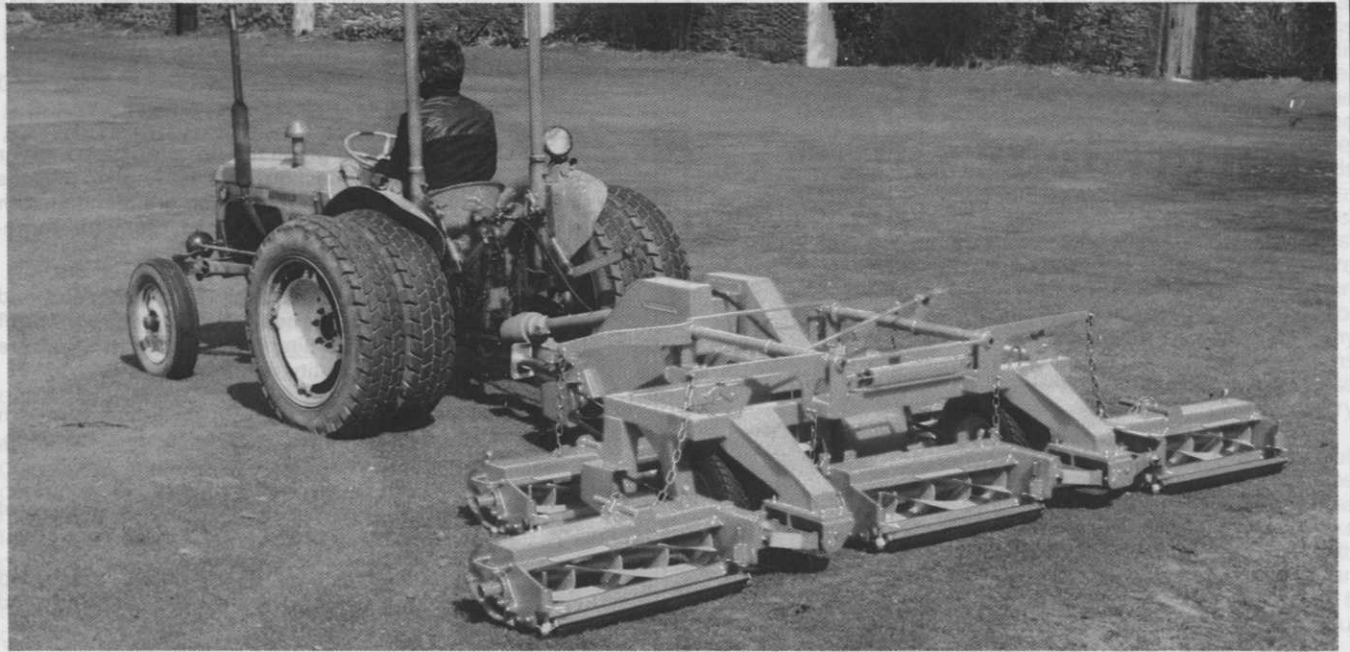


# SPRING TURF MAINTENANCE



The use of high-tech equipment is vital in the propagation of good turf.

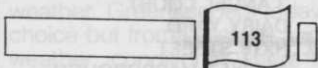
finer grasses, assist drainage and integrate rapidly into the sward.

dressing of exceptionally high quality.

Fendress is manufactured for the Professional, where the correct pH content, clay and silt fractions and particle sizes are important. This is essential to help reduce compaction and encourage the finer grasses for top quality putting and bowling surfaces.

Supplies are available to all parts of the U.K. from Northern Ireland to East Anglia and Scotland to the South West, principally in 25 and 20 tonne loads, although smaller loads can be supplied. We are offering a special discount for the first time purchasers, also to existing users for a limited period.

Available in bulk loads or pre-packed in 25 kg heat sealed sacks, 10/15/20/25 tonnes. Discounts for multiple loads.

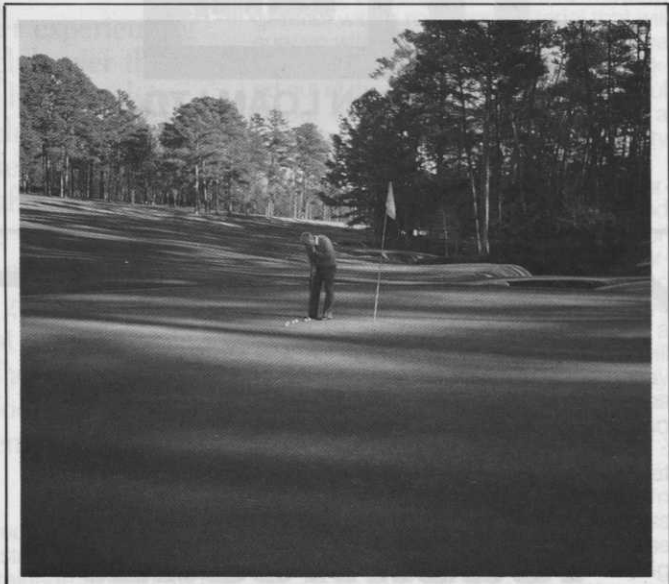


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## FEN TURF DRESSINGS LTD.

**F**ENDRESS Golf and Bowling Green top dressing which has been manufactured to the highest standards for over ten years, is now established and recognised as one of the leading national brands of top dressing.

The consistent high quality of Fendress is ensured by careful use of only the very best raw materials, which are selected not on cost, but quality. East Anglian Fensoils, rich in humus with minimal clay and silt fractions are blended with lime free Leighton Buzzard washed silica sands and finely screened to produce Fendress, a top

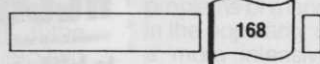


Enjoying the fruits of the greenkeeper's labours

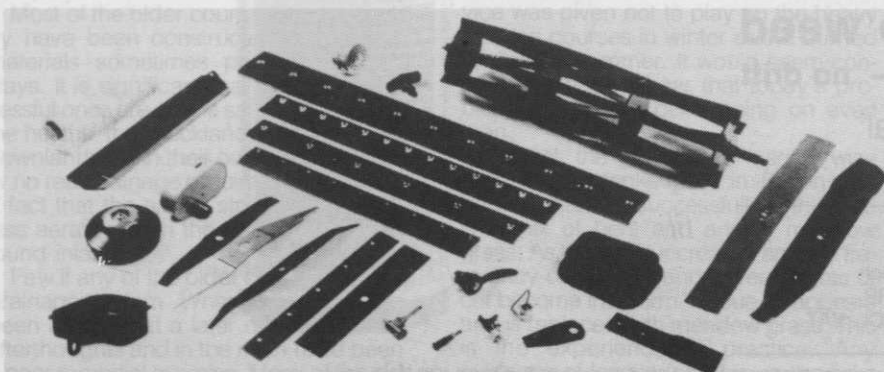
**INNOVATIVE GRINDERS FROM ATTERTON & ELLIS**

**A**TTERTON & Ellis offers a range of machines to sharpen all sizes of cylinders and bottom blades.

*Continued on page 24*



168



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THE TRULY NATIONAL TURF TOP DRESSING AS SUPPLIED TO  
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A superior and consistent golf green top dressing prepared for the professional using the highest quality East Anglian fensoils (with very low clay and silt fractions) which are blended with lime free silica sand, shredded and screened, ready for immediate application.

Save capital outlay on expensive equipment, which can stand idle for long periods, also labour costs, but most important of all, save the difficulty of finding suitable raw materials which are essential to produce a high quality top dressing.

Bulk deliveries to all parts of the UK, including Northern Ireland in 10-25 tonne loads. Also pre-packs for easy handling. Special mixes prepared to your own specification.

Remember, there is only one true FENDRESS®. Beware of imitations.

Also available, granulated Sedge Peat (Fenpeat), screened loam, specialist yellow or white bunker sands, grit/dried sand for vertidrainage.



Please telephone T J Banks for a competitive quotation

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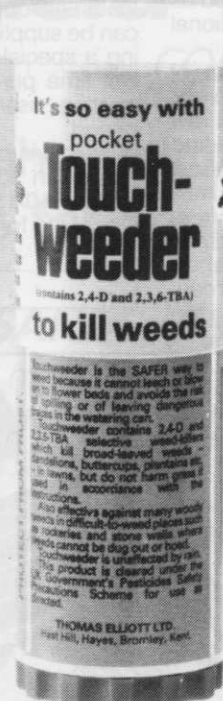
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Read the label before you buy

# SPRING TURF MAINTENANCE

*Jack McMillan is relinquishing his position as head greenkeeper at Sunningdale Golf Club at the end of this month to become the first greenkeeper/consultant employed by the International Golfers Club/BIGGA.*

## THE CHANGING FACE OF GREENKEEPING IN BRITAIN

**T**HE game of golf is currently enjoying an all-time high in terms of the number of people participating in the game.

However, spare a thought for the person who has to maintain and prepare the golf course. Increase in play has put new demands on both maintenance and management programmes. It was only a few years ago that the average number of rounds per annum was 5,000, now it is nearer 50,000. This is without question the major cause of concern facing greenkeepers as we move into a new decade.

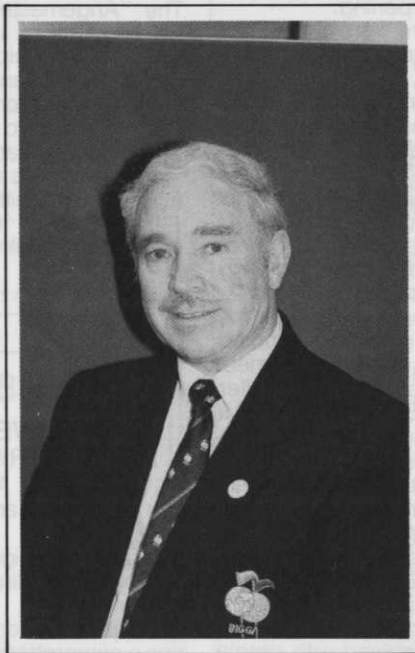
Much of this traffic occurs during dormant winter conditions, and there is increasing pressure to keep courses open irrespective of weather conditions or the amount of golf played during bad weather. Greenkeepers today, not from choice but from pressure accept golf in weather conditions where previously courses would have been closed. Anyone who tells us that we do no harm with prolonged heavy traffic during frost on courses with a short growing season and year round golf has no experience of looking after a golf course. They should talk to the greenkeepers who are at the sharp end and who have to prepare courses for major events early in the season.

Courses are now being used as a source of revenue more than at any time in the history of the game. This applies to the private members club, the corporate set up, the family business, the local authorities and the hotel groups. I do not at this time see this situation changing, again due to the increased popularity of the game.

This has had a detrimental effect on the conditions of greens. Any deterioration in the condition of greens in the UK at the present time is due primarily for two reasons - bad construction and being overplayed.

Most of the older courses in this country have been constructed using local materials sometimes poor impervious clays. It is significant that the more successful ones are on the sands of the links, the heaths, the Brecklands and the chalk downlands, all in their own way with little or no real drainage requirement. It is also a fact that the sandy structures require less aeration than the heavier materials found inland.

Few if any of the older courses have a drainage system. Where systems have been installed at a later date they were afterthoughts and in the main have been a poor remedial exercise. Many of the old greens were constructed to retain water during periods of drought, a dew pond system being used. This called for a layer



Jack McMillan

**“Any greenkeeper experiencing difficulty at his club over the level of aeration he is applying should make it clear that as long as his course is expected to take heavy traffic, he will have to continue with the regular aeration programme. He can with no guilt tell his club that it is not a greenkeeping or an aeration problem but a poorly constructed green problem.”**

of clay to retain much of the surface water. Modern construction allows for both an excellent drainage system and drainage raft.

On the heavy clay inland courses, the problems of managing the great increase in the popularity of the game, resulting in a more intensive playing programme have been enormous. Many years ago in an article in Bernard Darwin's time the advice was given not to play on the heavy London courses in winter or the burned up links in summer. It would seem contrary to what we hear that today's problems may have been going on even then.

At best, the grass cover variety wise that most greenkeepers in Britain can hope to manage successfully at this time is a mix of bent and annual meadow grass. As the traffic increases and the frequency of mowing and lower heights of cut become the norm, fescue disappears and is replaced with meadow grass. This is the experience in practice. Any evidence of fescue found is on the links and sometimes the policies applied to achieve this become totally unacceptable, ie burning off of meadow grass by stress-

ing in drought. On busy courses a total of two wet years will normally return this situation to meadow grass and the continuing struggle to win back some fescue.

The real cause for conflict between the greenkeeper and his members is that the poorly constructed greens require a level of aeration to keep them alive that offends the member who feels that the management programme is weighted against him. There is no softer, easier way, most of the courses in this country today are doomed to the heavy intensive aeration programmes they are receiving. If someone somewhere knows of another way of keeping badly constructed golf greens alive under heavy traffic would he please let all the greenkeepers in this country know.

Any greenkeeper experiencing difficulty at his club over the level of aeration he is applying should make it clear that as long as his course is expected to take heavy traffic, he will have to continue with the regular aeration programme. He can with no guilt tell his club that it is not a greenkeeping or an aeration problem but a poorly constructed green problem.

We do today have available to us methods of constructing more modern greens, with a rootzone material that will survive with a fraction of the aeration we currently apply. This material is not plucked out of the air in percentage mixes but is put together in a laboratory, to a suitable bulk density, porosity and ability to retain moisture.

It is only fair to warn any interested parties that this is not the cheapest method of construction but in the considered opinion of many experts is the only way forward. The USGA would go as far as to say it will last under heavy play for 100 years or more. When constructed a USGA Greens Section Specification will be slightly more costly in day to day management. There is no such thing as a modified USGA Greens Section Specification.

I am not at this time advocating that every green in this country should be torn up and replaced with a first class specification, the cost of such an exercise would be immense. I am however saying to golfing members get off your greenkeeper's back. He is at this time applying policies in your best interest not from choice but from necessity. No greenkeeper takes any pleasure in the intensive aeration, the regular top-dressing programmes, the sensible use of water programmes. He is, in fact, applying these same programmes in the best interests of the golf course.

Might I suggest that every club choose a green and apply the programme the membership would like - no aeration, no top-dressing, plenty of water in drought, plant cover scoured off to find pace and bags of fertiliser to make it green. This green could be called the members green. By the end of this year we would have one green in every club that would be a disaster area. Hopefully then members might just appreciate what their greenkeepers do for them. I am fed up listening to young greenkeepers who are being given a life of hell for doing a good job.

**JACK McMILLAN**

# SPRING TURF MAINTENANCE

Continued from page 21

The "Master" cylinder grinding machine is designed for sharpening large quantities of heavy duty cylinders and is suitable for machines having up to 106cm (42in) cutting width.

Incorporating an automatic feed cycle facility, which can be preset to remove a specific amount of metal from the cylinder, it is claimed to enable unsupervised grinding. A coolant pump with a suds tank is provided for use when applying heavy continuous cuts and to take away the grinding dust. prices are from £7,946.

The company's "Express Dual" cylinder grinding machine is capable of both "in-situ" or plain cylinder grinding on a wide range of lawnmowers. When used "in-situ", the mower is located centrally on the machine, and locked into place. The grinding wheel can be adjusted to approach the cylinder at the most convenient angle. Adjustment of cut is by two handwheels mounted either side of the machine and the cylinder is driven by a geared motor through a flexible coupling and driveshaft. The "Public Authority Express Dual" has a heavy duty mains electric motor. Bottom blades have to be remov-

ed for sharpening.

Prices are from £4,245 for the "in-situ" only grinder. £4,074 for the plain cylinder only grinder and £4,790 for the dual action machine. The "Public Authority" version is from £4,852.

The "Express Dual" is available with a "Professional" kit to enable "in-situ" sharpening of a wider range of cutting units and costs from £4,852.

The company says that the "Pilot" plain cylinder grinding machine is intended to meet the needs of the smaller workshop - say 5 to 10 medium sized mowers - and incorporates the essential features of the other machines, but without the high capital outlay.

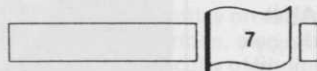
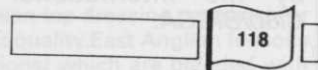
Arranged for bench fixing, with the "Easitru" system of cylinder drive and mounting - a system claimed to give accuracy combined with simple setting up, the price of the "Pilot" is £1,956.

The range of bottom blade grinding machines offered by Atterton & Ellis include the "FH1 Fastcut", capable of grinding blades up to 24 inch long, and the "FH2 Supacut", for blades up to 36 inch long. Prices for the FH1 start at £735, and for the FH2 at £995.

The "Angemaster" can take blades of up to 106cm (42in) long, and is equipped with an adjustable eccentric bar can then be rotated for grinding the front or top lip to any desired angle. Prices start at £2,854.

Further details are available from: David Smith, Atterton & Ellis Limited, Iron Works, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 8QH.

As well as exploring new markets, care is taken in assuring prompt delivery both to home customers and those abroad.



## MOWER ACCESSORIES LTD.

MOWER Accessories Limited are an established company manufacturing high quality bottom blades, cutting cylinders and rollers.

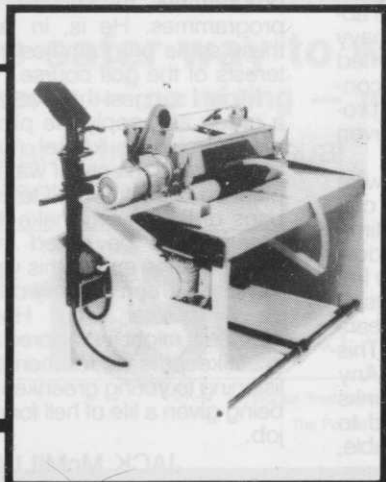
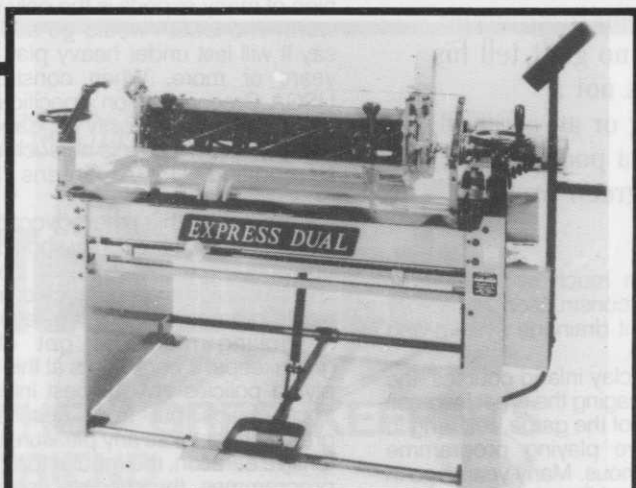
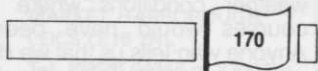
In addition the company carries a comprehensive range of spares for most types of machines, as well as supplying the home market, the company exports to Europe, Canada and Australia.

Great emphasis is placed on producing a high quality range of products and of maintaining good customer relations which it has built up over a number of years.

## STATUS QUO FOR U.K. BROUWER DISTRIBUTION

RANSOMES, who recently acquired the Canadian-based Brouwer Company as part of the Cushman Ryan deal, has announced that there will be no change to Brouwer distribution in the U.K.

Outside of North America, Ransomes commercial division, based at Ipswich, now have the responsibility for marketing Brouwer worldwide and intends letting Turfland Professional Equipment Ltd of Dutton in Cheshire continue selling and servicing the complete Brouwer range in the U.K.



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As well as our market leader, we also manufacture a complete range of bottom blade grinders including The Anglemaster which is ideally suited to work alongside The Express Dual — send for our brochure for all the facts.



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BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## TURF CARE TRADE EXHIBITION

2nd MAY 1990

AT

LONG ASHTON GOLF CLUB  
BRISTOL

10.00 am to 5 pm

## THE 119TH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

St. Andrews

19th - 22nd July

If 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.

Book your space NOW for

**THE BIGGA TURF  
MANAGEMENT EXHIBITION**  
AND EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME TO  
BE HELD DURING 23RD - 25TH JANUARY 1991  
AT THE HARROGATE EXHIBITION HALL

Brochure and Application Form  
are available from Debbie Savage  
at BIGGA Headquarters

**Telephone 03473 581/2  
Fax 03473 8864**

Those companies wishing to reserve the same space as they occupied at the 1990 Exhibition are reminded that existing space allocations were only guaranteed until 28th February 1990. If you would like to take up the offer please contact us quickly.

## 1990 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

**Ganton Golf Club  
6th - 9th August**

Entries 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

# LEGAL NOTICES

## NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS RATES FOR 1990/1

By Paul Hilden,  
a lawyer

FOR employees the Lower Earnings limit (Class 1) is raised to £45.99 (up 74p). In Class 4, the self employed, the 6.3% contribution rate remains the same but the annual limits of profits between which Class 4 contributions are payable will be raised to £5,650 and £18,200 (from £5,450 and £16,900 respectively). The maximum in Class 4 will be £803.25 and the overall maximum contribution for 1990/1 will be £1,669.50.

### MOVING AN EMPLOYEE

The Inland Revenue has announced that employers may now contribute an increased amount, tax free, to the extra housing costs of an employee who has moved to a more expensive housing area. The increased maximum is £22,890 and it applied to moves which took place on or after December 1, 1989. The previous maximum of £21,210 applied to moves which took place on or after February 1, 1989.

### VAT DEFAULT SURCHARGE NOTICES

Before a default surcharge liability can arise the surcharge liability notice must be served on the tax-payer. In recent cases in front of VAT Tribunals appeals have been allowed where the tax payer has shown the notice has not been received. In one case a couple were adamant that they had never received a surcharge notice and although the Customs showed it had been posted to them the Tribunal found, on the balance of probabilities, that it had not been received by them.

It seems, however, that rather than go to the expense of sending out recorded delivery letters the Customs intend to appeal against these decisions. Alternatively they may seek a change in the legislation.

In appeals by firms who maintain that a VAT return has been posted the practice is to call the person responsible for posting the notice to give evidence on oath that it was sent on a particular day. In a recent case where the company's managing director completed the VAT return in question and put it in his secretary's post tray the day before he flew to America he could not prove that the return was posted.

The Tribunal gave him an

adjournment to try to trace the secretary. Effort to find her failed and the Tribunal therefore could not find on the balance of probabilities that the return had, in fact, been posted on time. As a result the appeal failed. In a similar case the secretary was called and gave evidence that she remembered posting the return on a particular day. In this case the appeal was allowed.

### DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JOB SEEKERS

Recruiting employees is something of a specialized art-form in itself. It is made even more complicated by the possibility that an employer is open to a suit for discrimination either sexual or racial by a disappointed applicant. As a rule it is an offence under the Race Relations act and the Sex Discrimination Acts to discriminate against people on grounds of sex, race or marital status. Not one of us likes to think we discriminate against others but it does easily happen.

There are two kinds of discrimination, direct and indirect. The first occurs when a job specification eliminates a whole category of people. 'Single men only to apply' 'No married women need apply'. These may be extreme examples but they go to show how careful an employer needs to be from the start. Do not use the word 'he' throughout an advertisement implying that only a man is really likely to be considered for the position.

Of course, the reverse may be true. In one of the first discrimination cases brought a man won compensation when after applying for a job as a telephonist he was told only women need apply. Applicants must be treated on merit and stereotyping must be avoided. It is all too easy to fall into the trap of thinking that navvies are men and typists are women.

Indirect discrimination occurs when for all practical purposes a group is eliminated. "only people over 6 feet tall need apply" effectively rules out all women. Of course, if a job really does require six footers that is another matter.

They must, however, be fairly few and far between. Discrimination is also permitted in certain circumstances such as a job which is to be held by a married couple or, where it is an essential part of the work that the employee mixes with

members of the other sex in a state of undress.

Permitted discrimination on racial grounds is even more restricted. One example would be where a white person wished to work as a waiter in an Indian or Chinese restaurant. He would not be able to claim he was discriminated against. It might, however, be very different if he wanted to be a cook and could show he had all the necessary qualifications.

He (or she) would almost certainly be successful if he merely wished to be a washer-up. For most businesses, however, these exceptions have limited application.

### HIV POSITIVE EMPLOYEES

Sadly, an increasing problem for employers will be what should be done if an employee is diagnosed as HIV positive or is found to have full blown Aids. It is something which needs sensitive handling to be fair both to the employee in question and the rest of the staff who may be lobbying for his (or her) dismissal.

There is still a good deal of uninformed prejudice about Aids. People wrongly believe that merely by touching a person the disease may be contracted. Employers therefore need to set these groundless fears to rest.

As the Department of Employment guidelines emphasize if sufficient information is given about Aids then there would be less harassment in the workplace. Employers should almost as a matter of course provide information to their employees and point out that in most jobs there is little or no risk of becoming infected.

But what is to be done with an employee who is unwilling to work alongside a colleague or starts spreading gossip and rumour? As to the first an employee is required to obey reasonable instructions and therefore may him (or himself) be in breach of contract.

As to spreading rumours, in a case in the relatively early days of Aids, two law centre workers were dismissed for suggesting that because a new worker at the Centre was gay he might introduce Aids into work. The tribunal upheld the dismissal.

But most employees are reasonable. Prejudice arises out of fear more often than from malice. If an employee raises the matter he, or she, should be asked to have a word with a union representative, a representative of the health and safety unit or someone from the management.

By education and explanation the whole problem is one which can be solved even before it has begun.

### WHEN GREEN MEANS GOLF

THERE has, as most people will know, been a dramatic increase in interest in 'The Green Movement' and in environmental issues; but there is another 'Green' Movement which started in Scotland and has been developing at a similar rate over the past few years and according to experts will continue to expand at an even greater speed, it is, of course, golf.

A recent report from St Andrews estimates another 700 golf courses will be needed in the next ten years if the demand for the sport is to be met. This explosion of Golf Courses means staff with Greenkeeping skills and continuous up date of skills. A seminar was held at the Welsh College of Horticulture and organised by Mr Graham Wright, amenity turf lecturer at the Welsh College of Horticulture, to which over 100 greenkeepers came. The seminar was addressed by turf

experts from the Sports Turf Research Institute, Mr J. Peris, assistant director S.T.R.I. who was brought up in Wales and educated at Bangor, spoke on maintenance of tees, fairways and bunkers.

The Welsh College has been establishing itself as a centre for Greenkeeping with strong support from the Welsh Golf Union, and many careers will start with training at Northop over the next few years.

A meeting has been arranged for April 10 at the Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop inviting all North Wales Greenkeepers. It is hoped that a North Wales Section of BIGGA will be formed on the day and if there are any greenkeepers who have not already received an invitation from Headquarters but would like to attend please ring 03473 581 for further details.

DAVID GOLDING

# Golf course irrigation?

## CHOOSE THE SOUTH'S SPECIALISTS...

Yes, if your club is considering up-dating or extending its present irrigation system or you are thinking of investing in this important "Greenkeeper's Aid", have a word with ISS. Established for over a decade, ISS have years of experience of golfcourse irrigation systems design, installation and maintenance - this experience is yours for the asking. ISS will gladly visit your course for a chat - phone or write to them now!

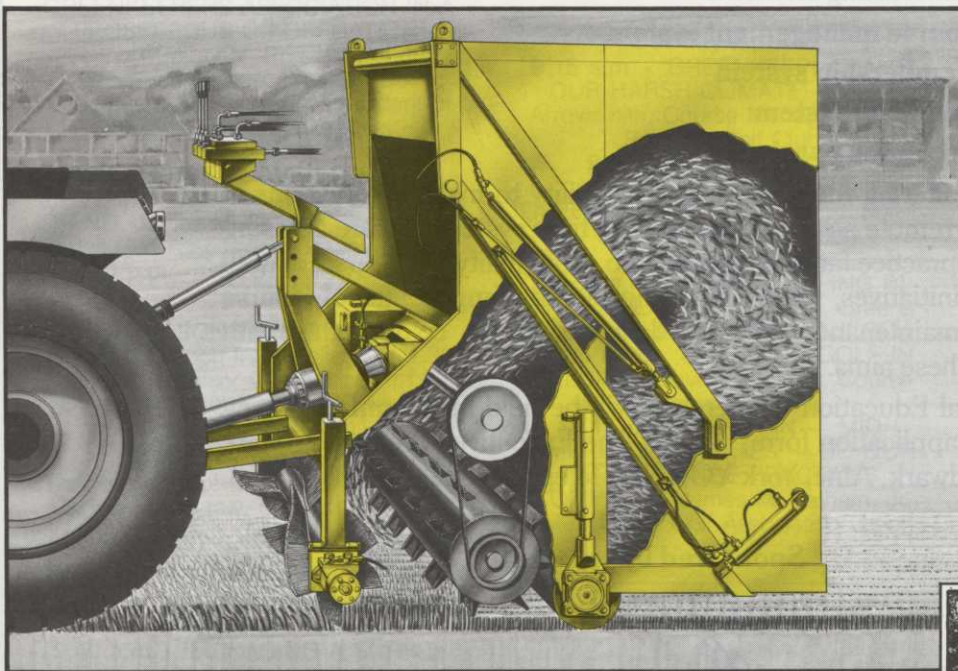


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**T**he new broom on McConnel Dabro's Turf Groomer collects debris and cuttings while combing grass into the ideal cutting position.

**SCARIFIES** Another sweeping effect of this tough hydraulically powered polypropylene broom is to lift out growth inhibiting thatch to allow finer grasses to come on.

**CUTS AND COLLECTS** 42 high speed blades give a generous 71" precision cut and everything in its path is shredded and collected in the 43 cu. ft. capacity hopper for dumping.

**STRIPES** To complete the picture fully adjustable rollers leave your turf with an impressive light/dark striped effect.

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THE NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE 1990  
30th MARCH - 1st APRIL

International Golfers Club is working with Clubs across Europe and installing within them a revolutionary computerised management system. The system comprises four key interacting elements:

- Course management system
- Membership system
- Handicap system
- Accounting system

In addition, IGC is offering member clubs the facility to make reservations at other IGC clubs via remote access to the starting time system. We are advising on leasing facilities, practice facilities and in-club profitability. Of course, as well as those and other initiatives, we are stressing the vital importance of Course improvement and maintenance. We are delighted to be co-operating with **BIGGA** to achieve these aims.

The second National Education Conference will be held at Egham in Surrey. For full details and application form, contact The Executive Director, **BIGGA**, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF Telephone: 03473 581.

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# EDUCATION

## BIGGA NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

ROYAL HOLLOWAY AND BEDFORD NEW COLLEGE  
30TH MARCH - 1ST APRIL 1990  
ORGANISED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL GOLFERS CLUB

### DAILY PROGRAMME

#### Friday March 30

9.30 a.m. - REGISTRATION in Founders Building

11.45 a.m. - LUNCH - Founders Building

#### Conference Commences

Chairman: John Millen, Canterbury Golf Club. Member of BIGGA Board of Management and Education

#### Sub-Committee

1.20 p.m. - Introduction - Ivor

Scoones, Vice-Chairman, BIGGA

1.30 p.m. - 'POA ANNUA: MYTHS AND REALITIES' Donald B. White, Professor Turfgrass Science, University of Minnesota

2.10 p.m. - 'GOLF AND GREENKEEPING IN SOUTH-WEST IRELAND' David MacIndoe, Course Manager, Killarney Golf Club

2.50 p.m. - 'ROOM FOR DEVELOPMENT' George Oldham, Chief Architect, Barratt Developments

#### 3.30 p.m. - Coffee

3.50 p.m. - 'THE SWEDISH GOLF FEDERATION AND THE SWEDISH GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION IN A PROSPEROUS CO-OPERATION' Lennart Poignant, President of the Green Committee, Swedish Golf Federation. Stig Persson, President of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association.

4.30 p.m. - 'THE EVOLUTION OF PUTTING GREENS FROM SOIL TO SAND' James M. Latham, Jr. United States Golf Association Greens Section

5.10 p.m. - QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

#### COMPANIONS PROGRAMME:

Depart by coach from College at 1.30 p.m. to Windsor Castle for tour of Castle and afternoon tea. Return to College by 5.30 p.m.

#### Saturday March 31

The President of BIGGA, The Rt. Hon. Viscount Whitelaw, C.H., M.C. will be joining delegates during the luncheon period.

9.00 a.m. - 'MANAGING A SURREY CLUB' Ian McMillan, Course Manager, Hankley Common Golf Club

9.40 a.m. - 'MANAGING A SURREY CLUB' continued John Harris of the Green Committee, Hankley Common Golf Club

10.20 a.m. - 'THE GOLF COURSE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE' J. Dudok Van Heel, Golf Course Architect, Belgium

#### 11.00 a.m. - Coffee

11.20 a.m. - 'COMPARATIVE

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

APPRECIATING DIFFERENT

APPROACHES' Gerald Faubel,

President, Golf Course

Superintendents Association of

America

11.50 a.m. - 'THE GREENKEEPER AND THE RULES OF GOLF' John Glover, Rules Secretary, Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews  
12.30 p.m. - QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

#### 12.50 p.m. - Lunch

2.00 p.m. - INTERNATIONAL GOLFERS CLUB PRESENTATION Christopher Williams, International Golfers Club

3.00 p.m. - 'WHY THIS YEARS PROGRAMMES DETERMINE NEXT YEAR'S QUALITY' Donald B. White, Professor Turfgrass Science, University of Minnesota

#### 3.40 p.m. - Coffee

4.00 p.m. - 'GOLF BEFORE THE GREENKEEPER' David Hamilton, Surgeon and Historian

4.40 p.m. - 'COMMON PROBLEMS FACING THE AGRONOMISTS' Jeff Perris, Sports Turf Research Institute

5.20 p.m. - QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

#### COMPANIONS PROGRAMME:

Depart by Coach from College at 9.00 a.m. for guided tour of London including Victoria and Albert Museum, Hyde Park, Buckingham Palace, Parliament Square, Westminster Abbey, Theatreland, Fleet Street, St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower of London, Stock Exchange and Bank of England. Shopping at Leisure. Pick-up at 4.00 p.m. for return to College.

#### Sunday April 1

9.15 a.m. - 'GREENKEEPING AND OUR HARSH CLIMATE' Sydney Arrowsmith, Course Manager, Royal Portrush Golf Club

9.55 a.m. - 'IRRIGATION STANDARDS AND THE GREENKEEPER' Robin Hume, British Turf Irrigation Association

#### 10.35 a.m. - Coffee

10.55 a.m. - 'GREENKEEPING IN THE DESERT' Barry Carter, Greens Superintendent, Emirates Golf Club  
11.35 a.m. - 'CHANGING GOLF IN BELGIUM' David Singleton, Course Manager, Belgium

12.15 p.m. - 'BRITAIN — MID-AMERICAN CLIMATES — DO OUR MAINTENANCE PRACTICES COMPARE?' James M. Latham, Jr. United States Golf Association Greens Section

12.55 p.m. - QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

1.20 p.m. - SUMMING UP Paddy McCarron, Chairman, BIGGA

1.30 p.m. - Lunch

#### COMPANIONS PROGRAMME:

Depart by coach from College at 8.30 a.m. to Petticoat Lane market. Return at 12.00.

BIGGA wishes to thank IGC for its generous support enabling us to present the Second National Education Conference.

● For full programme and application form please contact the Executive Director, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, North Yorkshire, YO6 2NF. Telephone: 03473 581/2. Fax: 03473 8864.

## INSTITUTE OF GROUNDSMANSHIP SEMINAR SAND CONSTRUCTED TURF AREAS FOR SPORT

A Seminar on sand constructed turf areas for sport is to be held at The New Athletics Stadium, Leckwith Road, Cardiff on Wednesday March 28, at 2.00 p.m. The seminar is being organised by The Institute of Groundsmanship - Welsh Zone.

The Seminar will be led by Ian Greenfield, B.Sc. (Agric) C.Biol., M.I. Biol., of Cayford Golf Course Construction, Bishop's Stortford, who has travelled extensively throughout the world acting as a consultant on many sportsground projects. Mr Greenfield has written a book and many articles on the subject.

The seminar will be of keen interest to all groundsmen, greenkeepers, players and administrators and will include the following topics: Selection of suitable sites; Construction of all sand play areas; Site preparation; Drainage; Irrigation; Economic advantages of sand pitches versus conventional methods; Establishment of grass - seed or turf, feeding plus disease control; Cutting height, frequency, cylinder or rotary mowers; Maintenance - regular feeding, irrigation requirements for turf; Particular needs of golf greens.

Questions will be welcomed. Refreshments will be served at 5 p.m. Fee: IOG Members - Free. Non-IOG Members - 5.00 (in advance). Details can be obtained from David Hart on (0222) 755500 after 6 p.m.

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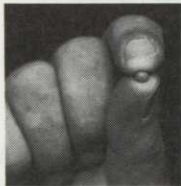
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# AROUND THE GREEN

## KENT SECTION

ON January 9 at West Malling Golf Club a few of us were treated to a very informative and interesting presentation and talk from John Hinton of B.A.S.F. about fertilisers, in general, and their benefits, miss uses, and how their use fits in with the yearly management of the golf course.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, the only disappointing part being the lack of members that attended, and I am in full agreement with Chris Mardon's closing comment for those who stayed away, that it was their loss not ours.

Many thanks to John Hinton for making it such an informative afternoon, and to the catering staff at West Malling for providing us with the sandwiches and afternoon tea. As a note to the "what's in it for me" and "how much is it going to cost me" members of the Association I am pleased to inform you, after the event, that the whole afternoon and refreshments would not have cost you a single penny!

I'm pleased to announce that the committee has been increased by one other member, David Horn of Sittingbourne and Milton Regis Golf Club, the only drawback to this being that a round of drinks is now going to cost more!

At the time of writing this winter has not yet fully materialised and there seems to be increasing levels of play, perhaps soon we could benefit from a few weeks of snow.

I hope that those of you in East and Mid Kent are adhering to the Water Board's recent imposition of a hose pipe ban and banning of watering golf courses and sports grounds - it's nice to know that they are fully aware of how their customers use their resources and when and how much water golf courses use.

Although in saying this I cannot see it raining everyday before the start of the summer so it looks like we may be in for another difficult time as with last summer, but we shall see, as nature has a habit of levelling itself out in the end.

**PAUL COPSEY**

## SURREY SECTION

A couple of quick reminders. First, the greenkeepers annual gentlemen dinner takes place at Walton Heath on Friday March 16.

It is limited to one guest per greenkeeper and costs just £17 each, which for 18 holes and dinner sounds a very good price.

Secondly, the national education conference at the Royal Holloway College in Egham runs from March 30 to April 4. This event deserves all our support, so why not encourage your captains and committee members to attend, along with your staff?

Congratulations to Donald Wells, who has just been awarded the Silver Medal for the outstanding student greenkeeper in the British Isles, quite an achievement! Don works on the South Course of Wentworth, and received a cheque from his employers, and some very good local press reports for his efforts.

Congratulations also to David Wyburn, assistant head at Foxhills, and his wife Caroline, who is expecting their first child in late June. A prospective BIGGA member, perhaps?

New to the area is Chris Kennedy, who took up his new post as Wentworth's Course Manager on February 1st, after 21 years at Hagg's Castle.

Chris tells me they have over 400 trees down over the three courses, so doubtless they'll all be kept pretty busy there for

some time. When time allows, we'll hopefully see him at some BIGGA functions, meanwhile, all the best in your new post.

Leaving us, is Simon Wells, formerly a greenkeeper at Walton Heath, who has gone off round the world for a year. Also leaving us soon, is Jack McMillan of Sunningdale, who, after a tenure of ten years is leaving to take up a consultancy position, with The International Golfers Club (sponsors of the National Education Conference).

Jack is former Chairman of BIGGA, and presenter of The McMillan Tankard.

Sorry to see you're leaving us Jack, but glad that your knowledge and experience will now reach a wider audience. Although with your article in the Daily Telegraph recently, you seem to have a pretty good circulation now!

The news from the Surrey members who attended ETME 2, is that it was a great success and considered both valuable and enjoyable.

Clive Osgood from Walton Heath, the Surrey Section ex-Chairman, is now representing us at a regional level also. Thanks, Clive for giving up more free time in what must be an already busy schedule.

Despite, the appalling weather the lecture on grinding at the R.A.C. Club was quite well attended. The lecture by Atterton & Ellis, was very well given, and the machines (R.A.C.s own) were very impressive as was Tony's workshop, which I'm sure made a few people rather envious. An excellent evening and our thanks to all concerned.

If you have any problems regarding the magazine, please contact me and I'll try to rectify the situation. Also any items you would like put in this section, such as appointments or golf and social events, pictures included would be very

welcome. My number is (025 125) 4287.

**PHIL BALDOCK**

## MIDLANDS SECTION

MAY 2 brings our spring tournament to Coventry Golf Club (Finham Park) which also combines with our qualifying round for the Iseki regional final being played this year at Kedleston Park.

The draw for the Rigby Taylor Greensomes Knockout will also be made at the spring tournament, so now is the time to choose your partners carefully.

Dates for your diary:  
May 2 Spring tournament, Coventry Golf Club.

July 11 summer tournament, Broadway Golf Club and

August 29, autumn tournament, Llanymonch Golf Club.

Finally, if anyone has any news or ideas for the magazine or indeed for the section please do not hesitate to contact me on 0789 762912. I look forward to seeing you at Finham Park.

**DEAN CLEAVER.**

## NORTHERN SECTION

IT was good to see so many Northern Section members at E.T.M.E. 2. The show seems to be getting "Bigga" and better each year!

I hear down the grapevine of personnel changes; at Fulford, Halifax West End and Wetherby. Philip Stirk moves from Fulford to become head greenkeeper of a new development at Stockton Forest. John Grierson moves from Elland Golf Club to become head man at Halifax West End. Committee man and regional administrator, David Hannam, moves from Baildon to take over the reins

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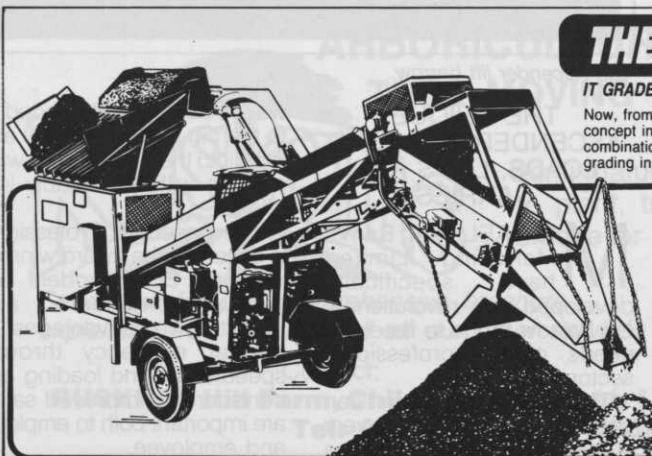
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# AROUND THE GREEN



*The last Northern Section Ransomes trip of 1972. Spot the familiar faces?*

from retiring John Scott at Wetherby. Our very best wishes and good luck for the forthcoming season to the new appointees. So after all these moves the gossip round the section is: 'Who has got Baildon, West End and

Fulford?'

The first lecture of 1990 was a very good talk on conservation gardening by Patrick Crowley who has his own business in Leeds carrying out this work. He was formerly a professional photographer and this showed in his excellent slides. It was just a pity he had a sparse audience.

An extra lecture date for your diaries is in March when Ian Proudler of Endfield Nurseries talks to us about trees for the golf course, March 28 is the date, West Bowling Golf Club the venue and 8 p.m. the time. Please try and pop along and fetch a friend.

The BIG EVENT of the Northern Section social scene is

the annual dinner dance, which this year will be held at Baildon Golf Club on Saturday, April 28. The time is 7.30 p.m. for a meal at 8 p.m. The disco after the meal will play until midnight.

The cost for the evening is only £10.

This event is open to friends, relations and not just members. I hope we shall see more greenkeepers this year. Tickets are available from me and a deposit of £5. per double ticket is required. In case you do not know my telephone no. is Bradford 590463 and I can also be found at Cleckheaton Golf Club.

Going through some books the other day I came across an old photograph which by chance is very topical to the Northern Section at the moment with the Ransomes trip in prospect.

It is of the last Ransomes trip some 18 years ago (I think!). See if you can spot the following (younger) faces: Brian Birdsell, (County Mowers) Geoff Mawson (retired), Hugh Marshall (retired), David Anderson (Moor Allerton), Mick Hegerty (somewhere in Germany), Ralph Smith (Bradford), Joe Baxter (St. Ives), John Storey (Ogden), John Scott (retired),

*Continued on page 31*

## NEW VERTI-GROOM CUTTING UNITS FOR RANSOMES GT GREENS TRIPLE

INTRODUCED to maintain constantly good putting surfaces on golf greens more economically, and being exhibited at ETME 2 for the first time, were Ransomes new hydraulically driven Verti-Groom cutting units seen on their GT Greens Triple mower.

Compared with conventional greens cutting units, during trials both in Britain and overseas, the Verti-Groom units collected up to three

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*The Ransomes Verti-Groom on Greens Triple mower.*