

3rd GREEN UFO RIDDLE



EXCLUSIVE

By KAREN PICKUP and PAULINE CORRIGAN

The circular burn marks (pictured above) have been found on Baxenden golf course following an alleged sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object over the town.

Four golfers discovered the strange circles scorched in the rough near the third green hours after a terrified motorist claimed he saw bright lights in the sky above the club.

Experts believe it is more likely the marks were made by hoaxers rather than an alien spaceship.

But local skywatcher Mr Raymond Broderick, 52, of Devonshire Drive, Clayton-le-Moors, is reluctant to dismiss the marks lightly, saying he is determined to get to the bottom of the mystery.

Mr Broderick, who has 32-years experience in probing UFO sightings, said, "Something is happening.

"I have been to the golf course and had a very close look. There is a half-inch indentation in the earth which would not have been there if fuel had simply been sprinkled on the ground and set alight.

"There is a definite framework within the markings and the centre has been blasted away.

"I can't see anyone going up there in the middle of the night — but if it is a hoax, someone has gone to a great deal of trouble."

Mr Broderick, a member of the 60-strong Hyndburn Skywatchers, said that in his opinion the spot where the marks were found would definitely be the type of place chosen by alien visitors because it was quiet.

Mr Broderick refused to say whether or not he thought that aliens had landed in Baxenden but added, "I will find out what is going on."

Baxenden Golf Club competitions secretary Mr Alan Gilbertson of Livingstone Road, Accrington, one of the four who stumbled across the bizarre burn marks, said, "If this is a

Aliens or hoax clash

hoax, it is a very elaborate one."

Two London experts have cast doubt on the origins of the baffling circles, claiming they were man-made and not the result of an extra-terrestrial visit.

Mr Hilary Evans, who has written several books on UFOs, said, "This kind of thing is so easy to fake.

"Nowadays there is a lot of information about, so people know the kind of marks alleged UFOs make.

"I think they are probably slightly warped in their minds. They aren't necessarily practical jokers, they are probably trying to produce evidence to convince people."

Mr Evans, a writer for the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal in London, said he liked to keep an open mind about the existence of alien beings but felt the golf course marks were man-made.

Mr Ian Ridpath, a London-based writer on astronomy and space, agreed with Mr Evans' views, saying that after years of involvement he was now "totally sceptical" because of the number of hoaxes he had heard of.

"There tends to be a great deal of wishful thinking by people. It would be nice to think of beings from other planets coming here, but I don't think they have landed yet," he added.

• The scared motorist who saw the lights in the sky last Wednesday night said that as he drove below them his car moved forward with great difficulty and his headlights began to dip and fade.

ACCRINGTON OBSERVER,
LANCASHIRE.

See 22/7/88
(AS ABOVE).