WINDSOR SHOW REVIEW

The International Groundsman's Exhibition on Windsor Race Course was blessed by the best three days of weather for many years, attracting large crowds on both the opening and second days.

Improvements both by the laying down of a number of new roads through the site, the opening of a covered pavilion and an extension of the demonstration areas added a new dimension to what has become the best organised turfgrass exhibition in Europe. Attendance of 33,800 was 7% up on last year's record breaking figure.

This year the show was humming with news of amalgamations and cooperations, firstly by Ransomes acquisition of the garden machinery business of G. D. Mountfield for a reported £4.25 million, when the joint owners Dennis Selby and Don Hamilton decided to retire.

On the opening day, Morris and Jacobsens announced a 'marriage of convenience' between Morrison Industries and Jacobsen Textrons for the sole distribution of the turfgrass machinery of both companies' products in the UK. Ron Higgins, the Managing Director of the New Zealand based Morrison Industries, joined Tom Carter, Jacobsen's Vice President of the Marketing Services to announce the new venture with Morrison's UK base at Kings Lynn in Norfolk. Chris Smith, General Manager of Morrison's UK operations will direct the operation through a network of service agents.

Earlier this year, Marshall Concessionaires, the Romsey based distributor, announced that the Wisconsin company's sole representative for Jacobsen Turfgrass machinery, the Romsey based distributor had been appointed the Wisconsin company's sole representative for Jacobsen Turfgrass machinery, but the contract was not renewed at the end of August, although sales of the Jacobsen Greensking were running at one a day over the past two months.

As this edition goes to press, Ron Higgins told Golf Greenkeeping as a result of discussions at the Windsor Show a number of dealers who had previously handled Jacobsen equipment had been appointed service agents and three regions would be handled through distributors.

A. Church will supply Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, South Humberside and part of Northamptonshire, Bristol Garden Machinery have been appointed distributors for all of the South West, Avon, Wilts and Gloucestershire and Auto Garden of Glasgow become the sole distributors for Scotland.

The remainder of the country will be supplied with Morrison and Jacobsen equipment direct from the newly opened premises at Kings Lynn, with a back up service of spares from mobile workshops.

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Machinery is presently shipped into this country through Felixstowe, but as the new depot has its own port it is expected Morrison Mowers will be delivered direct to Kings Lynn, from New Zealand.

According to Ron Higgins it is highly likely there will be a UK assembly operation in 1986.

Tom Carter assured Golf Greenkeeping at Windsor that the Jacobsen Tournament started by Marshall Concessionaires will continue and this has now been confirmed by Chris Smith, because of the difficulty of arranging the final by the due date, regional winners will now contest for the trip to the United States at a Spring Tournament at a date to be arranged. All those who have qualified in sectional competitions will be notified of the rearranged venue later this year.

BASF who have recently entered the fine turf market with Floranid a slow release fertiliser range containing isodor a synthetic organic slow release nitrogen, are distributing the product through George A. Palmer Ltd. of Peterborough and a network of regional dealers including, Supaturf Products, Maxwell Hart, and T. Parker & Sons. The German based company are marketing the range of turf feeds through their own UK company, COMPO.

Supaturf Products have strengthened their operation recently with the acquisition of Turf Maintenance Supplies at Iver Heath and Don Hunt's business at Newton Abbott, though Don remains with the company.
Fisons have also marketed a new range of turf nutrition entitled the Greensmaster range using a new process which incorporates vermiculite as a density adjuster. The granules are of a size and colour that makes mechanical spreading easier and can be seen on the turf before absorption begins. Fisons made their announcement at Wentworth where the greens have been fertilised to reach peak condition for the Suntory World Matchplay Tournament.

SAL Horticulture, part of Scottish Agriculture Industries a subsidiary of ICI also announced a massive expansion with a packing and production plant to be centred at Howden in Yorkshire. This Edinburgh company have set their sights on a significant share of the England and Wales turf fertiliser market with their range of Longlife products. Five fertilisers contain a new ingredient - Didin, developed to regulate the availability of nitrogen to the turf. There is no flush of growth as nitrogen is taken up by the grasses, but the improved colour and growth response is achieved over several months.

Ransomes stand was again one of the most spectacular and a central meeting place for greenkeepers. New equipment included the seven unit hydraulic 465TG for golf courses with a cutting width of over 15ft. Designed for the club with large fairways there are many greenkeepers who would have liked this machine on the course this summer. The company also exhibited a new Verticut 214 suitable for a use with a 40hp tractor and above. The machine has a working width of 7ft. which by cutting the lateral surface growth and controlling the build up of thatch, the younger grasses can become more vigorous.

The tractor stands created considerable interest particularly the compacts of Lely Iseki, Kubota, Ford, Massey Ferguson, Yamaha and Hinimoto.

Two items that caught the editor's eye as simple but very practical were a swivel for attaching the green's flag to the pole so that the flag did not wrap itself around the pin in windy weather or tear when constantly handled by golfers as they removed the stick for putting. The bright idea came from Pattisons and is likely to be on sale later in an improved form.

A great idea for protecting young seedling trees was seen on the Union Hall Nursery stand. The tree is planted inside a 4ft corrugated polypropylene square tube with the base just below the soil surface. The tree is forced towards the light and branches as it emerges. Damage from rabbits and golfers is avoided and in tests conducted by the Forestry Commission growth rates increased six fold, stems thickened considerably and trees of eight inches high at planting established quickly avoiding the additional costs of whips.