QUEEN'S AWARD FOR RANSOMES

Her Majesty the Queen has approved the Prime Minister's recommendation that the Queen's Award for Export Achievement be conferred this year upon the Grass Machinery Division of Ransomes Sims & Jefferies PLC.

Bob Dodsworth, Chief Executive of the Ipswich company said "he was delighted that the hard work and financial investment put into expanding exports of grass machinery have been recognised in such a manner."

Over the years exports have been consistently a significant part of Ransomes Grass Machinery Division's turnover, with sales to over seventy different countries. The expansion of exports is due to the continued advances made in product development which have enabled the Division to improve its performance in well established overseas markets as well as achieving a more rapid development in the highly competitive U.S.A. market.
PAR-T-GOLF
TAKES TO
THE HIGH SEAS

As a sequel to the article in the March issue on the Incredible Golf Machine, ParTgolf, the video golf game that gets you into the picture we now hear this golf simulator has been installed on the QE2.

The whole apparatus including a 12 foot by 8 foot screen on to which is projected each of the 18 holes at Pebble Beach, in sequence can fit easily into the area taken up by a squash court.

Players drive off from the tee using normal clubs and balls. Three cameras follow the shot and the picture on the screen changes to show where the ball has landed.

A computer monitors the distance the ball has travelled and the yardage registers on the digital panel.

Golf has been a shipboard feature on cruise liners for many years, either with a practice net or just hitting shots off the deck into the ocean. Now with ParTgolf, QE2 passengers will have a course to play and they won't be losing their balls!

NEW ICI PRODUCT INFORMATION MANUAL

A superb full colour pocket size product manual is now available from ICI Professional Products.

The booklet contains a wealth of technical information on all ICI products for the protection and control of weeds, diseases and pests in sports and amenity turfgrass, landscape and total weed control situations. A colour coded index enables you to find at a glance the information you require and full colour weed illustrations assist you in identifying the problem.

To obtain this free excellent pocket manual, contact:
Customer Services Department,
ICI Professional Products,
Woolmead House East,
Woolmead Walk,
Farnham, Surrey.
Telephone: (0252) 724525
or any ICI Professional Products Regional Distributor.

FLORANID RECRUITS NEW WEST MIDLANDS DISTRIBUTOR

BASF United Kingdom Limited have appointed Hodges & Moss Limited as distributors of their Compo Floranid fertilisers in the West Midlands.

Based at Shrewsbury, the recently formed Industrial and Amenities Division of Hodges & Moss Limited has rapidly established itself as a major supplier of products and services to the amenity market in Shropshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire and North Wales.

The high quality range of Floranid fertilisers compliment the products and services Hodges & Moss offer to their customers and increases BASF's distribution in an important geographical area.

Floranid is suited to modern intensively managed areas which demand high, slow release content fertilisers. It is also able to resist the leaching caused by the region's relatively high rainfall.

VICTA TAKEOVER BY AUSTRALIAN GROUP

With effect from 25th March 1987, Victa (UK) Limited of Basingstoke, together with Victa Limited of Sydney, Australia, have become part of the reel Corporation of Australia.

The companies have been acquired from Allgheny International USA and the agreement includes the purchase of Sunbeam Pacific Division of Allgheny International.

Mr. John Edmunds, Managing Director of Victa (UK) Limited said "This is an exciting opportunity for us to develop our already expanding and profitable grass machinery business in the UK and Europe. Our plans for further expansion can now be implemented and we can go forward with confidence".

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Fax: 0962 73 4702
Mr. Jeffrey Perris has been appointed Senior Advisory Agronomist at the Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire. Jeff joined the Institute’s advisory staff in 1966 after graduating in agriculture from the University College of North Wales, Bangor. During the past 20 years he has advised on the construction and management of sports turf areas, ranging from small village bowling and cricket clubs, to larger projects. Much of his work is undertaken in the West Country, but he also travels extensively in Western Europe. Mr. Perris will continue with his existing duties (including lecturing) and will help lead the development and the extension of the Institute’s advisory service, which is in ever increasing demand.

Married with two children, he is an enthusiastic sportsman, having played representative rugby in his younger days. For relaxation, he likes to walk in the nearby Yorkshire Dales and takes a keen interest in local affairs.

A new representative Mr. Peter Bridgewater has joined Supaturf Products Limited this month and will cover the Northern Home Counties. Customers can contact Peter on his home telephone number, (0993) 74419 or through Supaturf’s Southern Branch Telephone: Iver Heath (0895) 832626.

Rolawn Ltd, Europe’s largest turf growers, have announced further expansion plans with the opening of two distribution depots and new appointments.

GUY LONGBOTTOM, 29, Rolawn’s Unit Manager at Fenton Barns, East Lothian has been appointed Scottish Area Manager to oversee and develop Rolawn’s operations north of the border. This includes a new depot situated by the M8 in the centre of Glasgow which is managed by newcomer to the company IAIN CAMPBELL.

KATHRYN ARTER, 22, Sales Administrator from Head Office at Elvington, York has moved to Leeds to run a depot on the Cross Green Industrial Estate serving South and West Yorkshire.

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NATIONAL TURFGRASS COUNCIL

The National Turfgrass Council is holding its 4th Residential Seminar at the Post House Hotel, Rye Hill, Allesley, Coventry, on 21-22 October 1987. The theme is “Water Management for Turfgrasses”.

Whatever your turf or amenity grass area, water is essential to it. You may have too much water, and simply want to get it away by the most effective modern drainage techniques. Your turf may sometimes be short of water, and you want to manage water features on your golf course or country park safely and effectively. All these aspects will be covered in the Seminar, by a first-class team of 13 speakers.

The Seminar promises to follow the successful tradition of the NTC’s first three Conferences, in bringing together members of all parts of the turfgrass industry for up-to-date technical information in the conference hall and valuable discussion outside it.

The Post House Hotel, Allesley, is noted for its fine facilities, and located near Coventry in the centre of the country and easily reached by the motorway network. The cost is £96, for those booking in good time. This covers all expenses (accommodation, meals and Seminar proceedings).

Details from:
The Secretary, NTC,
3 Ferrands Park Way,
Harden, Bingley,
West Yorkshire BD16 1HZ

Last June we published an article on the use of Grass Carp as a means of clearing weed from golf course ponds. This fish a native of China is also known as the White Amur, and has been the subject of considerable research in Britain by various river boards and the Weed Research Division at Oxford before funding dried up and the section was closed down.

A letter has now been received from Bill Whiting a fish breeder in Arkansas which challenges some of the research conducted in this country.

We are publishing Bill’s letter, because of the amount of interest it Article created at the time and the correspondence it generated.

Dear John,

Much enjoyed the article on the Amur fish you published, and it was especially nice to realize that your Govt., experts are no better informed than ours.

Basically the information they gave you is correct except items such as filamentous algae is their more favored diet. The main reason we have our fish in most of the golf course lakes. There is virtually no submersed weed that they don’t like and even cattails and lilies will one day be controlled when the more preferential vegetation is in short supply.

I think that who ever told you the fish was poisonous was really mis-informed as they are bringing top dollar on the market and a great number of our catfish farmers are putting more ponds into Amur production than ever. The fish is rated only second to the Red Snapper in food tests at a University in Georgia.

At least your information was pretty good, but we are hearing from some ‘experts’ that the fish don’t eat algae and many of the submergent type vegetation, that we raise our fish on.

I was under the impression that only in this country could a man become a ‘Govt., expert’ and still not have enough sense to “pound sand in a rat hole”. We opened up in several more states this year so now we have just about won the battle of common sense, although every so often, up pops an ignoramous.

I have shown your magazine about and it was much appreciated, you have done a fine job with it. I am taking intense golf lessons, and will one day be ready to come over to your country, look up some lost relatives and if you will give me two strokes per hole, take all ties, we’ll play for lunch.

BILL WHITING,
RT. 2, Box 604,
Sheridan, Arkansas 72150.

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