Golf centre plays safe

A 27-hole golf centre has been built at Leroch Farm, Blairgowrie, Perthshire.

The course is designed by John Salvesen, who was also responsible for the new pay as you play course at Charleton, Colinsburgh, Fife.

Strathmore Golf Centre will also have a 10-bay driving range and practice ground, and a relatively small clubhouse. When demand justifies and finances permit the changing area and lounge bar will be extended to incorporate full dining facilities, a larger bar area and pro shop. Jim Brown, 36, formerly course manager at The Deer Park, Livingston, West Lothian, is growing in the course single handedly this winter and will eventually head a team of four or five when the complex opens in spring '96.

ORAG acquisition expands Textron operation to Europe

US-based Textron Inc, a $9.1 billion multi-Industry company, has bought ORAG, the Switzerland-based golf and turf care equipment distributor.

"This acquisition enables Textron to expand ORAG's role to include market development, sales and distribution of our E-Z-GO golf cars and Jacobsen products throughout Europe," said Textron chairman and CEO James Hardymon. "By maximising ORAG's sophisticated distribution network and experienced, in-country management teams, we will be better positioned to capitalise on market opportunities and expand market share in Europe," he added.

On the move

Graham Wissett, formerly deputy head greenkeeper at Llanwern, has taken charge of the course being built at Wynyard Hall near Billingham.

Allan Moffat has joined Risboro Turf as sales rep for South Bucks, Middlesex and Surrey. Tel: 0844 274127.

St Pierre Golf Club course manager Mark Proctor is currently conducting trials with British Seed Houses' Cobra creeping bentgrass. BSH says Cobra is ideal for greens that have become thin or badly worn.

Greenkeeper's Festive Puzzle

Can you insert these ten pieces into the grid in such a way that each vertical column contains a six letter word connected with Christmas and a seventh appears in the horizontal row indicated with an arrow. We've inserted one piece to start you off.

Last month's Crossword Solution:

TELEVISION, DESIGN, BRACELET, STYLE, NEW HOUSE, OXIDE, EACH DAY, T HE, H IGHER, HOLLOW, M ELODY, VOGUE, C URBAN, N YS A, LUGGAGE, PROFESSIONAL...

...and the winner is Mr Ronald Bunting, course manager at Kilmaclomid Golf Club.

FLYING DIVOTS

• Course manager Gary Munro has left Bedale GC to take charge of the course being built at Wynyard Hall near Bellingham.

• Sports Ground Irrigation Co, Hunter distributors for the UK and Eire, have appointed Sports Turf Services as sole Hunter distributors for Scotland. And Hunter Industries has appointed Barry Pedder as district manager for Europe, South Africa and the Middle East. He will be based in London.

• Rockingham Castle Estates near Market Harborough, Leicestershire, will be the venue for the Drainage '95 exhibition on May 9.