Huxleys celebrate 50 years progress

More than 100 visitors representing golf clubs, local authorities, contract firms, schools, sports clubs, public and private parks, estates and gardens helped Huxleys celebrate its 50th Anniversary at Alresford Golf Club in June.

The day began with Managing Director, Paul Huxley, introducing his father, Edward, who founded the business in 1946. Paul went on to thank the company's many customers for their support over the years, pointing out that a number of those present had been associated with the firm for a quarter of a century or more.

"That in itself speaks volumes of the confidence and trust built up over the years between Huxleys and its customers," commented Paul Huxley. "Still wholly family-owned, the business was founded on the twin principles of straight dealing and good service, principles which hold true to this day."

He pointed out that Huxleys is one of very few companies within the turf machinery industry which has its own retail operation helping to provide a close understanding of customers' needs while ensuring a fast and positive response to calls for assistance, service or repair," Paul Huxley explained. "Most of the machines developed and built by Huxleys over the years have benefited from the suggestions, comments and ideas of end users."

Following Paul Huxley's welcome and introductions came a reminder to outdoor workers - that they should be aware of the health dangers from excessive exposure of the skin to the sun - comes from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

"Mindful of last year's heat wave, a statement from the HSE points out that undue exposure of the skin to the sun should be avoided, particularly during the three or four hours around the middle of the day, and especially for those people who are more sensitive to the sun than others."

Senior HSE health policy official Mike Shepherd said: "Too much exposure of the skin to sunlight can be damaging. It can prematurely age the skin, leaving it wrinkled and leathery, and increase the risk of developing skin cancer in later life. However, these adverse effects can be almost totally avoided by following the guidance contained in HSE's free leaflet, 'Keep Your Top On' which includes simple advice on how to recognise skin types most at risk."

"It is important for outdoor workers to realise the possible dangers from the sun and to take sensible precautions to protect their health. These include shading the skin from direct sunlight by wearing a long-sleeved top and also a wide-brimmed hat - the latter will be very effective in helping to shade the face, head and the back of the neck."

The leaflet supports HSE's current "Good Health is Good Business" publicity campaign, which aims to reduce the number of people who suffer ill health caused or made worse by work.

Copies of the leaflet can be obtained free from HSE Books PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6FS. Tel: 01787 881165 Fax: 01787 313995.

A quarter of a century of loyal service has been reached by one of the South West and South Wales Region's most respected greenkeepers. Mike Pike of Ellerfield Hotel, Golf & Country Club joined the club in 1971 when he was only 22 years old. Since then Mike has nurtured and looked after Ellerfield's popular course and has turned it into one of the very best kept in the region.

After 25 years of service Mike has some very firm ideas about how a golf course should be run: "The secret of a good golf course is allowing the Greenkeeper to run his own course. I've always had this freedom at Ellerfield which is probably why I'm still here and why I'll be hopefully be here for another 25 years."

"The feedback I get from members and visitors who play the course is that they most appreciate a firm and true putting surface and I've always had very good remarks made about mine which makes me and hopefully the members very proud."

Firm bought out

AM Russell, the 114 year old Edinburgh based Toro dealer, has been the subject of a successful management buy out led by new Managing Director Brian Goudie and Financial Director Joe Zawinski. The company which employs 33 people is the largest supplier of Toro equipment in Europe and has an annual turnover of £4 million.

Beware of those rays...

A reminder to outdoor workers - that they should be aware of the health dangers from excessive exposure of the skin to the sun - comes from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Mindful of last year's heat wave, a statement from the HSE points out that undue exposure of the skin to the sun should be avoided, particularly during the three or four hours around the middle of the day, and especially for those people who are more sensitive to the sun than others.

Senior HSE health policy official Mike Shepherd said: "Too much exposure of the skin to sunlight can be damaging. It can prematurely age the skin, leaving it wrinkled and leathery, and increase the risk of developing skin cancer in later life. However, these adverse effects can be almost totally avoided by following the guidance contained in HSE's free leaflet, 'Keep Your Top On' which includes simple advice on how to recognise skin types most at risk."

"It is important for outdoor workers to realise the possible dangers from the sun and to take sensible precautions to protect their health. These include shading the skin from direct sunlight by wearing a long-sleeved top and also a wide-brimmed hat - the latter will be very effective in helping to shade the face, head and the back of the neck."

The leaflet supports HSE's current "Good Health is Good Business" publicity campaign, which aims to reduce the number of people who suffer ill health caused or made worse by work.

Copies of the leaflet can be obtained free from HSE Books PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6FS. Tel: 01787 881165 Fax: 01787 313995.

"Asking advice from Ronnie Bunting, who's just over the hill from me at Kilmalcolm"

Gordon Kern, Gleddoch