Hi-tech parts service begins

Ransomes has invested £600,000 in its new hi-tech parts operation in Ipswich.

Carried out over the last year, each Ransomes dealer is now linked by computer to the parts operation with overseas dealers following on fast. Replacing the fax-based method of parts ordering, the Pow-ercom-2000 computer software uses the telephone network to provide a direct connection between each dealer and the parts stores.

Another major step forward for the company has been the separation of the parts department from those needed for the manufacturer of new machines. This will prevent occasions when the parts depart-

ment are unable to provide parts when the production department is meeting the demand for a specific machine. It will free the parts department to look after savings being achieved through the use of computerised parts storage and retrieval systems.

"In addition to concentrating all of the parts into a single building, we've housed around 2,000 of the fastest-moving items within a line of computer-controlled stor-age shuttles and carousels," explained International Parts Sales Manager, Phil Naunton.

Every part which leaves the site now carries the distinctive "Ransomes Real Parts" branding and to encourage users to specify an item Ransomes is running a series of special offers on a range of selected parts from is range during 1996.

European agreement signed

At the recent launch of Greenor, the latest DowElanco fine turf selective weed-killer to be added to the Rigby Taylor "Advanced Technology Products" range, a European Co-operation Agreement was signed for the development and marketing of fine turf products throughout Europe.

George Skylakakis, Director, New Products DowElanco Europe, reminded the Rigby Tay-

lor team of the success of the recent introductions, Rimidin, Bas-tion T and Lorsban T in the UK and was confident that the launch of Rimidin in France would mirror the results in this country.

'We are pleased to be associ-

ated with such a reputable research based chemical com-

pany," said Bernard Hedley, Chairman of Rigby Taylor, "and we are sure that the continued development of products tuned to the requirements of the sports turf industry will maintain the success of this fruitful partner-

ship."

A joint European development team has been established to ensure the continued focus on the development of products most suited to the requirements of greenkeepers and groundsman.

Picture shows Bernard Hedley, left, and George Skylakakis at the signing of the agreement.

Taking training out to the greenkeepers

This year seems to be flying by. I am still waiting for the "quiet spell", post BTME, but I am still very busy putting the educa-

tion and training program together for 96/97.

The 1995/96 series of Regional Supervisory Management Courses draws to a close, this month with courses in Killearn and Hemel Hempstead. From the vast amount of positive feedback received so far, it is obvious that we have made a successful start in taking training out to green-

keepers. We are planning to expand the number of courses for Autumn 96 and Spring 97 and, thanks once again to contribu-
tions to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, we should be able to keep costs reasonable.

Watch out for further details in future magazines. Courses will take place, once again, at Ald-

wark Manor in October/November '96 and details will be published in the April magazine.

Massey Ferguson Tractor Appreciation Workshop

The first Massey Ferguson tractor appreciation workshop for selected college students took place at Warwickshire College from February 19 to 23 and was a great success. Further workshops will be held at Oaklands College from March 11 to 15 and at Elmwood College from April 1 to 4. Nominated students will shortly receive joining instruc-
tions for each workshop.

Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

Keep those nominations coming in. Remember, a trip to Las Vegas is only part of prize for winning the competition. See Pages 30-31 for details of previous winners and what they have achieved.

BIGGA Lending Library

The number of titles now exceeds 200 with more books on order. Remember, it costs nothing to borrow books for up to six weeks except the return postage. For more information or for a copy of the book list, contact me at HQ.

National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME

The search for speakers and sub-

jects for the 1997 National Educa-
tion Conference, Workshops and BTME Seminars has already begun.

If you wish to speak, know of a good speaker or have a subject that you would like to see dis-

cussed then please let me know. Video tapes of the 1996 Confer-

ence and Seminars have been published, I have negotiated a reduced price for videos ie 40 minute session £7.50 inc VAT, 60 minute session £8.50 inc VAT, 90-120 minutes £10 and 180 minutes or more, £15.

Written transcriptions of each session of the Conference are now available from HQ priced at £2.90 per session +£1.50 postage.