Mark Horner takes over as Commercial and Amenity Sales Manager at Vitax this month, following the retirement of Trevor Holmes after 14 years with the company. Formerly with Sinclair Horticulture & Leisure, Trevor, who joined the company as National Field Sales Manager in 1984 and rose to Director two years later, following a company buy-out, has seen the successful merge of Vitax with Synchemicals in 1988, and Amenity sales figures triple since he joined the company.

During his time with Vitax, Trevor has introduced many new products including the wetting agent “Ultraflo”, the entire range of slow release fertilisers and, most recently, the seaweed products “Seaturf Soluble” and “Seaweed Foliar Feed.”

While building his early career in the horticultural and amenity sectors, Trevor had also been building his body. A self-confessed seven stone weakling in his 20s, he joined a body building club in Grantham, stone wealding in his 20s, he joined the company as National Field Sales Manager in 1988 and rose to Director two years later, following a company buy-out, has seen the successful merge of Vitax with Synchemicals in 1988, and Amenity sales figures triple since he joined the company.

Trevor Holmes with the weight of the world on his shoulders

Mark Horner, who has been with Vitax for three years, and working alongside Trevor as Commercial and Amenity Sales Manager Designate since September, was born into horticulture as his father grew over 30 acres of field vegetables at Scarisbrick, Lancashire, on the Fylde Coast.

With an HND in horticultural sciences and previous experience with Henry Alty Ltd, Mark, 30, was a Technical Sales Advisor covering the 13 South Eastern counties for Vitax, before training for his new post.

The need to control irrigation systems as an integral part of golf course management, and the need to optimise water usage is becoming one of the key tasks facing Course Managers. Over the last few years the UK and Ireland has seen the installation of some extensive irrigation systems to greens, tees and fairways. The number of sprinklers, and the necessary complexity of the irrigation programmes, makes PC based control an essential feature for a successful operation. Toro has been at the cutting edge of PC based technology and its latest system is named SitePro.

SitePro uses full graphic depiction of the actual course on which it is installed these graphics show the position of the pipework, cables and sprinklers. Operation of individual sprinklers is activated by simply clicking on the sprinkler marked on the screen. This is only the beginning; full utilisation of the system features, flow management, weather station communication to calculate site evap-transpiration rates and a range of course management reporting functions.

SitePro represents the pinnacle of irrigation system control technology and all that is required to run the system is a basic understanding of Windows 95, and a knowledge of a turf irrigation practices.

For further information on Toro Irrigation Products call Robin Francis on 01425 476261 or contact Hydroscope, Water House, 10 Carvers Industrial Estate, Southampton Road, Ringwood, Hampshire UK BH24 1JS Fax: 01425 472380.