Carraro offers a taste of Italy for visitors

A group of industry journalists visited the state-of-the-art Antonio Carraro factory in Padova, Italy, just before Christmas and saw at first hand the production of the unique tractors which are now being distributed in England, Wales and Ireland by Charterhouse Turf Machinery.

Carraro Tractors boast full chassis oscillation and have a driver position which can be rotated a full 180 degrees, and the tractor driven forwards in both directions - this is particularly useful when deciding upon the attachments to use.

The company has also brought in several specialist technicians from Porsche to work with the established Carraro team on the assembly lines.

The newest member of the tractor family is the TTR 9400 which is aimed at the fine turf market.

The tractor boasts four equal wheel drive with low ground pressure and wide tread and the chassis has 15 degrees of oscillation on each side which gives constant traction, stability and 50% balance on each of the front and rear. The gearbox has 64 speeds, 32 forward and 32 reverse while the engine is a 87 horsepower diesel.

Further details of this and the other tractors in the Carraro range can be obtained from Colin Gregory, of Charterhouse Turf Machinery.

Mike Canaway takes early retirement

After over 25 years service at the STRI Dr Mike Canaway, STRI Chief Executive has decided to take early retirement in the Spring.

"It is with much regret that I have received Mike Canaway's resignation having worked closely and harmoniously with him since we assumed our respective positions in 1995. His work as Chief Executive in steering us through a significant programme of modernisation and expansion deserve our warmest thanks," said STRI Chairman, Roger Robinson.

Dr Canaway commented "After over 25 years of service at STRI, and approaching five years as Chief Executive, I now feel that it is time to hand over the reins. In today's fast moving commercial environment there is a need for fresh ideas and new initiatives. I will be more than happy to continue to give support to STRI in its work."

CPD embraced by BIGGA

One of BIGGA's primary, and stated, aims is to advance the profession of greenkeeping through education and development.

Therefore in common with many organisations, including Central Government, BIGGA recognises that Education and Training should continue throughout one's working life and so to encourage greenkeepers to develop their full potential, it is introducing a Certificate of Continuing Development.

"Unlike most other professions greenkeeping has always been at the forefront of the education for life - the packed education sessions during Harrogate week bear testimony to that - and so it is right that we should look to put that on a more formal footing," said BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small.

Greenkeepers will need to accumulate 20 credits in each calendar year (June to June) to be awarded a Certificate. Certificates may be used as evidence for Master Greenkeeper, N/SVQ and as a guide for employers when recruiting.

February 2000 Greenkeeper International 7
Volunteers required for the following events

Volvo PGA Championship, The Wentworth Club
May 28-29, 2000

The Association will again be providing a team of 40 members for each of the above days (the third and fourth rounds). Each member will be allocated a match and will walk the course with the game, raking any bunkers found by the players. You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course and there is no provision for overnight accommodation. You may apply to help on either or both days. When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided.

Helping at this event will not prejudice your chances of a place on The Open Championship Support Team.

The Open Championship
St Andrews
July 20-23, 2000

The BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open Championship will be involved in early morning course preparation; bunker raking, while matches are in play, and evening course repair. You must be available from Wednesday evening, July 19, through to the close of play on Sunday, July 23. While all transport, accommodation and meals will be provided between these dates it is the team member's responsibility from travel from home to the venue and return. When applying please give your polo shirt size.

Full BIGGA members only may apply in writing, for either or both of these events to: John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark Alne, York, Y061 1UF.

Should you require any further information John can be contacted on 01347 833800 or via email: john@bigga.co.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday March 3, 2000

In the event of there being more applications than places available then a draw of names will take place.

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Toro signs five year deal with Tour

Toro has secured five-year partnership deals with two of the world's leading golfing organisations. The move sees Toro become the official supplier of turf maintenance equipment and irrigation products to both the PGA European Tour and PGA European Tour Courses. The latter owns and operates seven top golf course venues in the UK and Europe, five of which are used for the European Tour.

As part of the deal with PGA European Tour Courses, Toro has won an £500,000 contract to supply turf machinery and irrigation products for the four courses at the high-profile new Fleesensee golf resort, near Berlin, Germany, which opens in April 2000. The deal is one of the biggest of its kind in Europe, for what will also be a European Tour location.

The agreements were signed by The Toro Company, from Minneapolis, USA, at a special ceremony attended by all parties at the PGA European Tour headquarters at Wentworth, Surrey.

For the European Tour, Toro will supply each Tour venue with full tournament support covering both turf machinery and additional irrigation requirements. Additionally, there will be full technical support, back-up and training for operators as appropriate.

"One of the main reasons we selected Toro was that it offered irrigation expertise too. We have had some concerns about the standard of irrigation at tournament venues. But with Toro on board I am confident that we can solve these problems and keep the courses in top condition," said Director of Tour Operations, David Garland.

Meanwhile, PGA European Tour Courses has teamed up with The Toro Company to purchase turf maintenance machinery and irrigation products for its seven golf establishments in the UK and Europe. The company, which has a share holding in the PGA, owns and runs five courses on the European Tour including Wentworth.

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R&A supports Environment Competition

The prestigious BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, which has identified the golf club which has done most to combine excellent environmental practice with good golf course management work, moves into a fourth year thanks to the support of the R&A.

The competition will enjoy the continued support of Amazone Ground Care, under the drive of Managing Director Rod Baker, who launched the competition in 1995 and which he ran successfully for two years before teaming up with BIGGA.

In 2000 the prize structure will change giving the overall winner a cheque for £6000 to be spent on environmental projects, a trophy and a plaque with the four Regional Winners each now receiving £500 for the same purposes and a plaque. All runners-up will receive certificates/commendations. Also new for 2000 will be a prize for the club judged to have completed the best individual environmental project.

"We must thank Rod Baker for his continued and valued support of the competition he started and also the R&A whose support this year displays the importance placed on the competition by the game of golf in general," said Elliott Small, BIGGA Chairman.

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Raymond on the move

Raymond Hunt has left Marriott Forest of Arden to take up a fresh challenge in the Championship links of Pyle and Kenfig in South Wales - which is due to host the Amateur Championship in 2002.

Raymond spent 12 years with Whitbread during which time he was responsible for growing in two new courses and the preparation of the Arden Course for six European Tour events including four English Opens and two British Masters. Prior to that he worked on P&K's neighbouring course, Royal Porthcawl.

"I am looking forward to returning to Championship links golf to work with an excellent club and developing a fantastic links golf course," said Raymond.
Thanks to Scottish Patrons

The annual Scottish Region Patrons' Lunch was held in Stirling recently to honour the winners of the 1999 Patrons' Awards. The day was a great success as usual with all the Award winners and a large turnout of the Scottish Patrons in attendance. Each winner received a book and a trip to BTME 2000. The After Dinner Speaker was Ian MacPherson from East Kilbride and I must say I thought last year's was good but this year Ian was even better. On behalf of the Scottish Region we would like to thank the Scottish Patrons for their continued support because if it was not for their help and all the work they do these awards would not be able to be given. So once again thanks from all of us in Scotland.

Chris Yeaman

Kay collects bunker prize

The fifth winner of the annual Great BIGGA Bunker Competition for the world’s media held during The Open Championship was presented with her prize - a fabulous Hayter Harrier mower - just before Christmas. Kay Smart, who together with her husband, Chris, cover many golf events at home and abroad for the Mid Glamorgan Press Agency, was the closest in her estimation of how many bunkers the world’s greatest golfers would find during The Open Championship at Carnoustie in July. Kay’s guess of 1398 was closest to the final figure of 1474 and was a fine achievement when the vast majority guessed far too love. Carnoustie has 115 bunkers and only Royal Lytham with 183 bunkers has had a higher total in the five years the statistics have been kept. Kay was presented with her £700 lawn mower, courtesy of Hayter Ltd, by Kim Mache at Celtic Manor just before Christmas. Obviously delighted to have won the first prize of her life she did admit to not actually having a lawn.

Kay Smart

Honour for Jim Arthur

Legendary agronomist, Jim Arthur, whose work on Britain’s golf courses stretches back well into the last century has been awarded Honorary Membership of BIGGA. It is only the fifth Honorary Membership ever granted by the Association and Jim joins the late Viscount Whitelaw, Jim Fry, Brian Gilbert and Fred Hawthree in the exclusive membership category.

"I was taken aback when I was told. I certainly hadn’t expected it," said Jim, speaking from his home in Budleigh Salterton, North Devon. "Throughout my career I tried to push the professionalism of the greenkeeper and this award is a reflection of the work of a great many people. I have always regarded the advisor as being just one part of a team when he visited a golf course with everyone an equal part of that team effort," he explained. Jim will be presented with his certificate later in the year.

Royal Inverdavit GC...

by Tony Husband

Recently joined BIGGA Golden Key members, Avoncrop Amenity Products, celebrated 10 years in the industry with a party recently and a cake ably sliced by partners David Onions and Rod Feltham.