Top student for Gaunt and Marnoch

Golf course architects Gaunt and Marnoch have recruited the top graduate from this year's European Institute of Golf Course Architects' Professional Diploma course. Dimitri Van Haanentaert, 32, from Belgium, who won the 2001 Toro Student Golf Course Architect Award, will head up the new Gaunt and Marnoch office in Antwerp and will spearhead the company's activities in Continental Europe.

"We're delighted to welcome Dimitri to our company. He is exactly the kind of person we are looking for - fluent in many languages, strong business acumen, tremendous golf design achievements in only a short space of time, not to mention his golfing prowess as an amateur international," said Co-Director Steven Marnoch.

In recent months we've conducted a very frank assessment of our business and the future market potential. The progress we're making in the UK is really pleasing but we want to expand further the company's activities on the Continent," explained Steve's partner, Jonathan Gaunt.

As part of his prize Dimitri will fly to the Toro Company's Headquarters in Minneapolis and its irrigation division in Riverside, California and attend the GCSAA Show in Orlando.

Swan Golf Designs land new contracts home and abroad

Swan Golf Designs Ltd has secured a commission to renovate Brickendon Grange Golf Club in Hertfordshire. While a significant project for Howard Swan, Brickendon Grange will fail to help him to add to his growing collection of air miles.

The practice now looks after 25 courses including some as far afield as Reykjavik, Beirut and the Continent of Europe although its furthest commission is half way round the world.

The practice is redesigning the Ras Al Hamra Golf Course in Muscat, Oman where the nine hole brown course is being revised and is likely to become the Sultanate's first green and grassed layout.

The course is being lengthened and a full irrigation system installed to allow effluent water from a nearby refinery to be used to water the new grass. The course is designed to allow the recycling of all water so conserving to the maximum a resource whose value is immense in such a part of the world.

RainBird hold seminar at Gleneagles

Gleneagles was the venue for RainBird's annual Training Day attended by Course Managers and greenkeeping staff from courses across Scotland and Northern England.

The event, now in its second year, provides an introduction to new users of Rain Bird's computerised irrigation control systems and is also a refresher course for those already familiar with the systems offered by the company.

"Here at Gleneagles we have invested over £500,000 in our Rain Bird irrigation system and it has proved a worthwhile investment but only because we have received the relevant and necessary training," said Scott Fernwick, Golf Courses Superintendent.

"Effective water resource management, with its associated environmental implications is vitally important - hence the massive advances in irrigation technology over the last decade," said Mark Gunning, RainBird's UK Field Service Manager.