Grade A Club benefits for Dartmouth G&CC

Membership of an innovative club is helping Dartmouth Golf and Country Club Course Manager Terry Farkins supplement his annual staff training budget. Soon his in-house training library will boast the full range of BIGGA greenkeeper training videos. Terry employs eight full time staff and one casual worker at the 27-hole golf and hotel complex situated at Blackawarton, near Tones in Devon. Investment in training has always been a priority for both Terry and his employer BBC Director General, Greg Dyke, who owns Dartmouth G&CC.

"We are constantly looking to move our greenkeepers up the NVQ qualification scale. At the moment, half our staff are qualified and the rest are keen to progress right up to NVQ level three. We run regular in-house training days and attend short courses where appropriate," said Terry. In fact, Terry is so committed to continued career education that he plans to set up his own library within the course workshop area, and introduce a personal computer so that staff can regularly access the Internet for information.

"Ultimately, I’d like to undertake 90% of the training in-house and this means investing in educational materials. The British Seed Houses training credit scheme is an excellent idea has been well received by both the staff and the company. We’ve redeemed our first batch of points and will be using the money to build up a library of BIGGA training videos," he revealed. As a member of the British Seed Houses Grade A Club, Terry has built up his points as a loyalty bonus based on the on-going seed business he has done with the company.

Top marks given to Thiefbeaters

Thiefbeaters has launched the Thatcham Permanent Security Marking and Database registration system.

- Designed to protect valuable vehicles and equipment, Thiefbeaters acts as a thief deterrent. The new system can be applied to a wide range of landscaping and amenity items, including mowers, chippers, tractors and hand tools.
- It works by applying unique alphanumeric numbers, electronic tags and microdots to the structure and fabric of an item. This identification put in numerous overt and hidden locations, make it impossible for the thief to conceal, or remove the identity and legal ownership of the property.

Latest brochure now available from Tonick

The new full colour brochure from Tonick Watering features a comprehensive range of irrigation control products and accessories for golf course, sports grounds, garden centres and landscapes.

- The range includes decoders with grammers/testers, irrigation controllers, lightning protection modules, field wiring connection and fault-finding kits.

New Nokia high flotation tyres - yes that's Nokia - are helping to reduce the round pressure of the Carraro TRX 8400 tractor, which is a 74hp machine weighing 2100 kg, to 6 psi.

- The Nokia tyres, which fit comfortably into the Carraro tractor's frame, boast a lifespan which is typically equal to or greater than the vehicle to which they are fitted.

- "Even when the TRX is working with one of the larger Verti-Drain deep aeration machines mounted on the back, it still creates less disturbance to the grass than an empty turf utility vehicle moving personnel around," said Dustin Houghton, Head Greenkeeper, at Seafield Head Golf Club, who purchased a Nokia shod machine recently.

- Like other Carraro tractors, the driving position and controls are fully reversible. This means that attachments can be fitted at both front and rear, and the operator can switch from using one to the other almost instantaneously.

- This saves time and boosts productivity, with various tasks being carried out quickly and efficiently, without damaging the turf.

- Carraro tractors are distributed in the UK by Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd.