FUND RAISERS

Dale Robertson, Course Manager at Newmachar Golf Club, and two of his staff completed a 10 kilometre run in Aberdeen and raised £463.50 for the Archie Foundation in aid of a new children’s hospital in Aberdeen.

Dale is on the left of the picture with Patrick Wood, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, in the middle and apprentice Ben Brookes on the right.

SPORTSTURF IRELAND

As this is a unique opportunity to meet those involved in the Irish industry ‘under one roof’, over 90% of the exhibition space has already been allocated with most major machinery and supply companies taking part. With the show having a two-year cycle a large attendance is expected driven by the curiosity factor to see what’s new in the market. It also acts as a social occasion as it is a great opportunity to meet and greet old friends from different parts of the country. Admission to the trade fair is free.

For further details about Sportsturf Ireland, the availability of exhibition space, or for a personal invitation, contact Tracy Coburn, the GCSA’s Marketing Manager, on 028 406 22655, mobile 07803 237247 or email tracy@gcsai.org

MAKE THE MOST OF OLD MACHINERY

Clubs looking to maximise the use of their older machinery might like to take note of the work of Norbert Lischka and his team at Falkenstein Golf Club in Germany, who converted an old Toro 3000 into a leaf blower.

"Because of the number of trees we have here and the fact that it is a very hilly course the team came up with the idea of building a leaf blower on a 15 year old Toro 3000 green machine,” explained Norbert.

“We were able to use the old pedals for mowing and lifting. Therefore we bring the blower in the right distance to the surface by going up and down, when the area is undulated. Norbert estimates that the cost to fit the blower onto the green machine was 2000 Euros (around £1,400).

ATV SAFETY WEAR

ATV operators should always wear the correct protective equipment and this includes a helmet. In the event of an accident, the most common injury sustained by an ATV user has been found to be a head injury and helmets are therefore a ‘must’ and not an option!

ATV manufacturers have worked closely with the HSE on the whole area of safety on quad bikes. As a result these machines are exempted from the requirement to fit a ROPS frame and seat belt because research has demonstrated that these vehicles are safer without them. However, good operator training is essential. This will include awareness of correct tyre pressure, speed control, body active weight distribution and correct personal protective equipment.

In a work situation an employer must provide, and the operator must wear a helmet. Failure to do so can lead to formal action by the HSE.

Scott MacCallum, Editor