ROBERTS REWARD

Andrew Roberts has been named as Sisis Territory Manager of the Year 2005. Covering Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and North Wales, Andrew is a relatively new boy at Sisis joining them in April 2004. However he has quickly earned a reputation for conscientious customer care and attention to detail, and has significantly increased sales in his territory.

CRIMEWATCH COLUMN

Those unfortunate greenkeepers who have had machinery or equipment stolen from their clubs are invited to send in a description of the missing kit plus a serial number. We will then print the information. Hopefully this will lead to some recovery and perhaps make it more difficult to sell on the stolen items.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of this service should send the information to Gareth Jones at BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, Y061 1UF or email gareth@bigga.co.uk.

NEW AREA SALES MANAGER

Oxfordshire based Garden Tractor manufacturer Countax has announced the appointment of Phil Parry in the role of Area Sales Manager. Phil brings with him some 18 years’ experience with Briggs & Stratton engines, and a career in garden machinery spanning over 30 years, following 9 years in the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers.

Phil will cover sales of Countax, Westwood and Echo products to dealers in the Midlands, and joins the Company at an exciting time following the recent launch of the new four wheel drive products, and the new X Series tractors.

"We are delighted to welcome Phil to Countax, and feel certain that his wealth of experience in the industry will be beneficial to both Countax and the specialist dealer," said Mark Osborne, Sales Director at Countax.

IRRIPLAN GOES WHITE

Marcus White has become a partner in independent irrigation consultancy IrriPlan. He’ll work alongside Giles Wardle in the business he founded and which celebrated its 10th anniversary during 2004.

Marcus joins the company from 2ic, where he was a partner for four years. He specialises in water resources and management, including abstraction licensing, hydrological monitoring and advisory services concerning the quality, treatment, storage and monitoring of water. As a Chartered Engineer, he’s also an expert in reservoir engineering and design, ground modelling, site surveys and Health & Safety planning.

"It combines the skills of the two most qualified irrigation engineers in the UK golf industry, both with significant experience of working on major projects here and abroad. This will enable us to offer a wider range of services to our existing client base within the golf and sports turf industry," said Giles.

Marcus added: "Giles and I completed our MSc degrees at Cranfield at the same time and I’m delighted that we’ve formed a partnership. We can now offer complete contract management for irrigation projects, from water sourcing, abstraction and storage to the engineering and design of irrigation systems and drainage."

DUKE’S TRANSFORMATION

The striking transformation of the Duke’s Course at St Andrews is the inspirational result of a design philosophy that has already made American architect Tim Liddy one of the most talked-about influences in the modern game.

Tim’s complete redesign of the last four holes of the Duke’s Course not only strengthens its challenge to make it one of the finest inland championship tests in the British Isles but also gives the course unique potential for future major televised tournaments.

Even though the course has been lengthened by 350 yards to 7,500 yards, Tim has focused on the importance of strategic play rather than power golf and in so doing observed the fundamentals of the original designer Peter Thomson, five times Open Champion.

His basic philosophy is that the course must, as it were, “grow” out of the landscape and not be imposed on it. Thus it must remain character with its surroundings. Consequently the high-sided bunkers, more in keeping with a links, that were a feature of the original Duke’s Course are being replaced by the more typical inland, soft-edged versions.

"A common trait of my design is rewarding the player who can manoeuvre the ball. It identifies the golfer with greater ability," stated Tim.