End of an Era

It was the end of an era recently when the last G-Plex III ride-on greens mower rolled off the Ransomes Jacobsen production line at the Ipswich manufacturing facility.

This was the 3,536th G-Plex built at Ipswich since production began in the UK, back in 1998. Previously the first incarnation of this ever popular mower, the GP160, was built at the Cushman plant in Lincoln, Nebraska in the USA.

Dom La Bella, Team Leader on the G-Plex production line, who has been involved with every machine that has come down the line in the past 12 years commented: “To have produced over 3500 units is a great achievement, especially as around 40% are exported around the world with a majority going to the USA. I am very proud of the team that builds them and it’s a sad day to see a real stalwart of greens mowing disappear.”

“Mind you, we have now changed the line to take the new GP400, which is the replacement for the G-Plex and this is a machine that has taken all the best features of the old mower and added new, modern systems to provide better functionality and operator comfort. We’re confident that we’ll be producing just as many over the coming years.”

Dave’s a Pop Master

David Fellows, Head Greenkeeper at Costa’s Meadow Woods GC, in Solihull, won the daily Pop Master Quiz on the Ken Bruce Show on Radio 2 on Tuesday 7 December.

Quiz nut, Dave, who specialises in music, science and nature and other “wierd things” scored an impressive 30 out of 35, only missing out on two very obscure questions, to win his head to head, before successfully running four Who songs in 10 seconds to upgrade from an MP3 player to a Digital Radio.

“After phoned up I told the researcher that I’d met Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Bobby Church when all three were young and I increased the chances of me being selected and it worked although Ken didn’t tell me about that in the end,” said Dave, who also won the same quiz nine years ago.

Thomson Perrett & Lobb are a natural choice for Royal Jersey Golf Club. Not only were they recommended to us and then, subsequently, gave us a very detailed proposal, but there were also sentimental reasons attached to our decision. It will be the first time in 35 years that an outside team of architects has studied the Royal Jersey layout. “One of the key aspects of TPL’s work will be to ensure the course is still a fair test of golf, particularly when you consider how advancements in equipment and golf ball technology over the past 10 years have significantly influenced how far all levels of player hit their shots.”

Upgrade for Royal Jersey

Thomson Perrett & Lobb golf course architecture practice founded by five times Open Champion Peter Thomson with partners Ross Perrett and Tim Lobb, has been appointed by Royal Jersey Golf Club to carry out an audit of the Channel Island golf course and make recommendations to enhance the playing strategy.

Tim Lobb, TPL principal, said: “The history and traditions of Royal Jersey GC are of paramount importance to us and are a key consideration as we undertake our work over this famous links course.”

Among TPL’s objectives at Royal Jersey is the improvement of the bunkers. Design work begins this month with the team working closely with the club’s Head Greenkeeper, David Crawford. David commented: “Thomson Perrett & Lobb are a natural choice for Royal Jersey Golf Club. Not only were they recommended to us and then, subsequently, gave us a very detailed proposal, but there were also sentimental reasons attached to our decision. It will be the first time in 35 years that an outside team of architects has studied the Royal Jersey layout. “One of the key aspects of TPL’s work will be to ensure the course is still a fair test of golf, particularly when you consider how advancements in equipment and golf ball technology over the past 10 years have significantly influenced how far all levels of player hit their shots.”

BIGGA SUPPORT TEAM

BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

WENTWORTH, MAY 26-29

Volunteers are required for the 2011 BIGGA Support Team at this year’s BMW PGA Championship at the Wentworth Club on the above dates. All or any one day would be greatly appreciated.

A great chance to see at close hand the extensive work that goes into the preparation for a major European Tour Golf Championship.

No accommodation is provided. For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator. Tel 0141 9484110 or 01737 819343. Mobile 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.

BIGGA Scottish Conference

2011 BIGGA Scottish Conference on March 1st

The 2011 BIGGA Scottish Conference will take place at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Carnegie, Dunfermline on Tuesday 1 March 2011.

Speakers include Jim McKenzie, Course Superintendent, Celtic Manor; Simon Watson, of Syngenta, and Jonathan Harrer, of Farmura. Other speakers include Chris Kennedy/Jack McMillan, The Wentworth Club, Clive Nottingham, Hunters Grinders and finally Chris Haspell, Castle Stuart Golf Links. Tickets cost £35, which includes tea/coffee on arrival, tea/coffee and pastry at the mid morning break and buffet lunch.

Full details and booking forms will be available and posted to members in Scotland and forms can be obtained by contacting Peter J. Boyd, Regional Administrator. Tel 01969 4163440 or email: pj.boyd@btinternet.com

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