EGEU Launch New Website

The European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU) is pleased to announce that a new website has been developed to complement the already existing EGEU website (www.egeu.eu).

The new website, designed in association with The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) and the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU), is based on a Quality Assured scheme of centres, and specialist training providers, all having met a criteria and available to offer both formal and bespoke training courses. Employers and greenkeepers are encouraged to view the new website as there are courses and contacts available to assist with successful staff and management development.

The GTC’s David Golding, Director of the EGEU, believes the new website will develop into the independent information portal for the sector as more countries look to establish a greenkeeping education and training structure to allow access to learning for all levels of operatives and managers.

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The opportunity of visiting Birch Grove Estate, in Sussex is a course which rarely opens its doors to witness renovation work being carried out, has arisen.

Greenkeepers can visit this closed course while it is being renovated using the latest machinery from Campey Turf Care Systems, on Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25th, April.

Birch Grove Estate was acquired by a select few as the best 18 holes in Sussex. No expense was spared in its construction and the millions spent created a golf course of absolute perfection.

Birch Grove is now under new ownership and is to be given a new lease of life.

For one week only, an intensive renovation programme will be implemented with machinery from Koro, Insants, Dakota, Onam, Raynum, Cormaster and Verder.

Once the work is finished, the gates will be closed and locked by the owner and then the facilities and golf course will be once again reserved for his own private use.

You can apply for your personal invitation. This is the only way you can gain access – so please email your request to julia.campey@campeyturfcare.com or call 01260 224568.

South East Region Annual Golf Day

After a chilly start once again, members and their guests enjoyed some good weather at Walton Heath Golf Club for the South East Region’s Annual Golf and Dinner Day.

All of the large field of competitors appreciated the great condition of the Course and its presentation so early in the season.

It was very apparent that Alan Strachan and his team had been really busy with some good work on the Heath throughout the winter months.

Competitors enjoyed the refreshments kindly provided by Johnny Beck and James Watson, of Sheriff Amenity, at the 10th hole. Chairman of the South East Region, Tom Smith, thanked the host Club for, as always, their first-class hospitality and for making everyone so welcome on the day.

Following an excellent meal in the Holderness Dining Room guests were entertained by the popular Ian Richards, the Captain of Walton Heath Golf Club, John Avelord, then presented the prizes to the category winning competitors.

The Ray Day Memorial Trophy was won by Gareth Roberts, from Haslbury Common Golf Club, with some great golf to get around the New Course in a gross score of 72.

This year for the first time there was a Team Challenge won by the Surrey Section whose top three players had the best combined score to receive the Silver Salver.

The evening ended with the presentation of the trophies in memory of Ian McMillan by Callum McMillan (left) to the winners of the Members and Guest’s Glyn Rodwell (right) and Matt Streeter (centre) from Beausport Park GC.

Natural Paving Products

Natural Paving Products (UK) Ltd has launched its new brochure and website. The new brochure includes flagstones and block paving, as well as a range of new products, colours and features. The Cragstone Collection of weathered flagstones and circles is also new for 2012. www.naturalpaving.co.uk

HERBICIDE LABEL CHANGES

New CRD (Chemical Regulation Directorate) label requirements for herbicides approved for use on non-porous, hard surfaces, require increased targeting of spray applications, important in protecting water and optimising application efficiency.

“Not in the view of Bayer’s, Dorni Rep, who has manned the new requirements. “These new label requirements – Regulatory Update 92 – will apply to all herbicides used on paved and other non-porous surfaces,” explained Dorni.

The new legislation, aligned to the EU Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides and the EU Water Framework Directive, has come into action to help minimise the use of herbicides and to reduce run off into drains which poses a pollution risk.

For herbicides used on such surfaces, the path of movement following application, mirrors that of rainfall, often being directed into drains and gulleys.

“This potential pollution risk is one which must be protected to deliver environmental protection which otherwise hinders compliance with EU and UK directives relating to pesticide use and protection of water resources.

“The objective is to improve the targeting of herbicide applications and to avoid blanket sprays when controlling weeds on impervious surfaces,” he said.