Jacobsen and GEO Sign Global Agreement

Jacobsen, has signed a new global partnership agreement with the Golf Environment Organisation. This will see the organisations broaden their collaboration jointly to promote awareness, understanding and solutions in the Americas and Asia as well as Europe, Middle East and Africa. Through significant, long-standing support for GEO, Jacobsen is also investing in bringing practical and credible sustainability programmes for golf course management, renovation and new development to practitioners around the world. GEO is a non-profit organisation entirely dedicated to sustain-ability in golf; building awareness, developing and administering golf’s ecolabel, GEO CertifiedTM and delivering programmes to help clubs and developments achieve the distinction. Based on a long-standing relationship with Ransomes Jacobsen, that has supported GEO’s pioneering work to help the industry embrace the environmental opportunities and challenges in sector, the new worldwide Jacobsen agreement will strengthen efforts and results.

Jonathan Smith, Chief Executive of the Golf Environment Organisation, said: “GEO is privileged to have such a dedicated partner, committed to continued investment in the things that make sustainability more accessible and increasingly recognised, and bringing a wealth of Jacobsen experience. Jacobsen has supported GEO from the very start and has made a significant difference in the development, delivery, and awareness of the solutions we provide for the golf community. David Withers, President of Jacobsen, responded: “Jacobsen is a global company and GEO has global relevance and solutions, with programmes accessible worldwide in a growing number of languages and a high quality, credible and increasingly recognised international eco label for golf. Expanding our partnership to encompass all of the Jacobsen business units around the globe makes good sense, further aligns our outlook and will multiply many new positive outcomes.”

Managing with Less - Exploring the Economic and Environmental Benefits of a Sound and Sympathetic Course Management Policy, seminar being held at Temple Golf Club on Tuesday January 28, at 8.30pm.

Chairman of Michael Barratt the evening workshop is aimed at illustrating how best to meet the challenge of maintaining the quality and playability of the golf course while respecting and positively contributing to the indigenous social and natural environment. Since the mid 90s, the course has worked hard to reduce course management costs and enhance biodiversity but without compromising on the quality demanded by today’s golfer.

Speakers will be Temple Secretary Keith Addeney, on the interface between the policy and the golfer; Course Manager, Martin Gunn, on how a sound course management policy benefits; the playing quality of the course and the indigenous natural environment; Gavin Bennett, of the B.B.C. Wildlife Trust, on the benefits of less intensive land management and on biodiversity; and Michael Barratt on the wider context and what the R&A Golf Course Committee’s report Edwards on 01628 837495 or by email to stan.dewar@templegolfclub.co.uk.

Less is more

I am not long back from an enjoyable week in Harrogate attending BTME. It was wonderful to meet old friends, get lots of excellent education from first class providers and see first hand all the innovations coming to market from our many suppliers. I have been invited by the Board to remain as Chairman for a further year in order to complete and implement the strategic review. It will also allow for some continuity between the Board and the CEO as Jim has been in place for a full year. I will do my best to ensure that members’ interests remain at the forefront of all matters that the Board consider. I’d like to recognise and thank my employers, Kilmarnock, and my team at the golf course for supporting me while I undertake this role. It goes without saying, but I must say, that the support of my family is essential, as it is to so many of us working in this Industry. While we sometimes struggle to get the balance correct due to the commitment required of the job, our support and understanding of the demands placed upon you must never be taken for granted, and they should always come first.

The outstanding success of the exhibition was a fitting way to celebrate 25 years of the Association. Many of the Board are proud to have been involved in the development and growth of the Association and I’d like to thank them for having the vision and drive to take the Association to its current stage. We work in a great industry and the camaraderie which exists comes to the fore during this week. The feedback we received was very posi- tive, and the increase in visitor numbers certainly created a really good atmosphere within the halls. I’d like to thank our fellow exhibitors who were representative of Australia, Canada, Ireland and the United States, as well as PGDGA. Their willingness and determination to work together to the benefit of all our members should show some interesting developments in the near future.

The generosity shown by all at our 25th Anniversary Dinner raised over £25,000 towards the Chairman’s Charity, “Make Leukaemia History”. Gerry Conside, who spoke on the evening, has sent a letter of thanks and further information, which is printed elsewhere in this magazine. Sincere thanks also to the members and clubs who donated such valuable prizes for the charity raffle.

We were privileged to have Ken Schofield CBE propose a toast to the Association and his recognition of the contribution our members have made to the game of golf was a very humbling experience. Our very special thanks to our friend and colleague Mark Dobell, who gave a very fitting response and also paid his own tribute to the work of BEGGA. His continuous support is of enormous benefit to the Association, for which we are extremely grateful. I’d like to thank Ransomes Jacobsen who sponsored the event and especially David Withers for the kind words and sense of humour that he brought to the occasion.

Last but certainly not least I would like to thank and recognise Mark Dobell, from the R&A, for serving as Guardian on the Board from his own retirement. We wish them all the best in their retirement. Also, to Archie Dunne, Auchterarder Golf Club, Scottish Board Director, who has served faithfully for five years showing great commitment and dedication in representing the members.

The enthusiasm and hunger to learn more is inspirational and I saw many young members who, I’m sure, have a bright future.