New Distributor in Russia

Hudley Golf, has appointed a new distributor in Russia. Hudley Golf Russia will be led by Ostap Lukyanov, the Co-Owner of the business, and its Managing Director Dmitry Moradosov. Barriers to extending a golf culture in Russia have been reported as being primarily driven by a lack of training facilities as well as adverse natural conditions which have, until now, required dearer course design and significant investment.

“Golf across Eastern Europe is relatively new but it’s a game that Russians are really beginning to take to,” announced Ostap Paul Hudley, Director of Hudley Golf, which has a growing network of distributors in the UK and abroad, said: “Ostap is the right man to help develop Russia’s budding golfing industry. Having trained in Switzerland and Spain, he’s extremely knowledgeable and is dedicated to advancing the sport.”

Hudley Golf Russia will offer the full range of Hudley Golf surfaces including course tees, practice tees, greens, indoor and outdoor putting greens, pathways, lawns, matts and practice nets, with hotel, golf clubs, teaching academies, and private clients all targets areas for development.

Turf Care Seminar

Dennis and Sisis are taking to the road again. This time they are giving groundmen and greenkeepers on the Isle of Man an opportunity to attend a Turf Care Seminar at Ballafeithen Sports Club on Wednesday, March 21. This development was officially opened in April 2011 and comprises four full sized sports pitches designed for winter soccer or rugby use on two engineered and drained platforms. Delegates will hear from a range of speakers including Peter Craig, Head Greenkeeper at the Hurlingham Club, Ian Mather Brewster, of the JIG, and Keith Kest, Head Groundsman at Twickenham. Delegates will also hear advice on fertiliser selection and application procedures from Tim Le Mesuer, of Isle of Man Partners, and Matt Williams, of Banberghru, will share advice on seed selection factors affecting establishment.

Advisor on Goal Post Safety and Modern line marking technology will be shared by Harrods and Fleet Line Markers. To register for this free and informative seminar, contact Roger Moore at Dennis on 01332 824777 or email roger.moore@dennisuk.com.

Charity Celebrations

Wiedenmann UK’s 20th anniversary charity Terra Spike has found a home at Ombersley. In September at Sairxs, David Rae, Wiedenmann UK’s Managing Director launched a charity auction among Wiedenmann dealers to recognise that the fledging company he started as a 24 year-old had come of age.

Donating a one-off version of Wiedenmann’s newest and fastest selling aerator - painted the 20th anniversary ‘colours’ palette - was his way of ‘giving something back’. The bespoke Terra Spike GX8 HD was ‘won’ initially by dealer T H White of Redditch. Alan Wright, T H White Key Accounts Sales Manager, said: “From the outset T H White was keen to be involved. Even when times are tight, charity can’t be forgotten.”

The Redditch team then found a buyer in the Dowty family who head up Ombersley GC just outside Kidderminster. Andrew Halfpenny, Course Manager at Ombersley said: “We were looking for a deep fast aerator that would perform on greens and tees yet still suit our fairways. Guided by T H White’s, Simon Bingham, we had established that the Wiedenmann GX8 HD was the one. Nothing matched it for speed or versatility. “After Sairxs I read in the trade press about the platinum machine and it struck a chord. Unusually Wiedenmann UK was launched within the same time frame as Ombersley. “It made me wonder... Within a matter of a few weeks the sale had happened and all the pieces just fitted naturally.”

The benefiting charities are Cancer Research UK and The Multiple Sclerosis Society who will both share a donation in excess of £20,000. Representatives of both attended a special presentation event at the Worcestershire club.

What’s your number?

Our regular and professional profile of an industry figure continues with this month’s lucky number...

Name: Andy Cole
Company: STRI Ltd
Address: Head of Stadium Services
Address: How long have you been in the industry? Twenty five years.
Address: How did you get into it? I was lucky. Graduated from Leeds University in 1986, where STRI had a research programme and noticed an advertisement for a trainee agronomist.
Address: What other jobs have you done? During my university days the usual restaurant and bar work and had two summers working in a market garden - nothing turf related at all.
Address: What do you like about your current job? The variety of the work is exciting and working at the top level with FPIA and UEFA. I get a lot of satisfaction working as part of a team to deliver a project.
Address: What changes have you seen during your time in the industry? Training and education have improved immensely in the last 25 years. The industry has become professional and greenkeepers are generally more respected for their knowledge and expertise.
Address: What do you like to do in your spare time? I am a keen golfer and during the last four years my wife and I enjoy ballroom dancing - Strictly Come Dancing has a lot to answer for! Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? If the last 20 years are measure I want to continue enjoying the work I do and sharing my experiences across the globe.
Address: Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry? I have so many friends in the industry it would be impossible to single out one individual.
Address: What do you consider to be your lucky number? 7