It outgrew three sites before being established at the East of England Showground: now the IOG's 45th Sports and Leisure World Trade Exhibition, on September 3rd, 4th, 5th, promises the lot.

by BILL MILLS and DAVID WHITE

There are still a few ill-informed people who believe that the game of golf originated in the Netherlands, from whence it was exported to Scotland. A likely story!

Certainly, the game was sufficiently well established in Scotland in the 15th century to be prohibited by the authorities, on the grounds that it interfered with the practice of archery. The ban, however, was not universal because it is recorded that James IV of Scotland was at this time having his golf clubs made by a bow-maker from Perth. Perhaps he sailed across to Holland for his round?

Whatever the origins, there is no doubt that the Scots - pushing out the frontiers of civilisation - took the game with them, which is why golf is now the most widely-played game in the world. However, in the rest of the UK, golf was mostly the preserve of the rich and leisureed, remaining such until the great social changes which followed World War II opened the game to a much wider and enthusiast sector of the public.

It is ironic that golf was prohibited in Scotland during the 15th century because it clashed with archery practice and the defence of the realm, for some 500 years on the 22
Two-hectare demonstration site will feature the latest in turf technology

In the field of early Dutch golf, and that means early golf no matter how nationalistic Scots may jibe, the ultimate authority was the noted Dutch historian Steven van Hengel. Like a good detective he proved conclusively - dismissing folklore and hearsay - that golf was first played in Holland as early as 1297. The old saw about Scottish shepherds shooting pebbles into rabbit scrapes is romantic but is dismissed, again with evidence, by proving that this custom began in Western Germany in 1338. Well into the 17th century there was a massive export of balls from Holland to Scotland. On behalf of golf historians everywhere, your editor rests his case.

21 now is of converting parts of some surplus Ministry of Defence training grounds into golf courses!

As more new and proven products became available so also did the IOG exhibitions expand to accommodate them. This is the reason the show has outgrown three sites and is now established at the East of England Showground, Peterborough, where there is room for expansion well into the 21st Century. The 45th Sports and Leisure World Trade Exhibition, held on September 3rd, 4th and 5th, will be a comprehensive selection of the best (and safest) machinery, fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides, soils, sands and seeds for construction and maintenance, used by professionals.

On the two-hectare demonstration site, laser-controlled trenchers and graders, a variety of earth-moving, cultivating and turf conditioning machinery, plus the latest in spraying and irrigation equipment, will be seen in continuous operation under practical working conditions.

Assembled in one area are the cream of the horticultural colleges and advisory services, where information regarding training courses and advice on turf-related problems will be readily available. All this, and much more, on show at what has been described as - the greatest show on turf.

* The author, Bill Mills, is a life member of the Institute of Groundsmanship and a past editor of 'The Groundsman'.
What you can expect to see: a Greenkeeper International feature on who's showing what at the IOG Show

'Exciting newcomers' from Vitax
Two exciting newcomers into the VITAX SPORT AMENITY range will be shown at IOG.

Vitax Gro-Cover is a clear microperforated polythene fabric that provides an ideal protected growing environment. For grass seed establishment it gives between 4-7 days earlier germination plus greater uniformity of growth. It gives greater protection against birds, wind and washaway and enables seed germination in problem areas.

Vitax Weeblock is a highly porous landscape mulch fabric allowing maximum air and water movement to the soil, it is lightweight, easy to cut and gives dramatic reductions in site maintenance costs, eliminating herbicide maintenance treatments and reducing amounts of mulch material used.

Prototype marking machine unveiled
After months of research, design and testing, SUPATURF PRODUCTS LTD will be unveiling their carefully guarded prototype of a new Top Line marking machine.

This will be alongside their other new additions, including the electric pump unit which can be fitted to an existing standard Top Line machine to automatically compress the air in the tank to the correct level. As more wetting agents come onto the market, Supaturf will again be challenging their effectiveness against their own Aqua-Gro.

Also shown will be a new adaptor for the Aqua-Gro Advantage, the system for applying Aqua-Gro wetting agent through a hose pipe. This fits into an applicator to facilitate a fast, secure connection to all main hose pipe fittings.

New concept for sports turf
CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATES are unveiling Geoffrey Davidson's totally new concept which is of major significance for sports turf. Dual Plane Oscillation is a technique with a number of applications: 1) Low cost sand slitting - one rapid pass of the machine cuts the slit, excavates the soil and very tightly packs in the sand. Typical would be a width of 30mm, depth 300mm, and both can be greater or smaller. 2) Profound deep fissuring down to a depth of 450mm with horizontally oscillating wings on a vertically oscillating blade. 3) Wide warning tape simultaneously laid horizontally above deeper cable during installation by this trenchless technique.

Faster Veemo scarifier on show
SISIS will exhibit for the first time a hydraulic fully-mounted, triple version of their renowned Veemo scarifier. Close coupled to the tractor (27hp+), the fully floating units snugly follow ground contours and produce a high work rate at speeds up to 6mph - faster than comparable machines. The three 30" units produce an overall 7'6" - 24
THE ULTIMATE PLAYING SURFACE

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See us on Stand M45-60 at the IOG Show

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See us on Stands G28 and 29 at the IOG

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See us on Stands D25, 26 and 44 at the I.O.G.
More irrigation innovation
WATERMATION will have on display their large and ever increasing range of sprinklers and controllers for sportsturf and landscape irrigation, with most of the equipment made in England by Watermation themselves. Always to the front when it comes to innovation in irrigation equipment, a visit to the Watermation stand (M30-31) is a must this year in order to see their new breakthrough in control, which Director Eileen Hawthorn assures us will make the greenkeeper's life very much easier, something we all applaud!

Grinding without a strip-down
ATTERTON AND ELLIS will hone in on your attention whilst demonstrating the sharpening characteristics of their machines, capable of handling all sizes of cylinders and bottom blades. The company’s Express Dual cylinder grinding machine (pictured) is capable of both in-situ or plain cylinder grinding on a wide range of lawnmowers. When in-situ, the grinding cycle takes place without the usual strip-down, as the complete mower is located centrally on the grinder and locked into place. Separate cylinder grinding may also be undertaken when busy periods are over and the mower requires a full service. Their full range will be on working display, so sharpen up and make a visit!

Cost-effective tree moving
RUSKINS, specialists in tree moving, will display two new machines; the first being 'Eager Beaver', a versatile machine that combines the function of a tree spade, fork-lift and crane to provide a quick, efficient service to golf courses where large areas have to be covered and access is often difficult. Second is a combination of truck, tree mover and lorry loader. Trees can be lifted, rootballed, loaded and transported by a single operator. With these new machines Ruskings aim to offer a tree moving service that will be more efficient, practical and cost-effective than anything available hitherto.

Largest turf grower's local service
ROLAWN is the only national turf company with a local service providing cultivated turf in any quantity direct to the end-user from its own network of depots. Customers may collect or have turf delivered, frequently within 24 hours of ordering, and they proudly boast a virtually uninterrupted turf supply throughout the year, with most of their land now under irrigation. With production approaching 3,000 acres, they are the largest European turf grower, achieving notable success in exporting greens turf to Ireland, and have a partnership agreement with a French turf grower. Rolawn « 29

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"It is the best piece of machinery this course has ever invested in, a fine machine that I would recommend to anyone." Mr. John Bashford, Head Greenkeeper of the Green Hotel Golf Course, The Kinross Estate.

"A quality machine that gives a superb finish to our cylinders, and saves money." Mr. Derek Green, Head Greenkeeper of Royal Liverpool Golf Club.

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GREAT SHOW ON TURF

IOG Show Peterborough

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Kubota to reveal new model
The wraps come off a brand new tractor by KUBOTA for the first time at IOG, with curiosity eating at the soul of journalists denied a sneak preview. With secrecy the Kubota watchword, one can expect the new model to be something quite exceptional and our curiosity knows no bounds. Also new will be a range of mowers and grass collectors which have been developed to meet the needs of the professional greenkeeper as well as local authority markets and the landscaping industry. The existing fleet of ride-on mowers, compact tractors, generators, tillers, brushcutters and hedge trimmers will also feature, the whole promising to be a veritable Kubota jamboree.

Tillers promise superior surface
TILLERS TURF LIMITED, one of the country’s leading growers of top-quality turf, supply three grades: Green King for golf greens, Lawn King for lawns and golf tees, and Arena for landscaping and soccer pitches. All Tillers turf is grown on sandy soil with excellent drainage properties. Of particular interest to the golf industry will be Fibreturf, a natural sport turf system that combines the durability and easy maintenance of artificial playing surfaces with the playability of natural turf. Already proven at Sunningdale, the system comprises a sand rootzone, 3-4” thick and reinforced with artificial fibres, which is seeded or turfed. The result is a superior playing surface that drains freely and does not break up to produce divoting and erosion under heavy use. Maintenance can be cut by 50% or more compared with conventional sand/soil constructions.

Additions to Hayter Beaver range
HAYTER BEAVER will be occupying one of the largest stands, where visitors will see a number of exciting new additions in the Hayter Beaver Livery. Secrecy is the watchword at IOG this year and the company’s most impressive developments are still closely guarded and will not be unveiled before the show. Following the outstanding success of the Hayter Murray 10/30 garden tractor, the 18/46 will be seen for the first time in the UK. This up-market machine is fitted with a Briggs and Stratton twin cylinder I/C engine and is expected to be a selling success.

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If you're looking for a fine cut mower for golf greens, bowling greens or cricket wickets, then you need look no further than the Allett Super Shaver. The Super Shaver can cut to within 1/16" and give a superb finish with 146 cuts per yard. All rollers are ground for absolute precision and the mower is powered by a Robin engine, which runs on lead free petrol.

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