

ries benefit from the latest technology in mineral extraction and processing. With in-house laboratories they monitor their products for consistency at regular intervals so you can be assured of the highest quality products at competitive prices. With their Free Greens Compatibility Service you can be sure that you're using the correct top dressing to improve your greens.

**SAME-LAMBORGHINI (UK) LTD**  
**Stand No. C39**

Barby Lane, Barby, Nr. Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 8TD  
 Tel: 01788 891892, Fax: 01788 891387  
**Contact: Chris Cann**

The 1997 specification Lamborghini Runner Range now includes a 3 speed hydrostatic transmission, demonstrated on the Runner 250 (optional for the Runner 250 only). Also available in 1997 is an optional cab featured on the Runner 350. The top of the range Runner 450 has a 4 cylinder turbocharged 42 H/P engine, high performance hydraulic system with 1200 kg lift capacity, position and draught control functions with the option of a front PTO, mower deck and grass collection system. The more powerful Sprint 60 on display uses a 3 cylinder 60 H/P engine and a 40 kph synchro-shuttle transmission as standard. Oil-Immersed disc brakes and a 55 degree turning angle add to the specification of the four wheel drive sprint 60 which can be fitted with electronic throttle regulation and a multishift gearbox.

Tractors on show: New Sprint 60, Runner 250 with a new hydrostatic transmission, Runner 350 with a new safety cab.

**SAXON INDUSTRIES**

**Stand No. B30**  
 Everland Road, Hungerford, Berkshire, RG17 0DX  
 Tel: 01488 682655, Fax: 01488 681525  
**Contact: Colin Honeybone**

Saxon Industries distributors for Bear Cat chipper shredders, Trimax tractor mounted rotary and flail mowers, will be exhibiting a selection of fine turf mowers from the Saxon range of 76 inch triple mowers, 22 inch pedestrian greens mowers and the pedestrian walk behind twin greens mower. Also, a budget priced 20 inch 10 bladed cylinder mower.

**SCOTTS UK LTD**

**Stand No. A2**  
 61 Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7LA  
 Tel: 0115 9455100, Fax: 0115 9455311  
**Contact: Mark Hunt**

Scotts UK Ltd will be displaying their successful range of fertilisers for close mown and fine turf applications featuring Scotts unique Poly S and Methylene Urea technology. Alongside these products will be the market leading controlled release fertiliser - Sierrablend Turfmix, available in both 5-6 and 8-9 month longevities for once per season application to tees, fairways, wear

areas and new course 'grow in'. Also on show will be the popular R8-A spreader with its unique patented helical cone for even application of fertilisers to most areas on the golf course, together with new product literature.

**SEWARD GRASS MACHINERY LIMITED**

**Stand No. C28**  
 Windmill House, Sutton Road, Wigginton, York YO3 3RA  
 Tel: 01904 765949, Fax: 01904 760016  
**Contact: Paul Seward**

Specialising in turf compaction Seward is the first company in the UK to operate the vertidrain and now has available two 2.5m fairway and two 1.45 greens machines. Swards have now added their own developed sand and gravel slitting machine to their range for both sale and hire marketed under the Jemison Agri Bander trade name. Overseeding is carried out with various types of drills, stone burying, hollow tining, fairway grooming with a collector is also available. Top dressing is carried out with a 1 and 4 ton spreader. We are also distributors for Force Limagrain Fortiva grass seeds, fertilisers and top dressing.

**SHARPES INTERNATIONAL**

**Stand No. B28**  
 Sleaford, Lincs, NG34 7HA  
 Tel: 01529 304511, Fax: 01529 413928  
**Contact: Ian Backhouse**

Sharpes International are highlighting four new varieties of perennial rye grass which have been added to the 1997 STRI list. The varieties are Bellevue, Brightstar, Fancy and Repell. Bellevue is fine leaved and scores highly for shoot density. Its growth pattern will make the variety useful in low maintenance conditions. Brightstar, which originates from the USA, will perform well in mixtures where wear and appearance are important. Fancy and Repell are two mid-table varieties which give a good performance for those whom economy is a key consideration. Technical staff will be available to discuss these and other varieties in more detail.

**SHELTON TRENCHING & SYSTEMS LTD**

**Stand No. C46**  
 Fir Tree Farm, Darfield, Barnsley S73 9JB  
 Tel: 01226 751762, Fax: 01226 755481  
 Shelton Trenching Systems Ltd is Europe's leading manufacturer of sportsturf drainage equipment. The range of equipment for sale and hire covers the Shelton Supertrencher capable of trenching up to 135mm wide and 625mm deep through to the Shelton Gravel Band Drainer, capable of moving excess soil water in minutes by installing bands of drainage medium 20mm wide to a depth of 250mm. The Shelton Single Leg Gravel Band Drainer, specifically designed for draining golf greens, can install bands of drainage medium between 10mm and 20mm wide and up to 300mm deep. A range of acces-

sories and spares is also available.

**SISIS EQUIPMENT (MACCLESFIELD) LTD**

**Stand No. C41**  
 Hurdsfield Industrial Estate, Hulley Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2LZ  
 Tel: 01625 503030, Fax: 01625 427426  
**Contact: Lynn Hilton**

Sisis will display items from their large and comprehensive range of golf course maintenance machinery.

**SOVEREIGN TURF LTD**

**Stand No. C20**  
 Meadow View, Norwich Road, Norwich NR5 0LA  
 Tel/Fax: 01603 746229, Mobile: 0850 752744  
**Contact: Steve Williams**

At Sovereign Turf Ltd we are pleased to have the opportunity once again to welcome both old friends and new customers to our stand. We shall, as always, be exhibiting our range of high quality turf products which continue to represent exceptional value for money. Whether you are choosing turf for soccer pitches, amenity areas, or any golf course application, renovation or new build, don't place your order until you have discussed your requirements with us. Don't forget that all Sovereign's turf products undergo independent analyses and stringent quality controls, so come to Sovereign, where you always come first.

**SPORTS GROUND IRRIGATION CO**

**Stand No. A8**  
 6 Stuart Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 9PQ  
 Tel: 01858 463153, Fax: 01858 410085  
**Contact: Mike Walker**

SGI will be exhibiting the full range of Hunter products, together with a comprehensive range of associated irrigation equipment. There will be on-going demonstrations of the "Winwater" control system, now available to run most existing decoder systems through a "windows" application. As well as SGI staff, two Hunter technical staff members will be on the stand to offer advice and assistance. Also featured on the stand will be fountains and aerators, as well as SGI's acid injection system for pH control.

**SPORTS TURF RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Stand No. D21**  
 St Ives Estate, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU  
 Tel: 01274 565131, Fax: 01274 561891  
**Contact: Anne Wilson**

STRi is a leading independent authority on the management and construction of golf courses. Founded by the R & A Golf Club and Home Golf Unions in 1929, STRi now advises on over 1,000 golf courses throughout the UK and overseas. We also act as official agronomist to the Championship Committee of the R & A. Eight of our

agronomist team are based regionally, to provide a local UK Network. They are supported by extensive turf and soil research and laboratory facilities at Bingley, a construction unit and golf architectural and ecological services. STRi also provide golf publications and training including NVQ's. 'Talk to STRi.'

**STANDARD GOLF (UK) LTD**

**Stand No. B36**  
 c/o 49 Ringwood Road, Alderholt, Nr Fordingbridge, Hants, SP6 3DF  
 Tel: 01345 125398, Fax: 01425 656260  
**Contact: Duncan Stewart**

Standard Golf will display their complete range of Golf course Equipment from the USA and are the world's leading supplier of course equipment. Included in the range are ball washers, litter caddies, rakes, tee markers, flagsticks, course and tee data signage. Personalised flags are a speciality of Standard Golf and are the finest available, see the quality for yourself on stand B36. Also on display will be winter tee and range mats. Details of the services offered by our sister company Envirogreen Limited will be available, specialists in special waste disposal of chemicals, fertilisers, oils etc, full or empty containers. No disposal is too difficult for Envirogreen. Duncan and Neil Stewart, together with Dawn will be available to assist and welcome clients and look forward to seeing you there.

**SUPATURF PRODUCTS LTD**

**Stand No. A33A**  
 2 Maizefield, Hinckley, Leics, LE10 1YF  
 Tel: 01455 234677, Fax: 01455 234714  
**Contact: Rachel Higgins**

More new innovative products and services from Supaturf. At Harrogate 1997 Supaturf will have their biggest stand yet and will be launching new innovative products such as Aqua-Pro, a new technology wetting agent. Aqua-Pro completes Supaturf's range of soil surfactants offering all the new technology benefits of not needing to be watered in and guaranteed not to burn, all at an attractive price. The new even-spray sprayer will be launched offering a compact and highly effective electric sprayer and the award winning clean carbon will be demonstrated. The new "Supaturf On-Line" service will be demonstrated, offering greenkeepers access to information and technical advice 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Another innovative year for Supaturf.

**SWAN PLANT SERVICES LTD**

**Stand No. C45**  
 9 The Grove, Parkgate Industrial Estate, Knutsford, Cheshire  
 Tel: 01565 650567, Fax: 01565 650769  
**Contact: Ted Mitchell**

Swan Plant Services is in its fourth season as the country's leading business specialising solely in the hire of horticultural equipment to local authorities, NHS Trusts and professional groundsmen. Its free delivery and collection ser-

vice provides state of the art plant, from hedge cutters to ride-on out front rotary mowers, catering for a multitude of disciplines and individual seasonal requirements. Managing Director Ted Mitchell, who has more than 25 years' experience in the hire business, identified a niche market by recognising that short term hire meant customers' capital was no longer tied up in valuable plant used just periodically each year.

#### SYMBIO BIOTECHNOLOGY

Stand B25  
 38 Bookham Industrial Park, Church Road, Great Bookham, Surrey, KT23 3EU  
 Tel: 01372 456101 Fax: 01372 456099  
 Contact: Guy Longshaw

BTME 1997 will be an exciting show for Symbio. In November '96 we expanded into new premises giving much larger and more flexible manufacturing output. This allows for the long awaited launch of Symbio Granular and Symbio Liquid Bug Booster maintenance products designed for regular convenient and cost effective application to prevent problems and maintain excellence. Many more clubs will now be able to reap the benefits of Symbio Biotechnology with preventative management rather than waiting until they have problems before calling us in. So whether you have problem greens or you are interested in how biotechnology can be used to turn good green into great greens, come along and meet us on stand B25.

#### TALBOT FARM LANDSCAPES

Stand No. B14  
 Talbot Farm Nursery, 75 Derby Road, Hilton, Derbyshire DE65 5FP  
 Tel: 01283 732755, Fax: 01283 732755  
 Contact: Sean Goodwin/Mark Goodwin  
 Talbot Farm Landscapes is a progressive company, which operates nationwide, laying turf right across the scale ranging from small family homes to large country houses, sports fields and amenity areas for local authorities. We have

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successfully completed a number of golf courses throughout the country to include the Carnegie Golf Course, Skibo Castle, Dornoch, Pavenham Park Golf Course, Bedford, Burgham Park Golf Course, Burgham, Northumbria, Matfen Hall Golf Course, Matfen. We have also undertaken work at a number of business developments throughout the country and have recently developed our own laying machine, "The Turfporter", which is proving to be a major asset to our company.

#### TACIT

Stand No. B1  
 48 Hillmorton Road, Rugby CV22 5AD  
 Tel: 01788 568818, Fax: 01788 537485  
 Contact: Richard Webb  
 Lock-On To Tacit, the No. 1 manufacturer of swivel flag systems, will be exhibiting its comprehensive range of 'On Course' equipment. Tacit, the first company to develop the Lock-on ferrule have now extended this concept to the European and American tube flag design. The Tacit development team, always at the forefront of 'On Course' equipment design bring you new ideas in Greenkeeper Safety, Soil Profiles, Tee Markers, Fencing Systems, Switches and Starting Racks amongst others. Most top Championship courses are our ongoing customers, with Tacits emphases on Sound Engineering and Fast Service, Course like the Belfry and The Forest of Arden continue to rely on Tacits quality equipment.

#### TARMAC QUARRY PRODUCTS

Stand No. C2  
 Mere Farm Quarry, Knutsford Road,

Macclesfield SK10 4SZ  
 Tel: 01625 861021, Fax: 01625 860897  
 Contact: Tim Edwards

Whether you already use our materials or wish to find out more about them, come and visit Tarmac Topsport on Stand C2. We will be exhibiting our complete range of materials for golf course construction and maintenance. From aggregates for drainage, sands for construction, maintenance, bunkers, through to USEA specification rootzone we can meet your needs. With over a decade of experience we can provide the products, service and advice to suit you. We look forward to seeing you at BTME 1997.

#### T & G TURF IRRIGATION SERVICES

Stand No. B40  
 13 Castlegate, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, HG5 8AR  
 Tel/Fax: 01423 864963  
 Contact: Susan Teggin  
 T & G Turf Irrigation Services will be sharing an exhibition stand with Watermation and will be pleased to welcome both old and new customers alike. We look forward to seeing you.

#### TILDENET LIMITED

Stand No. C23  
 Longbrook House, Ashton Vale Road, Bristol  
 Tel: 0117 9669684, Fax: 0117 9231251  
 Contact: Lawrence Green/Ruth Hensman  
 Tildenet Limited will be exhibiting their established patented Grass Germination material whilst introducing their new economy version specifically designed for larger, one off, projects. As market leaders in sports Ballstop Netting Tildenet offers taylor made DIY kits for self installation or alternatively install from start to finish. An advice service is available on all applications and installations including any queries you may have with regards planning permission. Products on display include: anti-ball plugging net, target nets, chipping nets, and various golf practice nets. Adding to this range are several new products which include, Tildenets new indoor golf netting, bunker membrane, tee

dividers and the unique target green the 'Epic'. Samples and literature on all of Tildenet products will be available on Stand No. C23.

#### TIL IRRIGATION LTD

Stand No. B46  
 Water House, 10 Carvers Industrial Estate, Southampton Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 1JS  
 Tel: 01425 476261/2, Fax: 01425 472380  
 Contact: Graeme Francis  
 TIL Irrigation are the UK Distributor for Toro Irrigation equipment. As such the company will be exhibiting the range of Toro PC based control systems including the CDS, which has evolved from Toro's SC3000. Available with radio remote control the CDS system shares the SC3000 decoder, which is renowned for its reliability. CDS is supplied as a package of Toro hardware and Toro software with full support for each from Toro and TIL. As always Toro's control systems are offered in conjunction with the comprehensive range of sprinklers which have led the way in gear drive rotation and control technology for many years.

#### TONICK WATERING LTD

Stand No. C33  
 2 Prince William Close, Worthing, West Sussex  
 Tel: 01903 262393, Fax: 01903 694500  
 Contact: Ken Jefferies  
 The PC based, easy to use WinWater irrigation control and management system will be shown and demonstrated for the first time. The proven range of rugged, high quality decoders includes replacements for watermation, CIC, Wright Rain, Primetime and Robydome types. A new TORO alternative is also announced. A low cost programmer allows easy and convenient address setting and can test any decoder - whatever the make. Decoder First Aid Kits are available on the stand for only £99.95 including VAT. These include a replacement decoder, a programmer with its mains adaptor and full instructions.

## J D GREASLEY LIMITED

Ashfield House, 1152 Melton Road, Syston, Leicester LE7 2HB

• SPECIALISTS IN • GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION •  
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 Mobile 0836 553899  
 Fax 01162 696 866

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 STAND C20A  
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John Greasley



## TORO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS

Stand No. B41

Lely (UK) Ltd, Station Road, St. Neots, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire  
 Tel: 01480 476971, Fax: 01480 216167  
 Contact: P Mansfield/D Cole

Toro will be showing the new Reelmaster 2600-D Precision Cut, all purpose triplex mower with a wide 85" cut for highly productive performance and featuring Toro's unique L-I-N-K-S cutting unit suspension system. Also on show will be the new Greensmaster 1600, Toro's latest walk behind addition to the market. Leading Greensmower Series, with a wide 26" cut for high productivity on fine turf. Two important new attachments for the popular ride on Greensmaster 3200-D first shown at last year's BTME will be a grooming and thatching unit.

## TOTRAX LIMITED

Stand No. C18A

Rectory Farm, Langrick, Boston, Lincs, PE22 7AD

Tel: 01205 280518, Fax: 01205 280520

We specialise in tyres for turf care management, with a view to helping greenkeepers, park keepers and contractors keeping their machine rolling. We have expert advice on hand to discuss tyre replacement, alternative tyres, reduction of footprint, increase flotation, or any specific customer requirements. We have on display a small sample of our wide range of tyres, tubes and wheels, with tread patterns to suit most requirements. Also on view is the 15 x 15 ppm tyre fitting machine, designed to meet the needs of turf and ATV users, making both removal and fitting of tyres a much easier task. Demonstrations can be arranged.

## TURF-ACTANT PRODUCTS

Stand No. C7

8 Lucas Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6WR  
 Tel: 01787 311143, Fax: 01787 377716

Contact: Richard Davies

BTME 1997 marks the beginning of our association with Lincoln based Oliver Seeds who will be showing their 1997 range of amenity grass seeds on stand C7. In addition our new wetting agent Oasis will be launched, together with Up-Markit our spray pattern indicator. As usual Symbio, Service Chemicals and our full range of Turf-Actant Products will be represented together with other new introductions designed to maintain our policy of high quality performance and value. Please come and visit us.

## TURF MANAGEMENT

Stand No. B11

174 Hammersmith Road, London W6 7JP  
 Tel: 0171 413 4553, Fax: 0171 413 4521

Contact: Kate Osborn

Would you like to have the country's top agronomists visit your course every month completely free of charge? Then why not take out a free subscription to Turf Management magazine. Every month, Turf Management gives you practical

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advice from the country's top sports turf consultants, such as Jim Arthur and George Shiels. Turf Management is completely free but you do need to come to the stand to register to receive it. You'll also be able to take advantage of a special cut-price subscription offer for Horticulture Week, the UK's best-read weekly for contractors and growers and to sign up for a free subscription to Amenity Management, the essential buyers guide to landscape equipment and products.

## TURFMECH MACHINERY LTD

Stand No. A18

New Road Industrial Estate, Hixon, Staffs  
 Tel: 01889 271503, Fax: 01889 271321

Contact: Clive Carter

Turfmech will be using BTME to launch the New Noblat Utility Truck complete with top dresser. Other products on display will be Landprides MIS 2100 greens material injection system, and overseeders. Also the Turfmech TM 360 XL Tornado blower. Information will also be available on their other ranges:- TurfVAC TM11, Accumulator TA 7/7, Rotadairon stone buriers, Progressive rotary mowers and Landpride "All-flex" reel gang mowers.

## UNDERGEAR EQUIPMENT (RBP) LTD

Stand No. B4

Black Lake Works, West Bromich, West Midlands, B70 0PD  
 Tel: 0121 553 1606, Fax: 0121 553 1307

Contact: John Edwards

Undergear offer what is probably the most comprehensive range of turfcare tyres in the world. In addition to being sole UK distributor for Goodyear Terra Tyres, Undergear are distributors for Trelleborg, Bridgestone, Carlisle and Continental tyres. Undergear developed their own 'Golf' design tyre specially for the preparation of the Ryder Cup course at the Belfry. This tyre is now working on courses all over the UK and is also exported to many countries. Undergear can supply tyres for most machines and with their own wheel-making facility offer complete tyres and wheel units to the customer's individual requirements.

## VITAX LTD

Stand No. A37

Owen Street, Coalville, Leics, LE67 3DE  
 Tel: 01530 510060, Fax: 01530 510299

Contact: Trevor Holmes

Since its launch at Saltex 1996 the new Vitax Sport Amenity Product Guide is being acknowl-

edged by many professional amenity turf managers as one of the most informative in the industry. These will be available at BTME 1997. Strongly featured on the Vitax stand will be their leading brand chemicals, Tecto, Fairy Ring Destroyer and Estermone, plus Ultraflo, the UK's leading long term wetting agent. Complementing the full chemical range will be the long established high quality Vitax key range of turf fertilisers.

## WATERMATION SPRINKLERS & CONTROLS LTD

Stand No. B40

Tongham Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 4AA  
 Tel: 01252 336838, Fax: 01252 336808

Contact: Joe Turner

Watermation will again be exhibiting at this year's show in conjunction with T&G Irrigation Services. We will be launching both the new GDR range of gear drive sprinklers, which is the golf head version of the GD range launched at Saltex, and Watermation Finance, a flexible scheme which can be designed to suit the individual needs of the customer. Watermation is committed to providing first class irrigation products and services for its customers and has undergone some major changes during 1996. Substantial investment has been made in new equipment for our contracting, manufacturing and administrative operations.

## WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE

Stand No. D14

Moreton Morrell, Warwick, Warks, CV35 9BL  
 Tel: 01926 651367, Fax: 01926 651190

Contact: Graham Martin

Warwickshire College is a GTC approved centre, delivering NVQ levels 1,2 and 3 in Amenity Horticulture (Golf Greenkeeping) on a day release basis, along with a two year BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture with Greenkeeping option. We currently run a training course leading towards the IOG National Intermediate Diploma, and offer many short courses such as FEPA, chainsaw proficiency and hedge laying. The College grounds include a range of sports pitches and a small pitch and putt golf course which is being developed by students during practical sessions. Come and see us on Stand D14 to talk about your training needs.

## WELSH COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE

Stand No. D13

Northop, Mold, Flintshire, Clwyd  
 Tel: 01352 840861, Fax: 01352 8400731

Contact: Graham Wright

The college in Wales offering the complete NVQ/GTC packages (Levels 1-4). This year three students achieved their NVQ Level 4 GTC certificates in Course Management. The Home study course had yet again students achieving Level 2, this course is still proving a market leader for those unable to attend college via the traditional route. The college has embarked on an expansion project of its golf course facilities with the

support of the liaison panel, R & A, the local Tec and the trade. The greenkeepers of Wales can look forward to training with confidence and optimism as the College seeks to expand to meet the challenges of the future.

## WHITE HORSE CONTRACTORS LIMITED

Stand No. C9

Blakes Oak Farm, Lodge Hill, Abingdon, Oxon  
 Tel: 01865 736272, Fax: 01865 326176

Contact: Kevin Smith

White Horse Contractors Limited are celebrating 40 years as one of the country's leading drainage specialists. Over the years, they evolved into a company with a wide range of experience in all aspects of land drainage and sports field/golf course construction. The company operates throughout the UK using its own specialist plant which boasts of seven fully equipped laser grade control Mastenbroek trenchers. WHC are able to provide a comprehensive package from design through to construction for a wide range of projects. The company offers services including construction, drainage, sand slitting, sand grooving, vertidrainage and top dressing, water supply, irrigation, lakes and ponds, access roads, fencing, landscaping etc., all carried out by its own experienced work force.

## WIENENMANN (UK) LIMITED

Stand No. A33

Stoney Brae, Potter Hill, Paisley  
 Tel: 0141 884 2552, Fax: 0141 884 6252

Contact: David Rae

At this year's show, Wiedenmann UK will be displaying the popular Terra-Spike P160 with new speed linkage which enables the machine to be operated at higher speeds, producing work rates of up to 3,200 sq. metres per hour. The Terra-Spike comes with all the usual operator friendly features. David Bate, who has 20 years experience within the industry has just joined Wiedenmann UK as Regional Sales Manager for England and Wales and will be on the stand with Director David Rae to deal with your enquiries on Wiedenmann's full range of products. For further information, please contact Wiedenmann UK on 0141 884 2552.

## YORK & MARTIN

Stand No. B8

The Old Manse, 38 Salisbury Street, Fordingbridge, Hants, SP6 1AB  
 Tel: 01425 6522087, Fax: 01425 652476

Contact: Philip York

Requiring independent irrigation advice, then talk to Philip or Michael who will explain how their irrigation consultancy service can help you with your requirements whether they be assistance with economical water sourcing system evaluation, system design or installation. The partnership operates throughout the British Isles and Europe and has completed in excess of 150 projects.

**John Nicholson has just chalked up 25 years at Longridge Golf Club, in Preston, and he recalls his first days the club and some of the early highlights.**

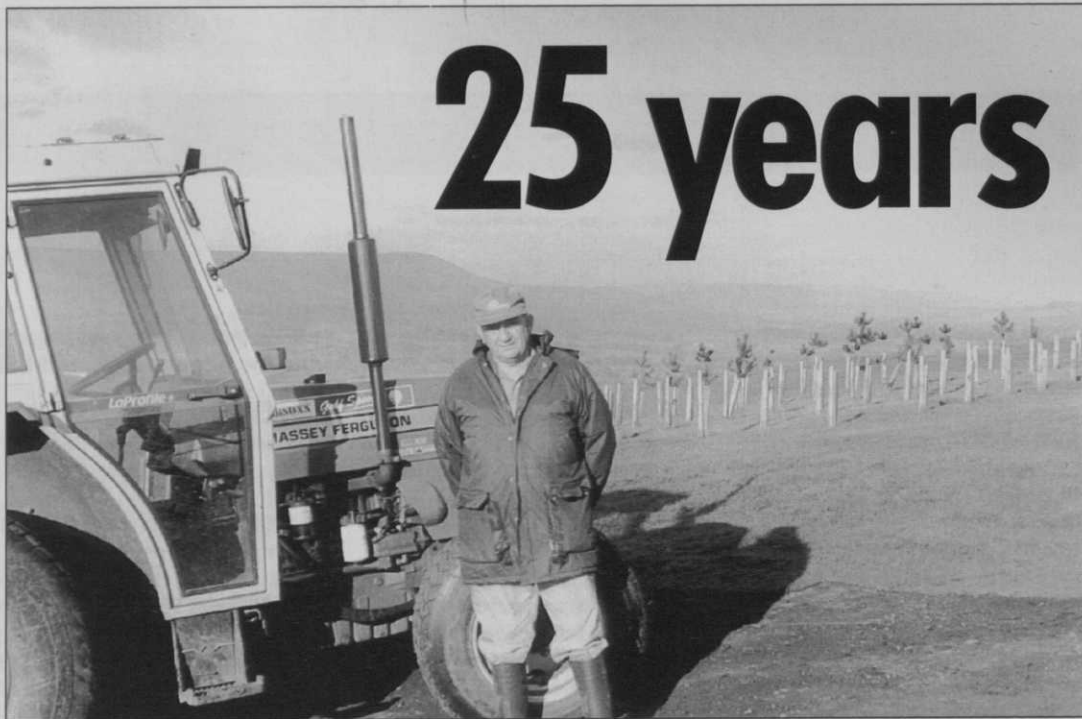
**B**eing presented with a gift for 25 years service to Longridge Golf Club prompted me to look back through my records and it brought back some early memories.

I'd just got married and the need to earn enough for a mortgage made me look for a better paid job. Landscape gardening fitted this need and so I became a landscape gardener and bought a house in Longridge. In July of 1970, however, I was made redundant and the "Employment Exchange" asked had I tried to get a job at Longridge Golf Club, as there had been a vacancy there. After visiting the club I received a message asking me to go up to the Club to meet the Greens Chairman.

A walk on the course revealed that much work was going on as it was being extended from nine holes to 18. It was explained to me that I would be involved with the extension along with the maintenance of the existing nine holes. I was contacted again and asked to attend a meeting at the Clubhouse with another candidate and we were told the Committee could not decide to which of us to offer the job, but as they had all the work of the extension to the course they would employ both of us and a lot of the construction work could be done by us. We asked what other staff worked there and were told none.

On starting I carried on with the practice of record keeping I'd done while landscape gardening and still do, so the following information is from this record.

The greenkeeping shed was an 8' x 16' ex-poultry cabin. It contained two pedestrian controlled hand mowers, a barrow, some peat, a Sisis rotorake, a cyclone spreader and a few hand tools. Outside was a B250 International tractor and loader, a triple set of greens ranger gangs, a tractor mounted rotary mower and a tractor. Against the wall was a pile of timber and some corrugated iron sheets. It was explained that they were to build a bigger shed and more machines had been purchased and would arrive when it had been built.



# 25 years

## at the same club

During the next few weeks meetings were held in the evening to discuss the course and development, and instruct us on such things as hole moving. A drainage contractor installed some drains on part of the development and a tractor, an International 414 and a set of 3 point link mounted Ransome gangs, plus another pedestrian controlled greens mower, which had been away for repair, were delivered.

The end of September – tractor shed erected by two joiners with us acting as labourers. It was an open fronted shed with a dry stone wall acting as the back and the corrugated iron used for the sides and top.

Early October – disease started to appear on the greens and these were sprayed with Verdasan using a knapsack sprayer. An autumn feed was also applied. We also took delivery of a Sisis Auto-

greensman and made a start on slitting the greens. During the autumn of that year most of the new greens had been constructed by a contractor and turfed.

End of October – some cattle got onto the course and walked across one of the greens. This was repaired before dinner. On returning to the green to clear up and leave the area tidy, the hoof marks were back on the green but there was no sign of the cattle. It is obvious what had happened but they had appeared as if by magic. Incidents such as these stick on your mind. In early November the other man left and I was on my own. I suppose I was the Head Greenkeeper.

It was decided to buy fertiliser for the following year in order to beat any price rise and as we had nowhere to store it another cabin was bought and duly erected. I also attended my first demonstration/open day. This was by Sisis at Old Trafford cricket ground.

During the summer in order to save costs the members had been constructing tees, and we divided our time between maintaining the course and the development. In the autumn the tees which had been constructed were turfed. The turf used in the construction was cut from the area to be used for the car park and the practice area. The winter months were spent clearing drains, building tees, and generally making what had been fields into a golf course.

1971 – In the spring the greens

### 'The greenkeeper is your friend'

1996 at Longridge Golf Club – following the presentation of the prizes for the Presidents Day competition a special presentation of a silver tray, decanter and glasses was made to John E. Nicholson for 25 years service to Longridge Golf Club.

On accepting the gift John thanked the Club and said that he had been thinking about greenkeeping and greenkeepers and what they meant to different people.

To the man in the street he cuts grass in summer and plays cards in winter. To some golfers he is the person who has not mown the grass the ball has landed in. He puts the hole in bad places and digs up and alters things when they have just got right.

However, a greenkeeper is a

machine operator, mechanic, botanist, weather forecaster, architect, constructor, gardener, ecologist, irrigation engineer, manager and above all a diplomat. So days can be good, bad but never boring.

So what has greenkeeping done for him? Enabled him to work in beautiful surroundings. Be part of the development of the course. Enabled him to attend seminars, exhibitions and be part of the greenkeepers support team at the Open. And he was always proud to say he was from Longridge.

He thanked his family, especially his wife, who had been there at the end of those bad days, and the club once again and said he would leave the golfers present with a thought.

"The greenkeeper is really your friend".

were fed, solid tined and dressed with sand. A fly mower and another Greens Zepher was purchased. The work was mainly mowing and general tidying of the course. Although the time up to now had been concentrated on greens, tees and fairways, the rough had been let to grow, this would have to be dealt with. It was mown, made into hay and carted off by a local farmer. Up to the present time the rough on the existing course had only been cut once a year (before Captain's Day) and made into hay. This year it was all going to be cut for hay. The policy was then to keep the rough down, so the following winter the stones were removed. It was soon discovered that a lot of the stones were just below the surface. These cause damage to gang mower when they became exposed so a flail mower was purchased. Although it is not used on the rough now - 25 years on - it proved to be the ideal machine in those early days.

Presidents Day - The 18 holes were played for the first time. As there had been very little money available for the building of the extension many members had given up their golf in order to assist. They had dug out and picked up rocks, dismantled and carted away dry stone walls surrounding the fields which were to become the course. All this stone was used under greens and tees.

It has been estimated that 6,000 tons of stone were moved, 1,000 tons of ashes, 5,000 tons of topsoil carted and levelled, 9,500 square yards of turf laid and 8,000 field tiles.

I had been employed to work a 40 hour week, however, it had been a case of working six days a week with never under 50 hours in summer and dawn till dusk in winter, but we had got there. As time and finance had been concentrated on providing 18 greens with appropriate tees, no bunkers had been built and tees were small but this would be put right in the following years as finance became available.

Twenty-five years later this has and is still being done and I still feel this was the correct way forward. The rest of the growing season was taken up mainly with mowing, although the greens were given an autumn feed with the new greens having been occupied first to produce a better putting surface.

#### ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 42

1. Janet Adamson,
2. James McEvoy, 3. Sami Collins, 4. Louise Lunn,
5. Neil Thomas, 6. Amanda Freeman, 7. Pauline Thompson, 8. Ken Richardson,
9. John Pemberton,
10. Scott MacCallum

#### (mis)adventures of Gordon the Greenkeeper



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# Lower your outgoings by hiring what you need...

**Roland Taylor takes a look at the option of machinery hire.**

**A** combination of restricted budgets and limited staff can often cause headaches for a greenkeeper, especially when certain work needs to be carried out – but there are often no funds available to buy the necessary equipment.

There is, however, an alternative solution to this problem – hire. This is not the same as leasing of large machinery, but the daily, weekly, monthly or longer hire of specific specialist equipment.

There are several advantages to hiring. The most important one being that large sums of money do not have to be found to purchase a particular piece of machinery. Capital is not tied up in an item that may only be used for short periods at certain times of the year.

Having the latest machine that is right for the job enables the operation to be carried out quickly and efficiently. There are no maintenance costs to take into account and, in the event of a breakdown, downtime is minimised and there are usually no repair bills. From the financial aspect, all hiring costs can be offset against profits.

Another big advantage is that by hiring a piece of equipment first, you can then assess performance and decide whether it is worth buying.

An increasing number of hire companies are recognising the importance and value of what they have to offer greenkeepers. As a result they are now catering for this market.

In the UK there are approximately 8,500 hire outlets, many of which are stores belonging to group or chain.

Hiring from one of these groups or a dedicated landscape/plant hire outlet does mean that should a machine break down you are more likely to get a replacement quickly. Smaller outlets who do not specialise in hire may not have sufficient back-up stock to provide this sort of service.

Bearing in mind these benefits it is worth looking at what type of equipment is available.

## **Earth moving and holes**

The skidster consists of a basic power unit which can be fitted with a trenching attachment for laying drainage or cable. Several sizes of bucket can be fitted for moving soil and levelling sites.

When it comes to fencing or planting trees, there is a variety of earth augers available as either attachments for compact tractors or self-powered hand-held units. Using one of these is the fastest and easiest way to digging holes.

For more specialist soil preparation the use of levelling graders, stone rakes, pickers and buriers will eliminate the need for time consuming hand raking.

Rotary cultivators and two-wheel tractors make fast work of breaking down soil to produce a fine tilth.



Tree stumps are easily removed with either a hand-held or pedestrian operated stump grinder

### Trees, leaves and hedges

Most tree work needs to be carried out by an arboriculturalist or person skilled in the use of a chainsaw. When a tree has been felled there is often a the stump to remove. This can be done using a hand-held stump grinder or larger pedestrian operated unit.

For disposing of light timber and brushwood, a chipper is ideal. The material produced can then be spread directly back into the soil, thus eliminating the need to load on to a trailer before transporting to a disposal site.

Hiring equipment for clearing up leaf fall will speed up the operation considerably. Vacuums and blowers do the job of rakes and brooms; and truck loaders suck the piles of leaves directly into a trailer or other collecting unit.

On a golf course, the chances are that a hedge cutter is probably only used a few times each year, so it makes sense to hire one when it is needed

### Wild flowers and grass

An increasing number of courses are recognising the importance of preserving natural habitats. As a result, areas are being managed to encourage their development. In the case of wild flowers, the vegetation is only cut once a year and for this a reciprocating or some rotary mowers are ideal machines.

The brushcutter too may be used very few times – so again it is worth thinking of hire.

Ditches and banks often present a problem as they are cut infrequently and for these there are flail and rotary mowers – items of machinery that are not always part of the fleet.

For clearing waterways, a tractor with backhoe is better than standing knee-deep with a spade in freezing water.

### Turf management

As far a hiring turf management equipment is concerned, each individual club will have different requirements. A large part of the decision to buy will be based on the frequency of use.

### Other useful equipment

Pressure washers are ideal for cleaning off winter dirt, verdigris and moss from walls and hard surfaces. It can also be used to wash down equipment before servicing.

A portable pump will take care of flooding and a generator puts power where it is needed.

Do not forget your workshops – there are plenty of specialist tools available for hire that make a repair easier to carry out.



A hedgecutter is probably used only very occasionally at a golf course so it makes sense to hire one when it is needed. Below: Earth augers make fast work of tree planting or producing post holes

### What to look for

Asking the right questions when you hire is all important. Most good hire outlets will be able to advise on the most suitable equipment for your particular requirement, but you should find out:

- The age of the piece of machinery.
- Its work capacity.
- Are there any hidden charges in addition to the rate, such as VAT, delivery and collection?
- Will instruction be given to the operator, plus advice on the type of protective clothing

he/she should be wearing?

- Whether you will be charged for any damage that may occur?
- How quickly will they replace a piece of equipment in the event of a breakdown?

### Your responsibilities

Hiring does not mean that you can forget your responsibilities, so make sure you read the small print.

Insurance cover is essential both for the equipment and the operator. If the machine is stolen whilst under hire to you, then you are responsible not only for replacing the machine, but also the cost of hire for each day that it is missing.

The hire company must supply the machine in safe and proper working order, together with the necessary safety and operating instruction. It is the hirer's responsibility to make

certain that the personnel operating it are trained in its safe use and wear the correct protective clothing.

It is worth checking to see who is responsible for sharpening blades and other wearing parts once the machine has been returned.

The popularity of hire and the rise in the number of hire companies is a firm indication that many commercial end users are turning in this direction. As an alternative to purchase, or for the odd labour intensive job, hire is certainly a very cost effective solution.



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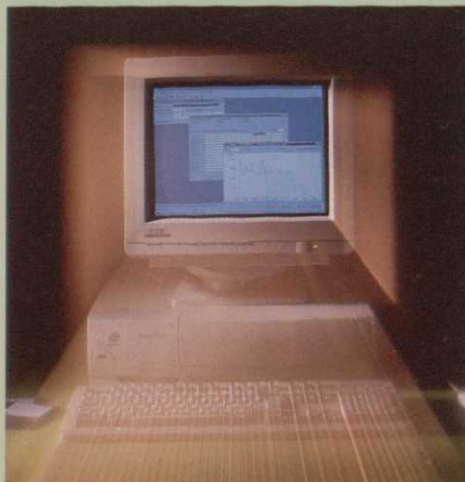
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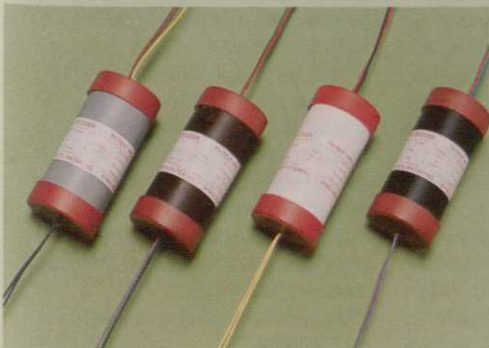
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# NEW PRODUCTS

■ An innovative computer programme linked to a fertiliser system has been launched by Ritefeed. The system enables Course Managers to select the precise nutritional value required by the turf and also specify the sources of nitrogen so the period of release can be controlled.

"The development of this advanced computerised programme is essential in the accurate identification of the actual requirement of our turf areas, ensuring wastage is kept to a minimum," said Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turfgrass Management, Gleneagles Golf Developments, joint innovators of the new concept.

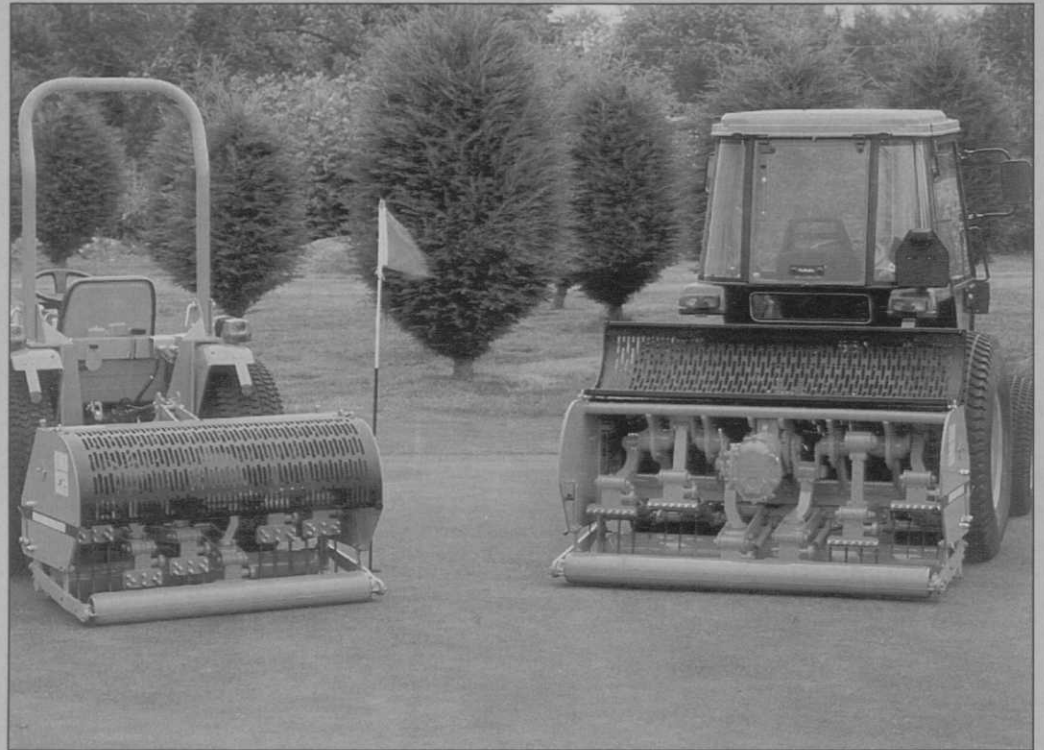
"This system enables us to provide the most up to date monitoring, recording and identification of turf needs today, satisfying the requirements of the environmentalists on three continents," he added.

"We are absolutely delighted that not only have we been able to manufacture this advanced new system, we have been able to call on the vast experience within the Gleneagles Golf Developments group to assist us with the various aspects of the development, from the initial specification right through to the field trials," explained John Walker of Ritefeed.

■ Turton Safety Ltd the specialist supplier of brand leading personal protective equipment has launched its custom made mobile dispensing vehicle, to deliver the widest range of safety footwear direct to your doorstep.

While specialising primarily in the UVEX range of safety footwear, stocks can be tailored to suit your own individual requirements, providing an instant viewing, selection and "measuring up" facility from up to 800 pairs of footwear, at any time.

On-site visits can be arranged to suit your shift patterns, changeovers and rest periods, with Turton's trained staff ensuring the correct specification for all employees. This concept eliminates time consuming difficulties that can arise from the more usual mail order arrangements.



■ The European launch of two New Verti-Drain machines from Charterhouse will be made at BTME '97.

The new models will replace the existing Popular Verti-Drain and the best selling Greens

Verti-Drain.

Faster over the ground than their predecessors the new models can be operated without creep gearboxes being fitted to the prime mover and the re-design has been specifically

focused on providing greenkeepers with an excellent finish to their turf after the shatter tining process.

For further information: Tel: 01428 661222, Fax: 01428 661218.

Telephone Turton's sales information lines between 9-5pm Monday to Friday on 0121 550 9014.

■ Pollution control specialist AMEG Ltd has launched a new water recycling system which can save a considerable amount of cost to organisations who need to buy water, as well as reducing demand on the public systems.

The "Drought Buster" is an automatic system which collects rain and waste water from roofs and drains within the building, stores it in a tank, and filters it to produce a very pure supply, created almost entirely "in-house".

"People do not take advantage of the water which falls freely on their property, even though there are always gutters, pipes and drainage channels which make it easy to collect," says John Webb, of Cheshire-based AMEG

Ltd. "Just 10,000 square metres of collection area can gather 2.2 million gallons of water a year, which would otherwise cost in the region of £6,000 to buy.

"It really is pouring money down the drain, because the rain and waste water goes into the public mains for treatment and then has to be re-purchased," he adds.

Although the Drought Buster system uses very advanced filtration equipment, it is very simple and requires only minimal maintenance. A small sump tank is fitted at a convenient point on a drain or downpipe which moves the water collected, up and through a sand filter to remove any solid matter.

The filtered water is then treated to kill bacteria, algae and most fungi, and stored either in a tank or open pool. When required, the reclaimed water passes through a very efficient

activated carbon filter to remove all organic compounds, including oil, grease, and detergents. The result is very pure water at low cost.

The process is completely automatic, requiring only topping up of the chemicals and filter changes. As a back up the system can be integrated with the public mains supply, in case additional filtered water is required.

"It's a very efficient system, and we feel confident that as the costs of transporting and processing water continue to rise, more and more companies will see the advantages and savings available by installing their own mini water treatment plants," concludes Mr Webb.

For further information: Tel: 01625 614675.

■ Field Trials by the STRI have been concluded and