Saxon’s launch floats away

Saxon Industries launched its<br>new, top of the range, 'Floating Head' greens mower at BTME.<br>"The height of cut of the nine<br>blade, 22-inch cutting cylinder of<br>this top spec machine is continu-<br>ously variable from as short as 2.5<br>millimetres up to 10 millimetres,"<br>claimed Richard Horn, Saxon’s<br>Horticulture Division Director.<br>"But the fully floating head pro-<br>vides the ultimate finesse, accurate-<br>ly following the contours of the<br>slightest undulation to give a con-<br>sistent height of cut over every<br>green, including McKenzies."

Easily transported on quick<br>release pneumatic tyres, the<br>Floating Head mower is powered<br>by a 3.5 hp Robin petrol engine,<br>linked to an all gear drive transmis-<br>sion, which gives a speed of 3 - 5<br>mph.

Electronic ignition and hand<br>operated drum brakes make control<br>simple and a Light plastic, quick<br>fit and release grass box handles<br>cuttings.

For further information Tel: 01488 694345

Pumped up!

Recently introduced into<br>Spalding’s range of workshop<br>equipment is a high performance<br>30cc petrol driven 7-stroke clean<br>water pump.

The unit say Spaldings, is ideal<br>for the fast movement of water<br>around many farm applications<br>including emptying tanks and sup-<br>plying emergency water supplies to<br>stock.

The high performance electronic<br>ignition petrol engine has a forged<br>steel crankshaft and control for<br>strength and reliability. The pump<br>has a 1501/min capacity and is<br>capable of pumping water up to a<br>maximum head of 35 metres and<br>drawing water a maximum of seven<br>metres.

The pump unit features a large<br>plastic base with rubber shock<br>absorbers for maximum stability<br>whilst still maintaining the pumps<br>lightweight and compact design.

For further information Tel: 01322 500600

College gets boost from NTC

The National Turfgrass Council is donating £16,000 to<br>Myerscough College to enhance<br>its comprehensive library of turf-<br>grass resources. The money will<br>be used to supplement the John<br>Shildrick Memorial Collection of<br>books and slides, already held at<br>the college.

The Memorial Collection was<br>donated to the college following the<br>death of Mr Shildrick, the<br>first NTC Chief Executive, in<br>1994. This new bequest will<br>enable the college to further<br>develop the collection, providing<br>sportsturf students, researchers<br>and academics with one of the<br>most comprehensive turfgrass<br>reference points in Europe. Myerscough was selected<br>ahead of a number of other col-<br>leges and research institutions,<br>because of its high standards of<br>education and the excellent<br>facilities it possesses to support<br>the turfgrass industry.

Going up?

The London Golf Club has<br>installed a new Rototurf mainte-<br>nance equipment lift, designed<br>for service and mainte-<br>nance work on grass cutting and<br>golf cart equipment.

"The Rototurf ITTLE is extrem-<br>ely easy to load and operate -<br>wheels are automatically chocked and engaged for safety. Twin<br>hydraulic cylinders with minimum<br>moving parts give smooth lifting operation. Robust ‘double S’-shaped<br>columns provide a smooth bear-<br>ing surface for extended column<br>life. It has a lifting capacity of 1400kg for three wheel machines<br>and 2300kg for four-wheel<br>plant.

A key benefit is the baseless<br>construction which affords<br>excellent access and a floor area<br>clear of hazards. Checking and<br>adjusting roller height for optimi-<br>um efficiency is quick and simple. Clear access to the mowers’ facing front plates on the<br>bottom blades means they can<br>be cleaned, sharpened, adjusted<br>and measurably improves grass<br>cutting performance. Access to<br>areas such as linkages, hoses and<br>previously inaccessible grease<br>nipples, means planned mainte-<br>nance is more comprehensive.

For further information Tel: 01322 294949.

Movement at Rhône-Poulenc

Following the promotion of<br>Jonathan Hill to the European<br>Zone Headquarters in Dusseldorf Rhône-Poulenc<br>Amenity is pleased to announce<br>the appointment of David Agar<br>to the post of Market<br>Development Manager.

David has been promoted from<br>the Rhône-Poulenc Agriculture<br>team where he managed a group<br>of herbicide products that<br>included Asulox. Having joined<br>the company eight years ago as a<br>graduate entrant, David has held<br>several positions including a suc-<br>cessful period in Customer<br>Services.

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PRIMER

March 1998 Greenkeeper International 11
Kubota event gets a new look

Kubota is sponsoring a new knockout golf tournament for teams of two players representing golf clubs from throughout the United Kingdom. Known as the Kubota Golf Club Challenge, the event succeeds the Kubota Golf Challenge which had been sponsored by the Thame based company over the past 15 years.

Organised by Sporting Concepts Ltd, the Kubota Golf Club Challenge is open to the first 500 clubs to accept the entry invitation by the closing date of 31 March 1998. Ideally, the team representing the invited golf clubs will comprise the Secretary and the Head Greenkeeper to provide continuity to Kubota’s long-term relationship with the Association of Golf Club Secretaries and BIGGA.

The Kubota Golf Club Challenge is to be staged in two parts. First will be a series of carded match play rounds played between pairs of randomly drawn clubs on a knockout basis from April through to August. Following the knockout stage, the 15 remaining clubs will contest a Grand Final at Woodhall Spa Golf Club in Lincolnshire.

The winning club will be decided on the aggregate scores of the two team members over 36 holes, on October 5 and 6. "Kubota recognises the close association being forged between golf club Secretaries and Head Greenkeepers and is delighted to be sponsoring a tournament which brings the two together to represent their club," commented Rene Orban, Kubota's Director of Agricultural and Grass Machinery Sales.

"Instead of competing against each other as previously in the Kubota Golf Challenge, they will now be playing as a team, better reflecting their day to day relationship at their own golf course."

Director of the Kubota Golf Club Challenge, Peter McEvoy, pointed out that the event's predecessor had proved tremendously successful over 15 years. "However, we felt that the time was right to move to a new format where secretaries and greenkeepers played together as a club team," he said.

"The final at Woodhall Spa, the home of the EGU, promises to be a memorable occasion for all those taking part."

The Building Fund needs you!

The Building Fund Needs You! BIGGA is looking for volunteers to build on the magnificent launch given to the "Buy a Brick" raffle in aid of the Association's new Headquarters and Training facility at BTME.

During Harrogate week Board of Management Members proved themselves to be superb salesmen when it came to selling raffle tickets and the number of Gold Brick Badges on lapels showed just how many people had bought £50 worth of tickets. Silver and bronze badges, at £25 and £5 respectively, also found their way on to various items of clothing and the money raised during this one event alone reached many thousands.

Since then Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries have been issued with packs of tickets and badges to sell at various events throughout the next few months but if anyone would wish to lend his or her support to the Building Fund by selling tickets and badges we would be delighted to hear from you.

The campaign will end at BIGGA's annual golf day in June with the drawing of the raffle prizes. Please contact Tony Cocker at BIGGA Headquarters Tel: 01347 838581.

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Management lead buy-out at Rolawn

Rolawn has been the subject of a successful £3.35 million management buy-out following a complex agreement with the company’s 475 shareholders.

The buy-out was led by the company’s Managing Director, Ken Dawson, and Finance Director, Paul Hopewell and was funded by Lloyd’s Development Capital.

“We can now concentrate on the business 100% without any of the distractions that a diverse shareholder base brings,” explained Ken Dawson, who co-founded the company 23 years ago.

Design enhancements to one of Sill Lighting’s most popular floodlights, have resulted in a luminaire of even greater efficiency.

The precision engineered Sill 400 series floodlight, made in high pressure diecast aluminium and has a computer calculated and designed reflector, which is made of super-purified aluminium, produces a 66 degree beam and makes for an outstanding 87% efficiency.

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For further information Tel: 01844 260006.

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Amenity Technology has launched a new digital rain gauge which can be easily fastened outside and has a digital display which is mounted inside which displays daily and cumulative rainfall.

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FARMING AND AGRICULTURAL FINANCE LTD, NEW AGRICULTURE HOUSE, BARNETT WAY, BARNWOOD, GLOUCESTER GL4 7RT.
Last month we looked at the Health and Safety issues involved in the training of chain saw operators. This month we will look at the requirements of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

As from July 1, 1995 manufacturers are not permitted to produce leg protection (trousers and leggings), foot protection or head and ear protection that does not comply with the relevant European Standards and CE requirements that apply to them. All items of chain saw protective clothing must bear the relevant EN number on the article and packaging. This does not apply to PPE that had entered the chainsaw prior to July 1 therefore there will be a natural overlap until the 'old' equipment has worked through the system.

All items of chainsaw PPE do not protect by utilising the same method. There are three main functional principles involved; to provide a surface that the chain saw will not readily bite into; by using fibres that have a high resistance to cutting and absorb rotational energy which reduces chain speed; and the use of long loosely woven fibres that will be pulled into the cutting train and clog the chain rotation.

All operators of chainsaws must wear PPE which consists of a safety helmet, suitable eye protection, ear defenders, gloves with protective guarding on the back of the left hand, leg protection incorporating clogging material, safety boots with protective guarding at the front vamp and instep with a good grip and non snag outer clothing. They should also have with them a first aid kit including a large wound dressing and hand cleaning materials waterless skin cleanser or soap and water.

Any item of chainsaw PPE that is damaged, worn or no longer serviceable should be replaced immediately. The worn piece of equipment should be discarded so that there is no danger of it being 're-issued'.

chainsaw PPE only acts to mitigate against injury and does not prevent accidents occurring. Operators should be trained in its correct use and care.

Routes to certification - The first chain saw Certificates of Competence appeared as a direct result of the Health & Safety Executive Guidance Note GS48 and were issued by the NPTC (National Proficiency Test Council). At the time it was thought that the relevant Vocational Qualifications (VQ) units would have equal recognition.

Various problems arose and trainees wishing to claim the NPTC Certificate paid twice for confirmation of the same competence. The Forestry & Arboriculture Safety & Training Council then took the decision to partner the Business and Technology Education Council in England and Wales. BTEC was happy to take on board FASTCo's ideas to improve the VQ units and at the same time issue competence certification based on the new VQ units.

In effect there are now three different routes to certification, the first by way of a stand-alone competence test administered by the NPTC, the second by a BTEC/SCOTVEC competence certification derived from a VQ achievement and finally by NPTC competence certification derived from a NPTC VQ achievement.

In the next issue we will look at the safe working practices when using a petrol powered chainsaw.

For further information on training courses and consultancy contact Agenda Training Limited (Jean John on 01282 831973) or Tim Kirk of T. Kirk Forestry on 01484 685114.
**Avoiding creepy crawlies**

**Destructive Turfgrass Insects**
by Daniel A. Potter

Published by Ann Arbor Press
ISBN 1575040239
Price £45

Designed primarily for the American market, this book never the less contains some useful, general information on the management and eradication of turf grass pests, including a general chapter on Turfgrass and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Some of the references to insects, and mammals are of little concern to British greenkeepers eg. I have yet to hear of a nine banded armadillo damaging turf in this country. However, it does look at many pests which cause damage or threaten golfers, eg. wasps, on British golf courses. Care should be taken when considering chemicals to control pests as chemicals registered in the US may not be available here and vice versa. In general, this book would be useful as a general reference book and a source of some very useful information if care is taken to ensure that the advice conforms with British Regulations. (The nine banded armadillo is found in the South Western States of the US and creates problems when digging for worms and grubs).

**IPM Handbook for Golf Courses**
by Gail Schumann, Patricia J Vittum, Monica L Elliott Patricia P Cobb

Published Ann Arbor Press for the GCSAA
Price £37

The joint authors of this book are all academics who have been involved in research on turfgrass diseases, pests, biological controls and pesticide application. The book originated from the ideas presented at a GCSAA seminar on IPM, which has been presented across the US. The book suggests that as more controls are introduced on the use of chemicals, greenkeepers need to introduce a system of pest and disease management which takes full advantage of chemical checks and balances to keep turfgrass healthy. Each chapter gives detailed procedures for Site Assessment, Monitoring, Cultural Controls, Chemical Controls, Pest Management, New Technologies and How to Introduce an IPM Strategy. As in the previous book, some of the pests, diseases and control methods may not be familiar to British Greenkeepers, however, the general ideas and procedures are of value and this book would be a very good guide to anyone wishing to introduce an IPM plan or, indeed, anyone wishing to compare their methods to some used in the US.

Both books are available by mail order from; Cassell Plc, Stanley House, 3 Fleets Lane, Dorset BH15 3AJ.
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**Books**

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Telephone (01202) 665432 Fax (01202) 666219
Trevor Smith, Superintendent at Predator Ridge, in Canada, talks about the need to produce more than an excellent golf course to enjoy a prosperous career...

If the cap fits...

As superintendents (greenkeepers) there are a number of situations where, although your golf course is in good shape and you're doing all the right things agronomically, you can find yourselves out of work.

Why is that? Well, it doesn't have anything to do with agronomics, but it has a lot to do with politics and economics.

How many of us are willing to listen to someone tell us that we're wrong? That is something that we have to be able to do if we are to keep our jobs and be competitive in the job world. We have got to be able to sit down and listen objectively.

Another question would be, How many of you are happy working just where you are right now and don't want to move and how many of you would like to move into higher management positions?

Being a superintendent is what I started doing, but because the game is so diverse, and the business is so diverse, I find myself being involved in a number of different areas. It's my feeling that you don't have to stay just with being a superintendent. There's a lot of opportunity out there, and it's important for you to take advantage of it.

It's about realising your potential, because you are an untapped source. It's not going to cost the club any more money to have you think than they're already paying right now, and I think that we can control our situation a lot better than we do right now.

One of the little techniques to help you understand what you're doing and what your value is to your employer is to do your CV. Look at all the things that you've done for your club, all your accomplishments and list them. If it's only one thing, it's better than no things. But if there's nothing down on that CV then maybe you should look at yourself.

We can all sit down at our golf course and say, "I hope it doesn't rain tomorrow, because I've put the fertiliser on... and if this works, and this works and this works, then you know, I'll maybe have Saturday and Sunday off. Well, Saturday and Sunday, whether you're at work or not, you're at work.

It's a matter of how you use your ideas, take a chance, do something different - try a new way to apply fertilisers - if you've been using granulars all your life, work out an opportunity to spray. If you stay the same, that's where you're going to be, and it's important.

You want to invent something. When you wake up in the morning there's this little guy inside you who says "Why don't you try doing this?" and 20 minutes later you think "No, no, no, people will think I'm foolish or I'll make a mistake. I'll get fired." Well nine times out of ten that guy is right, but we don't take the opportunity. Listen to him, make calculated risks because if you take that chance, then something's definitely going to happen for you.

What was the last golf course management innovation you saw which took your breath away? When was the last time you saw something amazing? I haven't seen anything in a long time. We've chugged along, improving certain things, but there's nobody out there just jumping in with their great outstanding new management tool. And I think that that's the kind of thing that we can do.

There are several main issues that face greenkeepers today, and this was a study that was done through the GCSAA and these came to a head. One of them is job security, there's a lot of very, very uncomfortable golf superintendents out there.

Replacement by lower salaried employees was identified as one of the problems.

Basically the issues amount to one and the same. How can you show your employer that you're worthy of your remuneration? Well, it's down to you and whether you're going to sit back and worry about someone taking your job, or whether you're going to be proactive and make sure that your job security is based on the value that you give your employer.

The key to success is attitude and how you relate that attitude to those around you, especially your employers. Growing grass just isn't going to be enough. It takes people...
we're going to do, then we're pow- 
technology that you have to apply.
you to improve it.
value added business will keep you 
those people or how you get those 
to do it, and how you manipulate 

you have to cost the golf club very 
and those are the things that don't 

As greenkeepers, if we sit back 

As a greenkeeper do you have 

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Edited extracts from Trevor Smith's, paper "Golf Course Economics and Politics (When Turf is Not Enough)" at this year's National Education Conference in Harrogate. Trevor is a Past President of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents' Association.
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Leamington & County Golf Club green staff have been busy over the winter months as Scott MacCallum found out...

There was once a perception among some golf club members that as soon as the final putt was downed by the final threestyle in the final summer medal of the year that the greens staff went into hibernation. Not the conventional sort of hibernation we read about in nature books or which all of my generation can remember Blue Peter's tortoise enjoying.
We thirtysomethings are bound to recall the world's first transsexual pet - Fred becoming Freda with nothing more than the simple addition of a non toxic painted vowel. No, apparently greenkeepers enjoyed a different type of hibernation. With growth, at worst, slowly and without the number of golfers braving the elements winter months were spent painting out-of-bounds and lateral water hazard markers, revarnishing benches, sending machinery out to be serviced, tiding the mess room, oh yes, and playing cards. Every so often, so rumour had it, they would look up from a unpromising hand of three card brag, gaze out of the window, and depending on the weather, decide to move the pins either off or on the temporary greens.

To some club members the greenkeeper's job appeared as seasonal as that of the lifeguard on Blackpool beach. If that was what club members might have thought in the past there is certainly no excuse for thinking that fewer pints of blood, sweat and tears are spilt in the bleak mid winter than at any other time of the year. Certainly not if you were to visit Leamington & County Golf Club where so much has been achieved over the winter months the staff should, by rights, be tested for performance enhancing steroids.

Head Greenkeeper, Des Compton, and his five man team have been busy and when the fairweather members dust down their Callaways for their seasonal debuts later this month they will see some significant developments to their course.

Not only will they find a brand new 11th tee to go with a brand new 11th green, they will be able to see the green from the clubhouse window for the first time in living memory due to the extensive scrub clearance which has been done. In addition, preparation work for the new greenkeeper maintenance facility has been completed while the team has had to keep on top of the additional winter mowing brought about by the unusually mild conditions.

"The first major job was the 11th green. It had deteriorated very quickly over the summer with the annual meadow grass dying off and we couldn't bring it back," explained Des, of the short tree lined par-3 which is one of the feature holes on the course.

Des works extremely closely with his Deputy, Robin Wilcox. "Originally we had looked at redoing our two putting greens first as an experiment so as not to disturb the course and then, on the back of that, start of the course," explained Rob.

In the end the 11th's downturn made the decision for them but the fact that Leamington boasts 19 greens anyway meant that there was no disruption to play. "Our proper 1st in the summer becomes the winter 11th and our spare green becomes the 1st. At the end of the summer we mow out a fairway to the practice green and move the fairway over. "What it meant was that even if the 11th green hadn't gone it would have been the perfect one to have started with as it is out of commission in the winter anyway," explained Des.

Having taken the decision to go ahead last September the club commissioned John Greasley to build the new green and Andy Cole, of the STRI, to oversee the work. "I met with them at the beginning of November when we did the ground work - assessing how the machinery was going to get in, the actual design and what trees we would have to remove. Andy Cole then went away and did a report on the agronomy. We were doing it to the USGA guidelines," said Des.

The green was completed the day before Christmas Eve, taking around four weeks in all, and Andy