FOREIGN SECRETARY VISITS RANSOMES SIMS & JEFFERIES

RANSOMES Sims & Jefferies’ managing director Mr Eric McCoy took the opportunity of a visit by Foreign Secretary Mr Douglas Hurd to thank the Government for the support given to companies exporting abroad. Ipswich-based Ransomes is a world leader in the grass machinery market and last year continued its overseas expansion with the acquisition of the Cushman Group in North America.

‘The Foreign Office works very hard to assist exports into other countries, although they do not get much credit for this,’ said Mr McCoy. ‘There is good Government support for foreign trade.’

In 1989, the Ransomes Group succeeded in increasing domestic and overseas sales by 37%. Mr Hurd, who was visiting Ransomes for a reception organised by the Ipswich Conservative Association, said in-industry the region was well placed to exploit opportunities presented by the 1992 European single market.

Channel 4 News recorded Mr Hurd’s visit to Ransomes to include in a profile of the Foreign Secretary which is expected to be broadcast in the near future.

Lord Derby stands down from PGA European tour Presidency

THE PGA European Tour has been rocked by the announcement that its President, the Rt Hon The Earl of Derby MC, has resigned.

The decision follows in the wake of the recent meeting to decide the venue for the 1993 Ryder Cup in which the Earl’s casting vote was used to secure the decision in favour of the Belfry.

There had been a lot of tension prior to the meeting with the pro-Belfry fraction being opposed by a strong lobby for Spain, backed by the not inconsiderable weight of such stars as Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal.

More fuel was added to the fire when the recently appointed Britain and Europe Ryder Cup captain, Bernard Gallacher, threw his hat into the ring in favour of the Spanish claim. The Press was full of the controversy, but the outcome of the meeting held behind closed doors was a 4:3 vote in favour of the Belfry.

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ISEKI CLEANS UP AT CASTLE HOWARD

When your stately home has over 200,000 visitors a year and such diverse areas of ground as woodland, lakes, a walled garden and an arboretum covering just under 100 acres and very rare species of plants, trees and shrubs from all over the world, keeping it all neat and tidy is no small undertaking.

Such is the task allotted to Brian Deighton, Grounds Supervisor at magnificent Castle Howard in North Yorkshire, who has recently taken delivery of two Iseki Tractors. The two new units, a 33 horsepower TA 530 with its unique shuttle gearbox and a 22 horsepower TU 320 have a large part to play in the Castle Howard's Groundcare operations, and adaptability to a lot of different tasks. This was one of Mr Deighton's main criteria for choosing Iseki.

The two tractors purchased from Iseki dealer F.G. Adamson and Son have been allocated many different tasks, for the TA 530 this includes loading compost and moving top soil around the estate and in their thriving plant centre as well as tiding up after the visitors using a trailed sweeper collector.

Whilst the smaller TU 320 is fitted with Iseki's stainless style cab and has both a rotary mower for scrub cutting around the woodland areas, and a Huxley 3 gang cylinder mower for more manicured areas of lawn around Castle Howard.

In addition the newly stocked ed lakes and banks will be cut using Iseki's adaptable Hedgecutter which acts as both flail mower and hedgetrimmer, another adaptable machine for the estate environment.

Castle Howard is certainly one of North Yorkshire's biggest tourist attractions and a thriving estate. The estate enterprises also host many conferences and events in its magnificent grounds. With these latest additions to their fleet, Castle Howard's grounds could not be in better hands, dedicated grounds staff and adaptable tractors from Iseki will see to that.

Flyng Divots

ALL-TICKET WALKER CUP

THE 1991 Walker Cup match, which will be played in Ireland for the first time, will also be the first match of the series on this side of the Atlantic to be all-ticket.

When the British and Irish amateurs face the Americans at Portmarnock on September 5-6 next year, the daily attendance will be limited to 12,000 spectators.

The tickets, priced £10 per day for adults and £5 for juveniles, will be distributed mainly through the Golfing Union of Ireland and 80 per cent of the allocation will go to Irish Golf Clubs.

SHAW BET HANDICAP

When golf-crazy Dave Shaw tried to gain a handicap he stymied. When he attempted to join a golf club in his home town of Harrogate, Yorkshire, he was out of bounds. They were all full and refused to accept him.

So in his desperation 42-year-old Dave splashed out £650 on a 420-mile round trip to play in the Western Isles of Scotland and returned with his prize.

Dave, an aerial photographer, hired a four-seater Cessna and flew north with his clubs to join the Machrie Golf Club which has no waiting list and where the combined joining fee and annual subscription adds up to £100.

Dave took with him golfing pal John Warner, an 11-handicap member of Harrogate, and when he returned they were all full and refused to accept him.

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McEvoy Steps Down

Peter McEvoy, arguably Britain's greatest ever amateur, has decided not to compete in any more major events this year and may even consider retiring from competitive golf.

The 37-year-old, who played county golf for 40 years, won at least one county title in each of the past five decades. He won the Lincolnshire championship three years in a row from 1959 before his marriage, while her previous successes in the Leicestershire championship came in 1967 and '68, in 1978, '81 and '83.

Next year Mrs Reed, who is in her mid-fifties, will have been playing county golf for 40 years.

BUSH'S NEW WEAPON

The new Bridgestone J’s handground metal woods with graphite shafts have shifted operating property in America since Augusta’s last craze. Jack Nicklaus’ big-headed putter in ‘87. President Bush and Vice President Quayle have placed their orders through the Congres-

Car Company Signs Up Tour Professionals

A major car leasing company is making a welcome return sponsorship on the WPGA European Tour with a deal to supply cars to six top women professionals.

Cowie Interleasing (Midlands) first sponsored professionals on the Tour in 1985 when they supplied cars to girls in the Baume Mercier team.

Now they have agreed to do the same for England’s Caroline Grifﬁths, Claire Waite and Sarah Duhs, Ireland’s Maureen Garvers, American Meredith Marshall and Australia’s Anne Jones.

Mr Joe Flanagan, the Tour’s Executive Director, said: “The use of a car is vital to a touring professional and will make life a great deal easier for these girls.”

News

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