IN THE PICTURE

"NEW" PORTABLE DIAGNOSTIC MICROSCOPES

MACROSCOPE 25 and the new Macroscope 18-36 Zoom are two portable microscopes ideal for diagnostic work in the turf grass industry.

The design of both units is such that they can be placed on the green and the problem viewed directly rather than by removal of a plug for placement on the microscope stage. The design of the unit eliminates the need to prepare a slide.

The image provided is bright, clear and positionally correct over an extremely wide field of view. Since its introduction to the turf industry in the US in 1985, over 3000 Macroscope units have been sold to golf course superintendents and other professionals working in this industry.

Macroscope 25 provides a fixed magnification of 25x over a field of view of 5/16 inch in diameter. It is powerful enough to spot tell-tale signs of many turf grass diseases such as toluene lesions of collar spot or leaf spot or tough to identify weeds or insects. Macroscope 18-36 Zoom with its variable magnification provides an even wider field of view at the 16x magnification or much more detail at 36x magnification.

Both units are camera adaptable by means of the simple, low cost adaptor, Macromate I. The unit couples either Macroscope to the filter threads of most 35mm SLR lenses. It couples directly to 52mm diameter lenses and to other diameters via commonly available stepping rings.


MACDONALD TO DESIGN NEW GOLF COURSE IN EAST ANGLIA

A

OTHER championship golf course is to be built in East Anglia which is fast becoming one of the most rapidly expanding areas of golf development in the British Isles.

Frank MacDonald and his Lowestoft-based Lound Manor Landscapes group, are to design and build a new 18-hole golf course at Fritton near Great Yarmouth as part of a major complex which will include a luxury hotel, conference centre and a comprehensive range of indoor leisure facilities.

Alongside the golf course, Hertsmere Holdings based in Loddon, Norfolk have commissioned Frank MacDonald and his team to create a high quality course on a 1100 acre site at Cadecott Hall which was previously farmland with gently undulating free-draining soil, making it an ideal site for a golf course.

The project is expected to start shortly and will take two years to complete.

With more than 30 years experience in golf course construction Frank MacDonald is well aware that a wide range of golf facilities are required so that the sport does not become elitist.

He has worked alongside Sir Henry Cotton, Frank Pennink, Charles Lawrie and Peter Alliss on major projects including the third course at Carnoustie.

TURF IRRIGATION SEMINAR AT ELMWOOD COLLEGE

ELMWOOD College at Cupar recently hosted a seminar held by Turf Irrigation Services Ltd. Sports turf service representatives were also in attendance as they are the local suppliers for Toro irrigation equipment.

There is an increasing awareness of the need for irrigation on all golf courses, particularly after last summer's drought. Levels of irrigation equipment are becoming much more sophisticated many are even computerised. The greenkeeper of today must be aware of how to use and maintain such equipment.

Elmwood College has excellent facilities to run educational seminars in its newly refurbished Elmwood House, and what could be more appropriate than that such a seminar be held in North East Fife, the home of golf!
LANCASHIRE BECOMES AN APPROVED GTC COLLEGE

The Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture has now become an approved centre for Greenkeeper training. The College has, for many years, taught a wide range of Greenkeeping courses including Ploughing, Crofting and Guilds, the National Certificate in Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping and the National Diploma in Turf Science and Sportsground Management.

The BTEC National Diploma was the first of its kind in the country by providing management level qualification in Greenkeeping. The course is aimed at students planning to study full time for a management level qualification in Greenkeeping. John Hacker, senior lecturer and course manager says: “The College is very pleased to have been given the status of an approved college by the GTC. My colleagues and I have, for many years, been trying to raise the status of the Greenkeeping profession in this country by providing management level courses such as the National Diploma.”

Several final year Diploma students have just returned from their third year industrial placements in the U.S.A. and their employer assessments show that young British Greenkeepers are in demand throughout the greenkeeping world.

LINCOLNSHIRE’S NEWEST GOLF COURSE CHOOSES KUBOTA

The £2.5 million Horncastle Golf and Country Club complex has chosen Kubota machinery to meet its turf-care needs.

Lincolnshire’s latest golf and leisure club, situated in the heart of the Lincolnshire Wolds at Shearnham’s Wath, West Ashby, is owned and designed by Mr Ernie Wright. It will accommodate up to 500 members and is scheduled for completion in 2006.

The complex comprises an 18 hole golf course, bar and restaurant, together with a conference and function suite. The 25 bay floodlit driving range - overlooked by the VIP lounge - provides the opportunity for play at any time. For the angling enthusiast there are superb carp and tench lakes.

A golfer of 27 years’ playing experience Ernie designed the golf course to shock his members.

The turf equipment purchased by the Club will play a key role in the course and Ernie Wright approached Kubota dealers Professional Grass Care (Midlands) Limited, Louth, Lincolnshire two years ago.

When it came to the final buying decision he opted for the Kubota B1750 HST, 4WD, 20 hp. compact tractor. This model incorporates the unique Kubota Bi-Speed turn which allows tighter turning, without damaging the turf, and hydrostatic transmission which provides operator friendly, single pedal control of tractor speeds and direction, forwards and backwards.

METROMOWER PREFERRED TO A GOLD WATCH

When it came to its “thank you” for 25 years’ service to Turner International, Sales Director Graham of Gill said that he would rather have a Turner Metromower: In terms of product loyalty that takes some beating!

Graham joined Turner in 1963 at the age of 16, a sort of combination of tea boy and apprentice engineer, he says. At that time the total staff amounted to six people and Graham learned welding and machining skills in the workshops.

After two years he was given the opportunity to provide field support in service and commissioning work and, in the early 1970’s, when only in his twenties he graduated to global travel to promote Turner equipment on the world market.

At that time flail mowers were practically unheard of and he recalls the acute interest that Turner International becomes an approved GTC college.

IN THE PICTURE

Left to right: Mark Helliwell, sales executive Professional Grass Care (Midlands) Limited, Keith Helliwell, head greenkeeper, Horncastle Golf and Country Club, Ernie Wright, club owner, and Russell Mellor, Kubota Northern Regional Manager.

NEW DIMENSION TO GOLF COURSE AND SPORTSFIELD CONSTRUCTION

GIVING a new dimension to construction, Conservation & Leisure Ltd, a new company, combines the best of the main contractor and the project manager approach. Specialist contractors in earthworks, drainage and landscaping combine under the independent professional management to collectively offer a complete service.

As Director Conservation & Leisure Ltd takes over responsibility in the project and the specialists, as shareholders in the company, remain completely responsible for their section of the work.

Having established themselves over a period of more than 20 years each have the resources needed.

The Directors are: Gordon Jaaback, who manages the projects and is an internationally experienced turfgrass agronomist, who has for 20 years been intimately involved with golf courses and the turfgrass industry having operated his own construction company.

Frank Dale is head of Frank Dale (Agricultural Contractors) Ltd, with 25 years’ experience in undertaking earthworks for local authorities and private organisations. His experience in sportsfield development, landscaping of quarries and the construction of water features – either for storage or amenity use – is unsurpassed. With an extensive range of fully owned equipment he brings an independence to the company that is invaluable.

Geoff Turner is Chief Executive of the Coblands Group of which Coblands Landscapes Ltd has over 25 years of experience as contractors in public and commercial landscaping, construction of sports playing fields and all types of amenity planting and landscape treatments. They have won 5 BALI National Landscaping awards in 10 years.

Bob Brown is Managing Director of E.H. Brown & Son Ltd, a family business established in 1947.

IOG EXHIBITION MOVES TO PETERBOROUGH

The Institute of Groundsmanship has chosen The East of England Showground, Peterborough as the home of its sports and leisure world trade exhibition. Although Windsor, a past home of the IOG Exhibition, was held with affection, it was becoming increasingly difficult for both visitors and exhibitors to be accommodated.

Peterborough has been chosen because it is skirted by major motorways. There is an excellent rail network, and in the early 1970’s, when only in his twenties he graduated to global travel to promote Turner equipment on the world market.

At that time flail mowers were practically unheard of and he recalls the acute interest that Turner International became a member of the Eiwiswic plc Group in 1979.