

NOTEBOOK...

Parkers stage working demo

GROUNDSMEN, greenkeepers and representatives from sports clubs, golf courses and local authorities in North London and Essex gathered at the London Fire Brigade Sports Club, Aveley, to attend a Turf Care Machinery Seminar arranged by Parkers of Worcester Park.

Peter Brimmell of Parkers introduced a working demonstration of a wide range of equipment. This featured Marshall and Iseki tractors and the Charterhouse range of turf aeration machinery, presented by David Jenkins, which included their Popular Vertidrain, a Compact Level



Spike, a Top Dresser, a Weight Transfer System and Level Spike, a Veredo Seeder, a Sand and Top Dresser and a slotter.

Brian Richardson of May & Baker Products gave a slide

presentation and talk on the company's environmental products. He also warned delegates of the serious legal implications of the Food and Environmental Protection Act.

New division

ROFFEY Brothers Ltd., and Notts Sport Ltd. have jointly set up a new division, Notts Sport Western, based at Roffey Brothers Ltd., Throop Road, Bournemouth, Dorset.

Chris McNamee has been appointed as technical representative.

David Roffey, technical director of Roffey Brothers Ltd., who will be heading this new marketing company, welcomes the agreement as a further consolidation of the company's commitment to the sports and amenity industry.

Roffey Brothers Ltd., believe that the Notts Sport synthetic surfaces will complement their ranges of natural turf products, which will continue to be a major part of the company's activities.

Shaun Patrick, sales director of Notts Sport Ltd., commented "We have worked with Roffey Brothers for just over 18 months and have been impressed with their approach to our products. We felt that this must be the next logical step in the joint advancement of both companies."

Johnsons seeds welcome visitors

JOHNSONS Seeds, market leaders in amenity grass seed, hosted three separate visits to their headquarters and trial grounds in Boston.

The first two groups included a wide cross section of people from the amenities, leisure and sports sectors. The third group were mainly members of the Thames branch of the British Association of Landscape Industries.

The morning was spent at the company's modern production plant where the visitors were shown the mixing and blending of different brands of amenity grasses, the modern storage facilities and the many control measures taken to maintain the quality of the seed supplied to the consumer.

On the same site, the groups visited the Satellite Seed Testing Station - one of only a few throughout the country licensed by the Ministry - where samples are constantly checked to ensure that batches meet EEC and HVS standards.

Moving to Johnsons' trial and demonstration grounds in the afternoon, the visitors were

able to see the characteristics of over 50 different grass species and mixtures when cut at varying heights and also uncut areas for low maintenance use.

The combinations varied from those which would produce fine turf for golf and bowling greens, to harder wearing coarser mixtures to withstand the wear and tear of winter games.

A number of new cultivars were on display - with Epsom chewings fescue and Prester, a turf-type perennial ryegrass, being particularly prominent. Both these have a distinctive colouring and other characteristics ideal for sports use on turf production.

On another site a highlight of the visit was Johnsons' development work with species of wild flowers. Over 120 varieties are being tested in many different types of soil. With the trend towards areas of 'natural' growth on amenity land, and a greater interest in conversation generally, Johnsons are pioneering a planned approach to the use of wild flowers.

NOTEBOOK...

National Turf Council Workshops

THE 1988 season of NTC workshops has begun well, with first-class events at Stoneleigh, on the Recreational Diversification of Farmland, and at Pershore, on Turfgrass Education in the 90's.

At the Stoneleigh Workshop, organised by NTC chairman Howard Swan, the principal speaker was John Selwyn Gummer, Minister of State for Agriculture. He outlined the present policy of Government grants, indicated how NTC member organisations could help with diversifications, and listened attentively to pleas for grants to be made available for golf courses, at least in respect of simple cheap facilities for youngsters and "average" players. Mike Collins of the Sports Council and Sue Morris-Eyton of the National Farmers

Union filled in details of deciding what leisure facilities to provide, and the possible legal and contractual difficulties.

In the second part of the Workshop, Simon Gidman, Peter Hayes and Jack McMillan gave farmers a close-up view of the design, construction and management of outdoor sports facilities, with the emphasis on golf.

The Pershore Workshop gave educationalists, groundsmen and others a unique chance to learn about and debate the latest developments in turfgrass education. The Workshop was organised and guided through the day by Barrie Dickinson, chairman of the NTC Education Committee. In the morning, four short reports were given on recent

important achievements by the industry - the BTEC Diploma in Turf Science, the new "Master of Sportsturf Management (IOG)", the Training Information Base for amenity horticulture, and the latest advances by the Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management. In the afternoon, representatives of the "powers-that-be" in London - NCVQ, NEB and BTEC - described for future framework of turfgrass education and took part in a lively discussion. One recurrent theme in this was the need to ensure uniformity of assessment, especially of practical skills, within the educational structure of tomorrow, in which modular and part-time courses will be increasingly important.

Workshop participants received copies of the new NTC booklet "Turfgrass Education: Update '88", which explains briefly the alternative options in training progression, to help managers, training personnel and those wishing to enter the industry. Single copies are available free, on receipt of a stamped (13p or 18p) addressed A5 envelope, from The Secretary, NTC, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, W. Yorks. BD16 1HZ.

THE Sports Turf Research Institute will hold three courses at Bingley in autumn 1988 on the theory and practice of turf construction and management.

The courses last five days and will cover soils, grasses, turf diseases and pests, drainage, watering, fertilisers and machinery. The

commencing dates are 17th, 24th and 31st October.

The fee is £100 for members and £120 for non-members, plus VAT (exclusive of accommodation and meals).

Further details from The Secretary, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire. BD16 1AU.

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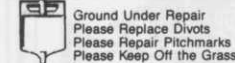


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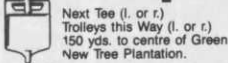
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NOTEBOOK...

New product gives a boost!

A NEW product based on selected plant extracts has recently been launched that alleviates the problem of thatching and the resultant growth deterioration on high quality sports turf - such as golf and bowling greens.

Known as Boost, the product works directly on soil micro-organisms and significantly multiplies their activity. This results in a more thorough breakdown of thatch and micro tilling of compacted soil to permit healthy root formation. The result is a high quality green, no vigorous mechanical treatments being required and no grumbles from the players.

Applied in spring and autumn, boost is highly competitive when compared to the top quality seaweed-derived conditioners. Being a highly concentrated liquid it

is easier to handle and apply. It penetrates rapidly and does not form a surface gel which takes time to get to work. Regular use of Boost can therefore significantly reduce maintenance and disruption of play.

Boost is already used at Old Thorns golf course, part of the London Kosaido Company.

Boost is part of a range of products that represent the latest in "State of the Art" technology and apart from natural plant growth accelerators, the range includes products to control waste water pollution including smell by enhancing the natural activity of micro-organisms in water. All products and full technical data sheets are available from the David Ball Group, Huntingdon Road, Bar Hill, Cambridge. Telephone: 0954 80687.

THE old-established family firm R E Rushbrook of Ipswich, Suffolk has been appointed key distributor in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge by fertiliser specialists Vitax Limited.

The company will be dealing in the full range of products developed by Vitax for the sports and leisure industry, and for the local authority market.

R E Rushbrook is based at The Old Paper Mill, Branford, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP8 4DF. Telephone: 0473 830273.

FARMURA Environmental Products have issued a brochure, "Natural Solutions to get you growing" which gives full details of their product range, and acts as a guide to greenkeepers to enable them to decide quickly and confidently which Farmura Product best suit their turf requirements.

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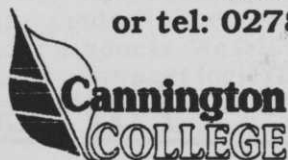
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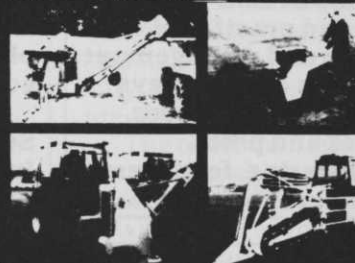
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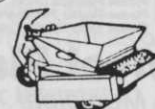


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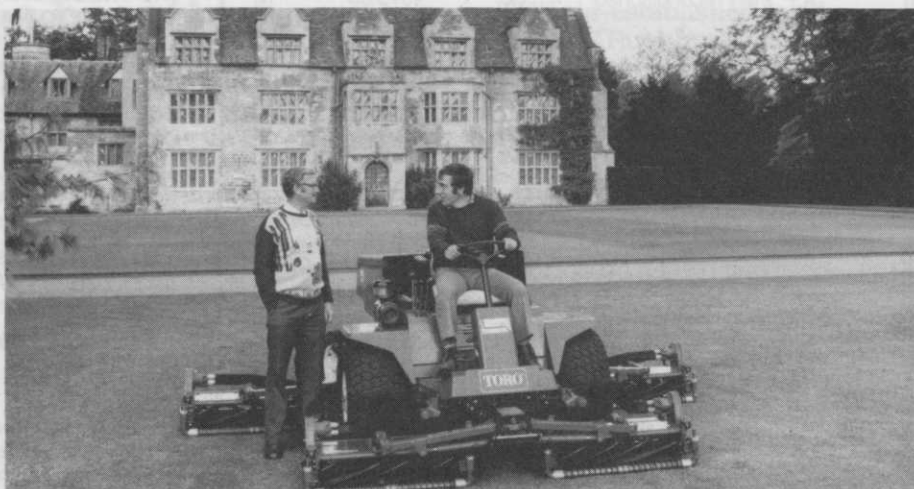
New for old

THE National Trust owner of the beautiful Anglesey Abbey in Cambridge recently purchased a new Toro 450D the flagship of the range through local dealers Choppen.

Richard Ayres, head gardener of the Abbey said "We are very happy indeed with the machine, it is much more powerful than anything we've had here before. Because of the 450's increased power, man hours are reduced substantially. This is a major benefit when you consider we have 35 acres of lawn to cope with here!"

The Reelmaster 450D which supersedes Toro's 350D is a highly manoeuvrable hydraulic reel mower for high capacity mowing and top quality cut, therefore it is ideally suited to large tourist type environments which need close cut amenity grassland.

The power is provided by way of a 50hp diesel, water-cooled Mitsubishi engine with hydrostatic transmission and power steering. Five or seven bladed cutting cylinders, with heads that can be either fixed or floating, are available. The floating heads allow maximum contour following, producing and excellent end result every time. Cutting reels operate forward for mowing or reverse for clearing debris or backlapping.



Contract Hire Plan by TORO

THE Toro Company has just introduced a Contract Hire Plan which is available on all their Groundsmaster product range. This will be of particular interest to Local Authorities because it will allow them to fund grass cutting machinery from annual revenue budgets as opposed to capital budgets.

Under this 3-year fixed cost scheme, the customer will have the security of knowing that the equipment will be professionally maintained on a planned basis, thereby providing worry-free operation during the whole period of the scheme. The plan not only covers unlimited use of any machine but also regular service inspections.

Toro say it is their intention to extend the scheme to other product ranges in the future.

Further and more detailed information can be obtained from any Toro appointed dealer.

Turfco products

TURF Machinery Hire have been appointed UK distributors for the range of Turfco products, which feature the Mete-R-Matic top dressing machines and range of turfcutters. See them on Stand 7, Central Avenue, at Royal Windsor Racecourse 20-22 Sept 1988.

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