

# NOTEBOOK...

## New system

UNIVERSAL Materials has evolved a new type of Tee Mat system which combines what managing director Geoff Russell calls "the best of both worlds".

The stance area is a traditional rubber link mat of the type which Universal, under their trade name "Unimat", has been making for over 50 years. Constructed from used truck tyre material, these mats are still easily the most durable on the market.

The striking surface comes from Japan where its manufacturer, Soko of Tokyo, is the largest supplier of artificial turf to the country's 3,000 driving ranges.

"The Japanese driving range market is so enormous", says Geoff Russell, "that it is feasible to produce a deep pile artificial turf specifically for golf. We have tried to combine our mats with many different artificial grass products from several different countries and there is no doubt that Soko's is superior to every thing else on the market".

The mat is available in both single and double-ended configurations and is mounted on a treated wooden platform.

The artificial grass runs the full width of the stance mat, thus giving the user a generous area on which to position the ball. For further details ring Geoff Russell on 01-421-1236.

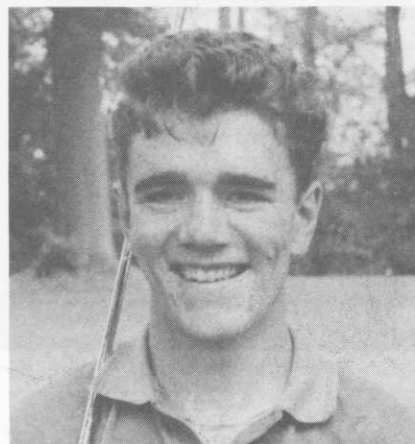
## Three wheel drive from Jacobsen

JACOBSEN'S Tri-King 1471 triplex reel mower is now available with 3-wheel drive for improved traction and maneuverability. The powerful new hydraulic traction drive system along with aircraft-style steering, a foot-operated hydraulic reel lift with auto start/stop, and a 71" cutting swath gives the Tri-King increased efficiency and productivity. For details call Chris Smith on 0553 763333.

## Proud student

TOM BRANNON (19) assistant greenkeeper at Ratho Park Golf Club in Newbridge near Edinburgh, is the proud recipient of a new award introduced in 1987 - the Institute of Groundmanship's Prize for best Greenkeeping and Groundmanship -Practical Student.

However, to Tom, who hails from Fauldhouse, this ultimate accolade was simply the pinnacle of a successful three year course at Oatridge Agricultural College, Uphall West Lothian. In his two previous years he took Best Greenkeeping and Groundsman Student Award. In recognition of his excellent performance, Ratho Park Golf Club presented Tom with a



Tom Brannon

cheque.

At present Tom doesn't play golf but he is eager to learn, and if he applies himself to the game with the same vigour he attacked his studies he's sure to prove successful.

## 'Survivors' of John Deere course manage a smile

AS part of their plans for expansion in the UK market, John Deere consider the best way to ensure that the quality of service matches the quality of their machines, is to train their staff at first hand. So behind the smiles in this photograph was an intensive five day training course for British ground care dealers in Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A.

A large part of the company's success over the last 150 years

has been due to their firm commitment to training, research and development at all times.

\* \* \*

The happy picture below shows Mr. D. M. Walker, managing director of John Deere UK (3rd from left) Mr. F. A. McKee, commercial manager (2nd from left) and Mr. M. Rhodes (2nd from right) with British ground care dealers.



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## New course gets "thumbs up"!

GLENEAGLES HOTELS plc have presented a trophy for a new two-year college training course in gamekeeping and estate maintenance.

The course is at Elmwood Agricultural and Technical College in Cupar, Fife.

Jimmy Kidd, estate manager at The Gleneagles Hotel, said: "Elmwood is the most progressive college of its kind anywhere in the UK and is particularly renowned for its greenkeeping courses. The new course was prompted by Scotland's need for the conservation of its wildlife, which is vital to the tourist industry.

"We hope it will encourage youngsters to enter this buoyant sector of the estates management industry".



Kevin Bandeen 17, of **Kirriemuir**, gives a 'thumbs up' as first winner of the Gleneagles' trophy. Kevin is 17 and a second-year student at Elmwood.

A NEW Code of Practice has been prepared jointly by the National Turfgrass Council and the National Association of Agricultural Contractors, with the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Code gives guidance on the application of pesticides to recreational areas, parks, sports grounds, airfields, road and motorway verges, housing estates and hospital grounds. It also covers the handling, storage and transport of chemicals. It gives advice not only on selecting the correct pesticide, but on whether and when to use one at all. Keeping records of chemical treatments is an important part of the legislation, which the Code explains in detail.

Copies of the Code are available from the National Turfgrass Council at a price of £7.00.

## Iron in a spray ...

SPECIFICALLY formulated for the professional greenkeeper and groundsman who requires the ultimate in easy-to-use sprayable iron, Farmura have introduced Ferrosol Liquid Iron to the UK market.

Ferrosol is a patented bonding of ferrous sulphate to urea, which not only keeps the iron stable, but also speeds up its intake into the plant system. Because plants have a high requirement for nitrogen they absorb it and the iron at the same time. Ferrosol avoids the problems normally associated with excessive or unwanted flushes of growth due to additional nitrogen as the amount of N actually applied per square metre is very low.

Ferrosol can be tank mixed with other Farmura Products and will compliment their liquid fertiliser programmes is available in packs of five litres.

For further information contact Farmura Ltd, Stone Hill, Egerton, Ashford, Kent. Tel No. (023376) 241 or a Farmura main distributor.

## Consistency is the key

QUALITY, reliability and value for money are the standards set for Supaturf's range of Turf Top Dressings.

Supaturf use only the finest quality controlled sterlised and screened foam to produce a dependable and consistent product. In addition, each product batch is analysed by laboratory trained technical staff, guaranteeing batch production consistency, maintaining the essential optimum particle size distribution, which can be consistently repeated time after time to meet customer

requirements. This attention to product consistency is one of the reasons why Supaturf Top Dressings are regularly specified by independent turfgrass advisors at consultant agronomists.

With three production centres and five regional branches throughout England and Wales supplies are readily available, to be delivered either bagged or in bulk, at competitive prices.

For further information contact Supaturf H.Q. Oxeney Road, Peterborough. PE1 5YZ. Tel. No. (0733) 68384, a regional branch or a representative.



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## STRI courses

THE STRI will hold two courses at Bingley in early 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, fertilizers and machinery.

The commencing dates are 22nd and 29th February. If there is sufficient demand for places a third course will be held commencing 7th March.

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. Telephone Bradford (0274) 565131.

## Going South

AFTER travelling south across the border, twenty members of the BIGGA Scottish Section, in addition to an informative day at Ransomes' Nacton Works, also spent an enjoyable two nights in Ipswich.

The party of head greenkeepers, led by Jimmy Neilson, besides having a tour of the factory also had the opportunity to try out Ransomes latest equipment for golf course maintenance. "We greatly value such sessions" said Ransomes technical sales and service manager Brian Mitchell, "because it is always helpful to hear what users have to say about our equipment".

## Howard Swan goes solo ...

FOLLOWING on from the successful launch of the National Turfgrass Councils' new initiative, the Premier Patrons Scheme, designed to revitalise industry awareness and set a progressive strategy for the future, it has been announced that the STRI has donated financial support in the form of a £800 gold patron pledge.

Responding to the STRI gold patronage Howard Swan, chairman of the NTC, said; "We are particularly pleased and honoured that such a respected and authoritative body has joined with the major commercial companies and organisations within our industry to support this NTC initiative".

## Greenkeepers win awards

DAVID BAKER from Walton Heath Golf Club came first out of 24 students on the head greenkeepers supervisory management course at Elmwood Agricultural and Technical College, in Cupar, Fife.

Paul Seago from Hunstanton Golf Club, Norfolk, received two awards - best second year student (out of a group of forty) and also best practical greenkeeping student. Peter Bancroft from Taymouth Castle Golf Club, Aberfeldy received the Gleneagles Trophy for the best greenkeeping project.

HOWARD SWAN, chairman of the National Turfgrass Council and secretary of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors, has resigned his position as director of Golf Landscapes, and as from 1st January has formed his own company, Howard Swan Ltd. Swan's intention is to specialise in golf construction management, with an advisory service on design, irrigation and golf course maintenance.

His position in the industry is already well established and he has been a keen advocate of bridge building between the various professional bodies within the amenity turf market.

He plans to employ experienced personnel to manage projects in Europe and elsewhere on the fee-based system, and to this end, work is underway in Portugal (for Bovis International Ltd and Quinta do Lago; McInerney Ltd at several new sites in The Algarve; Quinta de Marinha Golf and Country Club outside Lisbon; Pinecliffs - a new development in The Algarve). Swan is also advising Corfu Golf and Country Club on the upgrading of their course and maintenance practices. Another project is in Turkey in collaboration with Hawtree & Son.

An area of particular interest is golf course maintenance management. In Europe Swan has discovered a great lack of skills and the professional approach to golf course maintenance expected in the UK is lacking also.

## A REVOLUTION IN FLAGPOLE DESIGN AVAILABLE ONLY FROM "TACIT"

Just tie the flag to the swivel and have a *swivel flagpole* for less money than most other ordinary flagpoles, with the added advantage that it will accept any type of tie on flag. Particularly useful if flags are changed frequently for society, company or championship events.



Size 7'3" x 1/2" in dayglow yellow. Available in packs of 10 P&P carriage £7.50 (UK mainland only). Remittance with order please. State colour of flag required when ordering.

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MONKS KIRBY, RUGBY CV23 0RJ  
Telephone: 0788 832166

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## "Slow Release" disclosure debate speeds up

THE STRI has recently been advocating that suppliers of turf fertilizers containing nitrogen in slow-release form, such as IBDU, should disclose openly and fully the actual amount of nitrogen from such a source contained in their fertilizers. This disclosure would enable specifiers and users of slow-release fertilizers to make effective comparisons of quality and value for money between the various products available today.

Rigby Taylor, suppliers of fertilizers, have endorsed this course of action and details of their market-leading Mascot Microfine range of fine-turf fertilizers are set out (right). Rigby Taylor believe that it is in the interests of all users that other fertilizer companies follow this positive lead on the question of disclosure of slow-release contents in support of the STRI's campaign.

Analysis	Percentage of Nitrogen from IBDU
18. 0. 0 + 6% Iron	80%
12. 0. 6 + 2% Iron	60%
8. 0. 0 + 4% Iron	50%
14. 4. 7	50%
4. 0. 8 + 2% Iron	50%

RIGBY TAYLOR, the UK's leading supplier of materials and equipment for the sports turf and horticultural industries, have doubled the size of their Midland sales and service centre at their existing address on the Budbrooke Trading Estate in Warwick.

The added resources now offered by over 10,000 square feet of warehouse and administrative offices represents a positive response to increased business and is

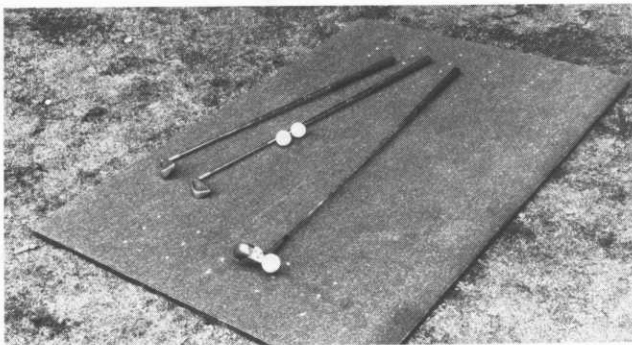
intended to maintain the company's reputation for a comprehensive and impeccable service.

To support this expansion, Owen Jones, a well known respected authority within the industry has been appointed sales office manager. His wide experience gathered from over thirty five years in the horticultural trade is now available to enhance the many other benefits already enjoyed by customers of Rigby Taylor.

# CARPETITION LTD.

THE 'TUFTURF' TEE MAT —  
Like a piece of firm, well sprung fairway

FOR TEE SHOTS



AND FAIRWAY SHOTS



"A British made porous hardwearing all weather tee 1.5m x 1m and 2m x 1m. Synthetic grass, bonded to reconstituted rubber underlay shock pad with 60 tee inserts, combine to give a superb playing surface. Its use is highly beneficial as a WINTER TEE, or when re-turfing tees in the playing season. Also ideal for DRIVING RANGES and PRACTICE GROUNDS both indoor and outdoor." Further details from:-

**CARPETITION LTD.,**  
6 KAFFIR ROAD, EDGERTON,  
HUDDERSFIELD HD2 2AN.  
Tel: 0484-28777

# ...NOTEBOOK

## Peter wins new award

HEAD greenkeeper at Willingdon Golf Club, Peter Negus, has recently been presented with the inaugural Sussex PGU Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

Peter, a BIGGA member, was presented with a certificate, which now hangs proudly in the clubhouse, and a cheque by the professional golfers of Sussex because of "his consistent excellent presentation of the course for all professional events".

The SPGU intends to make the Greenkeeper of the Year Award a permanent fixture in order to recognise the excellent work done by the unsung hero of golf - the greenkeeper.

Willingdon believes the award will go to Peter Negus every year unless he retires prematurely! No doubt the challenge will be taken up by the county's greenkeepers.

THE BSH Turfgrass Manual (Third Revised Edition) is now available. The original manual was first published in 1980 and has now been virtually re-written and brought fully up to date.

The manual covers 21 chapters dealing with every aspect of grass seed and turf maintenance, as well as a chapter devoted to individual grass species, with line drawings.

The manual is available from British Seed Houses Ltd, Bewsey Industrial Estate, Pitt Street, Warrington, WA5 5LE.

## THE LATE SIR HENRY COTTON

### A personal note on his passing by Howard Swan

HENRY Cotton died in London on 22nd December 1987 in King Edward VII hospital for soldiers.

Henry Cotton was a great Professional. From the earliest of ages he set his sights on becoming a champion. He achieved his ambition and made sure he lived like a champion always. The story goes that, in the days when professionals were barred from clubhouses, Henry sat in the car park and openly lunched on champagne and caviar from the boot of his Rolls Royce. Few would argue that it was he who revolutionised the professional golfer's life in the early days.

Open champion in 1934, 1937 and 1948, he gave his name to the Dunlop 65 ball after his wonderful round at Sandwich. Whether it be strokeplay or



matchplay, he was simply the best - playing and captaining in the Ryder Cup.

On retiring from the competitive game, he turned his attention to contributing to golf in other ways - writing, teaching and designing golf courses. It was my privilege to work with him many times, in the UK and in Europe predominantly in Portugal, where he made his winter home.

His endearing love of all parts of the game of golf will be missed by many, many thousands of golfers.

He was, simply a great man and a friend. No one could ask for more. I am proud to remember Henry Cotton as that.

## Hang out the flags!

FEBRUARY 1988 sees the launch of a revolutionary new idea in flagpole design. Tacit's new anti-tangle swivel action flagpole, designed to help both the golfer and the greenkeeper.

For the golfer it gives an instant indication of wind change and direction without tangling around the flagpole.

For the greenkeeper it is

simplicity itself, - no special tools, spanners or especially adapted flags. Just pull the flag on and tie as normal or, if yours is a busy course with society, company or championship events, use the Tacit flags with convenient velcro clip.

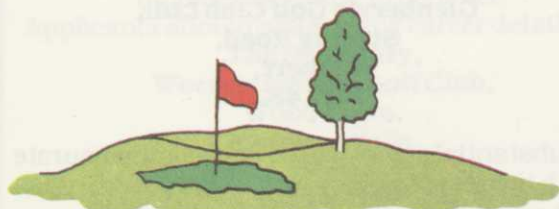
The price a pleasant surprise too, with a launch offer of £6.99 each, including free flag. For more details call Tacit on Rugby (0788) 832166.

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for construction, drainage and irrigation*

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## No Punctures!

A NEW product to eliminate punctures in Turf tyres called FLEXEL has recently been launched on the British Market. The process will be manufactured by FLEXEL (UK) Ltd under licence from a Swiss Company FLEXEL AG.

FLEXEL is a polymer blended rubber which is moulded directly into the tyre. The low pressures required in turf tyres can be closely matched and the ride characteristics remain similar. To extend the life of the filled tyre and reduce the overall costs a remould service on most sizes is offered using the latest Vakuum Vulk pre-cure system.

Operators who have tried Flexel have found that downtime and expensive call out charges due to punctures have been eliminated. There has also been less tyre and

wheel damage. Drivers of ride-on machines have found no difference in comfort after Flexel filled tyres have been fitted.

For further details telephone: 0782 616206.

F.H.TOMKINS PLC the industrial management company, has acquired Polymark Beaver Equipment Ltd., manufacturers of professional and commercial grass cutting equipment.

Tomkins already owns Hayters PLC and this infill acquisition will compliment the current range of Hayters' rotary grass cutters. It will significantly strengthen Tomkins' position in the professional lawnmower market and further its products overseas, particularly in America.

## Revised edition from STRI

A SECOND, completely updated and revised edition of *Turfgrasses Diseases* first published in 1979 is now available from the Sports Turf Research Institute.

The new booklet retains the concise 40 page format of its predecessor and is illustrated with colour plates of common turf diseases. It contains much useful background information of turf diseases, how to recognise turf diseases by the damage they cause and gives advice on disease prevention and control.

The booklet is priced at £2.50 which includes VAT and postage and is available from The Secretary, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 1AU. Tel: Bradford 0274 565131

### CREWS HILL GOLF CLUB

invite applications for an

#### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Must be experienced.

Applications in writing with full C.V. to:-

The General Manager,  
Crews Hill Golf Club,  
Cattlegate Road,  
Crews Hill,  
Enfield,  
Middx. EN2 8AZ

### HANKLEY COMMON GOLF CLUB

require

#### ASSISTANT COURSE MANAGER

for their heathland course

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of golf course greenkeeping and have a thorough knowledge of repair and use of modern machinery. The ability to motivate and control staff is essential. An attractive package which includes accommodation is negotiable depending upon experience.

Applications in writing to include full C.V. to:-

The Secretary,  
Hankley Common Golf Club,  
Tilford, Farnham, Surrey. GU10 2DD

### THE WORCESTERSHIRE GOLF CLUB

require

#### DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

with at least five years experience.  
Salary negotiable according to age, qualifications and experience.

Applicants should write giving career details to:-

The Secretary,  
Worcestershire Golf Club,  
Wood Farm,  
Malvern Wells,  
Worcestershire,  
WR14 4PP

### 1ST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

required

Salary negotiable

No accommodation

Apply in writing or telephone 0273 564453 (evenings)

E. HADGKISS,  
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