

NOTEBOOK...

Seminars for turf managers

A series of seminars for professional turf manager will be held at the following venues.

June 22, Leeds - Leeds United AFC. June 27, Wentworth - Wentworth Golf Club. June 30, Edinburgh - Ingliston Exhibition centre. July 7, Manchester - Old Trafford Cricket Club. July 12, Birmingham - Aston Villa AFC.

Commencing at 10.00am, finishing at 3.00pm approx.

Lunch will be provided.

Participating companies will include: B.T.R. Landscaper, Ritefeed and Watmores, Turfland.

These companies together with other guest speakers will give delegates an up to date insight into a comprehensive range of products and services able to assist today's professional turf manager.

For an invitation or further details phone 0524 824141.

Iseki 'out front' with Turfblazer

THE Turfblazer range of out front mowers manufactured in America by Howard Price Turf Equipment is now available in Great Britain from Iseki UK, giving a wide variety of cutting widths in both rotary and cylinder forms from 1.5 to 4.5 metres wide.

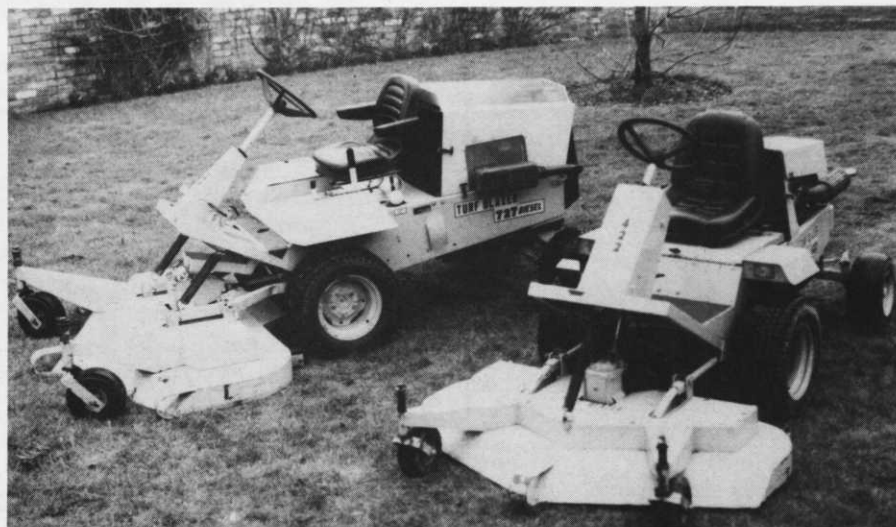
Three models are initially being imported by Iseki with power outputs from 22 to 78 horsepower, all hydrostatically driven and with three or four cylinder water cooled diesel engines.

The smallest of the models is the 22 horsepower Turfblazer 422 with a choice of 60" or 72" wide rotary cutting decks with options of snow blowers or front mounted brushes. The decks themselves are offset for close trimming and feature quick change height

adjustment from 1 1/2 to 4 1/2 inches. All turfblazer decks have front mounted flotation wheels for perfect contour following.

Moving up the scale is the Turfblazer 727 with its 27 horsepower engine. Hydrostatic drive means the operator can vary ground speed independent of engine rpm, whilst the simple two pedal control gives instant forward or reverse. On the 727 is the option of an 84" cylinder mower in three gang configuration or a five gang set up or mowing up to 130" wide on the 40hp power unit. All the cylinders are available in either 6 or 8 blade form for cutting heights from 3/8" to 2 3/8". Verticut blades are also available as an option.

Further details are available from Iseki UK on 0480 218100.



Mike Canaway appointed to Board

FOLLOWING the retirement of Mr John Shildrick, assistant director of the Sports Turf Research Institute, the Board of Management have appointed, as their new assistant director (research) Mr P.M. Canaway.

Mike Canaway joined the STRI in 1974 on a contract financed by the Department of the Environment to study wear and durability of sports turf. One of his first achievements was to develop a "wear machine" for simulating the effects of play in turfgrass experiments. The machine is capable of simulating different types of wear, including football, golf and abrasion as occurs on training, kickabout areas and parkland. The development of the wear machine had a major impact on the Institute's research programme. Also in the early period, Mike Canaway developed equipment for measuring the "grip" or "traction" available to players on turf and this is now incorporated in a draft British Standard for testing of friction on synthetic turf. Both the wear machine and traction apparatus have been used in studies on wear tolerance of grasses, soils, and nutrition during subsequent years. In 1981 Mike Canaway started a major programme of research on sand constructions for sport, the object being to provide a free draining playing surface and good playing conditions. In 1985 he was honoured to be asked to present the Keynote Address on soils and plant nutrition at the International Turfgrass Research Conference in Avignon, France. The work on sand rootzones has flourished, with research finance being obtained from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, the Football Trust and the Football Association.

Eds Note: An article by Mike Canaway on sand construction of the golf greens will appear in the next issue of the Golf Course.

NOTEBOOK...

Marriage of convenience for the ladies

THE Women Professional Golfers' European Tour will soon be on the move to its new headquarters at the Tytherington club, Cheshire.

The decision was made following talks with various golf clubs throughout the country, which have all been vying to become the European Tour's head office, and it is hoped that the move will have taken place by the time we go to press.

Mr. Joe Flanagan, the Tour's Executive Director, said: "We are grateful to the PGA for allowing us to continue to work from The Belfry but the pressure of space is such that we had to look for new accommodation immediately.

"The Tytherington club will provide excellent facilities, with easy access to a large airport

IN the early 1970's British Seed Houses Ltd started a research and development programme to try and obtain some short growing high-quality grasses, and as a result they are now able to offer two of the shortest growing grass varieties available within their respective species.

Logro Slender Creeping Red Fescue has been specially bred by the Northern Ireland plant breeding station attached to Queens University Belfast. Trials have shown that Logro

only grows to a height of approximately 100mm (4") when left uncut.

Lorina Turf Type Perennial Ryegrass has been developed from the well known Loretta Ryegrass and this variety has been classified by the Sports Turf Research Institute as a very low growing cultivar producing an attractive sward in summer.

For leaflets giving greater details of these and other grasses, telephone BSH on 0925 54411.

and main road network."

The Tytherington club lies in 140 acres of rolling parkland near Macclesfield. It boasts an 18-hole championship golf course together with excellent country club facilities - including four restaurants, a sauna, steam room, tennis courts and swimming pool.

Mr. Christopher Seddon,

director of the Seddon Group, owners of the club, said: "We are delighted the Tour have chosen us as their headquarters. It is very much a marriage of convenience for both of us. We are a 5-star complex and the Tour is a prestigious organisation looking for a new office. We are looking forward to having them here."



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NOTEBOOK...

Ransomes welcome visitors from Japan

AS part of a sales push for a greater share of the Japanese grass cutting machinery market, in particular machines for use on golf courses, six representatives from Kubota, and their dealers, who sell and service Ransomes mowers in Japan, visited to Ipswich to undergo intensive sales and technical training with the company.

After a tour of Ransomes' factory complex, the Japanese visitors were given instruction in both the user benefits and technical aspects of Ransomes grass machinery suitable for the Japanese market.

Because of their fanatical interest in golf, over dinner one evening the Japanese visitors



Pictured is Ransomes export sales manager Andrew Sunaway with the Japanese visitors

expressed a wish to visit the 'Mecca' of golf, as they might never have the opportunity again.

Arrangements were soon made to delay their return to Japan

and fly them to Scotland for the day to visit St. Andrews. They also took the opportunity to see Gleneagles and no doubt partake of a genuine 'dram' or two.

Golf mats a hit with golfers

NEOLAST golf mats, manufactured by PN Structures Ltd, have been very well received by golf clubs and members alike.

Clubs report that the Neolast mats are very popular with the better golfers, who are impressed with the fact that they are able to use their woods directly from the mat without damage to their clubs, and more

importantly their wrists and ankles.

The Neolast golf mat is washable and portable, and in unaffected by mould or decay. It is approximately 5ft square, weighs 48lbs and is suitable for indoor and outdoor use.

For full information and more details please telephone PN Structures on 01-734-2578.



Neolast golf mats - a hit with golfers

Stirling appointments

EDWARD CONNAUGHTON, B.Sc. has been appointed to the Souter of Stirling Board of Directors.

Eddie has worked in greenkeeping since 1978 and received his B.Sc. degree in Turfgrass Management at Purdue University, Indiana, USA in 1985. He joined the company in 1985 from Bedford Golf and Tennis Club, New York, USA where he was assistant course superintendent.

Eddie is in charge of the sales and technical services dept at Souter's and will continue in this position as director.

Graham Downs has also been appointed to their Board.

Graham originally trained in the early 1970's in civil and marine engineering and progressed in the late 1970's into sportsground construction.

He joined the Souter's in 1984 to take charge of the contracts dept. and will continue with that responsibility.

NOTEBOOK...

Departure...

IN a departure from its traditional activity, Vitax are using their sales and marketing skills to introduce bird and animal repellents to commercial users.

Hoppit is a systematic bird and animal repellent which is safe, non-toxic, and non-tainting, designed to protect growing plants, shrubs and trees against predator attacks. Its systemic chemical formulation is based

on Quassia, a naturally-occurring plant extract, with wetters and synergists which, together, induce a strong revulsion in birds and animals.

Nobble is a slug and snail controller which is crop-safe and has a wettable powder formulation which is sprayed onto the soil and remains active within the soil for up to six months. The development controls all three species of slug by destroying the mucus-producing cells and the osmotic

mantle membrane, without which the slug becomes desiccated, immobile and vulnerable to parasitic and predator attack.

Dog Off is a harmless dog repellent, which may be sprayed or brushed on to all the usual "sniffing points" - walls, gateposts, paths and fences - which dogs pass to enter, and which will thus create a barrier to them. However, old habits die hard and it may be necessary to spray several times where dogs have been long-term visitors.

All three products have been developed and manufactured by Fieldspray Limited of Suffolk.

HERON FIELD HIRE who have been in the sports field hire machinery market for 25 years, are now hiring out the TORO green aerator.

The decision to change from their existing supplier was taken, according to Mr Doug Johnson of Heron Field, for a number of reasons. Firstly the TORO greens aerator has less wearing parts, which results in

much less down-time and increased profit margins. Also the new aerator is 2.5 times the speed of the previous aerator stocked, giving coverage of up to a staggering 1,209 sq metres per hour. The fact that the TORO aerator is very economical with fuel was another reason for the change. Heron Field Hire may be contacted on 05645-2597.

New man

FOLLOWING the recent promotion of Martin Muir to sales liaison manager at Vitax's Burscough headquarters, Ken Tombes has joined the company from SAI to take over sales responsibility for south-east England.



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New literature from Grundfos

NEW literature ranges have been launched by Grundfos Pumps Ltd, including sales brochures, a concise product range leaflet, and installation instructions. The literature follows a new international style designed to project a standard image for all Grundfos companies.

New sales brochures have been introduced for the following pumps and circulators; CR Multistage In-Line, CH Booster, NM/NP Single Stage End-Suction, LM/LP Single Stage In-Line, UP/UPS Light Commercial, UMC/UPC Commercial Multispeed, KP Sump Pump and JP5 Jet Pump.

Grundfos' literature

THE Sports Council have recently commissioned Nottinghamshire County Council to carry out a research project into the costs of using outdoor winter games pitches, with an emphasis on artificial sports surfaces.

The project involves the monitoring of a selected number of surfaces in excess of 6,000 square metres for use, maintenance and administrative costs, plus any provision costs involved.

Furthermore, it is intended, wherever possible, to carry out similar exercises on natural turf pitches with a view to making comparisons determining which provides the best value for money.

The project will provide the basis for better informed decisions by providers of sports facilities on the type and extent of sports surfaces provision to be made and maintained. Data generated by the project will assist The Sports Council in ongoing grant aid and advisory work, and will complement the management information systems developed for the sports and leisure industry.

Included in the brochures is information concerning hydraulic performance, electrical data, material specifications and individual equipment features.

The product range leaflet, in single page format, gives handy information and key technical

facts for the entire Grundfos range, accompanied by colour photographs.

The installation instructions now available in the new format are for UP/UPS circulators, CH/JP5 Boosters Set, CH Booster pump and UMT/UPT circulators.



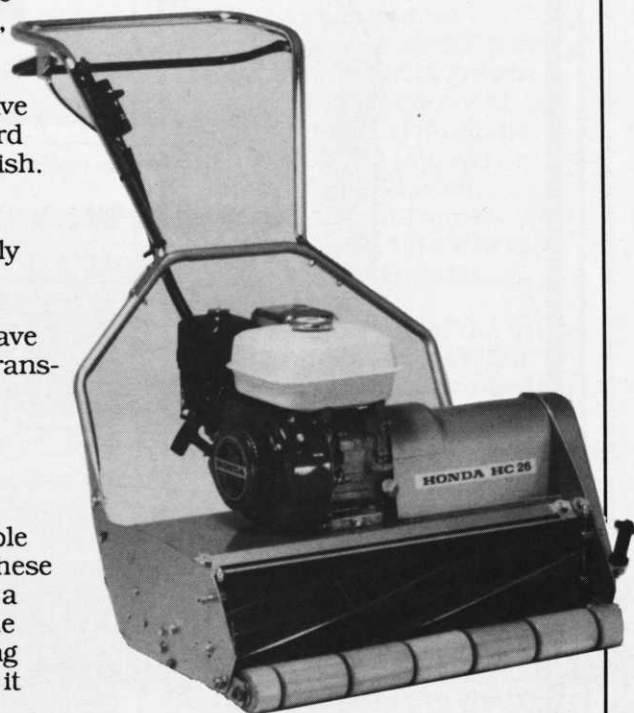
A NEW facility for the production of a range of high quality cylinder lawn mowers to be marketed by Honda UK Power Equipment has been established in time for the 1988 season.

The three models available offer cutting widths of 16", 20" and 26" and the six high-precision cutting blades on each cylinder give an average 87 cuts per yard for a close cut and fine finish.

Assembled in Britain by Sporcan Limited of Birmingham, and specially designed by Honda UK specifications, these high performance machines have trouble-free chain drive transmission and are proved by Honda G100, GX110 and GX140 engines giving 2.0hp, 3.5hp and 5.0hp respectively.

A light, strong and durable grass box complements these machines. Moulded from a high density polythene the box benefits from its fitting in a cradle which enables it to be lifted clear of the cylinder reducing the possibility of grass falling back onto the blades.

New mowers marketed by Honda UK



The Honda HC26 Cylinder mower

NOTEBOOK...

FOLLOWING the successful launch of the Traffic Control Stake and Swivel Flagpole, Tacit have introduced a hole cup to complement their swivel flagpole, made from a rigid engineering grade plastic to give a truer hole shape than the conventional flexible nylon.

Tacit combines a robust construction with a design that, they say, allows the flagpole to fine its hole first time, every time.

Maintaining their policy of "The Best for Less", Tacit have a special launch offer of only £2.99 per cup, available in packs of ten. Only from Tacit, 3 Millers Lane, Monks Kirby, Rugby. Tel: 0788 832166.

LEADING independent timber company Henry Venables Ltd of Stafford is offering top prices for quality timber despite the increase in supply created by windblown from last autumn's severe storms.

Venables believe that rather than forcing prices down, the

Testing task for Verti-Drain

A SURREY football club, beset by problems of poor pitch drainage, has been selected as the test ground for a totally new method of turf treatment.

Redhill Football Club's Kiln Brow pitch suffers water-logging from the lightest rain, due to a high clay-soll content. Laporte Earths of Redhill and Charterhouse Turf Machinery of Milford, Surrey are joining forces to eradicate RFS's pitch problem.

Laporte, which is a major sponsor of the club, is to insert its Fullasorb product into the pitch. Based on Fullers' Earth, Fullasorb has the ability to

improve drainage dramatically and has been formulated specifically for the professional groundsman and greenkeeper.

The test treatment is expected to produce immediate improvement to the pitch, with long-lasting effects.

The Verti-drain hollow core tining machine, distributed by Charterhouse Turf Machinery, is to be used for the first time introducing Fullasorb to the soil. Other Charterhouse equipment to be used during the renovation includes slotters, spreaders and overseeders.

availability of windblown timber will actually cause a shortage of quality timber. The company suggest two reasons for this. Firstly, there has been less available capacity to process quality timber, and secondly, landowners outside the south east are holding back

quality timber, believing it will not attract a good price.

Venables are most interested in buying oak, ash and chestnut, and the company say they will pay top prices.

For further information telephone: Geoffrey Venables on 0785 59131.



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New additions to the John Deere range

JOHN DEERE, the worlds largest producers of lawn and groundcare equipment, have made several additions to their range of products available in the UK for the professional user. To complement their 755 and 855 compact tractors, John Deere have launched a new loader, the model 70.

What makes this loader special is not the lift height of 78in nor the lift capacity of 700lbs. The most impressive feature is that it can be attached or detached in less than a minute with the operator only leaving the seat to connect/disconnect the hydraulic couplers. This gives the new 70 loader tremendous flexibility, especially when working in confined spaces.

Having the quick facility has not compromised other features of the loader. On the model 70 the breakout force is rated at 6.9KN or 1570lbs and the reach with bucket fully raised is 25.5ins.

The loader is available with a comprehensive range of attachments including 48, 54 and 60in buckets, a level indicator, a hood guard and a new larger ballast box.

Following the success of the 935 front mower with professional users, John Deere have now introduced the

smaller engined 17hp 915 model fitted with a 3 cylinder Diesel engine.

This machine has all the features of the 935 but offers more economy to those who don't need quite as much power.

For ease of operation two pedals by the right foot give variable speed forward and reverse and a wide pedal provides instant braking when obstructions are encountered.

In wet or slippery conditions the differential lock fitted as standard is operated with the left foot. Where large areas and long working are involved, the cruise control can be pre-set allowing greater operating ease and higher output.

The 915 is fitted with a 50in rotary deck as standard with cutting height adjustable from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2ins.

The AMT600 materials transporter has proved to be a popular workhorse since its introduction last year and John Deere have built on this by offering two useful options.

There is now an Electro-Hydraulic lift for powered tipping of the load bed. Simply operated by a switch on the seat panel, the dump kit, as it is known, can be field installed to any AMT600.

Where users find that the

600lbs capacity of the AMT600 is not enough, they can now buy the AMT11 trailer, specially designed for the AMT600. Almost identical to the 600's load bed, this trailer carries a payload of 800lb or 2.1 cubic feet.

Compaction is avoided by again using low ground pressure tyres. This versatile trailer combined with the AMT600's four wheel drive and differential lock, means that it is now possible to move a total of 1400lbs of cargo almost anywhere.

John Deere have only been selling into the UK groundcare market for a little over eighteen months, although they have been in Germany and France for over fifteen years. They have already appointed 28 out of an envisaged 35 main dealers and have three territory managers covering the country.

John Deere believe that with products well proven worldwide, a high reputation for quality and an unrivalled parts and back up service their share of the market will increase. All their main dealers are able, via a direct link computer system to the USA, to locate a spare part or order within seven seconds, and parts, if not in stock in Nottingham, can be delivered from Germany within a matter of hours.

Another innovation is John Deere's "Turfequip" financial package. Backed by Barclays Bank Turfequip offers contract hire from two-five years, including, if required, a full maintenance package, as well as short term rental. The advantages are obvious, especially when budgeting for costs can be calculated precisely and capital need not be tied up in rarely used specialist machinery. The plan also covers the full range of John Deere's tractors, which are already being seen on golf courses throughout the UK. little as £21 per week.

For further information on the John Deere range, contact Alec McKee on 0949 60491 and for Turfequip Kevin Chilvers on 0734 326551.

Ransomes announce Contract Hire Plan

IN conjunction with FAF, a member of the National Westminster Bank Group, Ransomes have announced the introduction of their 'Contract Hire Plan'. Developed to comply with current Local Government expenditure regulations, Ransomes 'Contract Hire Plan' will also appeal to organisations, such as contractors and golf clubs, who want to benefit from the use of Ransomes high output grass cutting machinery without tying up their capital.

A fixed cost 3 year contract, with the choice of playing either quarterly, half yearly or

annually, includes an inflation-proofed maintenance element for easy budgeting.

Commenting on Ransomes 'Contract Hire Plan' general sales manager John Wilson said, "With the help of FAF I'm confident we have produced a plan that is flexible, easy to operate and very helpful to our customers".

Further information should be obtained from an officially appointed Ransomes UK sales and service dealer, or Richard Bishop or Trevor Knight at Ransomes sales and marketing office in Ipswich. Tel: 0473 270000

NOTEBOOK...



Left: Kevin Munt of Wentworth Golf Club taking delivery of three Iseki tractors.

This alone meant cutting up and removal of some sixty trees before play could even begin!

For 1988, Wentworth are hosting the PGA Championship in May and the traditional World Matchplay Championship in October, as well as building the new South Course which will hopefully be opened in 1990.

The three new Iseki Tractors, all 18 horsepower TX2160 Hydro machines, all have tasks allotted to them. The Loader Backhoe unit will be hard at work in their new soil and mixing shed along with other jobs of bunker and tee construction, and more general ditching work around the three courses, whilst the other two units will undertake mowing, spraying, aeration and top dressing programmes.

Triple success for Iseki

THREE Iseki Tractors were recently delivered to the world famous Wentworth Club by Iseki Dealers, T. Parker & Sons of Worcester Park, Surrey.

These three new units, the first Iseki tractors bought by the club, are now hard at work

at Wentworth's course maintenance programme, under the direction of estates and golf course manager, Kevin Munt.

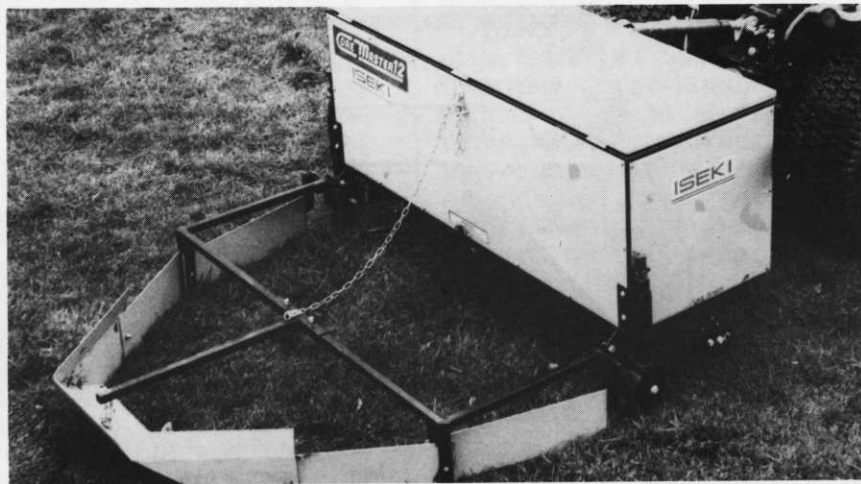
It has been a hard winter for the staff at Wentworth, dealing with the results of the hurricane in the middle of the prestigious World Matchplay Championship last October.

Coremaster now in UK

ISEKI UK are now distributing the Coremaster turf aeration system in Great Britain. This well established machine is already a favourite with greenkeepers and groundstaff in America and the Antipodes, and now comes to Britain with its reputation for both productivity and all round versatility.

Regular aeration encourages a rigorous root system for turf, eradicates the problems of compaction in areas of heavy traffic, improves drainage and in the process controls thatch and moss and improves oxygen diffusion.

Coremaster in itself is a revolution in turf aeration because it not only improves coring productivity, but also has the ability to work with several different core patterns, therefore allowing the groundsman or greenkeeper to choose the pattern required for each individual area - from a close pattern for renovating problem areas with the cores two inches apart to spread pat-



The Coremaster hollow tining machine brings new workrates and productivity to coring greens, tees and parkland.

terns for large areas like tees and fairways, six inches apart.

Depth control on Coremaster is also easy, with a simple crank-handle at the rear of the machine giving variable depths between zero and four inches. Coremaster also offers a full range of tine sizes, saving water, chemical and fertilizer costs and allowing turf aeration to be much more effective.

Trials undertaken by Iseki in Great Britain indicate that all 18 greens can now be aerated in under a day, reducing player inconvenience.

Optional attachments available for Coremaster include Core Sweepers, Turf Guards, Slicing Blades and even a seeding facility.

For further details on the Coremaster range contact Colin Gregory on 0480 218100.

NOTEBOOK...

New game "Par Excellence" for golfers

NEW from Pro-Line Sports (UK) Ltd is the innovative golf board game, Par Excellence. Beautifully produced and packaged, this game is the ultimate indoor entertainment for golfers who for any reason are prevented from getting out on the course to play a round of the real thing.

Ideal as a personal or business gift, Par Excellence is also finding favour with golf clubs around the country as wet weather entertainment at the 19th hole.

Par Excellence allows up to four golfers to play 18 of the greatest holes in the world without leaving their armchairs. The game consists of nine laminated sheets, printed on both sides in full colour. Each side features an aerial view of an internationally famous golf hole.

With the aid of fourteen dice,

each one representing a club, a directional dice, a hazard dice to add a little excitement, and a transparent overlay to meter the 'shots', players use their skill and golfing judgement to

attempt to beat the par at each hole.

For further information please contact Norman Walters, Pro-Line Sports (UK) Ltd on 0342-25851.



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NOTEBOOK...

MAY & BAKER, one of Britain's foremost chemical companies is changing its identity to that of its parent, the chemical multinational Rhone-Poulenc.

May & Baker has been part of Rhone-Poulenc since 1927. The move is designed to enable the company to take full advantage of being a visible part of one of the world's premier chemical groups. However, the May & Baker name will continue to be used where its particular strengths and associations have a distinctive marketing role to play, most notably in the company's health care activities.

Dr. Keith Humphreys, chairman and managing director of May & Baker, emphasises the international dimension of the move. "In the increasingly competitive world in which we operate, it is vital for us to be seen as part of a fully integrated international group in which we can make our size and strengths pay", he said. "The group is investing in the creation of a strong international identity and our own move enables us to capitalise fully on that investment".

During its 60-year association with Rhone-Poulenc, May & Baker has already become a significant force within the group. It is a major research and production entity and

New identity for chemicals company May & Baker

makes a substantial contribution to group activities world-wide, particularly in the health care and agrochemicals areas.

Rhone-Poulenc itself is the world's ninth largest chemical group. It has a turnover of almost six billion pounds per annum. The group spends £340 million each year on research and development - a greater percentage of its turnover than some of its larger rivals - and spends a further £150 million on environmental protection.

"At present, Rhone-Poulenc trades under at least 40 different names in 140 countries worldwide, which puts the group at a disadvantage as far as other multinationals go," says Keith Humphreys. "Rhone-Poulenc is looking to move from being perceived as a French company to one with a true international dimension. Already more than 70 per cent of its sales turnover is outside France. Likewise, May & Baker has been seen in its turn as a UK company with overseas affiliates. This new move enables us to be seen for what we in effect already are - part of

a truly international operation".

From May 31, May & Baker Limited will trade as Rhone-Poulenc Limited, with three divisions: Agriculture, Health Care and Chemicals. Within the divisions, those operations where the name May & Baker is currently significant to their performance and market reputation, will retain this name as part of their trading identity - eg, May & Baker Pharmaceuticals, May & Baker Garden Care and May & Baker Laboratory Products.

Overseas, the May & Baker subsidiary companies operating in the Commonwealth will change their name to Rhone-Poulenc.

The agrochemical interests of Rhone-Poulenc in the UK have been re-structured to enable the business to provide products and services that are linked more closely to the needs of its customers.

Previously known as May & Baker agrochemicals, the division has been re-named Rhone-Poulenc Agriculture: this reflects the growing involvement of Rhone-Poulenc in plant breeding, seed treatments and application machinery, as well as traditional agrochemicals.

For further information contact Keith Beeson on 0277 362127

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