



Left to right. Lord Whitelaw, Jack McMillan, and executive director Neil Thomas of the BIGGA on the Ransomes stand with Keir Wyatt.

Ransomes support BIGGA Education Programme

Keir Wyatt, Ransomes sales and marketing director, announced that his company would be contributing £6,000 over the next three years to the BIGGA education fund.

Speaking at the European Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate he said it has encouraged us greatly that BIGGA has become a strong and recognised Association and we are more than happy to contribute towards its education programme.

Amenity grass seed mixtures for all situations

A new, eight-strong range of amenity and DOE grass seed mixtures which cater for almost every possible requirement, has been introduced by Hunters of Chester.

For golf and bowling greens or any situation where a *crème de la crème* surface is required, Sports Supreme is made up to 40 per cent each of Agram and Lustre chewings fescue and 20 per cent Highland Browntop.

Sports Classic, for tennis courts, cricket squares and domestic lawns, contains 55 per cent Lustre chewings fescue, 35 per cent Boreal creeping red fescue and 10

per cent Highland Browntop.

For more general sports use - golf fairways, cricket outfield and similar - Sports Sovereign contains 15 per cent Lustre/Wintergreen chewings fescue, 60 per cent Boreal creeping red fescue, 15 per cent Baron smooth-stalked meadow grass, and 10 per cent Highland Browntop.

Designed to stand up to the hard wear and tear required by rugby, soccer and hockey clubs, Sports Hardy is a mixture of 50 per cent Troubadour Perennial Ryegrass, 40 per cent Boreal creeping red fescue, and 10 per cent Highland Browntop. Troubadour has been chosen for its exceptional wearing qualities, good winter colour and high resistance to disease.

For the same situations, but designed as a renovation mixture - although it can also be used for complete reseeds - Sports Renovation is made up of the perennial ryegrasses Sprinter (40 per cent), Arno (40 per cent) and Score (20 per cent).

Sports Recreation is a hardwearing mixture for use in parks, play areas and such. Composition is 60 per cent Score perennial ryegrass - a variety which heads the Dutch recommended list for parks and lawns - 20 per cent Boreal creeping red fescue, 10 per cent Lustre/Wintergreen chewings fescue, and 10 per cent Highland Browntop.

Designed specifically for Department of Environment use on roadside verges, DOE1 is a blend of 54 per cent late perennial ryegrass, 22 per cent creeping red fescue, 15 per cent smoothed stalk meadow grass and 9 per cent Huia white clover.

Completing the range is Economy Mix, a low-price, two-variety mixture containing 80 per cent Verna perennial ryegrass and 20 per cent Rubina creeping red fescue.

Prices range from £4.50/kg for Sports Supreme to £1.45/kg for Economy Mix.

Sweet 16 for C.W.C.

Complete Weed Control has expanded its operations in the South West which has now been divided into two parts.

Chris Hughes continues to operate in the extreme South West, covering Cornwall and Devon while the new office, run by Roger Pickford, covers Bath, Avon, Bristol, Somerset, Dorset and parts of south Gloucestershire.

Complete Weed Control are specialists in the application of weed control products to all types of industrial, amenity and

aquatic situations. This new appointment brings the total number of CWC offices to 16 and is a further step in their planned expansion programme to ensure adequate coverage of the whole of mainland Great Britain.

Atco expands marketing department

Atco has expanded its marketing department as part of the company's continuous drive to provide the best possible back up to its dealers.

Josephine Kramers has been appointed to the new position of assistant product manager and will be involved in organising promotions, advertising, exhibitions and new product development.



Josephine Kramers

New sales manager at BOIL

British Overhead Irrigation Ltd (BOIL) has appointed Gerry Wilkins as sales manager. BOIL is well known as a major supplier of equipment and turnkey systems for the irrigation of golf courses, sports grounds and amenity areas.

Gerry Wilkins has been associated with the irrigation industry for 25 years. He helped to introduce and establish in the UK the pop-up sprinkler concept of turf irrigation whilst employed by BOIL from 1964 to 1968. He subsequently widened his experience with several specialist UK companies, covering all aspects of turf and agricultural irrigation applications embracing a wide variety of sprinkler and drip equipment.

Since 1978 he has been marketing irri-

gation materials and systems throughout Europe, Africa and the Middle East, where he was resident in the United Arab Emirates for three years.

Restructuring of Johnsons board

Following the retirement of Richard A. Johnson as chairman and director and Robert M. Johnson as a director, Johnsons Seeds of Boston has re-structured its main board.

Richard W. Johnson has been appointed chairman in addition to his role as managing director and four divisional directors have been appointed full directors.

Johnsons main Board of Directors now consists of Richard W. Johnson, chairman and managing director; Michael Johnson, director, research and development; James Johnson, export director; Andrew Trapnell, financial director and company secretary; Derek Whelbourn, director - wholesale; Richard Bence, sales and marketing director - retail; Michael Goodliffe, production director.

The last four directors were previously divisional directors.

Laporte to launch new Fullasorb products in spring

In April Laporte is to improve and extend

its range of Fullasorb Turfcare products principally used for amenity turf applications.

Fullasorb standard's granule size will be reduced to a closely screened 0.6-4mm, making it easier to work the product into the turf surface.

Laporte will add to its range a 'coarse' 4-8mm product, to enhance soil and compost drainage. The existing Fullasorb fine, a small 0.25-1.0mm granule will continue to be available, for use in, surface dressing, seed sowing and as a constituent in sand green manufacture.

Laporte says that the products have been introduced as a direct result of research into customer requirements.

Fast-establishing Prester has high tolerance levels

An ideal perennial ryegrass where speed of establishment, tolerance to environmental stress and recovery from damage are important, Prester appears on the STRI merit list for 1989 for the first time, having already been included in the French and Dutch lists.

It is introduced by Johnson Seeds, sole UK agents for Dutch plant breeders D.J. Van der Have.

It is a late heading cultivar which is given 'A' ratings for three important characteristics: 'Compactness' for its finer leaved dense and uniform sward; 'cleanliness of cut' - absence of unsightly shred-

ded leaf ends especially after rotary mowing; and 'winter greenness' - ability to maintain a good colour through the cold, wet, short days of winter and early spring.

Prester is currently rated 'B' for wear tolerance, a good score but an under-estimate which is expected to improve the life of the trial. In Johnsons' own comprehensive wear trials and those of the breeder, Prester has rivalled Arno and leading cultivars from other companies (see table below).

The finer leaves of Prester together with the other turf qualities make it suitable for ornamental, sports and general areas especially when speed of establishment and recovery from damage are important. However, the trials programme picked out Prester along with the new Chewings fescue, Epsom, for the ability to tolerate environmental stresses.

This extra dimension is in part due to the presence of a beneficial fungus known as an 'endophyte' which invests the cultivar with a high level of tolerance to drought and heat. The result is that Prester is able to perform well under conditions which would otherwise cause the sward to appear unattractive.

Prester is said to be quick to establish and produce a compact sward of good

JOHNSONS WEAR TRIALS 1987

Cultivar	Per cent ground cover			Mean	STRI RATINGS	
	Plot 1	Plot 2	Plot 3		LN	HN
Elka	85	80	85	83.3	A	A
Lisabelle	90	80	90	86.7	(B)	(B)
Master	75	60	65	66.7	A	A
Prester	87	75	75	79.0	B	B
Ranger	80	75	80	78.3	B	A
Troubadour	87	80	85	84.0	A	A

The columns headed STRI RATINGS HN & LN refer to the categories given to cultivars in the 1988 Merit List produced by the STRI where A is the highest rating for wear resistance and D the lowest rating under both nitrogen regimes - low (LN) up to 75kg N/ha annum and high nitrogen (HN) 250kg N/ha annum. Only six of the cultivars in the trial are tabulated simply for reasons of space. Information on the full list of available and includes Arno, Barclay, Boomer, Loretta, Lorina, Rival, Surprise, Trimmer, Slender Creeping Red Fescues - Dawson and Jupiter. Contact Geoff Taylor, Technical Manager, Johnsons Seeds.

appearance characterised by a light green colour which is maintained under dry and nutrient-poor conditions. This feature makes the cultivar extremely suitable for situations where inputs of nitrogen are low says Johnsons.

The distinctive light green hue of Prester is similar to Epsom Chewings fescue. The two can form a potent combination, producing an acceptable sward which



Harry Herrington Course Manager and a previous Chairman of the British Greenkeepers Association, has just taken delivery of a new Toro 450D. Harry said, "The decision to purchase the 450D with cab, as opposed to any other manufacturer's product, was in the end, a simple one to make. Once I had seen a demonstration here at the club, no other machine could compare with the cut or the manoeuvrability which is demanded here at John O'Gaunt".

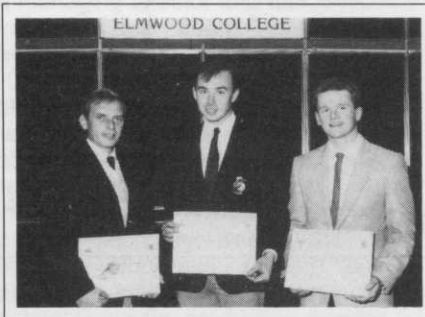
OUT AND ABOUT

effectively disguises the presence of the pale-coloured, ubiquitous annual meadow grass.

Limited quantities of seed are available for the 1989 season.

Elmwood College awards

The award winners for Elmwood's 87/88 Supervisory Management Course for head greenkeepers come from near and far with Trevor Dennis (Centre) from King's Lynn (first) and David Wilson (left) from St Andrews and Graeme Munsie (right) from Huntly equal second.



The coveted Gleneagles Challenge Trophy was awarded to George Paterson of Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club for his outstanding greenkeeping project work by R. Rippin, managing director, Rippin Structures plc.

As an extension to the wide range of courses offered to the greenkeeping and groundsman industry the college has advised us that they will be offering a one-

year full time course in Turf Culture and related topics as from August 1989. Details can be obtained from Elmwood College, Carslogie Road, Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB.

Independent tests support Kelpturf claims

Tests have recently been completed to demonstrate the effect Kelpturf has on water retention in different soils. Kelpturf is made from freshly harvested seaweed, dried and milled to a flakey consistency. It is rich in carbohydrates including alginates, iron, zinc, manganese and other nutrients plus vitamins and amino acids. Having a very low water content it is easily spread or mixed with top dressings, compost or bark.

Tests were carried out by Dr. N. W. Lepp of HCH Consultants Ltd to assess the additional advantages the product could offer to reduce the cost of watering and to assist establishment of grass and plants particularly in sandy soils or in dry conditions.

Three soil types were used having the characteristics of sand, loam and clay. Bulk samples of each type were air dried, ground or crumbled before being passed through a 2mm mesh stainless steel sieve. That fraction of each soil passing through the sieve was used in the subsequent experiments.

A known weight of soil was mixed with Kelpturf at rates equivalent to 50, 100 and 150 grammes per square metre then watered to capacity and weighed.

The sample pots were then placed in an incubator set at 30°C and were then weighed daily. The time scale before total evaporation compared to control is shown on the different soil types of clay, sand and loam in diagrammatic form. At 150 grammes per square metre there is up to a 100 per cent increase in the duration of the water retentive period.


Tailor-made for Turf producers

In line with company expansion and current marketing strategy, Turfland Professional Equipment Ltd and Brouwer have put together a complete package tailor-made for turf producers.


Leading the drive towards providing a better all round deal for the turf man will be Turfland sales director, Janet Watmore. The unique package was first developed by Brouwer in North America and consists of equipment and machinery specific to the turf industry. Thus, the package comprises of seeders, verti-cutters, mowers, vacs, harvesters and the Hitch-Hiker 3600 forklift - everything, indeed, that the serious turf man needs to produce good quality turf in a cost-effective and efficient way.

Janet Watmore comments, "The beauty of the Brouwer package lies within the machines themselves. Many parts are interchangeable, which reduces the need to carry large stocks of indispensable spare parts. The equipment is also extremely reliable, inexpensive to buy and economic to run and maintain. The package offers a very attractive proposition to the turf producer."


Hole Cups

 The Rider Hole Cup R. & A. Approved Size. The best hole cup on the market today" (Derrick Ganning - The Belfry) **£4.99** each available in cartons of 30

Teeing Ground Area Markers

 High visibility, 6" dia. 3" high. Half Golf Ball design, cast in heavy aluminium, ribbed for added strength. Designed for maximum abuse. **£8.95** each

Traffic Control Stakes

 Aluminium shaft 1/4" dia., 2' 6" high, black or white top complete with hook. A multi-purpose stake when used with chain or rope make instant fencing. As no ground sockets are required they are easily removed and replaced to other areas of G.U.R. etc. **£3.99** each available in packs of 10. 10% discount on 5 packs or more. 60 yards of bulk reel chain £85.00

Information & Etiquette Signs

 Ground Under Repair Please Replace Divots Please Repair Pitchmarks Please Keep Off the Grass **£9.50** each
 Next Tee (l. or r.) Trolleys this Way (l. or r.) 150 yds. to centre of Green New Tree Plantation
 Over 50 Signs available, or your own special sign. Please enquire. Plus Blank for individual message. Exclusive design in heavy duty cast aluminium.

Swivel Flagpoles

 Slimflex 6' fibreglass **£6.99** each
 Links 6'6" fibreglass **£7.99** each
 Tournament 7'3" fibreglass **£8.99** each
 All poles can be supplied in two colours i.e. Black/White, Red/White or Yellow/Black. Add £1.00 extra per flagpole. All poles complete with bung and Tacit's unique swivel action at no extra cost. Will accept any type of tie-on flag. Quality nylon flags £1.50 each. P & P carriage at cost.
 * Available in packs of 10.

Special Event Pack

Longest drive/nearest the pin sets, plus customised flags and teemarkers (send for details).

PLAYERS "STANDEASY" BUNKER RAKE

A small bracket keeps the rake handle above the sand and wet grass enabling golfers to keep their hands (and gloves) clean and dry.



£12.50 each

The Best

TACIT

Unit 3, 3 Millers Lane, Monks Kirby, Rugby CV23 0RJ. Tel: (0788) 832166

For Less

Sewer Blow-up Closes Seaside Golf Course

An explosion in a seaside pumping station between the 14th and 15th fairways at Southport Municipal Golf Course, showered lumps of brick and concrete for over 300 yards across the course.

Petrol, believed to have leaked from a service station into the flood water drains running between the fairways ignited when the automatic switch in the pumping station came on.

Head Greenkeeper John Wright, well known in the North West Section for his marathon running, told The Golf Course it was very fortunate no one was injured as the explosion happened alongside the temporary green at a peak playing time on Saturday afternoon.

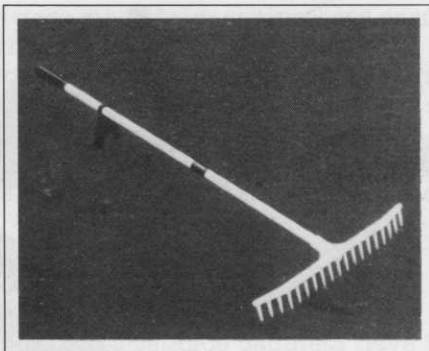
He said the pumping station is checked every day, but on Saturdays the maintenance crew have stopped visiting. Golfers playing the course during the morning reported a strong smell of petrol when they played their round.

The course is now closed for repairs to the sewer and pumping station.

From John's point of view that is no bad thing as the mild winter has produced so many golfers the course has been overplayed and it will give him a chance to improve the drainage and attend to essential maintenance.

Standeasy bunker rake

Tacit has once again added something unique to its range of golf course equip-



Standeasy bunker rake

ment. The latest being the players 'Standeasy' bunker rake. Its unique feature from the players point of view being a small bracket which is attached to the rake handle, keeping the handle above the wet grass or sand, thereby allowing players to keep their gloves and hands clean and dry.

Light enough to use with one hand, the rot proof handle will take the maximum amount of abuse.

Mini Excavators for Golf Courses

CompAir Holman has launched a range of mini excavators in the UK that are proving ideal for the requirements of golf course and sports ground management.

The company sees the latest addition to its product range as being particularly suitable for golf courses.

The rubber tyred excavators cause minimal damage to turf and because of

their size, can progress along footpaths and tracks. Yet the tiny, lightweight machines have the power and scope to carry out most excavation requirements.

There are four models in the range: The RD 2000, a 1.3 tonne machine that digs to a depth of 2m and has a maximum dump height of 2.2m; The RD 2100, a 1.5 tonne machine that digs to a depth of 2.3m with



The RD 2000 at work

a maximum dump height of 2.1m; The RD 2500, a 1.6 tonne machine that digs to a depth of 2.5m and has a dump height of 2.7m. The RD 2700, a 2 tonne machine that digs to a depth of 2.5m and has a maximum dump height of 2.7m.

All the machines have a fully automatic hydraulic oil temperature control system, and a simple joystick control system. They are powered by a choice of water or air cooled engines.

The RD 2700 has a unique levelling system which ensures that the operator is kept level even when the machine is on a slope. This model also has adjustable track width.

FROM THE FAIRWAY

Praise from a 'Yank'

I continue to enjoy your publication.

I've just returned from my annual pilgrimage to your island and discovered some remarkable playing conditions that should not go unnoticed.

Many of the courses were as I expected them to be; very playable. Dornoch, Ashdown Forest, Walton Heath, Muirfield, Berwick, and Panmure would neatly fit here.

Obviously work is still being done at Carnoustie but it continues to be bad. I'm surprised it is not closed for six to

eight weeks for a concentrated uninterrupted effort.

But four of this year's courses were superb by anyones definition: Gullane #1 (the best greens of all), St. Andrews (Walter had the course perfect the week prior to the Dunhill), Sunningdale (the week after the European), and Nairn was wonderful.

I had occasion to converse with Mr. Carson, the greenkeeper at Nairn, after the round. His philosophy of unseen maintenance should entitle him to be the head platform speaker

at our Superintendent's Annual meeting; and with a crew of six! His daily care of hand mowing each green, weekly topdressing, and all prior to member play, should be the standard not the exception.

Please relay my good wishes to your readers. Hopefully you greenkeepers will realize that some of the visiting "Yanks" note more than "single malts."

Joe Luigs
USGA

1988 Green Section Committee