

TOP JOB FOR SCOTTISH GREENKEEPER

Chris Kennedy, the course manager at the thousand member Haggs Castle club near Glasgow will be taking the long trip south on 1st February to become Course Superintendent at Wentworth.

His appointment will strengthen the Scottish influence in the Surrey stockbroker belt and put him alongside Jack MacMillan at nearby Sunningdale.

This move for Chris to one of Britain's most prestigious golf courses, has long been forecast by those who recognised his expertise and enthusiasm for greenkeeping. Haggs Castle's loss will be Wentworth's gain.

USGA TO FIGHT \$100m LAW SUIT

The headquarters of the United States Golf Association have announced that they intend to fight a law suit in the American courts, brought by Karsten Manufacturing against the banning by the USGA and the R & A of the controversial square grooved Ping Eye-2 golf clubs.

Both the USGA and the R & A have stated that the grooves on the face of the clubs do not conform to the width and measurements defined as legal within the rules of golf. The Karsten company say they do and claim that by banning their use, the ruling violates anti-trust laws, slanders the company and interferes with their present and future business.

The USGA in their statement said they became aware in 1980 that Karsten were selling an iron which had not been submitted as a sample. It was examined and found to have grooves on the face spaced too closely together.

Karsten Manufacturing in Phoenix were advised it did not conform to the Rules of Golf and were asked to advise purchasers accordingly. This was not done, instead they continued to manufacture and supply.

The decision to fight Karsten in the courts cannot have been taken lightly. It is a matter of principle over who controls the game of golf. The USGA in the United States and the R & A in every other country of the world, or any club and ball manufacturer who can market a product, regard-

less of the ruling bodies in the game.

Should company owner, Karsten Solheim win his law suit and be awarded his full claimed damages and costs, it would bankrupt both the USGA and the R & A. According to the USGA statement Karsten puts the name of golf at grave risk. The issue becomes whether these controlling bodies can continue to write and interpret the Rules of Golf. If they can't - will any organisation ever again have that right?

TEAMING UP FOR TURFGRASS TRADE

The 1990s will see a tremendous upsurge in the demand for outdoor sportsground and leisure facilities, particularly for natural grass surfaces, irrespective of the Government in power or the state of our economy. In Europe as a whole the leisure boom has yet to reach its peak. Several recent reports have indicated a requirement of up to 700 golf courses, two to three hundred bowling greens and scores of playing fields in the UK alone, over the next ten years. Sadly, the resources in terms of suitably experienced and qualified professionals able to meet this demand is simply not available. This is due, in the main, to the lack of interest shown by students during the '60s and '70s when choosing a career. As a result we are now witnessing the arrival of frustrated developers and financiers who have identified these opportunities but are unable or incapable of exploiting them owing to their lack of adequate skills. In short, there are not enough people who know their grasses, let alone their onions!

Enter Turfgrass Services International Limited, a company within the Inturf group of Companies, newly formed in direct response to the increasing demands being made on their technical and marketing expertise in this field.

Turfgrass Services International Limited brings together a highly qualified and experienced team of horticulturists, turfgrass specialists and agronomists, well able to provide complete technical and marketing services throughout a broad range of sports turf developments. Derek Edwards and Graeme Forbes will head the team which has been carefully selected from within the industry including many leading groundsmen and

sportsground managers. Their services will be available for the developments of Golf Course and all other outdoor playing surfaces.

Turfgrass Services International Limited can be contacted on (0759) 305125.

FIRST EVER ARCHITECTURAL WORKSHOP

The British Association of Golf Course Architects recently held a new event organised by Martin Hawtree, Hon. Secretary.

Ten prospective members attended an evening followed by a day of lectures at the end of October. The Chairman, Tom McAuley and Full Members Simon Gidman, Stefan Quenouille, and Fred Hawtree spoke on contract law, green contouring, plan presentation, and the life of Harry Golt, founder of the profession. Students also completed an exercise in green design based on plan data provided.

The meeting marked the launch of a two year home and field study course punctuated regularly by similar workshops, and exercises supervised by Full Members.

The Association hopes not only to help newcomers to the profession in this way, but also, by projecting traditional design, values, and knowledge into new developments, to reduce the risks of expensive mistakes which can occur where experience is lacking.

COURSES COMPLETED

Brian D. Pierson (Contractors) Limited, having recently completed 18 holes at the Forest of Arden Golf and Country Club and a new 9 hole course at Meon Valley for Country Club Hotels, have just been awarded a contract to build an additional 18 hole course at the Hotel Groups Breadsall Priory complex, work is to start in the Spring.

The company has also completed alterations to various holes at Dalmahoy which Country Club Hotels took over during 1989 and which is due to reopen in August 1990. Pierson has also completed a 27 hole complex at Woodbury Common, Exeter for the Carter family which is due to be opened for play during 1990.