

Green Industry's international chairman re-appointed

Kenneth Dawson, Managing Director of Rolawn Ltd., Elvington, York has been reappointed Chairman of the International Representative Committee for the American Sod Producers Association, the only world-wide organisation that exists for the advancement of the turf industry.

ASPA represents nearly 800 cultivated turf producers in the U.S., Canada and fifteen countries worldwide. In addition to hosting meetings, it also publishes a variety of technical literature and sponsors research.

Ken Dawson is the only British chairman of any of the committees and this is his fourth year of office.

Rolawn was founded in 1975 when the only turf available in this country was meadow turf or seawashed turf. With Jackie his wife, and his father Leslie Dawson, Ken started on just eight acres of land in Yorkshire.

Fourteen years later he is running the largest company in Europe and Britain's market leader, selling annually around four million square yards of specialist turf.

Honour for Fred Hawtree

F.W. Hawtree, the internationally renowned golf course designer, has been honoured by the National Turfgrass Council for his outstanding services to the industry.

At a presentation ceremony at Windsor he was presented with the second NTC Award by the chairman, Howard Swan.

His practice, now in its third generation, is the oldest in the world and has been responsible for over 300 projects. Fred Hawtree's involvement goes back over 60 years and he is a world leader in course architecture.

"He has always taken a keen interest in his profession's association and fostered links with other aspects of golf, particularly greenkeeping," said Mr. Swan. "He is a very worthy recipient of the NTC Award.

His father F.G. Hawtree, founded the Golf Greenkeepers Association in 1912 and F. W. Hawtree has continued to support the Associations through many changes of name and composition.

East Sussex national raises the price!

The cost of the debenture for those invited to become members of East Sussex National Golf Club will be increased to £17,000.

Due to the number of applications that have been received and accepted by the membership committee, this has now filled the "A series" debentures that were issued in Spring of this year.

Brian Turner, Chairman of East Sussex National Golf Club, commented "We are trying to introduce a new concept of club, with relatively high cost for the U.K. enabling the members to enjoy unrivalled playing conditions, and clubhouse services. We felt it would take time for people to come around, but we are being proved wrong. The club situated only 15 miles south of Gatwick Airport has just opened a full 18 holes, and will eventually comprise 36 holes, 3 hole teaching academy, 9 acre practice range, 211 bedroom hotel and members' clubhouse, among its many facilities.

First UK seminar

Turfland Professional Equipment Ltd are to sponsor the first ever seminar to be held in the UK for turf producers.

The seminar, which will be held at Mottram Hall, Cheshire on 17 - 18 November 1989, will include talks on seed and turfgrass cultivars, fertilisation techniques, agro-chemicals and finance, by professionals from both commercial organisations and from independent bodies such as the STRI. "This seminar will help the turf producers by stressing the basics of good husbandry, respect for the environment and correct growing techniques, we hope to build quality throughout the whole of the industry, a quality which will endure," said Janet Watmore, Turfland's Director.

Ransomes cut more staff

The Management of Ransomes Sims & Jefferies announced last month that with regret they have dispensed with 78 of the workforce. This is as a result of ending the contract to manufacture farm machinery for Agrolux Limited and the reduction in the demand for grass machinery that has been evident in the first half of the year. Discussions have commenced with the

trade unions involved, and it is hoped that a large number of the reductions will be voluntarily achieved with the aid of early retirements.

Problems in Poland

The proposed golf course at Pultusk, outside Warsaw, reported in the August issue of the *Golf Course*, has run into difficulties according to our correspondent in Poland, as one of the principal backers has withdrawn. The plans are however still live and the project will go ahead once the financial problems are resolved.

News has come through of another golf course planned for Nadarzyn, also near Warsaw, backed by the Polish airline - LOT and a Swiss industrialist. This course will be designed by a Polish architect, who has already produced draft plans.

Nearer home the proposed course within the grounds of Ridding Park at Harrogate, to be designed by Hawtree & Son, has also fallen foul of the local planners.

The Ridding Park House, now converted into a magnificent hotel and conference centre, faced similar objections when conversion plans were first mooted, but these were overcome. This time the planning officials have gained the support of the English Heritage, who are raising strong opposition to the parkland around the Grade 1 listed building to be used as a golf course.

Their view is that golf courses destroy natural parkland and change the nature of the landscape. Harrogate Councillors however were not opposed to the golf course within the park but objected to the incorporating of 40 acres of land farmed by one of the estate tenants. It is likely that owner Mark Mackaness will appeal.

The Casey Group of companies based in Rochdale have expanded the resources of the division specialising in the design and construction of golf courses and associated developments, with the appointment of Steve Marnoch.

The new head of division is a qualified landscape architect specialising in golf course construction. His experience includes works on the Jubilee Course, St Andrews, and at Portmarnock Golf Club, Dublin, together with a range of other inland and 'links' courses throughout the UK. Projects undertaken in the past by the division include golf courses for F.W. Hawtree & Son and Donald Steel. Steve Marnoch can be contacted on 0706 341121.