

NEWS ROUND-UP

PEOPLE, PRODUCTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

IN THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

South Coast Greenkeepers Triumph again

The annual Vitax 'Key' greenkeeper golf tournament took place at Ferndown Golf Club, Dorset on 20th May 1987 with teams from Devon & Cornwall, Mid-Anglia, the South Coast, the South West and Wales taking part.

Last year's winners, the South Coast, retained the Key championship trophy and, also for the second year running, teams from Devon & Cornwall and Wales looked tied for second place. However on a recount Wales totalled 192 points and Devon & Cornwall 190 reversing last year's final placings.

The Welsh team received their award from Vitax distributors Roffey Bros. of Bournemouth.

Individual prize winners were:

- 1st: Huw Morgan (Wales)
- 2nd: Richard Preest (S. West)
- 3rd: E. O'Hanlan (Mid-Anglia)

At the celebratory dinner after the tournament a vote of thanks to Vitax was made by Don Hunt, President of the Devon & Cornwall Section, and to Colin Murphy, organiser of the tournament.

Special praise was accorded to Ferndown Golf Club for its splendid hospitality, and to Head Greenkeeper Cyril Grubb and his staff for the superb condition of the course.

NEWS 1

Vitax appoints Top Consultants

Two of Britain's leading sports-turf consultants have joined specialist fertiliser manufacturers Vitax Limited as Consultant Agronomists.

John Hacker, MS, Dip Hort (Kew), CBIol, MIBiol, MIHort and

Mike Harbridge MSc BSc (Hons),

commenced their new appointments on 1st July.

Both Hacker and Harbridge will be advising the company on product useage for sports grounds, golf courses, landscaping and general amenity areas, and on new product development.

NEWS 2



Health & Safety Executive

SAVE YOUR SKIN!

Occupational dermatitis is the commonest of all health problems by work activities, but few appreciate it can become serious enough to cause permanent disablement. A national awareness campaign on occupational dermatitis has been launched by the Health and Safety Executive's Employment Medical Advisory Service this month to focus attention on the problem.

Speaking at a press conference in London John Rimington, Director General of the Health and Safety Executive, said "Skin disease caused by work activity is one of the major industrial health problems we face. It is widespread and affects workers in all sectors of industry. But it can be prevented. That is why we are mounting this campaign. 'Save Your Skin' is not just a catchy slogan. It is good, practical advice".

Many substances commonly used at work can irritate or sensitise the skin with unpleasant consequences. Contact Dermatitis is an itchy rash. It develops where the skin comes into contact with harmful substances and can spread. Some forms are difficult to treat and can result in some people having to give up their jobs.

During the year-long campaign EMAS will give advice to employers, backed up with leaflets, pocket cards for workers, posters and a video film. They will explain how to find out if there is a risk of skin disease, help to resolve cases that exists and promote a cost-effective skin care programme for the workplace.

Personal hygiene is also important. There should be washing facilities with suitable hand creams available near the workplace and workers should use them. They should also keep the workplace clean and tidy and regularly inspect their own skin for any sign of a rash.

NEWS 3

Royal Windsor '87 Exhibition biggest ever IOG Show

This year's Sports and Leisure World Trade Exhibition at The Royal Windsor Racecourse (15th-17th September 1987) is going to be a sell out: to date a record amount of exhibition space and demonstration areas have been sold, and there are a number of space applications waiting to be finalised.

A total of 315 companies from all over the world have already been allocated space at this the 43rd annual event organised by the Institute of Groundsmanship.

Among the special events planned for this year's exhibition are a "Best Literature of the Show" award - and "Best New Introduction of the Show" award.

The IOG will again be organising awards for outstanding stand design, and all awards will be presented at a special ceremony on Tuesday 15th September at 6.00 p.m.

NEWS 4

HA 1388

'Heron Power That's a Promise'

Golf Greenkeeping has been chosen by Heron Power Product in a new powerful national advertising campaign based on the slogan 'Heron Power - That's a Promise'. The slogan sums up the superb level of performance and reliability of all the machines for which the company is the UK distributor.

Each advertisement carries a reply coupon. Product ranges covered are Echo brushcutters and chainsaws; Suzuki outboard motors, portable generators, pumps and general purpose engines; and Stiga mowers. Special summer incentives will be offered to customers by most of the Echo and Stiga dealers.

In the case of Echo, anyone purchasing a chainsaw can receive a free Safety Helmet and loop of chain. With Stiga, Parks and Garden Department's of Local Authorities are being offered the free loan of a Stiga Park 2002 ride-on mower and Suzuki SuperCarry Pick-Up to transport it, allowing them to try out the machine on their 'home ground'.

NEWS 5

M&B May & Baker

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS

THE PROFESSIONAL CHOICE... FOR CONTROL AND CONVENIENCE

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All clear for Major Wentworth Clubhouse Redevelopment.

Plans for the construction of a new multi-million pound clubhouse for the Wentworth Golf Club have now been approved. The "all clear" to proceed follows agreement from the Department of the Environment to remove a temporary Historic Building 'listing' imposed on the present clubhouse.

Last April, Golf Greenkeeping reported plans to renew the present clubhouse had been shelved, because the Dept. of the Environment had deemed it a class 2 listed building, though no one could imagine why. Some of those that know the Wentworth clubhouse have described it as a 'bit of a monstrosity', hardly suitable for the two courses at Virginia Water.

The new complex will be built in tandem with a third 18-hole golf course already approved in the Surrey stockbroker belt.

Architects D. Y. Davies will provide a development of more than 50,000 sq. ft. to give the club the best facilities of any golf course in the UK. The new complex incorporates a full range of changing rooms, bars, visitors' facilities, reception and administration areas, a professional's shop, function rooms, a restaurant, a large indoor swimming pool, two squash courts and a gymnasium.

The new clubhouse will be located to the north of the existing premises and will take advantage of the natural slope of the ground as well as blending with the surrounding landscape. It has been sensitively designed to be in keeping with the architecture of the Wentworth Estate and will include many features contained within the existing clubhouse.

Work will start in August and scrub clearance for the new Wentworth course will begin during the summer. The new clubhouse is expected to be opened in early 1989 and the South course should be ready for play in the early 1990's.

Kevin Munt, previously Head Greenkeeper at Royal Dornoch has succeeded Gerry Coley as Course Manager at Wentworth amid fierce competition for this prestigious position.

NEWS 6



Bradshaw Vehicles for the Golf Course

John Bradshaw Ltd. can now offer a complete range of vehicles purpose built for the growing outdoor sports and leisure industry.

Model G is a luxury golf car. Available in battery, electric or petrol driven versions, in its basic form it is the perfect golf car, groundsman's transporter or greenkeeper's tote vehicle. It can be equipped with a variety of additional extras, but in its basic 2-golfer configuration, costs only £3,500.

Model GX 20 is the perfect groundsman's tool. It has turf tyres fitted as standard, and can accept all leading brands of turf management equipment. This versatile high-specification 2-wheel drive tipper, with an on-board capacity of 800kg, has a two-cylinder petrol driven engine producing up to 3,500 rpm, and a top speed of 20 mph. A four-speed synchromesh gear box and automotive style steering make for easy handling on metalled surfaces. Gradeability is outstanding, making the GX 20 ideal in applications with a high proportion of ramps and inclines. The robust new body shell, manufactured of high quality steel, includes mudguards, integral headlights, and a solid front bumper. The cargo bed, fitted as standard, has drop sides, and a hydraulically operated tipping mechanism controlled from the cab.

NEWS 7

Ransomes acquires Yorkshire Company for £1½ million

Ransomes Sims & Jefferis PLC, has acquired the business and assets of Mowing Machine Maintenance of Wath-on-Dearne owned by Yorkshireman, Ralph Winstanley, for £1½ million. A successful specialist manufacturer of cutting cylinders, blades and grinding machines, for the grass machinery market in the U.K. and with a thriving export trade particularly in the United States.

Ralph Winstanley, left his Wath-on-Dearne home at the age of 15 to join a number of other young apprentices at the Brades factory in Birmingham. It was there he learnt all there was to know about edge-tool manufacture. He started in the grinding department, worked his way through the other sections and was eventually put in charge of the finishing business at the company's Holyhead factory.

His road to success started in 1953 at Holyhead from the back of a converted Morris Ambulance set up as a mobile workshop. His travelling grinding business aimed at top class restaurants and hotels along the south coast sharpening butchery knives for chefs.

Two years later he moved back to the South Yorkshire mining village of Wath-on-Dearne, bought an old slaughter house, put on a new roof and started to expand the grinding business by making lawnmower cylinders.

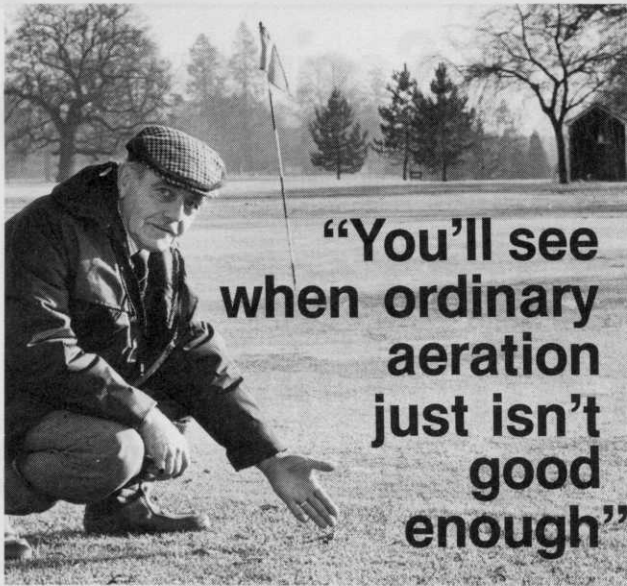
His cylinders are manufactured to extremely high standards, using a steel hardening process perfected himself, which guarantees their unbreakability under normal conditions.

A familiar figure at trade shows all over the world with his distinctive mutton chop whiskers, Ralph has travelled thousands of miles to promote his export business, which now accounts for around sixty per cent of the turnover.

But none of this could have been achieved without a strong home market. His first break came when he persuaded the Birmingham Parks Department to try a set of his cylinders in their machines. They performed so well that within two years almost every blade of grass in Birmingham's parks was cut with a blade from Mowing Machine Maintenance at Wath-on-Dearne.

Ransomes Group Chief Executive, Bob Dodsworth, said "this acquisition provides the Group with considerable potential to develop our important spare tyre business, particularly in export markets. It will also enable us to market a superior range of grinding machines throughout our worldwide dealer network". The business will continue to operate from the South Yorkshire premises.

NEWS 8



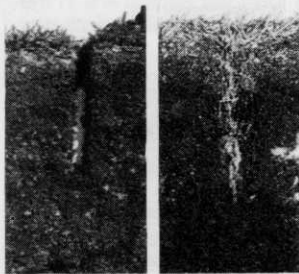
"You'll see when ordinary aeration just isn't good enough"

"You'll see alright. It may be surface water is still a problem. The turf could be looking thin and tired. Weeds could be on the increase.

"What you can't see so easily is the cause. Compaction. Or a build up of thatch. Probably both. Either way, the result's the same. Water doesn't soak in properly. The soil gets starved of oxygen. Rooting gets shallow. Weeds and disease get a hold. You've got a problem and just spiking holes in the ground isn't going to solve it.

"Hollow tine aeration is the answer. What the Ryan people call Core Cultivation. In fact, I reckon it should be a routine part of any turf maintenance programme, not just a problem solver.

"Why do I think Ryan hollow tine aerators are the best? They're exceptionally well made. Tough and reliable. And they've got a lot of special features, like the Greensaire's 2 inch by 2 inch core pattern. And the unique design which makes each tine go in and out absolutely vertically so that it doesn't damage the top surface like some others can.



New vigorous growth after hollow tining

"In fact, you should have a look at the whole range of Ryan turf maintenance equipment. It's the best you can buy".

The Ryan Range

Aerators

- Greensaire 16in
- Greensaire 24in with optional Core Processor
- Ride-Aire 19in ride-on
- Lawnaire 19in
- Lawnaire 3ft tractor towed
- Tracaire 6ft tractor towed
- Renovaire 6ft contouring tractor towed

Scarifiers

- Ren-O-Thin 5hp 18in
- Ren-O-Thin 7hp 18in
- Mataway 10hp 19in self propelled

Turf Cutters

- J.R. 12in width
- Heavy duty 12 and 16in widths with automatic chop off and turf rolling

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Huge Grants from the R&A

The newly formed British and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association are to be given £37,500 by the R&A out of a massive £685,000 grant pay out to all levels of the game, both at home and abroad.

The St. Andrews Links Trust will receive the largest share, £200,000 towards the provision of a new course irrigation system. Other grants from the profits of the Open Championship include, £40,000 to the four home based amateur unions, £17,500 to the Ladies Golf Union and the four similar bodies representing ladies amateur golf. All this money is earmarked for coaching purposes.

The Golf Foundation are to receive £85,000, the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley, £20,000 and even the wealthy Professional Golf Association will benefit with a grant of £24,000 towards the cost of training young assistants.

Golf on the European Continent is also due a slice of the cake with eight amateur authorities representing Spain, France, Portugal, Finland, Denmark,

Belgium, Austria and Czechoslovakia a member of the Communist block, receiving a share of £93,500 over the next three years.

Two other Continental Unions, Sweden and Germany, who have made great strides in the expansion of their golf in recent years are regarded as not needing any financial help.

The R&A have been instrumental in bringing together the three greenkeeper associations, the Scottish Greenkeepers, the British Golf Greenkeepers and the English Greenkeepers, a breakaway faction from the main group, who set up their own organisation five years ago, because they felt the main committee were not leading the association towards the status and standing enjoyed by greenkeepers in other parts of the golfing world.

Early this year the post of a General Administrator for the new Association was advertised extensively at a salary stated to be in the region of £16,000 per annum, to be based in headquarters at the Sport Research Institute at Bingley. Following a series of interviews at York, Mr. Neil Thomas will commence the new job on 3rd August.

NEWS 9

HA 1386

M&B May & Baker
ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS

TIP'N'POUR
SUPERTOX 30
KILLS WEEDS AND CLOVER IN TURF
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NTC's Water Management Seminar

The Conference organised by the National Turfgrass Council as a residential seminar at the Post House Hotel, Allesley, near Coventry, entitled "Water Management for Turfgrasses", is being covered in three sessions.

Good drainage is essential on the golf course, and yet an STRI survey in 1981 showed four out of five courses had a drainage problem on at least one of their greens. Research work undertaken at Aberystwyth and Bingley to investigate the best construction methods and the right sands to use in different situations, will be reviewed in two papers.

Against this research background, Geoffrey Davison of Cambridge Associates will describe the special kinds of turfgrass drainage systems which can be installed and how to keep them effective in spite of surface capping and compaction. In the fourth paper, Bob Fry of the Land Drainage Contractors Association will review the drainage industry, the cost benefits available and likely future developments.

The second session examines water management from the opposite point of view: making sure that turfgrasses have sufficient water, especially on the free-draining constructions.

The session begins with two of the country's most knowledgeable turfgrass irrigation specialists. Robin Hume will cover all types of sports turf requiring irrigation, Philip York reviews the development of irrigation for landscaping and prestige amenity areas, David Bracey of the Metropolitan Police Sports Club and Jimmy Kidd of Gleneagles Golf Club, will explain how irrigation is integrated with mowing, fertiliser application and the other aspects of fine turf management.

In the third session, the perspective widens, to include water in and around turfgrass areas. Glyn Williams of the Severn-Trent Water Authority reviews the availability of this basic resource. No irrigation system can function without assured supplies of water of sufficiently good quality. Recent pesticide legislation has put particular emphasis on avoiding the contamination of water, in the ground or in waterways; and it will be valuable to learn the proper management of the water areas themselves.

Details of the Seminar and the booking form are available from:

John Shildrick, Secretary, NTC
3 Ferrands Park Way,
Harden, Bingley,
West Yorkshire, BD16 1HZ
Tel: Bradford (0274) 565131

NEWS 10



Huxley's Show attracts Greenkeeper interest

The splendid backdrop of Stratfield Saye House, with its 30 acres of landscaped grounds, provided the perfect setting for the first major public working demonstration for three new items of professional grass and turf maintenance equipment from leading manufacturer and supplier, Huxleys Grass Machinery.

Shown as part of a three-day exhibition of the company's full range of equipment, which includes the Cushman, Huxley, Royer, Little David, Red Rider and Yankee product names, the latest introductions emphasise Huxley's continuing commitment to the professional grounds and turf maintenance industry.

Staged during May at the country estate of the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, the exhibition attracted public authorities, golf and sports clubs, contractors, private organisations businesses and individuals from throughout London, the Home Counties and the South of England.

One group of visitors, from Huxley's Spanish distributor, travelled from Madrid specifically for the event.

Their interest, along with a number of British grounds-staff, centered on Huxley-made attachments for the Cushman turf care system, and particularly the latest addition to the range - the H44 Fine Turf Scarifier for use with Cushman Turf Truckster vehicles.

Designed for renovation work, thatch control and general main-

tenance, this pto-driven attachment has 52 thin, closely-spaced revolving blades which cut-out dead and lateral-growing grasses, moss and tired or matted material to help promote healthy and vigorous regrowth of amenity grass.

Working depth can be controlled infinitely on front and rear height-control rollers down to a maximum of 3/4 inch. It has a 36 inch working width and is fully-mounted on the Huxley H16 three-point linkage frame at the rear of the Turf Truckster.

The Huxley TV36 Fine Turf Scarifier has been produced by the company for use with smaller compact tractors in the 14 to 18hp range.

Both Fine Turf Scarifiers, for Cushman vehicles and compact tractors respectively, cost £1,355 (plus VAT).

Another new machine attracting interest was the latest Cushman Front Line ride-one rotary mower with its three-cylinder, 21.5hp diesel-engine.

Developed for the day-long professional cutting of rougher and longer areas of grass, the latest Front Line has a number of features intended to enhance, and extend, operating performance throughout the year.

Full hydrostatic steering at the two rear wheels produce effortless fingertip control around obstacles and when turning, while Cushman have incorporated uprated insulation and mountings for the engine to reduce vibration and noise levels in work.

As on all Cushman Front Line models, drive to the out-front 60in. (1.52m) or 72in. (1.83m) rotary cutting deck is by shaft in a direct line from the engine, with the latest model including a new heavy-duty pto clutch for optimum performance and longevity.

Both cutting deck widths can be had in side- or rear-discharge form. Other options include a roll-over protection structure, cab, rotary brush, snow thrower and blade.

Price of the new Cushman Front Line with 21.5hp diesel powered unit, complete with 60in. deck, is from £9,830 (plus VAT).

Of special interest to golf greenkeepers with undulating fairways was the Huxley TR138 'Golf Course' five-gang hydraulic reel mower, making its first public appearance with its new floating top link and rear castor wheel options.

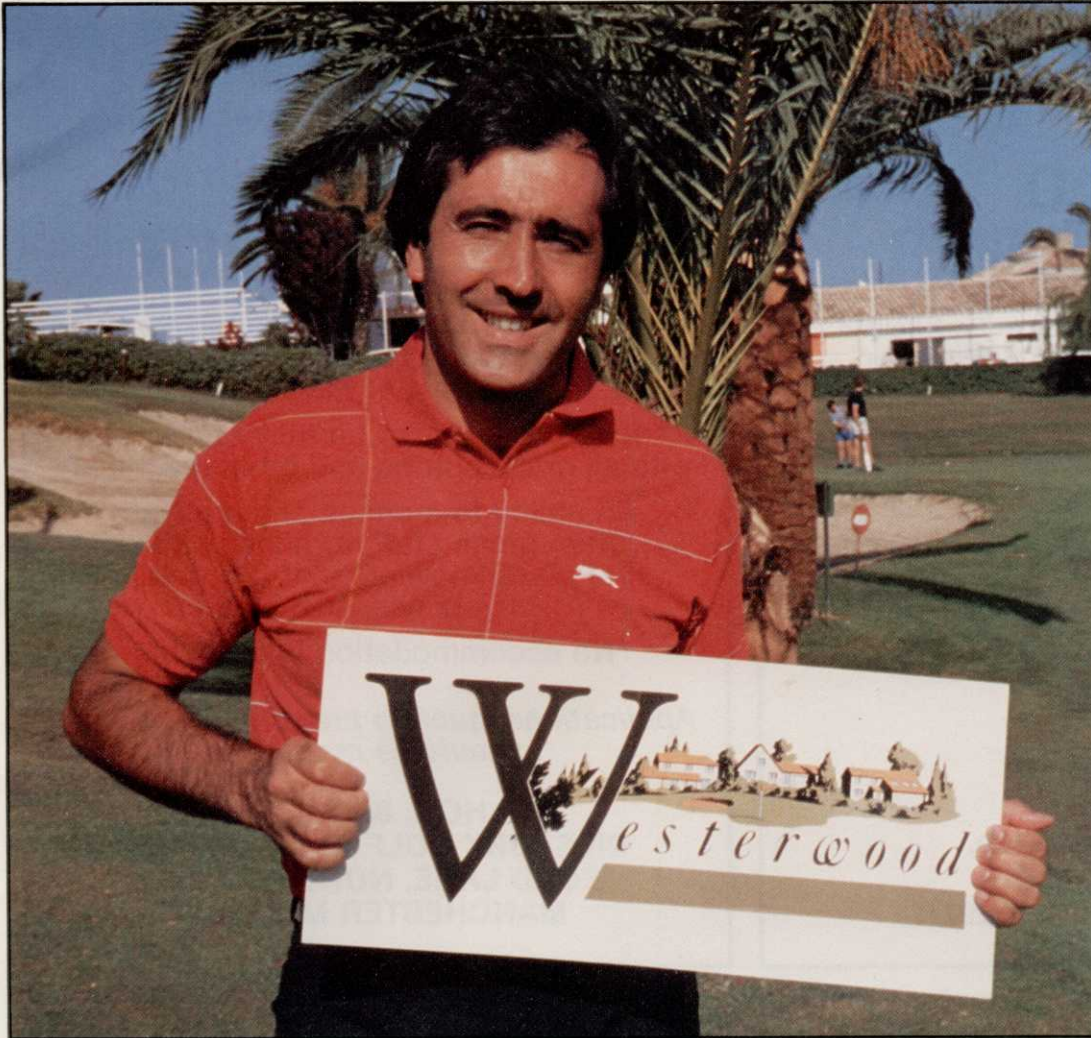
Although providing all the transport and manoeuvrability benefits of a fully tractor-mounted machine, these two optional items give the mower the characteristics of a trailed unit in work, allowing the frame to follow ground contours independently of the tractor.

The TR138 'Golf Course' mower has twinroll floating head cutting units as standard and is equipped with seven-knife reels for a precision finish on most golf course fairways.

In standard form, this 11ft 6in. cut mower, which requires tractors developing a minimum of just 25hp, costs £6,700 (plus VAT). The floating top link and castor wheel options for undulating surfaces add £125 (plus VAT) to this price.

Demonstrations of any items of their equipment can be arranged by contacting Paul Huxley on Alresford (0962) 733222 or Barry Huxley on Egham (0784) 38666.

NEWS 11



Westerwood is to be the name of Seve Ballesteros's Scottish golf course and will form the centrepiece of the multi-million pound housing, hotel and leisure development, currently being constructed by the Livingston based Walker Group between Dullatur and Cumbernauld.

Ballesteros and former Welsh Ryder Cup player Dave Thomas, the man with whom Seve is undergoing his course design 'apprenticeship', met in Spain to make the final selection of the name.

"The name Westerwood has a certain quality", said Ballesteros, "and when I learnt that it was the name of a Roman fort on the Antonine Wall beside the line of the golf course that decided it for me. I feel the name could become as well known as Gleneagles once the course is well established".

Commented Thomas: "Of all the names on the short list Westerwood very quickly became firm favourite. The remains of the Westerwood Fort on the site obviously represents the history and tradition of the area. It seems appropriate that golf, should be associated with that history and tradition".

The development of the golf course has been going ahead since the beginning of the year and is currently up to schedule. It's expected that a greenkeeper will be appointed within the next couple of months.

NEWS 12

Watermation

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You can't beat us when it comes to first class irrigation. With over 15 years experience behind us, we have installed irrigation systems all over Britain, in all the best places, and our sprinklers pop-up in Ireland, in Europe and in Africa.

But you probably know about our past. In the future we will continue to offer the best automatic irrigation installations but now we are ALSO OFFERING A NEW RANGE OF SPRINKLERS, CONTROLLERS AND OTHER SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT, ALL DESIGNED AND BUILT BY WATERMATION IN ENGLAND.

It isn't all "just grass" to us — sometimes it isn't even grass at all. We also design sprinkler systems for artificial surfaces.

So if you have a golf course, tennis court, bowling green, running track, football pitch . . . or even a whole town to be irrigated and monitored in the Middle East, we can offer you irrigation equipment which is specially designed and suitable for the needs of those areas.

Naturally, we can still supply you with all our usual range of equipment and spares and in fact we now have the most comprehensive range of irrigation equipment in the Country. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS.**

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