

NEWS ROUND-UP

PEOPLE, PRODUCTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

IN THE GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY

STRI Statement on Slow Release Fertilizers

The Sports Turf Research Institute have issued a statement of their awareness of increasing concern among the turf managers that a number of slow release fertilizer products on the market do not indicate the proportion (percentage) of nitrogen which is in the slow release form. In IBDU containing products the IBDU-nitrogen may make up anything from about 20 to 90 per cent of the total. They say it is evident that the slow content IBDU products will have relatively poor slow release characteristics. These low percentages of slow release compounds in fertilizers create problems with bodies such as Local Authorities and Golf Clubs who invite tenders for their annual fertilizer needs.

Obviously, fertilizers with low percentages of IBDU present will be sold at lower prices and therefore competitive tenders go to the lowest bid price, and this could mean that the product has very little slow release compound present in the fertilizer.

Dr. Peter Hayes, Director of STRI, states that, "In order to both inform turf managers, groundsmen and greenkeepers and to ensure their confidence in the products, manufacturers should clearly show the percentage of total nitrogen which is of the slow release type".

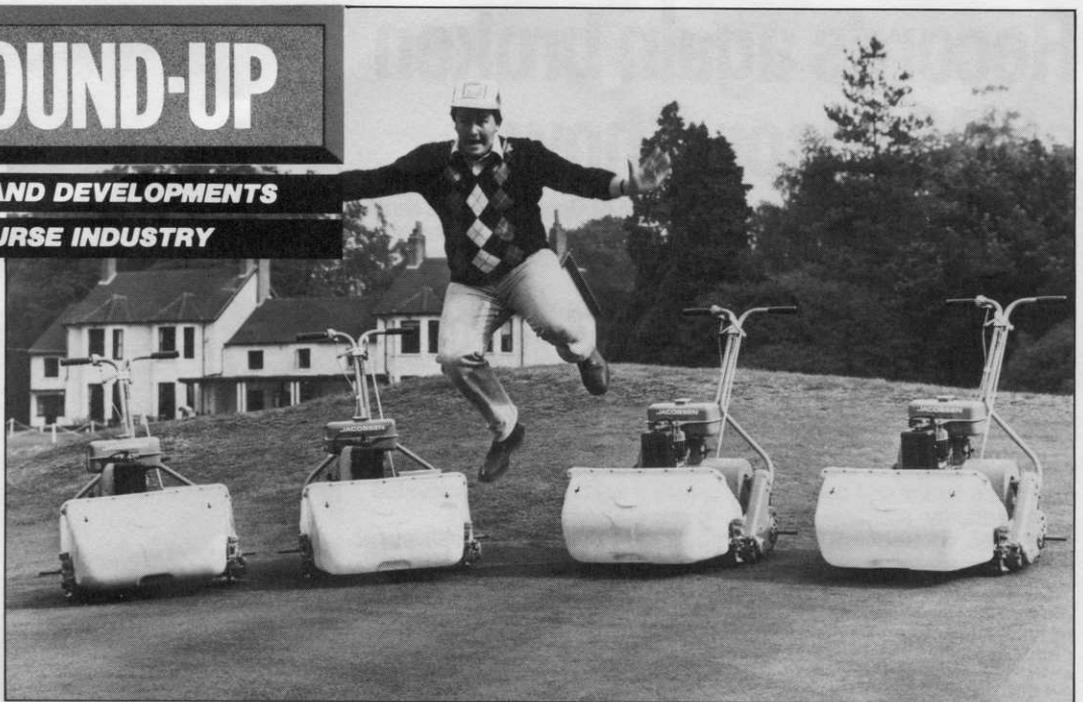
Commenting on the STRI statement, John Hinton, the Amenity Products Manager for BASF based at Ipswich told **Golf Greenkeeping**.

"As manufacturers of high quality, high performance products with a sound technical base, we welcome the comments by Dr. Hayes.

The Floranid range has been formulated around our own IBDU production and we have always openly declared on every bag, the slow release nitrogen content.

The Floranid range represents value for money and customers should be able to see that, even before they use the product".

NEWS 1



Hampton Expansion

Roffey Bros. Ltd. have appointed Peter Hampton as their agent in the Wiltshire, Avon, Oxford, Gloucester and South Wales areas.

Peter has established his own business with golf clubs, public authorities and other professional users, providing a range of grass machinery and sundries, since going solo two years ago.

The marketing agreement with Roffey Bros. Ltd. will enable Peter to provide an expanded range of goods and services, particularly the range of R B L Sportsturf Dressing, including the unique R B L Xylorganic. He will also be supplying products from leading manufacturers, such as Vitax, May & Baker, Synchemicals and Johnsons Seeds.

NEWS 2

Horticultural Wages

Recent statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food give the average total weekly earnings for horticultural workers over the last year (June 1986 to June 1987) as £127.71 for a 43.6 hour week.

General farm workers average a similar rate per hour but a longer working week (over 46 hours) gives rise to higher total average earnings.

Comparing the April to June quarter for 1986 and 1987 shows a slight rise in the average hourly wage for horticultural workers, but as the length of the average working week has fallen by nearly three hours, so too has average weekly earnings.

NEWS 3

North Hants Golf Club buy four Jacobsen mowers

Head Greenkeeper Alan Shaw at the North Hants Golf Club at Fleet jumps for joy over the four Jacobsen pedestrian mowers delivered to his club this month.

Alan has decided to buy walk behind Jacobsen mowers, because he believes the nine blade reel with a height of cut adjustment from 7/16ths to 3/32nds will give a finer finish to the greens for tournament play.

The precision 22" mower is driven by a 4hp petrol engine and is the only 2 cycle engine available for a pedestrian mower.

Within the next month, the successful 'Turf Groomer' already available with the diesel Greens King, will arrive in Britain as an optional extra.

Other accessories that can be supplied for fitting on the pedestrian mower include a grooved roller and a spring tooth comb to give deeper grass penetration for fine cut, thatch removal and control of graining.

Two rollers are also available, a solid front roller for normal use or a three section roller to cope with moisture conditions. Two brushes, one a thick bristle can be attached to the front of the grass box to pick up matted growth and a fine bristle lifts runners and controls graining condition.

NEWS 5

New ICI Chemical Application Record Book

I.C.I. are continuing to help their customers understand and implement the various aspects of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and the control of Pesticide Regulation 1986.

An important part of the legislation, which has been overlooked by many people, is the requirement to make records of all pesticide applications and to keep such records for a minimum of three years.

To help greenkeepers, groundsmen and contractors, I.C.I. have produced a superb Chemical Application Record Book. The use of this book will ensure that all aspects relating to the use of a pesticide will be recorded as prescribed in the Draft Code of Practice on the Agricultural and Horticultural Use of Pesticides.

Free copies of this book, which normally costs £1.25, may be obtained by sending a self-addressed envelope (min. size 10" x 7") to the address below:

Imperial Chemical Industries
Professional Products, Dept. CARB, P.O. Box 85,
Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UB

NEWS 4

Bill Fisher leaves Polymark Beaver

Bill Fisher, formerly the UK Sales Manager with Polymark Beaver has left the company to set up his own business in the distribution of turf care equipment.

Based at Woking, Surrey, the new firm named Golf and Turf Care Equipment Ltd, has obtained premises in Westfield Road. Joining Bill in the new venture are Gordon White, previously the Southern territory manager for Beaver, Bill Bocking and Graham Bex in the role of Service Manager. Graham held a similar position with Brown's of Chesham.

A number of major manufacturers have already tied up with this new enterprise including, John Deere, Turners Grass Machinery and Bill's old employer, Polymark, Beaver.

During the three day Windsor Show, Bill Fisher, who gained his trade experience with Paul Seward of York, Iseki Tractors and Polymark Beaver was seen talking to a number of leading firms and is certain to add to the list of manufacturers already in the fold.

Bill said he had left Polymark Beaver on very amicable terms and they had been extremely supportive. "The best firm I have ever worked for and I have launched out on my own with their blessing", he added.

NEWS 6

Trevor Martin in 'Penguin Hand'

Fertiliser specialist Vitax Limited has just completed its second major export order to the Falkland Islands: the Manybranch Farm and Nurseries at Port Howard, West Falklands, has already purchased the full range of Vitax retail products, including Q4, Garden Lime, Claybreaker, Tomatoe Feed, Cucumber Feed, Conifer & Shrub fertiliser, Potting Base and Seed Base. The second order was for the company's professional Grower Range and included GR organic-based fertilisers, VN controlled-release fertilisers, and new Organics.

It is just over a year since Managing Director Trevor Martin led a management buy-out of Vitax from the giant Steetley organisation and in that time he has built-up profitable export markets in Europe, Israel and Australia.

NEWS 7

KEW-Hobby readership offer

Greenkeepers reacted quickly to the special offer of the high pressure electrically operated cleaning machine in last month's issue.

Priced at only £258.75 including VAT and delivery charges, this offer saves over £50.00 on the recommended retail price.

Supplies are limited, but it is not too late to order your machine. Essential for cleaning machinery, hard standing, outdoor furniture, trucks and trailers and will also blast away drain blockage.

Send cheques payable to Golf Greenkeeping, P.O. Box 12, Wetherby, West Yorks. LS22 4SR for the total price of £258.75. All orders immediately acknowledged. Allow 21 days for delivery.

The Safety Scene

The Health and Safety Commission has just published a consultative document concerning proposed changes to first aid guidance.

These recommend a stronger emphasis on linking the level of first aid provision to hazards at work rather than number of employees. Experience has shown that numbers of employees is often the only factor which employees consider.

These proposals have particular significance for those who work on golf courses. The increasing use of machinery, the isolation of the working environment, delay in calling for and the arrival of trained medical help to anyone involved with an accident, or struck down with a heart attack, makes the availability of a first aider even more important.

First aid can, and often does, save a life. Knowing the basics of mouth to mouth resuscitation, stopping the flow of blood or reacting immediately to a burn or electric shock can avoid unnecessary pain and suffering to the victim.

The draft guidance also recommends that first aiders take extra training which focusses on specific hazards instead of the routine occupational first aid training. Guidance has been expanded on the provision of first aid in small business, on the experience necessary for trainers and examiners in first aid work, on the selection of first aiders, and the training of lay instructors.

A revised leaflet on First Aid at Work has also been published. This gives general information on first aid priorities such as what to do for burns and scalds, eye injuries, electric shock and gassing. The leaflet is illustrated with photographs on methods of resuscitation. It has been issued for inclusion in first aid boxes.

Are any of your greenstaff trained in first aid? Do they have fully stocked first aid boxes at the sheds and in the cabs of the tractors? Is there a telephone or radio communication with the Secretary's office?

If the answer to any of these questions is - NO, then the time to do something about it is - NOW.

NEWS 8

Courses and Conferences

The Sports Turf Research Institute will hold three courses at Bingley in autumn 1987 on the theory and practice of turf construction and management. The courses last five days (Monday to Friday) and will cover soils, grasses, turf diseases and pests, drainage, watering, fertilisers and machinery.

The commencing dates are 19th and 26th October and 2nd November. The fee is £94 for members and £115 for non-members plus VAT (exclusive of accommodation and meals)

Further details from the Secretary, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1UA. Telephone Bradford (0274) 565131.

NEWS 9

Golf Show moves to NEC

Robert Stevens, Chairman of Golf Shows Ltd., promoters of the International Golf Show, sees the move to the Midlands as a logical step in the show's development.

After two years at the Barbican Centre he said, this public golf show, is wanted by the industry and the public and it is here to stay. "By moving to the N.E.C. we have additional space for exhibitors and, in particular, greater scope to extend the visitor participation features which have proved so popular - golf clinics, driving and putting areas, displays and other attractions".

Sponsored by the 'Daily Mail', the show will again be staged in association with the PGA European Tour, from March 4-6, 1988.

NEWS 10

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Massive Fund Raising Promotion by the National Turf Council

The National Turfgrass Council headed by their Chairman, Howard Swan, Managing Director of Golf Landscapes used the Windsor event to launch a scheme to raise an initial £23,000 from manufacturers and suppliers within the industry to fund the appointment of a full-time secretariat and pursue a progressive development strategy aimed at the furtherance of research, education and communication.

The meeting attended by almost everyone of the leading lights of the industry was sponsored by ICI. Keith Clevely, ICI's Professional Products Marketing Manager said he saw this opportunity to bring together the most influential people in turf culture as a chance not to be missed. His company fully supported the present aims and objectives of the NTC.

The efforts of the NTC to promote a co-ordinated approach to the marketing of amenity turf, also has the support of Government. The Minister of Sport, Colin Moynihan, unable to be present, sent a message of thanks for the Council's previous efforts and wished them well in their endeavours.

In the early eighties, it became increasingly evident that the turfgrass industry, growing space was despairingly fragmented with each association or organisation 'doing their own thing', operating within very closed circles with much effort and expense being wasted. Little communication or cooperation existed between the various groups and industry had no forum for voicing its news.

So was founded in October 1980 The National Turfgrass Council, a body representing the differing parts of the industry, from research to leisure management, from local authorities to landscapers, from groundsmen to greenkeepers. Also represented is the Sports Council, Countryside Commission and colleges together with trade associations whose members supply the industry with seeds, irrigation systems, chemicals, fertilizers, lawn mowers and contracting services.

An extremely wide body of knowledge, skills and attitudes all coming together to form the umbrella organisation.

Essentially the objectives of the Council were five fold:

1. To provide a forum for discussion by all of matters relevant to turfgrass.
2. To represent the industry's views to government.
3. To encourage the exchange of ideas and information within the industry and to communicate through publications and meetings.
4. To develop education and training.
5. To encourage turfgrass research.

The Council with limited resources, both people and financial have been active in pursuing all the original objectives over the past six years, and have achieved some successes.

They have held biennial national conferences, well programmed, presented, and certainly well attended and by all accounts well received.

They have staged numerous regional workshops on a wide variety of subjects, from sand-based football pitches to grass growth retardants, from wild flower conservation to urban landscaping.

INDUSTRY STATISTICS

Reviews have been published on artificial surfaces, the current state of turf grass research and statistics on existing trends for the industry.

PEOPLE SKILLS

A BTEC Diploma in turf management has been developed with agricultural colleges. All this and more has been achieved through unpaid volunteers operating within modest budgets without any outside financial assistance.

The way forward can no longer be fragmented if standards are to be improved in education, training, status and the financial rewards for those whose responsibility it will be to provide and maintain the increased facilities.

NEWS 11

LEES HALL GOLF CLUB LTD.

Invite applications for the post of **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

for an old established 18 hole golf club on the south side of Sheffield

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Applications in writing, marking envelope 'Greenkeeper' to:-

**The Secretary,
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Hemsworth Road,
Sheffield S8 8LL**

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Left to Right: Alec McKee, Commercial Manager, John Deere Limited, Philip Tong, GCE Territory Manager for the Southern Region, John Deere Limited, Gordon White, Director, Golf and Turf Equipment Limited, Douglas Walker, Managing Director, John Deere Limited, Bill Fisher, Managing Director, Golf and Turf Equipment Limited at the recent Dealer Signing.

Joint NTC/NAAC Workshop at Stoneleigh

Thursday, 12th November, 1987

Since the last amenity pesticides workshop a year ago, the National Turfgrass Council has been working, with the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to prepare a code of practice specifically for the amenity sector.

The workshop at Stoneleigh on Thursday, 12th November, 1987 is mainly to introduce the new code. Speakers will explain how it would be applied in various situations, what is included, and what is not.

There will also be a chance to get up-to-date on operator training and certificates of competence, with a speaker from the ATB, and Phillip Sheppy of the NTPC to review and explain the pesticides application tests.

The price of £37.00 per person includes a copy of the code available at the workshop, lunch and other refreshments, and a copy of the workshop report.

The previous workshop on amenity pesticides in 1986 had nearly 200 participants, and this one looks set to be even more popular.

Enquiries to:
Mr. J. P. Shildrick,
Secretary, NTC,
3 Ferrands Park Way,
Harden, Bingley,
West Yorkshire, BD16 1HZ

NEWS 12

Deere appoints ground care dealer in Surrey

Increasing its national marketing and service network for its wide range of Lawn and Garden tractors for commercial, Local Authority and public consumer use, JOHN DEERE LIMITED of Nottingham, the world's largest manufacturer of Ground Care Equipment, announce the appointment of Golf & Turf Equipment Limited, 99 Westfield Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 9QP.

NEWS 13

Greenkeepers take new jobs

David Wilkinson, Selby's greenkeeper for the past seven years has been appointed Course Manager at the privately owned Shaw Hill Club at Chorley, Lancashire.

The Selby club recently lost their professional, the well-known tournament player David Jagger, who has joined Hull G.C.

David leaves the inland 'Yorkshire links' in fine fettle, where, by an intensive programme of deep slitting on his sand based fairways, he has improved the grass growth enormously.

Selby, near York, has a reputation for its all year round playability and recent extensions to the club-house and locker rooms make it a perfect venue for a day's golf.

Yorkshire's top heathland course, Alwoodley, Leeds, have appointed Phil Taylor, Head Greenkeeper at the York G.C. to succeed Hughie Marshall when he retires at the beginning of 1988. Hughie has recently moved to a house at Harewood and is now a neighbour of the Queen's cousin. His son Peter is also well-known in the turf trade as a representative for Pattissons.

Mick Bryant from Heworth, another York course, is going further afield. He has accepted a greenkeepers position in France.

At Scarcroft, following extensive interviewing, Jeffrey Mawson's job has gone to his first assistant 23 year old Graham Oxley. Graham, an apprentice with Jeffrey, is yet another in the long line of trainees who have obtained top jobs as a result of the excellent tuition all young greenkeepers have received at Scarcroft.

NEWS 14

GCSAA Conference Sets Sales Record Five Months Early!

Texans have long liked to claim that their state is the biggest and the best. And the 59th International Golf Course Conference and Show booked for Houston in early 1988 and sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) - is certainly on its way to upholding the Texas tradition.

With nearly five months to go before the doors open to the expected 14,000 attendees, the Show's exhibition space reservations are already ahead of last year's total.

More than 112,000 square feet of display space has been committed to various manufacturers and distributors from all over the world. This surpasses the previous record of 108,500 square feet in Phoenix earlier this year.

"We still have some space available, but it's truly incredible how quickly everyone has responded", said Tuula Wright, sales and marketing manager for GCSAA. "The industry is booming, and exhibitors are anxious to display their products to the buyers, the golf course superintendents".

The show will run Feb. 1-8 in the George R. Brown Convention Center. The event will be among the largest shows to be presented following the completion of this dramatic new facility.

The GCSAA Conference and Show is a complete undercover exhibition for today's golf course superintendents from around the world. More than 60 percent of the exhibitors have indicated that they will be revealing their new product lines and services.

NEWS 15

APPOINTMENT

MARTIN MUIR

Martin Muir (30) has been appointed Sales Liaison Manager for fertiliser specialists Vitax Limited.

Mr. Muir, who lives at Penbury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, joined Vitax in January 1985 as Sales Executive for South-East England.

NEWS 16