

TURFGRASS EDUCATION IN THE '90s

Big changes are taking place in the national system of training and education, and the turfgrass industry is responding to the changes and initiatives as eagerly as any. Leisure and recreation management is expanding in numbers and skills. The management of sports turf and amenity grass facilities, natural and synthetic, is an increasingly demanding profession.

The National Turfgrass Council is holding a workshop at Pershore College, Worcs., on Friday 17 June, to bring the industry up to date on the latest developments.

The Education Committee of the NTC has been closely concerned with several recent developments that will be explained fully, including the preparation of a BTEC Diploma in Turf Science and Sports Ground Management; the pioneering of a part-time route for this in addition to the usual full-time route; the integration into managerial training of the new award. "Master of Sportsturf Management (IOG)" as the new pinnacle of achievement within the educational structure of the Institute of Groundsmanship; and the creation of a Training Information Base for amenity horticulture.

Educationalists are particularly welcome to the NTC Pershore meeting to get the inside information on all that has been happening in the NTC Education Committee recently; to hear authoritative statements from NCVQ, NEB and BTEC on how they see the future of turfgrass training; and to put questions on any aspect of turfgrass education.

The cost is £29.00 (inc. VAT). Application form & details from: The Secretary, NTC., 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire. BD16 1HZ Telephone: (0274) 565131.

Last month in an article concerning course alterations at Moor Allerton, sharp eyed readers noticed changes to the 17th green will approach over a small lake some 30 yards from the green. A number of wags have suggested golfers will be a bit late home for lunch!

It should have read 30 yards. We also don sackcloth and ashes over the stated venue for this year's Open Championship, which was given as Royal Birkdale. It should of course have been Royal Lytham & St. Annes. At least we did get the right part of the country.

THE NATIONAL TURFGRASS COUNCIL ATTRACT MORE PATRONS

The Jacobsen Division of Textron Ltd., based at King's Lynn, Norfolk, and one of the leading manufacturers of grass mowing equipment, has become yet another of the Council's Gold Patrons for the year of 1988. Chris Smith, U.K. Sales Manager, in confirming the Patronage said, "We are delighted to support the Council in its work to

represent our industry and to co-ordinate effort, particularly in the education and training field. We feel it important to join with our colleagues in the industry to achieve the improvements we all want to see, and this is a fine way for us to do so".

Jacobsen joins Toro, Ransomes and Lely as major forces in grass machinery supporting the Council as Gold Patrons.

Also confirming a Gold Patronage to the Council is Kubota (UK) Ltd., manufacturer of compact tractors and ancillary equipment for turfgrass and the amenity field.

The NTC Premier Patronage Scheme has also recruited recent Silver Patrons for 1988 in Booker Seeds Ltd., W.W. Johnson and Son Ltd., and Howard Swan Ltd. The Sports Council has pledged three-year support as Bronze Patrons, in the company of three other newly-joined Bronze Patrons — The Amenity Grass Marketing Association, Farmura Ltd., and Mommersteeg International.

NTC Chairman, Howard Swan, commenting on these contributions, said, "I am exceptionally pleased to see that, at last, true support is being formed upon which we may build for the future. Our permanent Secretariat is being established in June and this will enable us to stride forward more purposefully. We are indebted to the generosity of our Patrons for their support which is making all this possible. The Patronage Scheme has proved to be highly successful and I have no doubt will be developed further for the future years. There remain a few of our major UK companies who have not supported us and I would hope that they would still consider supporting us as Patrons.

"My forthcoming meeting with the Minister of Sport will, I believe, underline the Council's role in our increasingly important industry, both at home and in our exporting, and I look forward to the Government's active support to help us in future".

ISEKI IS THE GREENKEEPERS CHOICE AT GLENEAGLES



Iseki is the Greenkeepers choice at The Gleneagles Hotel, where 3 Iseki Tractors have recently been delivered by Reekie Plant, for use on their world famous Championship Golf Courses.

The Gleneagles Hotel and Golf Courses, Auchterarder, Perthshire, has recently taken delivery of three Iseki Tractors to work on their world famous Courses.

Over recent years, The Gleneagles Hotel has grown both in stature and diversity with seventeen sports being available on the Estate and with new enterprises being available this year including the Gleneagle Mark Phillips Equestrian Centre.

The Iseki Tractors, two 30 horsepower TE 4270's and a 40 horsepower TE 4370, are now at work on the Estates four championship 18 hole Courses in preparation for such events as the Bell's Scottish Open Championship, which takes place in July, plus a whole host of company and pro-celebrity events planned for the year.

Gleneagles' Estates and Golf Courses Manager, Jimmy Kidd, left the choice of machinery open to each of his respective Head Greenkeepers and it is they who decide on the machinery most suitable for their own Course. According to Mr. Kidd "To have all three Courses decide on the same make was rare indeed and was really for two reasons; firstly, because of the complete specification offered on the Tractors and secondly, because of the back up from Reekie Plant, Iseki's Scottish Distributors who supplied the Tractors".

The three Tractors will be involved in a wide variety of work particularly for Vertidrainage and Power Gang Mowing, to prepare the Courses for the many prestigious Golf Tournaments which Gleneagle hosts each year.