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B.G.G.A. 6th TURFGRASS SYMPOSIUM

The organising Secretary, Mr. Walter Heeles is now accepting applications to attend the 6th Turfgrass Symposium sponsored by the British Golf Greenkeepers' Association at the Belfry Hotel on Wednesday 13th October.

Among the speakers are Mr. J. Hamilton Stutt, the well-known golf course architect, Mr. Martyn Jones, the consultant agronomist, Mr. Derek Ganning the Head Greenkeeper -Superintendent of the Brabazon and Derby Courses and Mr. Nicholas Bissett, Secretary of the Greenkeepers Training Scheme.

An application form appeared in the September issue of *Golf Greenkeeping*.

The registration fee of £25.00 per person includes Morning Coffee, Lunch and Afternoon Tea.

The Symposium will commence at 9.30 a.m. prompt. A tour of the golf course will take place prior to the luncheon interval.

This informative day at the Belfry will be of particular interest to all those connected with the management of golf courses. Applications **must** be received by Friday 1st November 1985.

Write to Walter Heeles, 7 Tentergate Close, Knaresborough, N. Yorks. HG5 9BJ, naming those persons wishing to attend and enclosing a cheque for £25.00 for each Symposium delegate.

RANSOMES GROWTH CONTINUES

The Ransomes Group continued its overall growth during the first half of 1985 with sales up by 20% and profit before tax up by 38% compared with the same period in 1984.

The Chairman, Mr. H. Astley Whittall said:

"It has been a good year for sales of grass cutting machinery by the parent company with increased sales in the UK and a particularly strong export performance. Our subsidiary companies have also performed well. Re-organisation of the Ipswich factory has continued and the benefits continue to come through".

The recent acquisition of G. D. Mountfield Ltd. has brought into the Group a first class company, manufacturing and selling a range of grass cutting machinery that is complementary to the Group's existing products.

Looking ahead, the Board anticipates the continuance of the strong performance on grass machinery.

The directors have declared an interim dividend of 1.5p, up .3p on 1984.

LETTERS

The Northern Section offers hearty congratulations to Tony Jacklin and the Ryder Cup Team for their great victory and superb display of golf at the Belfry last month.

But the person we would single out as worthy of the greatest praise is the Belfry's Head Greenkeeper Superintendent, Derek Ganning for the immaculate presentation of the course.

Golf now receives worldwide coverage, courtesy of the television networks, showing a variety of course designs in brilliant colour and emphasising the differing approaches to their upkeep. The shape and form of the green and fairways so well seen on television, showed the application of thought and imagination at the Belfry, a quality which still seems lacking on the majority of golf courses.

All too often are our fairways seen mown in boring straight lines, without movement or deviation. The same applying to cutting methods on the greens.

The introduction of creative shape, stimulates interest both on the job and the game.

Well done the Belfry greenkeeping team! You proved conclusively that British greenkeepers can provide the finest stage for what must be one of the world's most exciting golf events.

DAVID HANNAM, Secretary, Northern Section BGGGA