

# NEWS Round-up

## FIRST TRAINING COURSE HELD IN PURPOSE-DESIGNED BUILDING



Service engineers from Huxleys' nationwide network of Cushman turf-care equipment dealers receiving instruction at the inaugural service course held within the new, purpose-built training centre at Huxleys Grass Machinery's premises in New Alresford, Hampshire.

The inaugural service course held within the new training centre at Huxleys Grass Machinery's New Alresford, Hampshire premises has been voted a resounding success by all who attended the two day event either as instructors or to receive instruction.

Taking place in mid-December, the course was planned and staged specifically for engineers from Huxley's appointed Cushman Turf machinery dealers throughout the British Isles. Entitled 'A service course for experienced staff', it attracted nineteen dealer representatives to the first event held within the new 1,200 sq. ft. building, purpose-planned and built

by Huxleys at their New Alresford factory for both training and visitor reception purposes.

Training Manager, Mr. Terry Cooper, said the primary aim of the service course had been to improve the diagnostic ability of all those attending.

In addition to providing an excellent centre for the many local authority, golf course and industry visitors to their New Alresford premises, it will be used regularly for sales, service and operator training on the professional equipment ranges manufactured and distributed by Huxleys Grass Machinery.

## SWAN RE-ELECTED TO NTC CHAIR

The recent annual general meeting of the National Turfgrass Council elected Howard Swan to a second term as Chairman, and with the retirement of Neil Gilmour, John Holborn of the National Playing Fields Association, was chosen as Vice-Chairman. John Shildrick was re-confirmed as Secretary.

Howard Swan, Managing Director of Golf Landscapes Ltd. said he looked forward to leading the Council for a second year, out of what have been difficult times, towards a recognised place as The united voice in the industry, acting as the umbrella to all constituent members. "We have received tremendous support from the major Associations, particularly from the Institute of Groundsmanship, in pursuing this aim, and I see that we can, within a 3 year period, move positively and successfully forward", added Swan.

## FARMURA ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS

"New products and a new name are the changes at Farmura, designed to ensure that the Company continues to lead its sector of the market", commented Sales Director Jonathan Harmer. "The change of name to "Farmura Environmental Products" of the marketing company is intended to reflect the widening of our product range - a one stop shop range of organic, environmental and landscaping products that will be of practical benefit to both specifiers and users".

Building on the proven Farmura range of Liquid Organic Fertilisers, the Company has launched three new products with others launched under development.

First seen at Windsor, Farmgran is a spreadable seaweed soil conditioner and improver which can be used on its own or incorporated in top dressings and has uses from fine turf to land reclamation. In fact, any area where there is a "fertility gap". Easily spreadable, Farmgran is packed in 25 kilo bags.

Pre-planting Root Dip to aid the re-establishment of trees and shrubs and to reduce losses to a minimum. Like Farmgran, Root Dip is an organic product which, when made into a creamy paste, is easy and quick to use. Root Dip is packed in easy to handle 15 kilo tubs.

Finally, Aquatain, a specialist water retaining compost containing organic nutrient for indoor landscaping, hanging baskets or where watering is a problem. Aquatain is supplied in 10, 20 and 40 litre bags or in bulk.

Farmura Environmental Products are at Stone Hill, Egerton, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9DU. Telephone: 023376-241

## MOUNTED HYDRAULIC MOWER TO FOLLOW GOLF COURSE UNDULATIONS



A special version of their TR 138 'Golf Course' Hydraulic Reelmower has been developed by Huxleys Grass Machinery specifically for golf greenkeepers with exceptionally undulating fairways to maintain.

Based entirely on the current Huxley TR 138 'Golf Course' mower, the latest introduction features a fully-floating top link to replace the standard tractor link and has a contour-following castor wheel at the rear. These two additional components work totally in harmony when grass cutting, allowing the mower's frame to move and 'float' independently of the tractor despite the fact that the unit is still fully-mounted on the tractor's three-point linkage.

Being tractor-mounted provides a number of benefits: It enables the mower to be lifted for fast, convenient movement from site to site; it allows the complete unit to be raised instantly out of work when turning at the end of a mowing run and it produces a compact, well-balanced grass-cutting combination which minimises the risk of turf damage from rutting or scuffing.

## BRITISH SEED HOUSES SUPPLY GRASS FOR ST. MELLION

British Seed Houses Ltd have supplied the grass seed for the New Championship Golf Course at St. Mellion, which was designed by Jack Nicklaus.

The course was sown down in the Spring and Autumn of 1985 when straight Penncross Creeping Bent was sown on the greens and tees and the fairways were sown with the standard BSH A12 Fairway Mixture which contains the well known variety of Chewings Fescue Frida.

The course was said to be in excellent shape for the opening ceremony last Autumn.

*The addition of a floating top link and castor wheel to the Huxley TR 138 'Golf Course' Hydraulic Reelmower enables the fully-mounted machine to move independently of the tractor in work to follow most ground undulations.*

Price of the Huxley TR 138 'Golf Course' Hydraulic Reelmower complete with floating top link and castor wheel is £6,825, exclusive of VAT.

Huxley Hydraulic Reelmowers are available from appointed tractor dealers nationwide and from Huxleys Grass Machinery branches at:

The Dean, New Alresford, Hants.  
SO24 9BL, England.  
Tel: (0962) 733222; and Hillside,  
Thorpe Lea Road, Egham, Surrey,  
TW20 8JG, England.  
Tel: (0784) 38666. Telex: 894426.

## TURFSCAPE '87

An indoor exhibition is booked to be held at the Grand Hotel, Malahide, Dublin on 4th and 5th March.

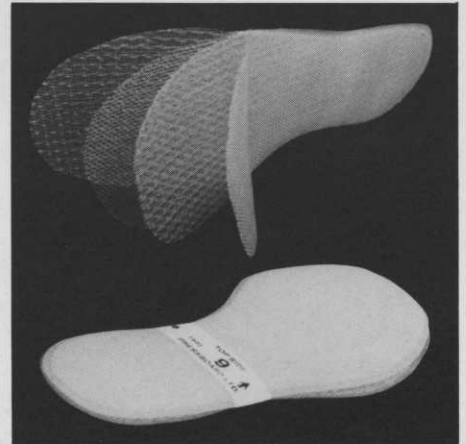
TURFSCAPE '87 is the second in the series and follows the successful launch of the Turfscape Exhibition held at the Belfry Golf and Country Club in February last year.

The dates chosen, timed to coincide with the arrival of spring - a season when the industry is considering the purchase of new machinery and supplies their current year end and planning yearly budgets.

The exhibition organised by TURF MANAGEMENT AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT comprise a team of professionals experienced in the organisation and promotion of specialised trade exhibitions and conferences.

TURF MANAGEMENT will also be organising a series of seminars to run concurrent with the exhibition and has the full backing of Kinsealy Research Institute at Malahide who will be providing some of the speakers for the seminars.

## MILITARY INSOLES Now available for all outside activities



*Supa Soles the unique "air conditioning" insoles made from layers of interwoven plastic mesh by Pressboard Limited.*

Supa Soles, the civilian version of the plastic mesh insoles used by the British Army, are now available for anyone who has to spend a great deal of time outdoors in all weathers.

Because they are particularly effective for use in non-porous, synthetic and rubber boots and waders, Supa Soles are invaluable to anybody who has to spend hours in cold, wet or marshy conditions. They are ideal for leisure pursuits in the open air, such as fishing, shooting and riding.

Initially designed for military use, these tough insoles keep feet cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Thousands of tiny insulated air pockets in each Supa Sole both protect from the damp and cold and also ensure foot comfort. They are impervious to perspiration, washable and almost indestructible.

## KUBOTA TAKES A LEAD ON TRACTOR SAFETY

A deep concern in the number of accidents at work has led the Kubota (UK) Ltd. to publish a new booklet on tractor safety.

At least 70 fatal accidents happen in agriculture and amenity turf each year. It is a sad fact that the vast majority of these accidents could have been avoided by attention to detail and the use of commonsense.

Available free from Kubota UK Limited - the booklet entitled 'Tractor Safety Code' covers the ten basic rules of tractor safety, showing clearly and concisely how simple commonsense will ensure safety of operation.

The booklet also covers the safety points for mowers, rotary tillers, dozer blades, trenchers, backhoes and loaders.

Clearly printed and illustrated, everybody concerned with the operation of tractors should read and take heed of this publication from Kubota.

'Tractor Safety Code' is published by Kubota (UK) Limited and is available free on request from their headquarters at Dormer Road, Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 3UN.



# SECOND INTERNATIONAL GOLF SHOW

19-22 FEBRUARY, 1987 BARBICAN, CITY OF LONDON

## Opening by Henry Cotton, MBE

Keynote of the Second International Golf Show, at the London Barbican from 19-22 February is visitor participation. Apart from being able to examine and try out the latest equipment from the major golf club and ancillary products manufacturers, there is a host of other activities for not only the experienced golfer but also beginners and their families.

The Show is sponsored by the Daily Mail and supported by the PGA European Tour, whose professionals will be there daily, giving free 'clinics', with the use of golf nets, video and other electronic equipment to analyse your swing and help correct faults.

Recognising that today's juniors are the Ryder Cup and Curtis Cup players of tomorrow, 'Golf World' is sponsoring a special Junior Golf section. Here, junior size clubs will be available for youngsters to take tuition and be assessed by professionals; to learn what golf offers as a career and how to start.

Long driving and putting competitions are being organised and a number of try-your-skill events will be offering golfing holidays as prizes.

The Entertainment Artistes' Benevolent Fund will be bringing in stars of stage, TV and cinema to compete against visitors in putting competitions to raise funds for their charity.

One section of the Show is devoted to a display of golf history and memorabilia and there will be a continuous showing of films on the rules of Golf and Open Championships.

Another section covers the newest fashions in golfing wear, from the latest spikeless shoes to headgear. And for those who want to get away from frozen greens and closed courses, there is a wide selection of golf resorts, hotels, villas and apartments for sale on a time-share basis in various parts of Europe.

Each day the Show features a full programme of events on stage; fashion shows, demonstrations and clinics, and the golf 'antiques roadshow'. There will also be an on-going club making workshop.

Another new feature will be Junior Club Corner, being sponsored by 'Golf World'. This will be an area designed specifically for youngsters where they can have golf instruction from professionals, have their swing analysed, see videos and take part in competitions. It is planned to have junior clubs available from various manufacturers that can be tried including putters for use on a specifically constructed putting green.

There will also be an opportunity to have valued by a leading auction house, the set of clubs your grandfather left you. Old golf clubs, balls, equipment and literature are much sought after and fetch very high prices at sales. To encourage golfers to bring along their own old keepsakes, it is planned to run the Golf Show's own 'Antiques Road Show'.

The Show is being opened by Henry Cotton, MBE. Opening hours are: 10 a.m. - 7.30 p.m. Thursday, 19th February, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, 22nd February.

**Admission prices are £3.50 including the Show catalogue (Children under 14 and OAP's £2.00).**

## JOHNSONS NEW STYLE J RANGE BROCHURE 1987

Johnsons Seeds has just issued the 1987 J Range brochure listing the 7 standard Turfgrass mixtures and 3 Masterblends recommended for sports and amenity areas.

The new brochure has been completely re-designed to simplify mixture selection. The proportions of individual components in each mixture are clearly set out, together with recommended Sowing Rates and Mowing Heights in both metric and imperial measures.

The recommended uses of each mixture are boldly specified and are grouped under 4 main headings which describe their common characteristics.

Fine and Tough Turf include 3 species mixes which are best able to tolerate, respectively, Close Mowing and Heavy Wear/Trampling.

Flexi Turf covers 3 mixes which vary in the degree to which they can tolerate both these primary 'man made' stresses, whereas Tolerant Turf offers various combinations that are best able to withstand an extensive range of environmental stresses.

Mixture descriptions have been carefully revised providing key facts

so that users can choose the best mix for their individual needs simply, quickly and with confidence. Further guidance is available on the back cover where an A to Z List from Airfields - West Soils advises on mixture selection.

The use of Nurse species White Clover and/or Annual Ryegrass in association with standard or special mixtures is featured prominently, the benefits being clearly given together with Sowing Rates and management requirements.

Another innovation for 1987 is the detailed description of turfgrass cultivars used within the J range totalling 18 plus on Pages 7 and 8 with a resumé of Johnsons J Range service and complementary seed services claimed to be the most comprehensive and widely used in the UK - the only national seed house engaged in plant breeding and wild flower seed production.

Copies of the J Range brochure are available free on request from G. S. Taylor, Johnsons Seeds, London Road, Boston, Lincs. PE21 8AD.

## APPOINTMENTS



Richard Williams, has been appointed Sales Engineer by Birds Grasscare. Richard, 31, will be based at the company's West of England Centre at Willsbridge, near Keynsham.

Richard Williams brings a wealth of experience to the position having worked as both a greenkeeper and Service Engineer within the Golfing World, before joining Birds a year ago. Acting as a mobile engineer over that period, Richard has built up a close working relationship with the customers in Gloucestershire and Gwent. Now he is looking forward to playing a wider role, advising on equipment as well as ensuring its maximum performance.

## TORO'S UK GENERAL MANAGER TO HEAD BITA

Peter Roberts, General Manager at Toro Irrigation Ltd., was elected Chairman of the British Turf Irrigation Association at its recent AGM, with Robin Hume of Turf Irrigation Services Ltd. Vice-Chairman.

Roberts, one of the leading figures in the industry, with 15 years' irrigation experience throughout the world, pledged to "widen awareness of the importance of irrigation to all types of turf areas, not just golf courses; and to promote the professional approach to design and installation".

In pursuing these aims, his most immediate task will be to lead his committee - to draw up proposals for minimum standards for irrigation of all kinds of turf and landscape. The BTIA has already published minimum standards for golf course irrigation in its widely welcomed free booklet "Your Guide to the British Turf Irrigation Association", and the plans are now to extend this. It is hoped to have the enlarged Guide out by the end of 1987.

Roberts concluded the meeting by underlining his confidence and commitment to expanding the Association, now composed of 19 members actively practising in the industry, towards true recognition as the professional body in the field.

## GCSAA CONVENTION IN PHOENIX

As this issue goes to press, the Editor will be on his way to Phoenix in Arizona with a party of greenkeepers from Britain to attend the week-long conference and exhibition staged by our American Greenkeeping colleagues.

Included in the party are Peter Shaw from Preston Golf Club and John Stiff Course Manager at Tracey Park, near Bristol who have been invited to Phoenix by the Jacobsen Textron company and will attend the international Jacobsen Dinner in the Phoenix Hilton. This is always a memorable occasion because of its truly world wide representation. It is to be hoped both our greenkeepers have acquired sufficient fluency in Japanese and Mandarin Chinese before leaving Heathrow on the 15 hour trip.

The March issue of *Golf Greenkeeping* will carry a full report of the conference together with the latest items of equipment and technology launched at the largest indoor exhibition of turf grass equipment in the world.

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## SNOW BOUND

The blizzards that swept in across the North Sea last month put the Jacobsen company at King's Lynn, completely out of operation.

General Manager, Chris Smith told *Golf Greenkeeping* the snow was so deep none of the staff could get to their Bergen Estate headquarters and the business was forced to take an extra week's holiday.

As the whole of the UK was in the grip of one of the worse winter weeks on record it is highly unlikely there was a golf course in England, Scotland or Wales open for business in any case.

If there are any greenkeepers who managed to keep the golfers moving we would be very interested in hearing from them.

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## TRACTOR SURVEY

As in previous years *Golf Greenkeeping* will be publishing a survey on golf course tractors in the April issue. The manufacturers have been asked to provide up to date information on their current ranges together with prices, but this year we are taking the survey a stage further by enlisting the support of Head Greenkeepers to provide the Editor with information concerning the equipment you are using on your golf course - Now.

Enclosed with this copy of the magazine is a form asking you to take a few minutes of your time to provide valuable data to make this survey meaningful. Not all copies of the journal contain the questionnaire, but readers who have been selected are asked to help the Editor by noting the information and returning as soon as possible in the stamped addressed envelope provided.



## SUPATURF SAFETY PACK

With the ever increasing use of chemicals as essential tools in the management of turf and amenity landscape and the introduction of new regulations concerning the use of pesticides Supaturf Products Ltd have introduced a safety pack for the spray operator. The pack comprises of protective gloves, goggles and masks all conforming to British Safety Standards and retail at £21.50. First time purchasers will be able to obtain also a **FREE** pair of hearing protectors.

## RESIGNED AND NOT RETIRED

W. H. (Bill) Heath, a Vice President of the Midlands Section has bent the Editor's ear to point out the item referring to his retirement from Supaturf Products in the October issue was inaccurate.

He said he resigned from the company to start up his own agency and consultancy for turf grass products.

Bill is now operating from his home at Laurel Cottage, Seabridge, near Newcastle under Lyme and can be contacted by telephoning 0782/627780.

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## NEW ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING AT YORK

Jack McMillan, the BIGGA Vice Chairman, presided over a seven member meeting of the Committee at York last month to further the progress of the amalgamation of the three Greenkeeper Associations.

Both Walter Woods and James Kidd were snow bound in Scotland.

The main business on the agenda concerned the appointment of a full-time administrator to handle the affairs of the Association. As reported in December a consultant has been appointed to advise the Committee and he met the members to put forward recommendations.

Advertisements will now appear in a number of golf and greenkeeping publications (see page 18 - Situations Vacant) for a suitable person to fill the position, at a salary stated to be around £16,000 per annum. It was also confirmed the headquarters of the Association, as predicted, will be within the offices of the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley St. Ives.

Arrangements have already been made to use the computer facilities at Bingley to record details of the existing greenkeeper and trade members of BGGGA, SIGGA and EIGGA. At the beginning of March, letters

will be sent initially to the greenkeepers and later to trade members inviting them to become members, or associates of BIGGA with a request for payment of subscriptions.

The formation of Sections or Regions was also discussed and it was agreed some flexibility was necessary and members were to be offered the opportunity to choose the area with which they wish to be associated.

Discussion also took place on a new logo and blazer badge for the Association and this matter was put into the hands of Leicester Committee member, Paddy McClaren.

Arrangements had already been made for the BGGGA National Tournament to take place from the 17th - 19th August at Verulam Golf Club at St. Albans, Hertfordshire and this will now be adopted as the venue for the 1987 BIGGA National Golf Tournament.

Walter Woods, the BIGGA Chairman told *Golf Greenkeeping* he was very pleased with the progress made to date, particularly the enthusiasm already shown by the various Sectional Committees, who by word and deed, have demonstrated their willingness to ensure the new Association succeeds.