

## Notebook

### Jacobsen in "New Deal"

In last month's issue we reported on the state of play concerning the distribution of Jacobsen machinery in the United Kingdom with Orag International featuring prominently — Orag having advised us that they had reached a "caretaker" agreement with Marshall Concessionaires.

This month reveals what looks like being the final chapter in the Jacobsen saga and an interesting and exciting one for U.K. users it has turned out to be. In an interview with Greenkeeper Lindsay Marshall head of Marshall Concessionaires gave us the up to date news "Marshall Concessionaires have after much detailed discussion reached a new agreement with the Jacobsen division of Textron. This for the first time gave us direct dealings with our Supplier - nobody in the middle. Jacobsen are giving considerable assistance to us with a new pricing structure which will mean reductions to dealers and thus to the customer - indeed a "new deal" all round. This I am sure will reassure our existing customers and interest many new ones".

Looking to the future Mr. Marshall advised that Jacobsen are actively engaged in examining ways of producing their equipment in Europe either by building their own plant or by acquiring an established manufacturer. There is also the possibility of licensing a company to manufacture their products on this side of the Atlantic. Textron have cash available for such a project and view Europe as a major area for future expansion.

Returning to the current U.K. situation Mr. Marshall confirmed that large quantities of spares for the full range have already arrived at Marshall's depot and containers of new machines are due shortly. He added "Jacobsen are the world leaders in professional turf equipment and they intend to get their share of the U.K. market. Worldwide they hold about two thirds of the greens cutting market with machines like the unbeatable Greens King IV. Already moves have been made with the first new Area Manager appointed our new advertising campaign started and Jacobsen are actively seeking more dealers and Area Managers for the Midlands and North.

We are of course very pleased with the outcome and through the support we have received from Jacobsen look forward to giving customers old and new a great "new deal".

**Lindsay Marshall at the Jacobsen Stand, G.C.S.A.A. Show Las Vegas 1984.**



### Monsanto Go Sonic with Lucky Mascot

In a further move to strengthen their already impressive coverage of the amenity chemical market Bolton based Rigby Taylor have signed a seven year agreement to market Monsanto's unique non residual total weedkiller Glyphosate, under the trade name "Mascot Sonic". This product up till now has been exclusively marketed by May & Baker Limited.

Commenting on this exciting development Rigby Taylor's Chairman Derek Phillips said "Glyphosate is a well established market leader and fully complements the existing Mascot range, whilst being backed by the considerable expertise and research and development facilities of an internationally respected company — Monsanto".

"Sonic" will now firmly establish Mascot as the brand leader in the highly specialised amenity chemical market, we as a company are naturally delighted and look forward to a long and successful co-operation with Monsanto".

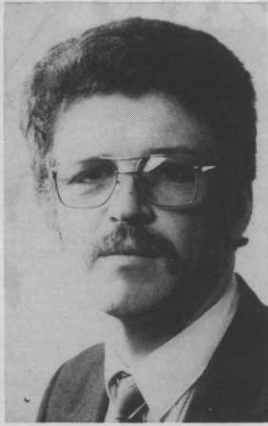
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## People, Places, Products



Nigel Gallop.

British Seed Houses has added Nigel Gallop to its technical team advising in the Midlands and South Wales. Nigel, qualified in horticulture and turf culture at the Mid-Glamorgan College of Agriculture and Horticulture, joins BSH from the National Sports Centre for Wales. He lives in South Wales and is married.

Kubota Tractors (UK) has appointed John Cook as general sales manager of its power products and engine division. John, 55, has worked in the industry for 30 years—previously, he was with Villiers Mag and Honda, where he was a member of the power products development team. John's hobby is football, having been a qualified referee for 23 years and a member of the Kent FA.

After representing Ransomes in the north for nearly 40 years, Glyn

Vaughan retired recently. He joined Ransomes as a messenger from school in 1938, but it wasn't long before he was serving in the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean and Pacific. He returned to Ransomes as a ledger clerk, later becoming a trainee lawn mower demonstrator and subsequently a grass machinery rep for the north in 1958 when he moved to Yorkshire. Glyn was appointed grass machinery field sales manager in 1977, a job he held until retirement. Glyn and his wife Lilian live in Knaresborough.

At a banquet held in Harrogate, attended by Ransomes' grass machinery dealers and the company's sales staff, Derek Smith of Henton and Chattell and Brian Skeen of B.Skeen Horticultural Machinery gave Glyn a set of golf clubs. Ransomes' sales director Guy Catchpole presented him with a cheque.

Glyn's successor is Richard Patchett. He joined Skipton Golf Club as a trainee greenkeeper, gained his City & Guilds in greenkeeping and sports turf maintenance at Askham Bryan College and was promoted to head greenkeeper at the age of twenty-one. Now 23, Richard marries in June. When playing golf regularly, his handicap is eight.

The IOG is to have a new national chairman. George Lane, head groundsman of the University of Bath and vice-chairman for the last two years, takes over from retiring chairman Norman Robb on April 11 at the institute's AGM. The new vice-chairman will be NEC member Ray Johnston, a foreman with Sefton council.

The third National Turfgrass Conference will be held at Nottingham University from September 25-27. For further information, apply to the NTC, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1HZ. ☎ 0274 565131 (day) or 0535 273188 (evenings).

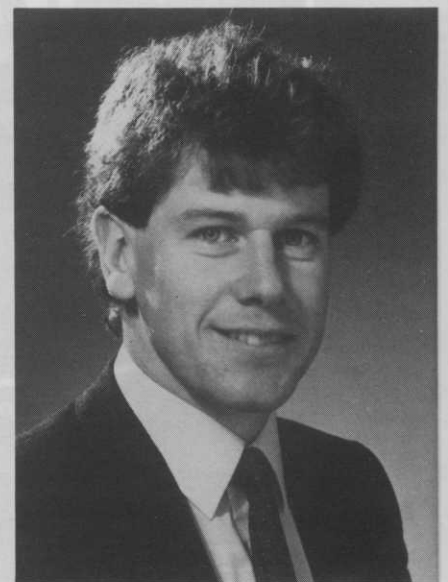
Steve Clement has joined Golf Landscapes as a construction supervisor. A graduate of Writtle College's amenity horticulture HND programme and, more recently, a landscape officer, he will initially control site operation on landscape and playing field contracts in the south and east.

Walter Woods, son of the St Andrews links supervisor, has joined the irrigation division of the company installing TORO equipment and systems in the south east and East Anglia. He commences work as an irrigation engineer at the Berkshire Golf Club, where Golf Landscapes is currently installing a TORO single head control irrigation system to the 36-hole layout.

The Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America is to hold a mid-year turfgrass conference and show at the Hoosier Dome, Indianapolis from September 19-24. It will feature seven of the GCSAA's most popular continuing education seminars, staff technician training courses, a national trade show, research conference, golf/turfgrass market research workshop, equipment demonstrations and a national golf championship to benefit turfgrass research.



At the celebration dinner, Derek Smith, Glyn and Lilian Vaughan and Brian Skeen.



Richard Patchett.

The seventh exhibition organised by the north-west zone of the IOG will take place at Ribby Hall Park, Wrea Green, near Blackpool on October 1 and 2. Over 100 companies took part in the 1984 event. Space application forms can be obtained from Ray Johnston, 9 Cedar Road, Aintree, Liverpool L9 9AD. ☎ 051-525 7967 (day) or 051-525 9805 (evening).

Golf Landscapes of Brentwood, Essex has been contracted to rebuild two more greens at West Kent Golf Club, Downe in the second phase of reconstruction works. Two greens were built last year to traditional methods, but the club has now chosen to rebuild the 6th and 10th by the Prunty-Mulqueen technique, undertaken exclusively in the south by the company.

The technique, which combines a free-draining rootzone mix with an intensively drained base, is claimed to show significant economies over traditional construction methods. The contract, which includes updating the irrigation system to TORO 650 series heads, is valued at nearly £16,000. Golf course architects to the club are Hawtree and Son.

Steetley Minerals has brought out a new Vitax Key Range booklet. Dealing with the various categories of feeds and fertilisers within this range, which was first introduced in 1981, its pages contain application details, a series of comprehensive tables of quantities required, a review of Key Range grass seed mixtures and the key to which 'Key' should be used for particular turfgrass areas. The free booklet is obtainable from Steetley Minerals, Vitax Department, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 0SB.

At its recent AGM, the National Turfgrass Council decided to offer associate membership, allowing individuals or companies to have closer links with the work of the council. Previously, membership was limited to associations or other bodies representing particular sectors of the industry. Participants at the second NTC conference at Keele initiated the change.

Privileges of associate membership are a discount on attendance fees for NTC workshops and conferences, 20 per cent discount on the post-free prices of all NTC publications and a

newsletter. The annual fee for 1985 has been fixed at £15.

For membership or further information, write to the National Turfgrass Council, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1HZ.

Kubota Tractors (UK) has received an order for 26 14hp G3HST diesel ride-on grass-cutters. J.E. Coulter of Mallusk, Northern Ireland is supplying the machines to the Northern Ireland housing executive (19 units) and Belfast city council.

### DALE HILL AND THE VERTI-DRAIN

Dale Hill Golf Club, Sussex has informed *Greenkeeper* that it has not sold its Verti-Drain machine as was stated in the March issue.

The club is actively engaged in aeration work on several other golf courses and full details can be obtained on Ticehurst 200112.

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## Fine Cut From The New Guard At The Tower Of London

A sixth Huxley TR66 Hydraulic Reelmower has been added to the machinery fleet of London's Royal Parks Division of the Department of the Environment.

Based at the Tower of London, the latest arrival joins TR66 mowers operated by staff at Regents Park, Hyde Park and Greenwich Park. All are mounted behind Ford 1210 Compact Tractors.

The TR66 triple reel mower, now cutting the Tower's 17 acres of grounds, has met with the approval of head gardener Stephen Bryer.

"Workrate has proved to be faster than the trailed gangmowers previously employed and, being mounted, the TR66 is far more manoeuvrable in restricted areas, producing a fine, uniform finish."

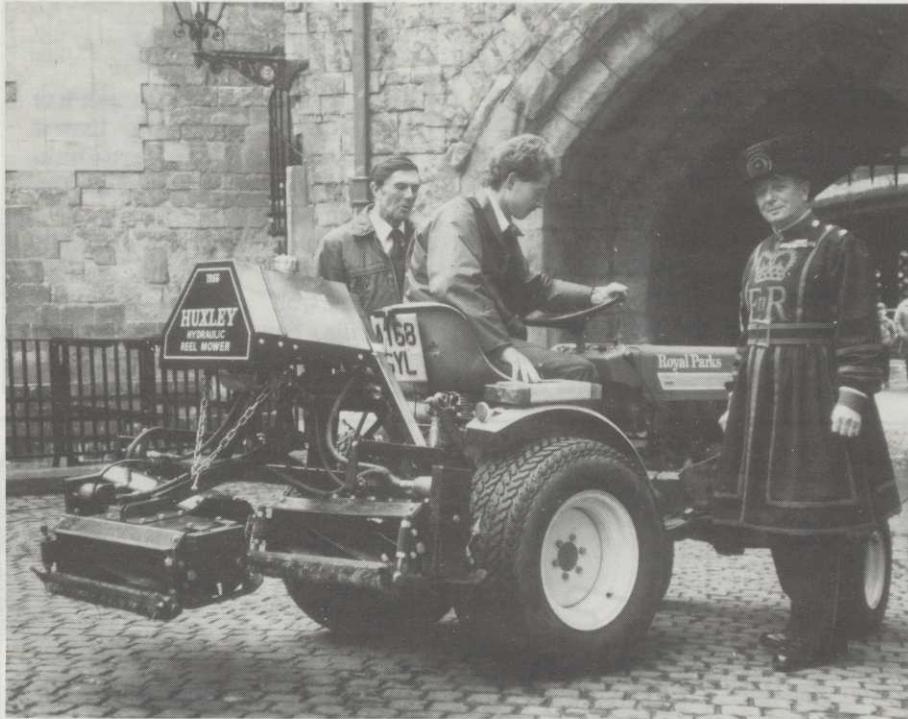
Although kept busy throughout the year, Stephen and his two assistants are at full stretch during the summer tourist season. Grass cutting is then the most important task, with one man on a tractor/mower combination and the others with pedestrian controlled machines.

Equipped with three, pivot-

mounted cutting cylinders giving an overall working width of 66in (1.68m), the Huxley-built triple reel mower has its own self-contained hydraulic drive system powered by a pump on the tractor's pto shaft.

To go to work, the operator simply connects the tractor's three-point linkage to the mower and slides the pump on to the pto shaft. Forward, neutral and reverse reel drive are selected by a three-position spool valve on the frame.

Suitable for most compact tractors in the 16hp to 24hp class, the TR66 weighs 432lb (196kg) and costs £2,995. Full details from Barry Huxley at Huxleys Grass Machinery, Hillside, Thorpe Lea Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 8JG. ☎ 0784 38666.



The Huxleys TR66 Hydraulic Reelmower keeps another royal appointment.

## Scots Invade English Market!

Reekie Engineering, the Scottish-based agricultural and grass machinery manufacturing company, has established a sales, distribution and assembly base at Witton, Birmingham. Operations include distribution throughout the UK of Bolens ride-ons, garden, lawn and estate tractors, Claymore commercial vergecutters and rotary mowers and Gloria nylon line trimmers and garden shredders.

Additionally, Claymore Grass Machinery (UK) is distributing on a local basis Green's Power Mowers and Green's-Hinomoto compact diesel tractors. Claymore intends to add its own designed and manufactured products. Full details from John Jebbett on 021-784 9498.

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- \* As used by many courses including championship

## The PM Green Technique

Using sand in greens construction is not a new thing. Some of the most natural, oldest and traditional links are based on nothing else. Therefore, in modifying the Prunty Mulqueen construction system for winter games areas to golf green use breaks no new ground in principle, but adapts a highly successful and economical technique to a problem area in golf turfgrass.

Poor drainage is, after all, the fundamental problem in the UK—this was highlighted in Caroline Ward's 1982 STRI survey. It is the waterlogging of golf greens that puts them out of action on the majority of occasions. Intensive usage, heavy demand in poor conditions, impaired soil structures and inefficient maintenance intensify the problem. The result is inadequate infiltration of surface water leading to an unhealthy and undesirable growth of grass—in other words, thatch.

Temporary measures may be

undertaken to improve matters. These include slitting, deep spiking and sand injection, but it is much better to provide the right answer permanently.

The PM green uses the Prunty Mulqueen technique, specifically developed to remedy surface water drainage problems in turfgrass subject to intensive use. In such cases, play in poor conditions causes soil compaction which, when associated with heavy thatch, prevents water passing into the soil.

The PM green combines an intensive drainage system with a high sand content growing medium for putting surface turf. The technique was developed in Ireland primarily for soccer and rugby pitches and has been employed successfully many times over the past ten years.

Where appropriate, the existing turf from the putting surface is removed, as is any thatch layer. A piped drainage system is introduced into the formation and any drains present are connected into the new system. These laterals and main

drains will vary from green to green in intensity, spacing, etc, but are essentially installed 300-400mm below the formation.

Interlocking into these piped drains is a series of narrow slits, backfilled to the surface with porous material of known characteristics. Above this drained formation, a specially selected sand or a mix of sand and organic matter is spread to a depth of 100-150mm. This growing medium is prepared by hand for returfing or seeding.

It is this combination of intensive drainage and highly permeable rootzone mix that allows a controlled permeation of water into the drains, so preventing puddling and waterlogging. A healthy growing environment for fine turf is promoted.

In every construction, it is essential that the new green is adequately watered and an integral part of any proposal would include the provision of a TORO pop-up system, either under block electric solenoid valve control or under single head valve-in-head control.

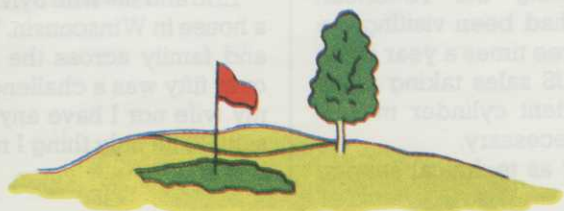
The main advantages of the PM green are:

- A simple construction method that enables poorly performing greens to be rebuilt with minimal disturbance and disruption to the course. When compared with other reconstruction techniques, significantly less material has to be removed or transported to the new construction over existing fairways.
- Intensive drainage and a free-draining growing medium, ensuring all-round play. Winter greens become a thing of the past.
- Against traditional reconstruction methods, cost savings of up to 30 per cent are possible. This may be equivalent to £2,000-£3,000 on each green rebuilt.
- Healthy growing conditions to promote the establishment of fescue and bent putting surfaces—the fine turf traditionally associated with golf in Britain.
- Easy and straightforward irrigation and nutritional management.

The construction technique is protected by a UK patent and, under a licensing agreement for Britain, the greens can now be found at Davenport GC, Cheshire; Shaw Hill G and CC, Lancashire; Ruxley GC, Kent and Telford New Town, Shropshire, where Wrekin council is developing a short golf course with greens based on this principle.

Further details from Howard Swan at Golf Landscapes on 0277 73720.

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## Recognition For The 360

A 1985 Design Council Award has been given to the Nickerson Turfmaster 360. Following detailed research, Nickerson Turfmaster designed a machine with a 70in wide cut and then spent three years developing and testing the 360.

"It has been a real success. We found customers wanted a more versatile machine than was currently available to cope with a variety of conditions, not only on golf courses, but wherever grass is grown in large areas. Other requirements for the machine were a high degree of manoeuvrability and economy of operation," Graham Templeton, the company's commercial director, said.

The judging panel noted Nickerson's attention to performance, safety and styling. Twenty-two winning companies will receive their awards from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hampshire on May 2.

The 360 is able to climb nine-inch kerbs when moved from site to site and over ten acres can be cut on just three gallons of petrol. It is powered by an electric start 12hp petrol engine and has single rear wheel steering with four forward gears. Cutting speeds of 1, 3 and 5.5mph provide 252, 84 and 46 cuts per yard. The machine's low centre of gravity and three widely spaced wheels make it safe to operate on slopes of up to 25 degrees.

The operator can lift all three cutting cylinders without leaving the driving seat; two cylinders at the front and one in the centre of the machine with either five or seven blades

ensure a fine finish. The cutting units are fitted with counter balanced springs to allow the cylinders to float over undulating surfaces and provide an even cut. Height of cut can be changed easily without using tools.

Transport latches enable the cutting units to be folded inside the wheel track to make it easy to load the machine on to a small trailer.

The chassis is made from tubular steel and the body panels from glass

fibre. Designed and built in Britain, the Nickerson Turfmaster 360 costs £3,740. Optional extras include grass catchers and cabs with tinted glass.

• *As we went to press, the death of Nickerson Turfmaster's Matt Templeton from a heart attack was announced. The sympathies of Greenkeeper and his many friends in the industry are extended to his family and colleagues.*

## 'Our Man In America' Returns To Ransomes...



Back at Ipswich, Eric (right) talked to John Blackmore.

It is now three years since Eric Ramsey joined Ransomes' subsidiary in the USA. Eric recently returned to Ipswich for a brief visit and took the chance to meet up with old colleagues.

Prior to joining the American company, Eric had been visiting the States two or three times a year since 1966, but with US sales taking off, it was felt a resident cylinder mower specialist was necessary.

Now working as technical service

manager at Ransomes Inc, Eric celebrated 40 years service with the group while in the USA when, true to tradition, he was presented with a watch by the company's president Helmut Adam.

Eric and his wife Sylvia have bought a house in Winsconsin. "Moving home and family across the Atlantic when over fifty was a challenge and neither my wife nor I have any regrets," Eric said. "The only thing I miss is a pint of bitter!"

# turf

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## Walkover Declared



With sales of soluble and liquid products on the increase, there is a need for equipment other than watering cans and hose-end dilutors to apply these products quickly and accurately over medium to large areas.

The new Walkover Whippet at £48 (plus VAT) is now on the garden market following field trials in the amenity turf sector, where its 24in big brother has provided the country's professional groundsman with a cost-saving piece of spray equipment.

The Whippet, with its 12in spray pattern, has a light but durable chassis plus a ten litre container mounted on wheels. It is capable of covering 100 square yards in five minutes.

Full details from Walkover, 21 London Road, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB2 5DF. ☎ 0223 842726/844288.

## New Amenity Grass Seed Mixtures Now Available

Hunters of Chester is now offering two lawn seeds, Supreme and Sovereign, which are also suitable for golf and bowling greens and cricket squares. Supreme is made up of 70 per cent Frida chewings fescue and 30 per cent Highland brown top bent, while Sovereign contains 50 per cent Dawson slender creeping red fescue, 30 per cent Waldorf chewings fescue and 20 per cent Highland brown top bent.

Other mixtures in the range include Sports lawn seed (golf tees, tennis courts, hockey fields and cricket outfields), Outfields mixture and Sportsfield renovation mixture

## Four More For You

Supaturf Products has launched four new products.

Fertiliser SSP/SR (15-4-4) is formulated to reduce frequency of application and, by containing part of its nitrogen content in the form of IBDU, gives slow-release properties and resistance to leaching. The nutrient-release pattern is geared to the nutritional needs of the turf and makes optimum use of available plant foods. Phosphate and potash are included in a balanced ratio to encourage healthy and even turf growth.

Supaturf No 7 Grass Seed is recommended for heavily worn fine turf areas. Fescues and Browntop combine to form a compact fine-leaved sward with good drought tolerance. The inclusion of turf-type ryegrass perennials gives rapid establishment, high-wear tolerance and strong root structure.

Regulox K offers up to 14 weeks control of all grasses including Ryegrass. The new improved formulation controls production of grass seed heads and promotes production of finer grasses in sward. If required, it can be mixed with selective weedkiller. Regulox K gives five to seven weeks control for the following spring when sprayed during autumn.

Finally, Atrinal Plant Growth Regulators for pot plants, hedges, ground cover plants and ornamental shrubs cuts maintenance costs by reducing mechanical trimming of hedges and shrubs, promotes branching and improves shape by enhancing foliar cover on lower, often stripped parts. ☎ 0733 68384.

(soccer and rugby pitches).

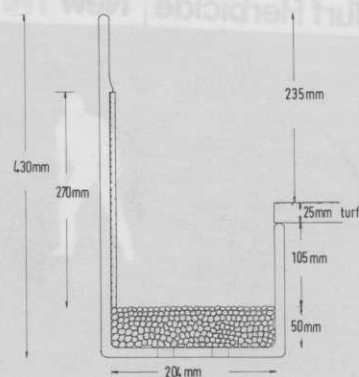
Completing the line-up is Wasteland general mixture, which provides a quick green cover and can be grazed or mown.

With this mixture, it is recommended that Hunters' Fix 'n' Grow clover inoculant be used to ensure good clover establishment.

Prices range from 73p/lb for Wasteland general mixture to £1.40/lb for Supreme lawn seed and quantity discounts of up to 20 per cent are allowed on orders of more than 110lb.

For further information, contact Brian Hunter on 0422 823787 or Peter Hunter on 0244 47574.

## Channel News



A cross-section of the new ditch channel from Wener And Longstaffe.

A new bowling green ditch channel, designed to comply with the laws of the game, has a high-backed gully made from glass reinforced cement. This two metre unit, weighing about 37 kilos, is quickly installed and easy to handle compared to the normal two foot precast concrete sections. Four corner units are available to complete the set.

From Wener and Longstaffe Amenity Landscaping, the ditch channel gives a 235mm difference in height from the top of the green to the top of the bank. This allows for turf to be placed over the low side and, so, protects the woods as they fall into the gully.

It is available as part of a package enabling clubs to buy the channel complete with synthetic grass backing (to further protect the woods), adhesive and infill. Low-backed gullies are also available in glass reinforced cement.

Prices and further information from Wener And Longstaffe, Amenity Landscaping, First Floor, 33 High Street, Barnet, Herts EN5 5UW. ☎ 01-441 0189.

## For Safety's Sake

The Health and Safety Executive has published a new guide to the Poisonous Substances in Agriculture Regulations, which came into operation last August. Clearly illustrated, it provides advice for all who work and distribute pesticides, whether self-employed, an employer or an employee.

*A Guide To The Poisonous Substances In Agriculture Regulations 1984*, from HM Stationery Office or booksellers, costs £4.20.