

panies to offer a contract spraying service of selective weedkillers on golf courses and playing fields, which was much in demand. They designed special machines constructed like gang mowers to be towed by tractors and carry out this work on undulating ground.

The company also established a turf nursery at Archerfield, East Lothian on light sandy soil where they grew special turf from seed, a project which the firm carried on for a number of years. Stewarts are now distributors of Rolawn Turf in Scotland.

Stewarts have also given tremendous service to the sportsturf industry in voluntary and honorary capacities. The company has provided two presidents of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society and also two vice-presidents, and two vice-presidents of SIGGA. For many years, five of their staff have given lectures to greenkeepers' and groundsmen's associations, as well as horticultural societies. Two personnel have regularly taken part in BBC radio programmes and one has appeared on TV. Stewarts also provided a lecturer for the Edinburgh Royal Botanic Garden training course on turf culture. And two members of the staff have been awarded the Scottish Horticultural Medal.

In 1958, Bill Pender, one of the company's most popular representatives, joined Stewarts as technical representative and, in 1973, J.I. Stewart, son of the founder, retired from the company and so ended the connection with the family that had lasted for almost 80 years.

In addition to fertilisers and grass seed mixtures, Stewarts introduced many products for the benefit of greenkeepers and groundsmen. Among the most popular were nylon golf flags, fibreglass flagpins and the St Andrews Turf Switch. In addition to



Graeme Forbes.

this, they had the manufacturing rights for the Comb-It grass comb and the Stronghold electric shoe cleaner.

With the enlargement of the company's activities and the influence of the changing conditions of business, Stewarts decided to move from the centre of Edinburgh to an industrial site at Dalkeith on the boundaries of Mid and East Lothian, where a new factory and warehouse of 20,000 square feet was built. In addition,



Ian Forbes.

there are large areas for material storage required in manufacturing and space for expansion.

The move prompted a major expansion of the sales force. In 1976, Neil Macdonald joined the company. Neil is responsible for the north/east of Scotland and also carries on Stewarts' traditional advisory service. At present, he is acting as consultant to a construction project in Spain.

The death of Bill Pender in 1978 was a great loss to the company and to his many friends in greenkeeping. The company also lost their London agent the following year, but Mr Bithray has proved an excellent successor. In 1978, they also commenced the construction of a new compost plant and the conversion of the company's offices to a computerised system.

In 1981, Ken Waddell became field sales manager with special responsibilities for public authorities. Robert Bruce joined the firm and is now technical sales rep in the west and Alan Miller has taken over the south east of Scotland and north of England. The logistics are capably handled by Robin Davidson, who is a familiar face to most greenkeepers and groundsmen.

Stewarts have proudly completed 90 years of service to sport with major emphasis on turf culture for recreation and amenity purposes. At the moment, they are developing some new projects for the supply and installation of artificial surfaces.

The chairman is Ian Forbes, son of J.L. Forbes, and Graeme D. Forbes as managing director is the third generation to serve the company. Appropriately, the founders' original motto has proved a successful trademark, for Stewarts have maintained a 'Stronghold' in the grass roots of the sports and recreation industry and will hopefully continue to do so well into the next century.

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