

## Kubota Looks To Corner A Market Sector

Kubota Tractors (UK) is to introduce a new 45hp (DIN) tractor on to the UK market in spring. The company says that the L4150 (pictured above) will fill a market need that has been largely overlooked by other manufacturers. With two or four wheel drive, the tractor is to have a European 'Q' cab as standard—a roll bar will be optional. One of the key features is hydraulic shuttle transmission, giving eight forward and eight reverse speeds. A full range of equipment, including a purpose-designed loader and backhoe, is being developed. Full details from Kubota Tractors (UK), Dormer Road, Thame, Oxfordshire OX9 3UD. ☎ 084 421 4500.



## Stay As You Are

Paul Ridgeon, chairman and managing director of the Maxicrop International and Walkover companies, has announced that the proposed agreement between Maxicrop International and Rigby Taylor will not be ratified and, although formulas are being prepared for Rigby Taylor by Maxicrop especially for the amenity market, no sole distribution arrangements have been agreed, nor were intended and, therefore, all Maxicrop based products are available from the established amenity and horticultural outlets.

Similarly, a proposed agreement between Walkover spraying machines and Rigby Taylor to establish sole distribution arrangements, has not been finalised. Walkover machines are still available direct from the manufacturer or from existing distributors.

## It's An Honour

Eric Staniforth, managing director of SISIS, was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list for services to industry and export. Eric completes 50 years with the company in June. The congratulations of *Greenkeeper's* staff and contributors go to him.



## Terry Takes Trophy

Andrew Terry, a greenkeeper at the Welcombe Hotel, Stratford-on-Avon, received the Gleneagles Challenge Trophy for the best project work at Elmwood College.

Andrew defeated some 140 greenkeepers who attended various courses at Elmwood last year to win the trophy, which is presented annually.

He was one of 17 English students who felt it worthwhile crossing the border into Scotland to attend Elmwood's specialised courses for greenkeepers and groundsmen.



Andrew Terry.

## Rolawn Gets Ready For Increased Demand

Rolawn of Elvington, York is to embark on a major expansion programme to provide an accelerated growth pattern over the next five years.

Castleforth Fund Managers and Stewart Fund Managers have combined, under the auspices of the Business Expansion Scheme, to subscribe over £300,000 as new equity to further strengthen Rolawn's capital base. Castleforth's managing director J.D.B. Workman will join the Rolawn board. This arrangement will enable Rolawn to capitalise on the optimum acreage necessary for increased turf production.

It is only nine years since the company anticipated the future demand for high-quality turf and sowed its first ten acres at Elvington. The company has since become the leading grower and supplier of cultivated turf in Europe with units in Scotland, Bedfordshire, the West Midlands and Surrey providing a total turf production area in excess of 1,100 acres.

Full details from Rolawn (Turf Growers), Elvington, York YO4 5AR. ☎ 0904 85661.

## Supaturf Depot Opens In Leeds

The new 5,500 sq ft depot on the Normanton Industrial Estate is part of Supaturf's continued expansion and, by centralising its northern distribution, the company hopes to provide an efficient service to customers in the region. The Leeds operation is managed by Frank Crookson. ☎ 0924 891000.



Area manager Frank Crookson.

Supaturf was formed 20 years ago as part of the George A. Palmer group of companies based in Peterborough. David Palmer, the present joint managing director, is George's grandson.



Warehouseman Carl Redfearn and Lancashire rep Hilary Jones in the new Supaturf surroundings.

## Talking Grasshopper

A new parkland sprayer called the Grasshopper which 'talks' to its operator made its debut recently. The Grasshopper is one of two new sprayers from BP Oil. Made by Nomix Manufacturing, it is recommended by BP for spraying selectives and incorporates a computer to simplify operation and maintain a drift-free coverage at all times. The operator only needs to set the required dosage rate—the computer then adjusts the pumping rates to keep the dosage at a constant level regardless of the speed of travel.

The computer also enables the Grasshopper to speak to the operator. It will talk him through a pre-spray check, advise him when refilling is necessary and remind him of the need to clean the machine once spraying is complete.

Despite its 12ft boom spread with four controlled droplet application Nomix heads, the Grasshopper folds up and can be carried through narrow



The BP 4/18 sprayer in operation.

openings. It is light enough to be moved by hand, but can also be towed by any vehicle at speeds up to 7mph.

The other new sprayer is the BP 4/18, which has been developed in conjunction with Micron, pioneers of ultra low volume controlled droplet spraying techniques. It has been designed specifically to meet the needs of weed control in city and industrial areas and can spray a one foot wide strip over three miles long using only 2½ litres of BP weed control product. The swath can vary from 4in to 1½ feet, while the head throws out a strip of 250-300 micron droplets and ensures complete weed coverage without drift.

Further enquiries to Wendy Gadbury on 01-821 2198.

In 1984, Ransomes Sims & Jefferies exported some £3m worth of grass machinery to the United States, 82 per cent more than the previous year. Shipments from Ipswich included the company's new Motor 350D self-propelled hydraulic gang mower, costing over £20,000 in the USA.

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## Wessex Launches Two Versions Of Professional Rotary Mower



Suitable for tractors in the 30-50hp range, the Wessex P/18 professional rotary mower has a 6ft cutting width.

Wessex Farm Machinery Sales has added a new rear-mounted rotary mower—the P/18—to its range of grass and grounds maintenance machinery. The Wessex P/18 is a 6ft (1.80m) cut linkage mounted mower available in two versions.

The P/18/W, for professional and commercial users, has fully castoring rear wheels on puncture resistant cushion tyres and a flexible linkage configuration so the mower will follow ground contours accurately. Anti-scalping rollers at the front and support chains to the tractor top link point ensure that the mower does not scalp on uneven ground. The P/18/S runs on side skids and is intended for more demanding applications, such as roadside verges, pasture toppings, etc.

The P/18 is designed to work with 30-50hp tractors. The drive line comprises an oil-filled bevel gearbox with double vee belts driving the cutter heads. The cutter spindles are friction welded and have twin

bearings protected in a cast-iron housing. The three cutter heads are overlapping to ensure a full cut even when turning. High suction blades help to lift the grass to ensure a clean finish and clippings are discharged evenly at the rear of the mower. There is a steel safety shield that pivots and can be raised for better performance in long grass.

The Wessex P/18 has a minimal service requirement with all three lubrication points accessible above the deck. Both pairs of belts are easily adjusted by sliding the gearbox mounting bracket forward. Cutting height can be varied between 1/2in and 6in in 1/2in increments. On the P/18/W the rear wheels are moved, without the use of tools, on their sliding mounting brackets. On the P/18/S, the side skids are repositioned to alter the cutting height within the same limits.

Full details from Wessex Farm Machinery Sales, Newman Lane, Alton, Hampshire GU34 2PW.

## More Power To These People

Heron Power Products of Crawley, West Sussex has experienced a strong trading year with its Echo chainsaws, brush-cutters, weed and grass trimmers, Suzuki generators, pumps and engines, Arkos pumps and Carlton replacement chains.

The Echo range includes the recently introduced GT-160AE weed and grass trimmer—a lightweight 16cc two stroke powered unit with single line nylon cutter head. Features include capacitor discharge ignition (CDI) for easy starting and loop handle for comfortable operation and a cutting head guard and 'dead man' action throttle trigger.

Another new product is the medium range CS-510EVL chainsaw, which features one of the highest power-to-weight ratios ever built into a 50cc saw. Step advanced CDI ignition is one of the many features of this saw and is also now included as standard on the CS 610 and CS 660 twin cylinder chainsaws.

Further information from Phil Duggan on 0293 51800.



From Heron Power Products, the Suzuki LT185.

## turf Irrigation Services Ltd

*If you are thinking of having an Irrigation System installed, considering updating an old or partial system or simply require spare parts or service Turf Irrigation Services Limited are the company to speak to:*

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## People, Places, Products

At least two one-week courses on turf construction and management will be held in the spring by the Sports Turf Research Institute. The courses, from Monday morning to Friday afternoon, will cover soils, grasses, turf diseases and pests, drainage, watering, fertilisers and machinery. Starting on February 25 and March 11, the fees (exclusive of accommodation and meals) are £85 for members and £100 for others (plus VAT). A further course will be held if necessary during the week commencing March 4. Further details from The Secretary, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire. ☎ 0274 565131.

• *The latest STRI Sports Turf Bulletin deals with Why Aerate? The Case Of Golf Courses, The Necessity For Suitable Sheds, Hard Weather On Turf and Turf Surface Standards.*

The first branch of the IOG outside the UK has been formed in Dublin.

Officers are: acting chairman—Jim Sergeant (head greenkeeper, Elm Park Sports and GC); vice-chairman—Joe Brennan (head greenkeeper, Limerick GC); treasurer—Sean Murphy (head greenkeeper, Stackstown GC); secretary—Liam O'Regan (head groundsman, The Bank of Ireland Sports Club); social secretary—Sean O'Brien (head groundsman, Leinster CC); members—Gerry Lennon (groundsman, Honiefarm FC) and David Walby (assistant greenkeeper, Bray GC).

Further information on the branch can be obtained from Jim Sergeant, 20 Adelaide, Strand Road, Sandymount, Dublin 4. ☎ Dublin 692868 (evenings).

Neville Gay has been appointed sales manager for C.Taylor and Sons of Oxted, Surrey.

*Turfworld '85*—sponsored by *Turf Management* magazine and supported by the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI)—which was to be Britain's first indoor turf and landscape exhibition, will not now take place.

"Support has not been translated into participation by a sufficient number of companies to make the exhibition fully representative," a spokesman for the organisers said. "Rather than disappoint visitors and those companies who were to exhibit by presenting an unworthy event, we prefer to cancel."

## Brian's Building At Bashley

One of the latest projects for Brian D.Pierson (Contractors) is a nine-hole, par-three course at the Bashley Park

Brian Pierson talks to the animals.



Leisure Centre, New Milton, Hampshire.

Meanwhile, Brian found himself the centre of attention on the site of a proposed golf course at Porthleven, Cornwall. You can certainly meet some interesting animals in this business!

Sports turf culture and maintenance equipment suppliers Richard Aitken (Seedsmen) has John MacKay as its new technical rep responsible for the east of Scotland.



John Mackay.

Peter May who, for the past five years, has covered Herts, Bucks, Beds, Oxon and Northants for SISIS, has joined Nickerson Turfmaster as eastern area rep.

Jim O'Brien also joins the company as the rep for the south west, south Wales and the West Midlands. He has previously represented Sheen, Alpina and Ginge Mowers.

• *All new Nickerson Turfmaster machines now carry a two-year warranty.*

Donations by Ransomes Sims & Jefferies have enabled the IOG to establish a lending library at its Milton Keynes headquarters.

The company will provide all reference books and a joint IOG/Ransomes advisory committee has drawn up a

list of text books linked to each of the institute's four exam syllabuses. Some 100 volumes are being purchased and student members will be able to borrow them in preparation for this year's exams.

In a second initiative, the institute is to hold a 1½ day training course for 16 Ransomes' sales reps.

Paul Arnfield, an assistant greenkeeper at The Tea Tree Gully Golf Club, South Australia, is seeking employment in the UK from July. He wants to experience true British greenkeeping before returning to the semi-temperate climate of home and would also like to attend courses here. He is 19 and has completed his fourth (final) year of a greenkeeping apprenticeship. Any offers of help should be addressed to *Greenkeeper*, 121-123 High Street, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex CO12 3AP.

Scottish Agricultural Industries has agreed a new sales and marketing policy with Chipman, which will now assume exclusive responsibility for the sales of SAI Turf Foods in England and Wales. All trade and user enquiries should be directed to Chipman's Horsham or Harrogate offices. This new agreement applies to the SAI Mini-Crum range of fertilisers, as well as to Longlife, Greengold and Fine Turf Nitrogen With Iron. It does not affect the distribution of SAI's other horticultural products. Arrangements for SAI Turf Foods in Scotland are also not affected.