

## News Of Nickersons

Price Waterhouse, the receiver of Nickerson Turfmaster, recently announced the sale of the business. Nickerson Turfmaster is part of the Gainsborough-based Marshall Tractor Group, to which Price Waterhouse was appointed receiver late in September, and is the first Marshall business to be sold.

The purchaser is Harlow Agricultural Merchants, a major grain and seed merchant in the south east with annual sales of over £20m. Mr Parker, the director of HAM responsible for the purchase, said: "This is part of our expansion programme and is a move into a new field for us. We have agreed with the receivers that we can operate from the existing Marshall's premises for a few weeks while we get the operation underway again, but we are seeking permanent premises in Gainsborough as a

matter of urgency. Clearly, the business expertise lies there and I am hoping to provide employment for 11 of the former employees of Nickerson Turfmaster, who were made redundant by the receiver in September and October."

Richard Rees, for the receiver, said: "Nickerson Turfmaster was a relatively small part of the Marshall's operation and can easily be extracted from the Gainsborough site. We have a number of interested parties in the sale of other parts of the Marshall group and a few parties have expressed an interest in the residue of the group as a whole."

**The IOG's first-ever national spring exhibition at Southport's Victoria Park on May 13 and 14 already looks like being a success. Applications are being processed and 25 companies have already been allocated over**

**2,500sq m of exhibition stand space.**

Maxwell Hart has announced the death of Robert MacIndoe Stewart. He joined the company in Glasgow during 1924 and three years later moved to London where he launched the company's English branch. In 1944, he bought that operation and moved it to the present base at Winnersh, Berkshire.

An accountant by profession, he served for over 20 years on the committee of the Royal Gardeners Orphan Fund and was treasurer of the organisation for some years. He relinquished his chairmanship of Maxwell Hart in 1975 and, more recently, he lived at Lymington, where he celebrated his golden wedding anniversary in July.

Mr Stewart leaves a wife, daughter and son Duncan, who is the current chairman and managing director of Maxwell Hart.

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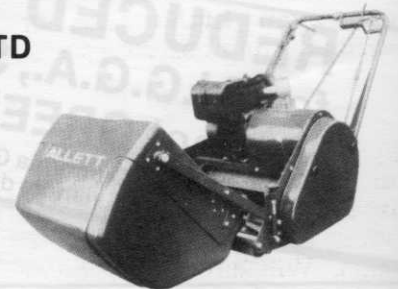
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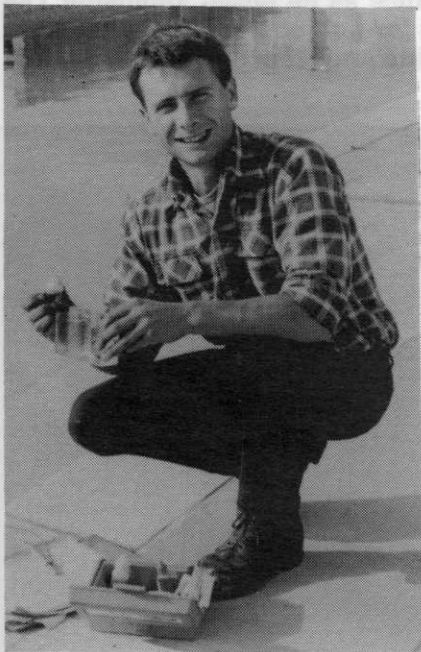
## People, Places, Products

The winner of the 1985 Young Groundsman of the Year competition is 19-year-old Richard Snell, an assistant groundsman from Exmouth, Devon. The runner-up is 18-year-old Wayne Nash, an assistant groundsman in Ebbw Vale.

Other finalists were Antonio Badcock, 19, Ian Davie, 20, and Ian Ladbroke, 19, who was runner-up in last year's competition.

The winner and his sponsor will attend the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America Convention in San Francisco from January 29 to February 5 as guests of the IOG.

This is the fifth year of the annual competition organised by the IOG.



Richard Snell.

**Scottish Agricultural Industries has announced that Richard Aitken (Seedsman) of Glasgow will market SAI's quality turf seed range. The SAI 'T' range has proved itself over many years and the intention is to introduce even higher buying standards in the near future.**

Changes in the Toro Irrigation UK dealer structure mean that Golf Landscapes of Brentwood and Irrigation & Slurry Services of Downton, Wiltshire have, since December 1, been responsible for all geographical areas



P. Brimwell and D. Wall (Parkers), D. Atkins (clerk of works), K. Reader (Wimbledon), R. Ambrose (club secretary) and A. Grier (championship director).

The All England Lawn Tennis Club now has a Lely Iseki TE4270 tractor complete with loader and backhoe. The official handing over involved Lely's distributor T. Parker & Sons of Worcester Park, Surrey, whose area rep D. Wall handed the keys to R. Ambrose, club secretary.

previously covered by British Overhead Irrigation, Shepperton, Middlesex.

"We have re-organised in the interests of greater efficiency, better communications and regular customer liaison," Peter Roberts, general sales manager of Toro Irrigation, said. "The move will provide improved installation standards, expedite after-sales back-up and give irrigation systems specifiers the benefits of modern installation techniques".

Golf Landscapes, which already represents Toro in most of the London area, East Anglia and the southern Midlands, will additionally cover the remainder of London, parts of Kent and East Sussex. Irrigation & Slurry Services takes on the southern Home Counties in addition to its existing dealerships covering the south of England and the West Country.

Howard Swan of Golf Landscapes said: "We are excited by the possibility of expanding the Toro operation." While an equally enthusiastic Gary Parker of ISS said: "We are no strangers to the London area. I look forward to providing even better service to existing and new Toro irrigation users."

Three years ago, Kubota UK moved lock, stock and barrel from Yorkshire to Thame, Oxfordshire. Then, the company's new premises afforded some 35,000sq ft, including office space. Now, Kubota UK has a new headquarters - just across the road in Thame. A four-acre site has 70,000sq ft of warehousing and assembly plus 13,800sq ft of office space. Kubota has taken over the 40-year lease to the building.

Brian Hurlley, marketing director, said: "Kubota compact tractors were first introduced to the UK in 1975. Then, there were no locally made attachments available, so European and American manufactured equipment was imported. Today, not only do we commission UK manufacturers such as McConnel to make equipment to fit our tractors, the market has grown sufficiently large for people such as Wessex, Turner and Twose to make a success of manufacturing equipment to fit all makes of compact tractor.

"Using 1981 as the base when we shipped 1,020 units, this year I am confident we will ship at least 1,200 tractor units to our dealers and about 400 mini-excavators.

*Continued overleaf...*

**People, Places, Products**  
Continued...

Our turnover has more than doubled in five years from £4.9m in 1981 to over £11m this year. Just over 50 people give an annual sale per employee of £217,000."

One of the highlights on the BASF stand at Windsor was a 'personal appearance' of a giant tortoise called Florrie. Florrie was promoting the new range of Floranid amenity fertilisers being marketed in the UK by BASF. She was also the star in a competition in which visitors were invited to guess her weight - the prize for the first correct answer being a trip to the manufacturing and research complex of BASF in West Germany. Remarkably, there were three correct entries - Florrie's weight is 120lb 8oz. The first correct entry drawn was from Ian Norman of Portislade, East Sussex.

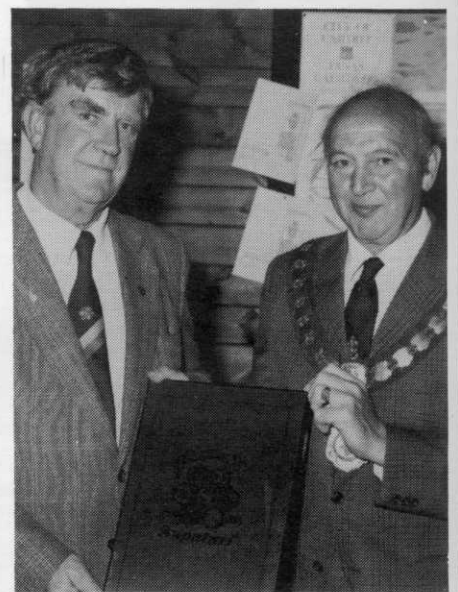
Equally striking at Windsor were the Rigby Taylor show signs. But there were no prizes for guessing the correct combined weight of (pictured, right) Richard Lawrence, Richard Williams (Monsanto) and Keith Dickenson!

David Palmer, managing director of Supaturf Products, received a plaque presented on behalf of the sports turf profession on the occasion of Supaturf's silver jubilee by the IOG's national chairman George Lane.



Howard Swan and the biggest golf ball of them all!

**It's that man again! Howard Swan appeared to be more than willing to be the subject of a photo-caption contest as he posed alongside The Golf Ball - a new concept in shelters for golf courses - at the recent IOG international exhibition. Let's just say that Howard certainly played the bigger ball at Windsor...**



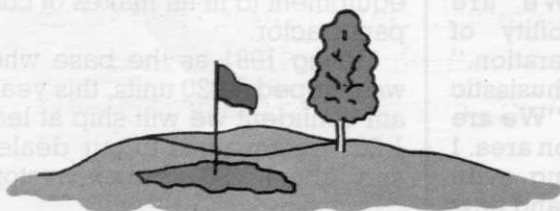
David Palmer and George Lane.

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