

Golf's Great Man Is A Rigby Taylor Fan

Just about the hottest news from within the industry in recent times was the coup by Rigby Taylor when Seve Ballesteros no less was boldly signed to endorse the company's products. Seve is seen discussing with Richard Lawrence, Rigby Taylor's marketing director, application details of Mascot fungicides. Seve has used a wide range of Mascot products on his course in Spain and has been particularly impressed by Rigby Taylor's fungicides. Further details can be obtained from Richard on 0204 394888.



Ransomes/Mountfield Link Announced

Ransomes has completed the acquisition of Mountfield's UK and European estate and garden machinery manufacturing business and certain of its subsidiaries for a total of £4.25 million. The purchase price is subject to certain considerations. The remaining business of the Mountfield Group, principally Power Gardening (Slough) and Robert H Andrews, which distributes and retails grass machinery, and other unrelated assets will be retained by the vendors.

Ransomes currently manufactures and sells grass machinery mainly for the professional user. Mountfield is a leading name in the domestic mower market and the introduction this year of the new Mountfield Triple M ride-on cylinder mower also gives them a presence in the semi-professional market. Mountfield will continue to operate as an autonomous company located at Maidenhead.

Didin Can Do It

Developed after several years of research, the Longlife range from SAI includes three fine turf and three outfield turf foods, a pre-seeder and an all-in-one weed and feed treatment for all types of turf. Five of the turf foods contain Didin, an ingredient designed to regulate the availability of nitrogen to the turf.

Sales and marketing manager Jim Duncan said: "Didin saves money by reducing nitrogen wastage caused by leaching and excessive grass growth even when greens are regularly irrigated. Turf foods containing Didin supply the grass with nitrogen for longer than conventional turf fertilisers. As a result, the groundsman has to make fewer applications throughout the season and there is less grass cutting."

SAI Longlife Fine Turf products are for golf greens, bowling greens, tennis courts, cricket squares and ornamental lawns. They include a spring and summer

turf food with Didin, an autumn and winter treatment to promote hardiness and disease resistance and help turf respond quickly at the start of growth and a fast acting spring and summer



Jim Duncan.

treatment to provide a quick green up and to suppress moss.

SAI Groundsman products are for all playing fields and outfields, including fairways, tees and other recreational areas. They include a spring and summer food with Didin, an autumn and winter treatment to establish good grass cover for the start of the season and a once-a-year nitrogen treatment for even growth in the summer.

Longlife Plus is a new weed and feed application with Didin that contains herbicides to control broad-leaved weeds in all grasses. And the Longlife Pre-seeder is a new mini-granular and organic-based turf food with the ideal nutrient ratio for the establishment of fine turf and outfield grass areas.

The Longlife range replaces the SAI Mini-Crum fertilisers.

For marketing information on any of these products, contact Mrs Jill Heeks, Scottish Agricultural Industries, Firth Road, Houston Industrial Estate, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 5QW.

People, Places, Products

Trident Of Compstall, Stockport has extended its activities to the sports turf business with the purchase of specialist machinery for hire to sports clubs. Trident has a Ryan Greensaire 16, Ryan Greensaire II for hollow tining, solid tining or slitting, a Jacobsen Sweeper for core removal and a Howard Gem Rotorvator. Contact an area representative or the sales office on 061-427 7171 for availability and charges.

Morrison Industries has moved to a new warehouse and office complex in King's Lynn. From August 1, the company has been located at Unit 12, Bergen Way, North Lynn Industrial Estate, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 2JG. Tel: 0553 763333.

George A Palmer, recently appointed sole importer by BASF of the Compo Floranid range of slow-release fertilisers for the horticultural and amenity market, has appointed nationwide distributors. Made by the BASF company in West Germany, the range initially includes nitrogen, NPK and NK products and is suitable for application in all turf grass situations and cultivated areas. From mid-July, 13 distributors have been offering the four products. The appointed distributors are: Richard Aitken, Glasgow; Gwyn Cadogan, Usk, Gwent; Maxwell M Hart (London), Wokingham, Berks; D. O. Hunt, Newton Abbot, South Devon; S Kenworthy, Altrincham, Cheshire; John K King & Sons, Coggeshall, Essex; Nursery Supplies (Bourne), Bourne, Lincs; T Parker & Sons, Worcester Park, Surrey; Sports Turf Services, Hewbridge, Midlothian and Supaturf Products at Wakefield, West Yorks, Iver Heath, Bucks, Peterborough and Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

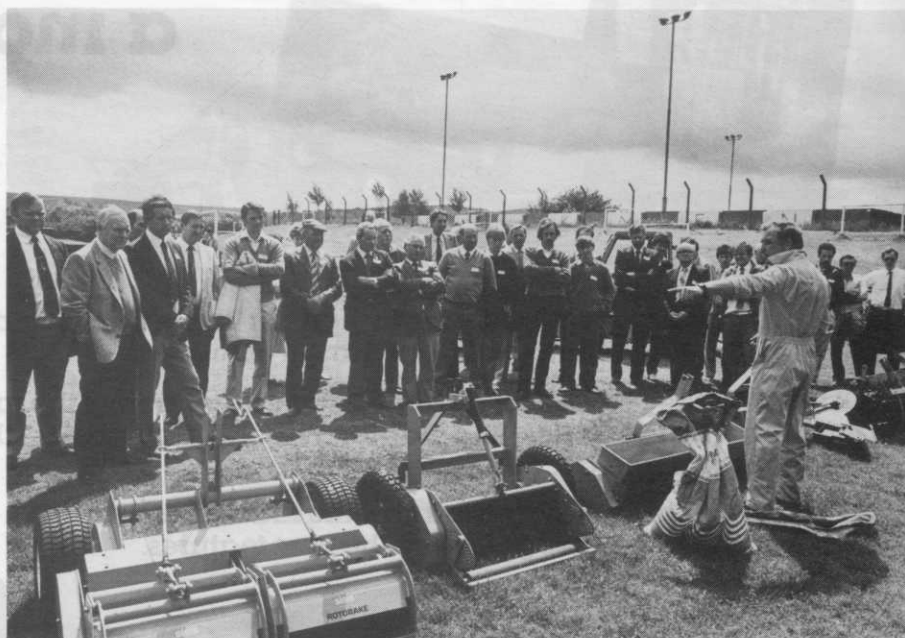
Burts & Harvey has recently taken on two new regional sales managers. Covering the East Midlands and East Anglia, Richard Allen has transferred



The Pershore College of Horticulture, Worcestershire was the venue for a recent NTC workshop attended by over 50. Entitled *The Mower For The Job*, the workshop was organised by Peter Wallin, the college's amenity lecturer. NTC chairman Michael Chance said: "This year has been an important landmark in the NTC's short history because this is the second workshop in the space of a month arranged by a non-member of the council." He believed this was tangible evidence that the NTC was supplying a need of the turfgrass industry.

from the agricultural division of May & Baker. He is conversant in the use of pesticides in the crop spraying sector and based near Grantham. The second recruit, Graham Munro, has a quarrying and road construction background. Graham lives near Huddersfield and covers the northern counties up to the Scottish Border. For further information, contact Burts & Harvey on 01-311 7100.

Fyffes-Monro Horticultural Sundries has published its latest *Amenity Recreational And Industrial Catalogue*. Copies are available free of charge from the company's Aylesford, Burscough, Cheltenham, Chichester, Penzance and Spalding offices or 15 Stratton Street, Piccadilly, London W1A 2LL. Tel: 01-499 3411.



Alan Barnes of SISIS explained the Hydromain System to some one hundred greenkeepers, groundsmen and parks personnel during a tour of the company's Macclesfield factory recently.

May & Baker's environmental products department has launched Rovral Granules for simple fungicide treatment. With the identical broad-spectrum disease control of Rovral Green, Rovral Granules control fusarium patch, red thread, dollar spot, brown patch and leaf spot/melting out at the 2.5kg rate (applied to treat 500sq m) and grey snow mould at the higher 5.0kg rate.

Applied by a standard granular applicator, Rovral Granules require no mixing with treatment taking place in dry or damp conditions despite light winds. Unlike sprays, there is no danger of drift. Rovral Granules diminish the need for pressure spraying equipment - indeed, the granules are ten times lighter than the equivalent liquid spray treatment. Supplied in a 2.5kg carton, Rovral Granules are priced at £15 per pack.

The Sports Turf Research Institute will hold three one-week courses in the autumn on the theory and practice of turf construction and management. The courses last five days, starting Monday morning and finishing on Friday afternoon and will cover soils, grasses, turf diseases and pests, drainage, watering, fertilisers and machinery. Starting on October 21, October 28 and November 4, the fees (exclusive of accommodation and meals) are £85 for members and £100 for non-members (plus VAT). Further details from the Secretary, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU. Tel: Bradford (0274) 565131.

This year's Scotsturf exhibition and seminar will take place at the Royal Highland Exhibition Centre at Ingliston, near Edinburgh on Wednesday November 6.

Over 50 companies have already booked stand space and a record number of delegates have registered for the morning seminar sessions. Special terms have been negotiated at Edinburgh's North British Hotel, Princes Street for exhibitors and visitors.

This is the fourth year the IOG's Scottish and Northern Ireland zone has organised the annual

Scotsturf event and more than 4,000 visitors are expected. The exhibition will be open from 10am till 6pm and entrance and car parking are free.

The Institute Of Groundsmanship and the Horticultural Correspondence College are to co-operate in the development of correspondence courses in groundsmanship. The institute sees them as a valuable preparation for its examinations. The first course covers the institute's national technical certificate examination and the two organisations are already working on a course for the intermediate diploma. The IOG and the HCC will also co-operate in the provision of practical training courses at Milton Keynes and several regional locations to supplement the written material.

The Institute will also be running a series of one-day and weekend training courses this autumn on golf greenkeeping and bowling green maintenance. The golf greenkeeping course will be at the Woburn Sports Club, Bedford from October 14-15. Fees are £30 (plus VAT) for IOG members and £40 (plus VAT) for non-members. Venues for those interested in bowling greens are Manchester (September 29), Grays Thurrock, Essex (October 5) and Graves Park, Sheffield (October 12). The fees are £10 and £12 (plus VAT).



Mary Wood-Hill has been appointed a director of Brian D. Pierson (Contractors). Mary, who has been with the company for seven years and has been the company secretary for the last five, will have special responsibilities for landscaping and local authority contracts.

Broderick Grass Machinery of Dublin was the outstanding Kubota tractor dealer in Ireland and the UK last year. Managing director Noel Broderick received a special commendation in Tokyo for sales of tractors in 1984 and was also voted the outstanding dealer. Further information from Noel on Dublin 970 822.



Sales manager Ken Heffernan, sales rep/demonstrator Robert Foley and managing director Noel Broderick admire the award.

Wessex Introduces High Capacity Turf Sweeper

Wessex Farm Machinery has developed a PTO driven rotary sweeper suitable for turf or hard surfaces. The sweeper has a working width of 1.25m (4ft) and requires only 15hp, making it ideal for use with compact tractors.

The Wessex sweeper has a large capacity hopper, holding some 1.25 cubic metres of grass mowings or leaves. The machine is semi-mounted, so there is no load transfer to the tractor, making the sweeper specially suitable for autumn use. The rear load bearing wheels have wide-profile turf tyres to minimise compaction. The front wheels are fully castoring for manoeuvrability and are adjustable on sliding support arms to regulate pressure on the brush and compensate for bristle wear.

The rotary brush comprises four rows of polypropylene bristles bolted at right angles on to a spindle, which runs in twin-sealed bearing units. The transmission comprises a right angle drive bevel gearbox and a cross shaft with an integral universal joint, with double v-belts driving the rotor.

In front of the brush is an adjustable skirt, which can be raised for leaf sweeping, litter collection, etc, and lowered for picking up grass mowings. An optional polyester dust-shield is available.

The collection hopper is of welded monocoque construction for rigidity, with panels of expanded metal at the top and sides to ensure sufficient air flow. A counter weight at the front balances the hopper, which pivots in ball bearings to ensure smooth tipping.

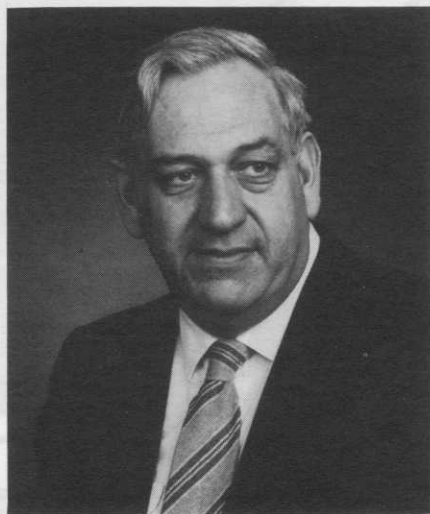
The tractor's three point linkage lifts the front of the sweeper out of work, giving ample room, for instance, to mount kerbs. Sufficient clearance is also gained to pivot the hopper anti-clockwise, using a cord-pull trip mechanism accessible from the tractor seat. The tractor is then eased forward so the hopper rotates through approximately 270 degrees and dumps the load neatly on the ground. When the tractor is clear, the hopper returns to the working position under its own weight and locks automatically.

The Wessex sweeper is connected to its linkage frame by a universal ball-joint, so that the machine will follow the contours of fairways accurately and in any direction.

The Wessex PTO driven sweeper has a working width of 4ft (1.25m) with an overall width of 5ft 9in (1.75m) and retails at £1,375 (plus VAT).

Full details from Wessex Farm Machinery Sales, Newman Lane, Alton, Hampshire GU34 2PW. Tel: 0420 88848.

TIS Boom Time



Robin Hume.

Reviewing the first six months of his new company's activities in the turf irrigation market, director Robin Hume says he is very pleased with Turf Irrigation Services' order book.

Robin who, with co-director Bill Squires, took over the irrigation division of E A Yates & Sons (Sandbach) last November, is considering further expansion to cope with demand.

"We employed all the existing irrigation team originally with E A Yates," he said. "They are doing a tremendous job, but we are hard pressed at times."

Robin, well-known in this country's sprinkler irrigation market, commenced his career in 1964 with Wright Rain, which pioneered large-scale arable irrigation in Britain.

He subsequently gained a wider appreciation of irrigation system design when he set up on his own as an irrigation consultant in 1972 and then an irrigation management company in 1976.

Since last November, Turf Irrigation Services has signed con-

tracts for a dozen bowling greens. In addition, TIS is currently involved with eight updating projects for golf clubs and the installation of new systems on another 11 courses.

Further information can be obtained from Robin Hume or Bill Squires at Turf Irrigation Services, Betchton, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 0TS. Tel: 04775 255/536.

● *Turf Irrigation Services is the Toro Irrigation area distributor for Wales, the Midlands, south/west, north and north west, including Greater Manchester.*

Supaturf Products is distributing a range of slow-release fertilisers based on ISODUR from BASF. The new slow-release nitrogen fertiliser for turf works by releasing a measured dose of organic nitrogen, evenly and slowly, over a long period of up to 16 weeks. Because release is triggered by warmth and moisture, the grass receives the fertiliser it needs at the right time, resulting in good deep healthy root growth and an even rate of sward growth, thus reducing mowing frequency. It also means less parched and withered grass in times of drought, while fast lateral growth quickly covers bare patches and will withstand wear and tear.

● *Bob Lewis, 29, has been appointed warehouse supervisor at the Supaturf headquarters in Peterborough. The newly appointed sales office secretary is Sally Barker, 20, who will assist sales office manager Dr Rodney Dunn.*



Bob Lewis.

Born In The USA - Now Available Here

Control of matted growth, thatch and graining on putting greens are key features of two accessories for Jacobsen's Greens Mower.

The rotary brush penetrates grass to sweep out matted growth and stand up plant leaves to help reduce grain. The vertical reel unit removes surface thatch, cuts runners and also helps control graining.

Both accessories are power driven, can be engaged and disengaged by the clutch, mount at the front of the Greens Mower and are interchangeable. Rotary brush pressure and vertical reel depth are adjustable.

Jacobsen Mowing Tractor Features Floating Reels

A floating gang system that allows reels to follow minute ground contours plus simplified cutting height adjustment are only two features of the HF-5 mowing tractor available from Jacobsen.

The floating system, which incorporates a second flexing joint on gang shafts, can also operate in a fixed mode. When floating, an optional roller is attached to eliminate scalping in fine cutting.

Other features of the compact five-gang hydraulic machine, which can mow 50 acres of turf in one shift, include a large Donaldson air filter, cooling fan control, a fuel gauge and a larger tank.

Its hydraulic systems include protective boots for cylinders,

hose covers to eliminate external wear and the positioning of reel motors to an inboard location on gang units.

The HF-5, the first medium-size hydraulic mowing tractor offered by a US manufacturer, cuts an 11ft swath with all five reels lowered.

Hydraulic reels allow cutting frequency to be infinitely variable. Because reels can turn

faster, the machine can travel faster, mowing at a speed of up to 7mph. The system can be reversed to backlap reels in place.

Other hydraulic systems are also used for the automatic-type transmission, power steering and for raising and lowering individual wing reel units.

The HF-5 is one of 55 Jacobsen machines available in the UK.



Jacobsen Greens Mower accessories - left: the powered rotary brush and (right) the powered vertical reels.



The Jacobsen HF-5.

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ALC's Funding Findings

Greenkeepers and groundsmen in Britain could be wasting valuable funds every year maintaining poorly constructed greens and fine turf sports areas, according to Amenity Landscape Construction (ALC). Indeed, more than 80 per cent of all maintenance problems can be traced back to poor initial construction.

By commissioning proper construction or re-construction, without cutting corners to save costs, groundsmen and greenkeepers can save considerably on maintenance costs and disruption of play, the company says.

ALC, founded by Martin Longstaffe of Wener and Longstaffe, has long experience in the construction and maintenance of fine turf areas for sport. After spending much time over recent years in re-construction and maintenance of poorly constructed greens, cricket tables, tennis courts and sportsgrounds, managing director Martin Longstaffe and his team are committed to raising the levels of understanding about fine turf construction.

"As an ex-groundsmen, I have been faced with several and often extremely costly problems, almost all of which could have been eliminated or reduced by good initial construction. Much of the mystique surrounding the maintenance of fine turf areas is a result of attempts to correct poor initial construction," he said.

Drainage, poor levels and over consolidation of soils are three basic problems, which are typical in ALC's experience, and

groundsmen should always be wary of being sold short on any of these, he added.

For example, drains are often covered by an impervious layer of sub-soil, which effectively seals them and renders them useless. In such cases, the inclusion of sufficient porous backfill is essential. And inadequate consolidation of soil or over consolidation, such as by using heavy construction machinery on the playing area, can both result in poor levels and disruption to play.

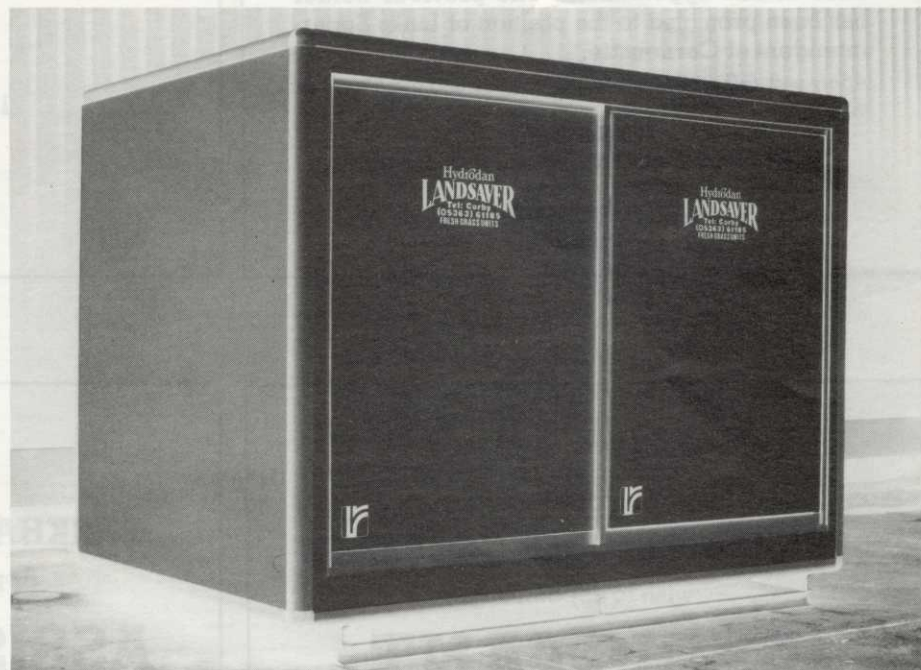
In its new brochure, ALC outlines many of the problems associated with fine turf areas and how they might be overcome. Copies are available from Amenity Landscape Construction, 1st Floor, 33 High Street, Barnet, Herts EN5 5UW. Tel: 01-441 0189.

Grass Growing Made Easy

Hydrodan (Corby) has developed a revolutionary grass turf machine that will produce small or large quantities of turfs for sports applications.

The machine, called the Landsaver, produces a regular daily supply of soil-less turfs, which take only four to six days to grow from seed, regardless of the weather. Turfs are of consistent quality and size, weighing much less than those grown naturally, making handling simpler. Depending on the size of machine, one can guarantee between 12 and 87 turfs per day, 365 days of the year.

For further information, contact Mr G. Lusty, Hydrodan (Corby) Ltd, 74 Earlstrees Road, Corby, Northants, NN17 2AZ. Tel: 05363 61185.



The Landsaver HD-75 can produce 12 turfs a day. Grass takes four to six days to grow, depending on variety.

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