

COMPANY PROFILE - PARKERS



An historic farmhouse (right) and oak tree (left) stand at the entrance to Parkers.



John Campbell gets it straight from the horse's mouth while Jim Parker (left) and Peter Simpson look on.

PARKERS of Worcester Park, Surrey are well-known to most greenkeepers and golf club officials in the south, as well as further afield - hardly surprising since the company have been in the sports turf industry for many decades, writes *John Campbell*.

There are three divisions - turf management, Parkers' mower repairs and horses. The Parker family have long been associated with equestrian events and they maintain a large indoor riding school and a stable block within the grounds. The present headquarters includes a 500-year-old farmhouse and the remains of an oak tree of similar vintage at the entrance.

Company chairman George Parker has been involved with the business since 1927. Nephew Jim Parker is managing director and Peter Simpson sales director.

The company are well placed to cater for the needs of London and the south-east, where there is a high concentration of outdoor sports facilities, and about 70 are employed with

seven full-time reps covering the territory.

They have a large number of special haulage vehicles for the transport of fertilisers, compost bulk deliveries, grass seed, machinery, etc, and a fleet of service and repair vans manned by skilled mechanics are always on call to deal with machinery breakdowns during the busy growing season.

Parkers have always been a friendly family business and have maintained a close association with the industry, arranging regular educational seminars on the upkeep of sports turf and artificial surfaces, and they sponsor popular golf days for club secretaries and golf course managers at first-class venues.

The firm have a modern compost mixing plant with extensive undercover storage space to meet the needs of a wide variety of sports turf requirements. Parkers fertiliser mixtures for fine turf and outfield areas are used extensively.

They are the main agents in the south-east for Notts Sport

Grass Reinforcement, a synthetic fabric that's as flexible and easy to lay as carpet and allows grass to grow through it, providing anchorage and protection for the roots. It's a boon for paths, banks and worn-out walks and can be used on cliff faces, river sides and eroded roadsides.

Parkers have established an enviable reputation for reliable and efficient service and have an impressive list of regular customers, including Sunningdale and Walton Heath, the All-England Lawn Tennis Club, Hurlingham and Twickenham.

Many company products go to Europe and the United Arab Emirates and they also import a number of items from the USA, including the popular Parker spreader.

Since 1951, they have been the sole distributors of the SISIS range of equipment for London and the southern counties. They are also dealers for Iseki tractors and supply most of the main manufacturers grass mowing and turf cultivating machinery for golf courses and sportsgrounds.



Inside the compost mixing shed.



Compost in the course of preparation.