

Cameron Forms Major Part Of Engineering Group Buy-Out

Cameron, the horticultural, sports turf and landscaping irrigation division of Wright Rain, plus the Macpenny fog and mist propagation business, has been involved, as part of Wright Rain, in the formation of a new British engineering group.

This is a result of the Birmid Qualcast Group decision to sell off three companies outside its main area of operation. Four directors involved have formed a consortium to buy these businesses.

Backed by Schroder Ventures and CIN Industrial Investments, the £2.6 million deal includes Wright Rain, plus BQ Precision Engineering in Leicester and BQ Industries with a manufacturing operation in Birmingham and its Sterling Scaffolding Division in South Shields and Edinburgh.

The newly formed group has a combined turnover of £14 million and employs just under 400.

For Wright Rain and Cameron, there will be no change of name or direction. The company is undertaking considerable investment at its Ringwood factory to increase production facilities for its range of pumping, irrigation and liquid waste handling equipment.

The company claims that the downturn in the UK agricultural market has been offset by its widening the range of products and markets, so that now less than

35 per cent of business is reliant upon UK agriculture.

These actions have included diversification through acquiring the Cameron horticultural, sports turf and landscaping irrigation business in 1983. Cameron now accounts for over 25 per cent of Wright Rain business.

The second area of develop-

ment has been in the range of liquid waste handling and pumping products for the industrial market through the company's Farrow Division, which concentrates on sales in more diverse markets, including mining, quarrying, local authority, manufacturing and processing activities.

Suffolk Set To Swing Some More

CDC Landscapes of Waldringfield, Woodbridge, Suffolk has almost 30 years of landscaping construction and alteration to golf courses behind it, as well as wide experience of turf culture and management of extensive amenity areas.

The company is also landscape maintenance contractor to our government in the UK and West Germany and has the largest stock of used and reconditioned modern equipment in the country, with all types of hydraulic and trailed grass mowing machinery available for sale or hire. Repair work is carried out on the premises.

In 1983, CDC Landscapes designed and constructed Heath Farm Golf Course at Waldringfield, a popular nine-hole layout offering a good test of golf. Planning consent has been granted to extend the course to 18 holes with an additional nine-hole practice layout.

The course is situated in an attractive part of Constable country

with river views enhancing the golfing scene and landscaping work on this flat expanse of agricultural land has produced beautifully sculptured greens, tees, mounds and bunkers.

Heath Farm Golf Club is now bulging at the seams with an ever-increasing number of visitors playing the course. To cope with the influx, the club plans to spend £184,000 enlarging the facilities.

At Priory Park, near Ipswich Airport, a holiday and leisure centre is being developed and the site includes a nine-hole course designed and constructed by CDC Landscapes.

Built in an ideal setting on a sheltered piece of land, the course slopes gently to the edge of the River Orwell. An automatic watering system has been installed and the course is due to open in the spring.

Ease and economy of maintenance has been the prime consideration in the design of both courses.

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Turf Treatment With A Dedicated Touch

Regular and thorough aeration throughout the year provides the key to the production and maintenance of first-class playing surfaces on Sunningdale's championship golf courses.

Indeed, aeration is the basic component of the complete turf management programme practised by Jack McMillan during his seven years at the club. The programme was developed specifically to suit the soil characteristics of Sunningdale's 400 acres.

The soil type, Bagshot Sand, is described by Jack as fairly impoverished and inert, comprising a sand/silt mix of little topsoil depth, which can, on occasions, behave like clay.

"By that I mean the soil compacts quite easily under foot or wheeled traffic. It will also bake in hot weather. Therefore, it is essential that the ground is aerated intensively all-year-round so that it retains its structure and remains free-draining."

Jack is a firm believer in maintaining an aerobic soil structure.

"On most courses that means carrying out thorough and regular aeration to combat the joint effects of the continuous passage of feet and machinery.

"At Sunningdale, everything we do goes hand in hand. If the soil compacts, it neither handles water well nor allows vigorous and healthy root growth. Rain or applied water will tend to run off, causing ponding, while in hot

weather, plant cover can be burnt off, leading to rapid turf wear and erosion."

Jack added it was, therefore, vital that the soil and its structure be kept in as good a condition as feasibly possible. He employs a Cushman Turf Truckster equipped with Huxley and Cushman slitting attachments to carry out an intensive winter aeration programme on the Old and New Courses at Sunningdale.

Commencing in October, the equipment is used exclusively each week to treat the greens, surrounds and tees. Snow or heavy frost is all that lays the machines off.

The Huxley slitter is fitted with 6in blades, while those on the Cushman version are 4in long. The two machines are then worked alternately so that aeration is carried out at a different depth each week.

This helps "open up" the soil structure more effectively, while reducing the risk of a hard, impermeable layer forming - a particular hazard when aeration is performed at a constant depth.

The greatest likely problem at Sunningdale, however, is compaction within the surface layers, so aeration of the top few inches of the turf at a weekly intensity is essential.

The Cushman Turf Truckster is used with a range of attachments from the Huxley and Cushman stables to handle hollow-coring, brushing, spraying, topdressing and the matting-in of materials, all carried out by the club's 13 groundstaff.

The Old Course, which opened

in 1903 and has bigger putting surfaces and bunkers, is looked after by a foreman with four staff. A foreman and three staff tend the New Course, which dates from the 1920s.

The remaining groundstaff comprise a central tractor squad and a full-time mechanic.

Sunningdale applies about 500 tonnes of topdressings a year, in seven or eight separate applications. The soil mix, consisting of 75 per cent sand and 25 per cent peaty-loam, is produced on site by the club's Royer processing equipment and is used on all 36 greens, approaches and tees. Dressings are only applied when there is a promise of plant growth or actual growth is occurring.

On the spraying side, Jack said that the predominantly acid soils of the two heathland courses did not encourage the establishment or growth of many broad-leaved weeds. "The sprayer is used primarily for fungicide treatments and for the monthly application of a cocktail comprising a wetting agent and sulphur of iron.

"The Huxley brush is in regular use during the spring and summer, removing dew from the greens, while the dragmat helps us spread the topdressings thoroughly across all surfaces. The brush is also used in ideal conditions to apply a finishing touch to the greens after matting," he said.

Jack, who entered the profession when 14, is looking forward to May when the world-famous Surrey club stages the Walker Cup.

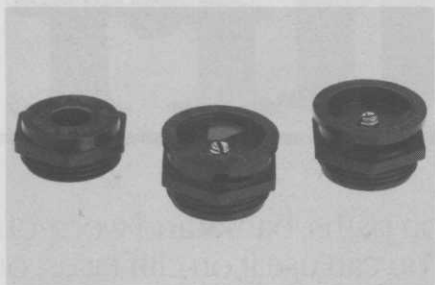


Mounted at the rear of a Cushman Turf Truckster, a 66-gallon Huxley sprayer.



Cushman equipment slitting the Old Course 18th.

People, Places, Products



Weather-matic's 200 series.

Prime Watermen is the newly appointed distributor of the Weather-matic range of turf irrigation equipment in East Anglia and the south-east.

For further information on design, spares or installations, contact Sonja Taylor on 0502 78 481.

News from Weather-matic's Dallas, Texas headquarters is that the company's 200 series spray nozzles offer a choice of full circle 90°, 120°, 180°, 270° and side-strip models, all with flow adjustment screws.

The 200 series precision-molded ABS plastic spray nozzles are designed exclusively for use with Weather-matic 32P, 35P, 36P, 37P pop-up sprinklers and 95P shrub bodies - 30 series pop-up heights range from 2½in to 12in.

Weather-matic also offers the 300 series brass nozzles in a full range of coverage patterns, including strip sprays designed for use with the 30 series pop-up sprinklers.

Vitax has appointed a new distributor for its Key range of products in Devon and Cornwall. Contact: **Monro Horticulture, Long Rock, Penzance, Cornwall TR20 8JH. Tel: 0736 710304.**

Dorset-based **Roffey Brothers (Tel: 0202 523752)** will now extend its trading area to include Somerset and Vitax will shortly be announcing the appointment of further Key distributors in Avon and South Wales.

A new arrangement for the sale and distribution of the Scottish

Agricultural Industries' Longlife range of turf foods has been made to ensure wider availability in England and Wales.

The range is now supplied through ICI Professional Products' distributor network. Within the new agreement, support for the range will continue to be given by Chipman, the existing distributor.

As before, ICI Professional Products handles SAI Longlife in Scotland. SAI can be contacted on 031-332 2481.

The Scotland and Northern Ireland zone of the IOG is to present its exhibition and seminar - **Scotsturf '87** - at the **Royal Highland Exhibition Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh** on **Wednesday November 11.**

Further information from **William A. Elwood, Exhibition Secretary, 22 Roseburn Place, Edinburgh EH12 5NL.**

The inaugural Huxleys two-day service course was voted a success by instructors and students.

The course, designed specifically for engineers from appointed Cushman dealers, attracted 19 representatives to the new 1,200sq ft fully-heated building, built by Huxleys at its New Alresford factory for training and visitor reception.

Training manager Terry Cooper said the primary aim of the service course was to im-

prove diagnostic ability. First place went to Michael Edge of Leicester Horticultural Engineering with Roy Shoreland of Birds Grasscare second.

Monro Horticulture is the result of an amalgamation by Kenneth Wilson Horticulture and Fyffes-Monro Horticultural Sundries. Gordon Hunter is managing director of the company, which will provide a nationwide service from eight depots.

The name Monro has been established over a century - ever since George Monro first traded in London's Covent Garden in 1862.

"Our strengthened national commitment to the horticulture division means that we will be investing to improve the product range. We pride ourselves on meeting customers' needs on a local basis, so all contact should be with the Thorp Arch office as before," Mr Hunter said.

Monro Horticulture has its main office at **Morwick Hall, York Road, Leeds LS15 4NB. Tel: 0532 738282.**

May & Baker Environmental Products and Burts & Harvey have produced a new training 'package' for those using amenity pesticides.

A 14-minute video features TV journalist Howard Stableford, who examines statutory requirements and demonstrates 'do's and don'ts' of handling



Inaugural service course at Huxleys.

chemicals. *The Safe Use Of Environmental Chemicals* costs £46 (VHS and Beta) or £62 (U-Matic), inclusive of VAT and postage.

Accompanying the video is a 16-page booklet on safety procedures - it contains a ten-point safety check list as a separate self-adhesive sticker.

A copy of the booklet is available free of charge. Purchasers of the video can request up to 20 further free booklets and quantities in excess of 20 are available at 20p each.

Further information from May & Baker, Regent House, Hubert Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4TZ (tel: 0277 230522) or Burts & Harvey, Crabtree Manorway, Belvedere, Kent DA17 6BQ (tel: 01-311 7100).



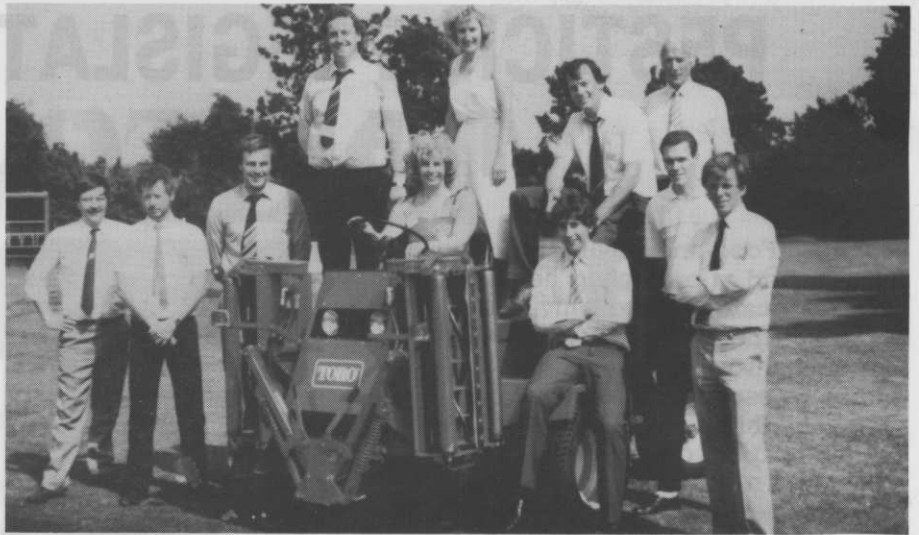
Mark Bowley.

Mark Bowley has joined Kings of Coggeshall, Colchester, Essex as general manager of the horticultural division. He takes over from George Freear, who has gone back to horticultural production. Mark, 29, has ten years selling experience in commercial horticulture, having previously worked for Fargro and then Fisons as technical sales rep.

Barrie Cheetham, 50, has joined Vitax as amenity manager for eastern England and Scotland. He retired recently from Fisons after 26 years service.

Contact him at 3 Barham Court, Melbourn, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 6EW. Tel: 0763 60825.

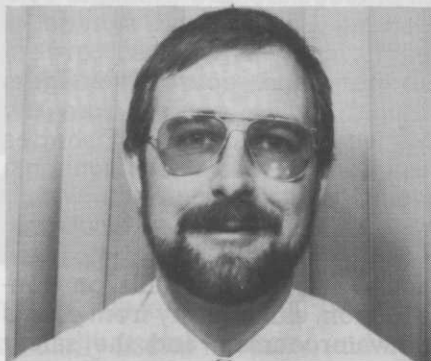
Colin Murphy becomes amenity manager for the west and Ireland. He is based at 21 Maes-y-Sarn, Pentyrch, Cardiff, South Glamorgan. Tel: 0222 891893.



A.T. Oliver and TORO staged a joint open day recently, featuring TORO turf management products. Surrounding the 450D Reelmaster are Colin Graham, Graham Dale, Clive Soper, Lyn Jennings, Angela Chapman, Colin Jennings, Dick Peckett and, in

the foreground, Bill Misselbrook, Andy Morris and Antony Oliver. Details of TORO products can be obtained from Graham Dale, Lely (UK), Station Road, St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH. Tel: 0480 76971.

Dabro International of Prees, Shropshire has Bruce Cusworth as its new sales manager and heading up the sales/demonstration team is Andrew Smith, who was previously with the Burgess Group for eight years.



Bruce Cusworth.

Frank Driver of 1 Jupiter House, Calleva Park, Aldermaston, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 4QW (tel: 07356 77451) is offering a trade discount of 20 per cent on mini sprayer units.

Four versions are available, ranging in price from £445 for a petrol handsprayer to £1,897 for a mini sprayer unit with micronair heads.

Extras, such as a hand lance (£73) and an electric pump (£90), to suit all the models are available and full details are given in the company's new colour brochures.

Huxleys will be staging a working display of equipment at Stratfield Saye House, near Basingstoke, Hampshire on Thursday May 21. The venue is the country home of the Duke and Duchess of Wellington.

Entry will be by personal invitation card only, obtainable in advance from Michael Bird, Huxleys Grass Machinery, The Dean, New Alresford, Hants SO24 9BL. Tel: 0962 73 3222.

The new all-weather playing surface at Great Yarmouth's Wellesley Road Sportsground was officially opened by Trevor Brooking, the former England and West Ham mid-fielder. The floodlit surface, sand-filled Nottsward on an envelope system, can be used for hockey, basketball, netball, tennis and football.

A Nottinghamshire system was used for the Temple Park pitch at South Tyneside and for a mini-park using Nottsward sand-filled grass for Liverpool council. And the biggest multi-purpose area yet to be built in Britain, providing two soccer pitches, is being installed for Southampton council.

Full details from Notts Sport, Launde House, Harborough Road, Oadby, Leicestershire LE2 4LE. Tel: 0533 718892.

People, Places, Products, Continued...

The Birmingham IOG branch has organised a seminar entitled **Pesticide Legislation And The Groundsman**, which will take place at the Manor House, University of Birmingham on Thursday April 9.

Papers will include **Legislation And Codes Of Practice** by Mrs H. Hamilton of the Ministry of Agriculture; **Legislation And The Manufacturer** by Keith Cleverly, ICI professional products manager; **Legislation And The Retailer and Pesticides And The Environment** by Dr M. Anderson, lecturer in zoology at the University of Birmingham.

Cost of attendance will be £5 for IOG members and £10 for non-members. Tickets and further information may be obtained from the seminar organiser: F.J. Hammond, Windmill Cottage, Manor Gardens, Bristol Road South, Northfield, Birmingham. Tel: 021-476 6300.

British Seed Houses supplied grass seed for the new championship course, designed by Jack Nicklaus, at St Mellion. In the spring and autumn of 1985, straight pennecross creeping bent was sown on greens and tees and fairways were sown with the standard BSH A12 fairway mixture, which contains chewings fescue frida.

BSH has been appointed main distributor for the new smooth stalk meadow grass called Julia. The Sports Turf Research Institute made Julia the highest rated poa pratense in its 1987 seed guide. Independent trials carried out at the institute showed that Julia is a compact, hard-wearing poa that withstands regular mowing down to 20mm and has a good resistance to fungal disease. The company intends to introduce Julia in several of its fine turf mixtures for the forthcoming season.

Phone-in brief news stories to Greenkeeper on 0255 507527.

Intensive Irrigation For Nicklaus Course

The first championship course in Britain designed by Jack Nicklaus has opened at St Mellion and irrigation consultant Watermation has engineered a means to supply sufficient water to the fairways and greens without disturbing play.

Watermation's solution, a solid state irrigation system, automatically controls 400 sprinklers, sup-

plied with water by eight Grundfos CR multistage centrifugal pumps and the pop-ups are only operational at night.

Water, drawn from two man-made lakes, is distributed from two pumpstations, each housing three Grundfos CR16s, one Grundfos CR4, a control system and a pressure tank.



St Mellion's championship course.

Turf Equipment Company Check List

Jacobsen Textron has updated its list of UK service agents and their corresponding areas.

Service agent: Risborough Turf Supplies (Tel: 08444 3023) for **Bucks, Berks, Oxfordshire, North London**; Lambs Lawnmowers (0733 46611) - **Peterborough, Northants**; Hyvale Power Equipment (0602 270667) - **Leicestershire, Northants**; Marscot Plant Hire (021-744 9050) - **Warwickshire, Birmingham, West Midlands**; Grassland Machinery (05438 77866) - **Birmingham, West Midlands, Staffs**; Davenport's of Shrewsbury - **Clwyd, Birmingham, West Midlands, Staffs, Shropshire, Gwynedd, Powys, Hereford, Worcestershire**; R.S. and P. Horticultural (097873 750) - **Shropshire, Clwyd, Gwynedd**; Motrac of Cross Houses, Shropshire - **Shropshire, Clwyd, Gwynedd, Powys**; K. Morgan (0873 880244) - **Dyfed, Powys, Hereford, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Gwent, Mid, South and West Glamorgan**; Bristol Garden Machinery (0272 719361) - **Gloucestershire, Avon**; Greenlay (0670 822857) - **Northumberland**; B. and W. Lawnmowers (0254 886301) - **Cumbria, Lancashire**; Fletcher Stewart (061-483 5542) - **Cheshire**; Old Forge Engineering (0277 353611) - **Essex, North London**; Fabrication and Mowers (01-440 6165/5462), Club Mower Services (0582 841040), Wedgeride Horticultural (0442 54768) - **Herts, Beds, North London**; Canterbury Golf Club (0227 453532) - **Kent**; Shanks Mowers (01-771 4811) - **North Kent, East Surrey**; Professional Turf Machinery (04862 28658) - **West Surrey**; Alan Mills Garden Machinery (0580 200804) - **East Sussex, part of Kent**; Jenman Engineering (0703 448581) - **East Dorset, Hampshire, West Sussex**; F.G. Adamson (0482 631148) - **Humberside**; Auto Garden (Glasgow) (0505 24341) - **Scotland**; Fulbourne Garden Machinery (0223 880762) - **Cambridgeshire, including Newmarket**; C.N.S. Mowers (048526 234) - **part of Norfolk**; Professional Grass Care (0673 858989) - **Lincs**; Princes Agricultural Engineers (0246 590256/590609) - **Derbyshire**; L.F. Jewell of Bridgwater - **Somerset**; Parkins Horticultural Engineers of Mitchell - **Cornwall**; Devon Garden Machinery (08047 2124) - **Devon**; J.M. Raine of Spennymore - **Durham, Cleveland**.

Armitage and Sons of Huddersfield (0484 536010), Taylor Machinery Services of Sheffield and B. and P. Farm Equipment of Dorchester, Dorset complete the list.

Full details from Jacobsen Textron, Bergen Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 2JG. Tel: 0553 763333.