

TRADE TOPICS

■ Subject to German anti-trust agency clearance, John Deere-Lanz Verwaltungs-AG, part of John Deere Group, intends to acquire the major shareholding in SABO, manufacturer of lawn mowers and other grounds care equipment, and - under the trade name Roberine - rotary and reel mowers for commercial use. Worldwide, John Deere has a workforce of 38,000 employees.



■ Dan Haas, Director of Sta-Brite Supplies Ltd, was 'ticked pink' at news just announced that Sta-Brite have been awarded Main Distributor status by Rhône-Poulenc Environmental Products.

This prestigious distributorship can be seen as recognition of Sta-Brite's prominence in the south as major suppliers of turf care products. Equally gratifying must be the news that sales are growing 33% each year, despite the so-called current recession.

■ Garfitts are back... and after over 200 years of manufacturing scythes and mower blades of all kinds, this is good news indeed. The new owners, Gerald and Trevor Brooks of Turf Machinery Ltd, have purchased the business assets and will continue producing quality cylinders, blades, parts and grinders from Cross Scythes Works in Sheffield.

The company will be now be known as Garfitts International.

■ Aitken's Sportsturf Ltd have moved, their new depot in Sherburn-in-Elmet, North Yorkshire giving them a fine edge by being close to most motorway networks. As main distributors for many major manufacturers, the new base will help them to increase market penetration, whilst continuing the personal service for which sales specialists Norman Sheddon, Peter Fell and Tony Kvedaris are famous. Telephone: 0977 681155.

■ After trading for 21 years as Sachs Dolmar (UK) Ltd, Britain's largest independent supplier of outdoor power equipment will change its name to Outdoor Power Products Ltd. The new name more accurately describes the company's widening product range, which includes chain-

saws, shredders, rotary mowers, brushcutters and those clever Robin Dagger soil ameliorators.

■ I admit to being sold on the versatility of skid steer loaders, more so since watching the Bobcat range perform so famously on new bunker building at Pennyhill Park G&CC last March.

It's good news then, especially for those in the golf course construction industry, that Bobcat-Melroe Europe have introduced a second larger model in their 50 series, the 853, with an operating capacity of 771kg. Details from Bobcat-Melroe on 0455 251725.



The newly-introduced Bobcat 853

Greensm The Name That



Take a look at the TORO Greensmaster 3000D ... get behind the unique steering arm, adjustable to suit the comfort of all operators. This will be your first step towards unbelievable precision cutting with increased power and durability.

... but don't just take our word for it, ask any one of TORO's customers since the early 70's and we have every confidence that they will confirm there's no other turf management machinery to compete with TORO quality and real value for money!

Every course and its greens have their own special characteristics. The TORO Greensmaster 3000D enjoys the challenge and by providing fully floating cutting units, a uniform quality of cut is assured whatever the conditions.



Optional variable speed kit ensures precision cutting by allowing the operator to select a consistent ground speed while maintaining a constant, even clip.