

■ Colin Murphy is not one to let a thing like open-heart surgery set him back for too long, or so it would seem from the reports filtering through from South Wales. The heartening news (forgive the pun!) is that Colin has made a fine recovery from his recent ordeal and is now recuperating at home. All of his many friends and colleagues wish him a speedy recovery and return to a full and active life, as do we all at Greenkeeper International.

■ ADAS, the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service, originally set up in 1948 as a free service under the 'wing' of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods and only over the past five years operating on a fee charging basis, became a fully fledged Government Agency on April 1st 1992. This is the final step toward ADAS operating as a commercial, profit orientated organisation; in the same way as Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

■ David Hemstock, long time advisor for ADAS and their specialist in matter pertinent to golf courses, has left to become an independent consultant on golf course improvement. He will also find time to contribute technical articles for publication in Greenkeeper International, starting with a provocative piece on 'Water Features'. David can be located on 0773 827115.

■ Plans for a major enhancement of golf facilities at St Andrews are set to take a step forward with the application for planning permission for a new driving range on St Andrews links. The development of the range is the latest stage of the extensive Links Development Programme set in motion by St Andrews Links Trust.

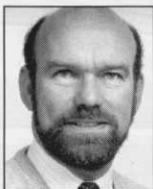
Aimed at providing the "Home of Golf" with facilities on a par with those at top international centres, the programme includes the construction of the new 18-hole course, the Strathtyrum, and the re-designed 9-hole Balgove. All three projects are scheduled to open in 1993. The driving range complex, comprising 12 open and 12 covered bays, and including a reception area, changing rooms and ball wash facilities, will be floodlit.



■ Hortech Ltd has become the first weed control company to be awarded the coveted BS 5750 quality assurance standard. Hortech MD Richard Powell, centre, received the certificate from John Gummer MP, Secretary of State for Agriculture, at a presentation ceremony in London. Mr Gummer said: "This business sets the standard. Increasingly others will have to do as well if they are compete effectively. Well done." Hortech had to show that it has an effective quality control system covering every aspect of its work, from handling customer enquiries to applying herbicides.

Mr Powell places great emphasis on safeguarding the environment when carrying out weed control work, saying "we are moving away from older herbicides toward the new breed of chemicals such as Roundup Pro, which has excellent safety characteristics and is biodegradable". Hortech is

based at Swynnerton in Staffordshire. Also pictured is contracts manager, Peter Jones.



■ West Country Groundcare have appointed Mike Taylor to their team to assist them with preparations for 5750 Approval, and to help set up a number of new projects. Mike Taylor brings a wealth of experience with him, having spent five years as a service engineer with Atco and 15 years with Veals Lawnmowers of Bristol – starting as a fitter at Veals and five years later becoming general manager. Mike leaves on a high note as Veals accounts show a 33% increase in turnover from 1989/90 to 1990/91.



■ John Brooks has joined Hayter Beaver as demonstrations co-ordinator. No newcomer to machinery, John began his working life training for an agricultural engineering apprenticeship. His technical expertise will be invaluable when working with Hayter Beaver's sales team, demonstrating the company's new extended range of professional groundcare equipment to local authorities, golf courses and other commercial end users. Married with two young sons, John lives in Bishops Stortford.



■ Chester firm Bruera Agricultural Services Ltd have been named Huxley Dealer of the Year for their outstanding achievements in 1991. At a special presentation at BTME, Brian Spruce, Bruera's groundcare division manager, was presented with a specially inscribed barometer by Huxley's field sales manager, Roger Barnes.

Bruera became a Huxley dealer early in 1991 and have already supplied the British made Huxley 358 Greensmower to the Runcorn, Hazle Grove, Old Padeswood, Rhyl, Heswall, Betws-y-Coed, Flint and Denbigh Clubs and to the Plassey Golf Course.

■ At a recent meeting held at the second Golf Asia International Golf Show in Singapore, the formation of the Asia Pacific Golf Course Superintendents Association (APGCSA) was tabled, with a committee soon to be formed and the Association formally registered. The golf industry in the Asia Pacific region has developed at a staggering pace over the past few years, resulting in the construction of numerous courses and the trend revealing an urgent need for trained personnel. That there is an evident lack of such personnel has resulted in a need to employ foreigners (mostly American and Australian) at very high costs. One positive measure to overcome this gap is the formation of the new professional body – APGCSA. Early indications suggest that the APGCSA may forge links with BIGGA in the furtherance of education and training. Though in its absolute infancy, the formation of APGCSA looks most promising.



■ Finally, on to a missing face, for which Joel Paul, the talented sculptor and golf course model maker, is offering a reward of £500. This to anyone tracing the theft of an original bronze figure, stolen recently from the smelting/casting works. The piece is instantly recognisable as a likeness of Tony Jacklin. Information to Peckham Police Station, telephone 071 639 4333.