



■ Ransomes has announced a key appointment within their sales and marketing department. Christopher McGowan will join the company as divisional sales and marketing director this month. McGowan joins Ransomes from Benford Ltd (BMC Group plc), where he has been the sales and marketing

director for three years.

■ Kubota (UK) Ltd, engines has appointed Glasgow based Duncan Rogers (Engineering) Ltd - DRE Ltd - as its new engine dealer for Central Scotland and Northern England. Diesel engine specialists for 17 years, DRE Ltd will service Central Scotland from their Glasgow depot. The company will be responsible for the sales, service and parts support for Kubota's extensive range of diesel and petrol engines - power output from 3hp - 100hp. In addition, Kubota has appointed Sutton based SES Engine Services Ltd as a replacement engine dealer for the South Eastern region, covering Kent, Sussex and Surrey.

■ De Vere Hotels, owners of The Belfry, have invested £500,000 in remodelling the world-famous Brabazon Course, venue for next year's premier golf event, the Johnnie Walker Ryder Cup.

The development improves spectator viewing and will offer the players a fresh challenge as 10 of the course's holes have also been transformed by the introduction of new tee positions or remodelled fairway and green bunkering.

Dave Thomas, one of the course's original designers and the man responsible for the alterations, said: 'It is very exciting when you can go back and do some of the things you would have liked to have done originally and I think the results of the latest work are absolutely marvellous.'

■ Greenkeeper International joins with the many friends of Bill McIntire in wishing him a healthy and happy retirement after 41 years of service at Whitefield GC.



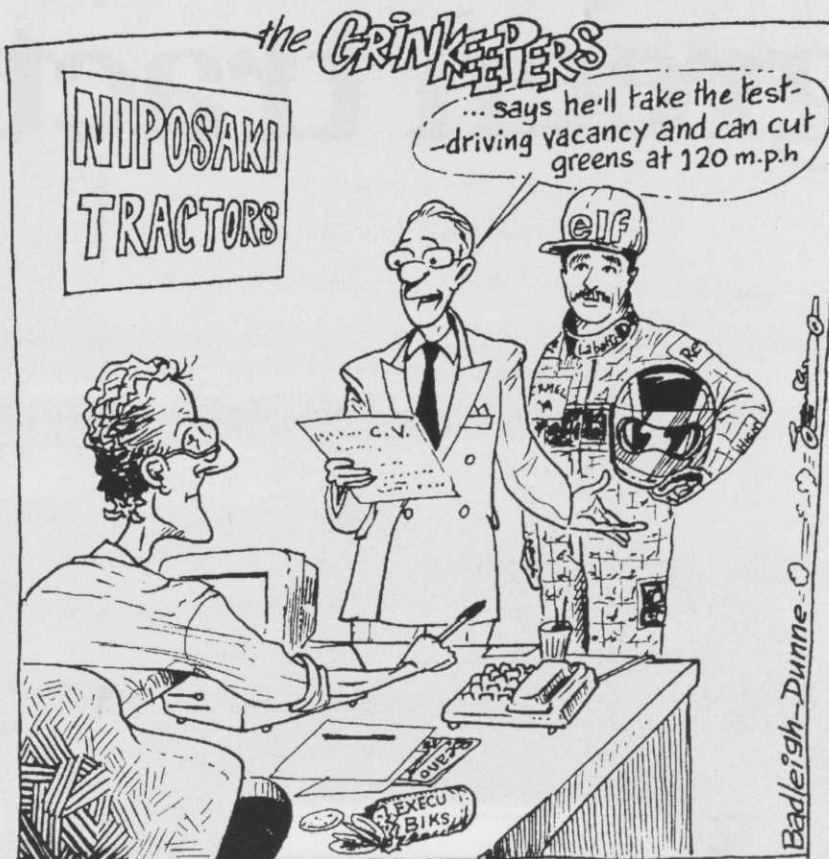
■ West Country Groundcare of Axbridge have appointed Steve Sheppard to set up their new workshops at Backwell, near Bristol. Steve has spent 21 years as service manager with Garden and Lawn Equipment of Bristol and has specialised in Toro and Wheelhorse equipment.

■ Course Care, the leisure division of Highspeed, have appointed David Smith as their new agent for East Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. David will provide advice on the maintenance and operation of turf machinery. Course Care provide a range of consumables which include high quality lubricants and greases, hydraulic oils and wetting agents; as well as a diesel fuel treatment to prevent black smoke from exhausts and to protect equipment whilst not in use. Free phone: 0800 590069.

■ Having started their partnership in July, McMillan-Shiels have succeeded in bringing their first course to the point of opening. The Wildwood in Surrey has 13 holes ready for play ahead of schedule and the remaining holes will be open in spring 1993. Jack McMillan and George Shiels have overseen the construction and growing-in and will continue to monitor its maintenance in the years ahead.

A second major project at Leek Wootton for the Golf Fund, a 45 hole complex, is almost complete and is scheduled to open in 1993, developed under their watchful eye.

As one course opens the partnership has begun to plan its next major project. Working with Tommy Horton and Bob Dalton, McMillan-Shiels are involved in the specification and project management of an 18 hole complex at Windlesham in Surrey. Work is scheduled to commence in the spring of 1993.



■ Readers should be suitably impressed by the splendid performances of George Brown (Turnberry) and David Whiffen (Dumfries & County) when representing Scotland in the Ford National Team Championships, held recently at The Belfry. Not only did these players perform with great skill in winning for Scotland, but they are two greenkeepers who won through to the finals from an original field that was whittled down from over 35,000 entrants! How many other professions, I wonder, could produce such a galaxy of golfing talent - well done Scotland, well done greenkeepers.

■ Jon Allbutt has indicated that plans are afoot for the staging of a refresher course - to be held in Surrey - aimed specifically at head greenkeepers, secretaries and green chairmen. The course will cover PA1 and PA2 training and testing for spraying. Interested parties should call Jon on 0959 575575 for details.

■ The recent highly successful GA European Open, staged at a gorgeously prepared Sunningdale, was overshadowed by sadness following the accidental death of Zarka Smith in a mysterious motorcycling tragedy, no other vehicle being involved.

Zarka, a young lady student member of the GCSAA, was on placement at Sunningdale under the watchful eye of course manager Lawson Bingham and was a hugely popular member of Lawson's crew. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Zarka's family in their tragic loss.

■ Five of the country's leading suppliers of turf care equipment and chemicals have joined forces to present a working demonstration designed to show visitors the latest developments in the maintenance of turf. The event, which has been organised by Lloyds of Letchworth in conjunction with Hardi Sprayers, Kubota (UK), Sisis Equipment and Vitax, will be staged at the ICL (North Herts) Sportsground, Letchworth on 21 October from 10.30am until 3pm.



■ GB Irrigation Ltd has moved into new offices at 20 Market Place, Ringwood, Hants BH24 1AW (Tel: 0425 473329). They are also expanding, and Roger Sunderland, (pictured), has joined the company. With over 24 years in the irrigation business, Roger brings a wide range of design, service, technical and administrative skills to add to that of the rest of the team.

The company, set up by Gordon Bennington in 1991, has already completed a number of projects. Those completed or in progress include Galashiels, Saltburn, Hawkstone Park, Winchester, Bristol, Oxford, Heathrow, Bournemouth, Work-sop, Manchester and Dorchester.