

# Faces and places



■ Yet another member of the greenkeeping profession is leaving the fairways to join the growing (some might say overcrowded) ranks of independent golf course consultants. David Jones, currently managing seven courses under the Whitbread (Country Club Hotels) banner, will go independent on 1 May. With some 30 years course management experience behind him, David has prepared playing surfaces for many European tour events and recently played a vital role in the development of the Forest of Arden course, venue for this year's Murphy's English Open. He can be contacted on 0291 629662.



■ As part of their continuing commitment to providing a first class service for the grass cutting and amenity market, Hayters have recently announced the appointment of Hamish Macfie as a demonstrator. Hamish is no newcomer to Hayters and their range of equipment, having worked on a casual basis with the company since he was 14 years old.

■ T Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Ltd. and Maxwell Hart Ltd. have merged under the name Parker Hart, operating from Worcester Park and Warrington. Neil Stewart of Maxwell Hart is appointed marketing director and Bob Cook of Parkers is appointed sales director.

Both Parkers and Maxwell Hart are long-established names in the market and they will continue to provide strong sales and technical representation, backed by a rapid distribution service throughout the UK. The best of their 'own label' products will be re-launched under the Parker Hart label and the company will continue to distribute branded pesticides, fertilisers and grass seed from the major manufacturers, as well as turf dressings from their sister company, Roffey Brothers. The southern sales office (and administration) will be at Worcester Park and the northern sales office will be at Warrington. Need more details? - call 081 3377791.



■ With a view to further increasing their Toro and Club Car activities, Lely (UK) Ltd have appointed Peter Mansfield to the post of general manager in their turf products division. Peter has been with Lely for 11 years and is fully experienced in all aspects of Toro management, having spent the last four years in control of the parts division.

■ Michel Mulder, marketing director of Barenbrug UK, will be tackling the 26 gruelling miles of his first London Marathon in April. Training hard, Michel is hoping to beat his personal best time of 3hrs. 37min. achieved in the '89 New York Marathon. A strict training programme involves running up to 60 miles each week. In addition to road work, much of Michel's training takes place at the Bury St. Edmunds sportsground which has been sown with a hard-wearing Barenbrug mixture, able to take the pounding of Michel's not insubstantial 6' 5" frame!

Training can be a very lonely job, but during the race Michel is hoping for some company - if not in person, then at least in spirit - in the form of sponsors. Cash raised will go towards Cot Death research and support (FSID). Anyone interested in helping this worthy cause and justifying Michel's blisters should contact Lorraine Lane on 0359 70766.

■ Following the retirement of Doug Walker after 27 years of service with John Deere Ltd., Alec McKee has been appointed as the new managing director for the UK and Ireland. After gaining an NDA from Harper Adams in 1967,

and the NDAgrE from Writtle College in 1968, Alec McKee worked for four years with a John Deere distributor in Zambia. He joined John Deere Ltd in 1972 as a trainee territory manager, becoming a territory manager in 1973, business management adviser in 1974, credit manager in 1975 and commercial manager in 1979. He was subsequently appointed general sales manager in 1991.

A graduate of the Edinburgh School of Agriculture, Doug Walker was closely involved with the establishment of John Deere Ltd in the UK in the mid-1960s, becoming managing director in 1968. The subsequent 25 years under his leadership has seen the development of a strong, dedicated dealer organisation and prominent market position for John Deere Ltd in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.



**Doug Walker, left, receives a commemorative pin from Alec McKee**

■ Carol Borthwick, senior lecturer in greenkeeping at Elmwood College, has just returned from California where she attended the 64th GCSAA conference. One thrill she will remember for a lifetime was meeting the doyen of American golf course architects, 86 year old Robert Trent Jones. Carol is pictured with Trent Jones who, I am reliably informed, needed no translation of the delectable Scottish accent for which Carol is notably famous. Elmwood, already the biggest greenkeeping centre in the UK with a greenkeeping student population exceeding 250, is primed to increase its numbers substantially and has the European market within its sights.

■ Paul Baxter, deputy secretary of the EGU for the past seven years, has been appointed as secretary in succession to Keith Wright. A former boy and youth international - he won the Carris Trophy in 1960 - Baxter was formerly a club secretary, originally at Chevin GC and from 1977 until joining the EGU in 1985 at Sherwood Forest GC, where he was made an honorary life member.

■ Magistrates ordered that horseman Harvey Smith be remanded on unconditional bail until 30 March. Smith is accused of wounding and causing actual bodily harm, the charges arising from an alleged incident at Baildon GC in February in which two greenkeepers were taken to Bradford Royal Infirmary, one nursing a black eye and another needing five stitches in a head wound.



■ Len Cook, who began his greenkeeping career at Pleasington GC in 1953 on the princely wage of just six pounds a week, has just retired after 40 years service.

Len was presented with a camcorder by the club and was further honoured by being made a life member. Len will now find time to follow his other great love, that of breeding and judging geese. He is, we understand, an acknowledged expert.

■ John Deere Ltd has announced the appointment of Graham Williams as division manager, lawn & grounds care products, in addition to his managerial responsibility for sales promotion.

At the same time, Kathy Dowling has been appointed sales promotion supervisor, reporting to Graham Williams.



■ Martyn Jones, senior lecturer in Turf Science at Myerscough College, and Phil Turner, a second year student on the National Diploma in Turf Science and Sportsground Management, have raised over £1000 for charity by bungee jumping. Martyn, never one for convention, went a stage better by jumping both backwards and blindfolded! He's pictured above during one of his leaps.



Martyn, left and Phil