

# Faces and places



■ Robert Laycock's consultancy, TurfGrass Science, has been bought by Karsten (UK) Ltd, well-known makers of Ping golf equipment. Laycock will work as general manager and chief agronomist of Karsten Turf Science, a new company committed to improving the quality of playing surfaces through the sensible use of specialist fertilisers and other products.

Tissue analysis of grass clippings will be used to ensure that only necessary nutrients are included in fertiliser recommendations.

The hi-tech approach of Karsten to the business of turf nutrition will be a great advance in the production of top class playing surfaces at an economic price', said Robert. The running of Gainsborough GC, which is owned by Karsten and which will be used as a 'test bed' for new products before their launch, also becomes the responsibility of Laycock, in conjunction with the existing green staff.

■ John Bourne and Co's Turf Care Division continues to grow with the appointment of Neville Gay as sales rep. for Kent and Sussex.

Responsible for selling a full range of turf care products, Neville will already be known to many golf greenkeepers, having some 30 years experience within the industry behind him. Of particular interest within the product range are Bournes own topdressings and rootzones, over 34,000 tonnes of which went into course construction in 1992.

■ Mark Phillips, formerly export sales director with Hayters PLC, has joined amenity weed control specialists Nomix-Chipman as export sales and marketing manager, following the company's announcement of a multi-million pound international expansion programme. In addition, Phil Wheeler, formerly with BP at its research centre, has joined the company as technical services manager. Both men will be based at Nomix-Chipman's Bristol headquarters.



■ Chris Reed, left, head greenkeeper at Paxhill Park GC and previously assistant at Crowborough Beacon GC, has been awarded the coveted Greenkeeper of the Year award as best student on the Phase II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management course at Plumpton College. The trophy is sponsored by the Sussex section of BIGGA.

■ Chris Peel has joined ADAS, after nine years with the STRI and four years as an amenity grass technical adviser for Sharpes International Seeds. At STRI he was principally engaged in the assessment of varieties and mixtures of amenity grass for sports turf use and in the testing of herbicides, in particular for the control of *Poa annua*.

With Sharpes he advised on projects ranging from new golf developments to reclamation work and wild flower schemes. He has a particular interest in the production of cultivated turf and in the management of low maintenance grass areas. Peel will expand on these to provide an amenity grass advisory service, together with R&D work in solving amenity grassland problems.

■ The Seventh 1993 International Turfgrass Research Conference, held at four year intervals and hosted in the past by the United States, Britain, Germany, Canada, France and Japan, will again be held in the USA, this time on July 18-24 at the Breakers Hotel, Palm Beach, Florida.

Speakers from throughout the world will report on the latest advances in the areas of turfgrass breeding and genetics, plant nutrition and soil fertility, pest management and water conservation. Conference symposia are scheduled on the environmental impact of fertiliser and pesticide use, and on

the quantification of surface characteristics of sports fields. As a benefit for registered conference attendees, the organising committee has scheduled an all-encompassing mid-week tour of well-known and renowned turfgrass facilities in south Florida, including the region's finest golf clubs. Details from Dr. George Snyder Tel: (0101) 407 9963062, or Fax (0101) 407 9960339.

■ Bobcat Melroe Europe has announced the appointment of a new district manager for the south of England and Ireland, 42 year old Ian Dennis, who was latterly the Bobcat service manager for the UK, Africa, Middle Eastern Europe. He brings to his new position vast experience both in machinery technology and Bobcat Dealer development.

■ Dennis Groundcare have strengthened their dealer network in the South and Midland regions with the appointment of a further seven dealers. They are: Cornwall Tractors (Cornwall), CR Wilcocks & Co Ltd (Devon), Rochford Garden Machinery (Somerset & Avon), Atterton & Ellis Ltd. (Cams, S. Cams, Forest Heath), Stalham Engineering Co Ltd (Norfolk), Parks & Grounds Machinery (Warks/Worcs) and Groundcare Lincoln (Lincs/Humberside).

■ Following the move by Lamborghini (UK) Ltd into the amenity market with tractors ranging from 25-75 DIN hp, the company has been actively working on the significant dealer interest shown. Already six new dealers have been appointed: South of England - RFE Turf Machinery (0730 815775) and Risboro' Turf (0844 274127), The Midlands - Midlands Tractors (0543 879524) and further north, R&J Campsey (0260 224568). In the south of Scotland are Hamiltons of Larkhall (0698 886515) and on the eastern side James A Fowler of Fife (0337 30527). All these dealers are running demo models.

■ The British Institute of Golf Course Architects (BIGCA) has welcomed German golf course architect Thomas Himmel as an Associate and as the first German architect to successfully complete the BIGCA Students Education Programme.

Himmel, 28, is already well-known for his prolific design of courses in Germany, Bavaria and Hungary. He is a partner with Joan F. Dudok Van Heel's company, Golf Development International, and also runs his own company.

He is also a keen golfer and is currently a member of the German National team, having four times been Bavarian amateur champion and twice German amateur champion. His inclusion as an associate member brings the membership to a total of 30 from 11 countries including Yugoslavia, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

■ These are the lucky winners in the BTME pre-registration card draw: First out of the hat, winning £100-worth of BIGGA merchandise is Brian Woodhouse, head greenkeeper, Little Chalfont GC, Bucks; second prizewinner, scooping £60-worth is Ken Clayton, chairman of green, Glen Gorse GC, Leicester; and third prizewinner, collecting £40-worth, is Tony Milan, greenkeeping lecturer at Houghall College, Durham.



■ There seemed no better way for John Crawford, BIGGA chairman elect, and his delightful companion Ailsa Wade, to start the New Year than by announcing to the world at large their good news - they are engaged to be married! It was evident to all but a blind man that this confirmation of the obvious was 'only a matter of time'... thus whilst downing a glass of amber fluid in wishing them every happiness, it seems crystal clear to this writer that they have already found it - in each other.