

Faces and places



■ Continuing its policy of regionalisation, the STRI has announced the hiring of Peter Winter as regional advisory agronomist in the south west of England. Peter is well known in the region, having worked for Fisons plc Horticulture Division for some 20 years, responsible for both sales and technical advice in the turf, amenity and commercial grower markets. Peter previously worked with the STRI back in the early 1970s.

■ Jeremy Howarth has also rejoined the STRI as an advisory agronomist, this after a 12 year break in industry where he gained considerable experience in marketing, promotion and PR. In addition to marketing and promoting the Institute, he will also be visiting subscribers, offering advice on the correct management of golf courses, sports grounds and amenity facilities.

■ Supreme Mowing Ltd have appointed Paul Wakefield as sales engineer, an eminently suitable post as Paul has been with the company since leaving school. He has worked in just about every department and his speciality has developed on the grinding machine business. Paul's first task began in early February when he visited customers within the Pacific Rim – Japan, Thailand and Malaysia – countries offering considerable scope for Supreme Mowing's expanding activities.



■ It's just as well that Roy Kates, chairman of BIGGA, arrived at BTME by car as he left with a surprise gift of a 25kg bag of Barenbrug grass seed. The grass seed mixture, including Barenbrug's high quality Barcrow, Bargreen and Bardot, was presented to Roy by Anthony Compson, managing director and Michel Mulder, marketing director of Barenbrug.

If Roy decides against turning his home lawn into a luxurious practice green, Wexham Park Golf Club is bound to stake a claim.

■ Horseman Harvey Smith is to appear in court in March, charged with assault, following an alleged incident at Baildon Golf Club in which two greenkeepers were taken to Bradford Royal Infirmary, one nursing a black eye and a colleague needing five stitches in a head wound. Smith, whose house borders the course, has been involved in a long running dispute over horses damaging the course and churning up fairways.

Greenkeeper International understands that staff were laying paths to keep horses off the greens when the alleged incident took place.



■ Winner of the Farmura 'See Your Spray' Blazon competition, Norman Fenwick, course manager of Sandford Springs Golf Course, is pictured here presented with his ticket to the GCSAA Show in Los Angeles by Jonathan Harmer, managing director of Farmura Environmental Products.

■ Falling under the editorial label of 'it was bound to happen, sooner or later', the Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture has officially changed its name and title to Myerscough College, for donkey's years the monicker by which it had been affectionately known by greenkeepers. Though the name has changed, the college wish it to be known that Myerscough College remains a GTC approved centre for greenkeeper training.

■ On the evening of 4 February shortly after staff finished for the day, the four year old purpose built facility which housed most of Sunningdale's maintenance equipment was discovered burning fiercely, resulting in a near wipe-out of the club's machinery and equipment. Sunningdale's course manager, Lawson Bingham, told Greenkeeper International that major losses thus far include four tractors, a JCB, eight triplexes, five Cushman/derivatives, a GA 30, a Vertidrain, a Toro outfield spiker and every rotary mower and strimmer in the place! Came the reckoning, losses were so great that Lawson declared he was hard pushed to find a shovel for each staff member to help with the clear-up. The cause is still under investigation, though a forensic expert believes that an electrical short on a tractor will likely prove the culprit.



■ The SISIS Tankard, awarded annually to the Sparsholt College student achieving the highest grades whilst attending, on block release, Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, has this year been won by Adrian Johnson. Thirty year old Adrian, attending Sparsholt on a continuation course in Greenkeeping Phase III, Supervisory Studies, is head greenkeeper at Broadstone Park GC., a public nine hole facility situated south of Guildford. The course was built on a land infill site and opened in March 1989.

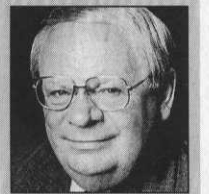
• Pictured, from left, Adrian Johnson, Russell Jordan (Sisis) and Bob Young (Sparsholt College).



■ Mike Taylor, who until recently was head of the Horticultural Division, has been appointed to the post of deputy principal at Elmwood College. The college has a roll of 350 full time and around 2000 part time students, following courses in Horticulture and Greenkeeping, Engineering, Agriculture, Food Studies and Business & General Studies. Elmwood College Horticultural Division remains at the forefront of developments in greenkeeping education and training

■ Greenkeeping staff from the three neighbouring golf courses Newmarket, Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill have taken part in the 'Toro West Suffolk Greenkeepers Challenge Trophy' sponsored by Atterton and Ellis. Newmarket take first honours with A&E's sales manager, Roger Denson, presenting the trophy to Arnold Mynott. This was a Stapleford competition over a period of six months with the final scores reading: Newmarket 369 points, Bury 332 points, Haverhill 327 points.

This is the first of what is intended to be an annual Toro Golf Challenge, played between local greenkeepers or BIGGA members on a home and away basis, with perhaps one match played each month during the summer. Toro are keen for other local greenkeepers to join this 'challenge' and are seeking to recruit an additional three club teams.



■ John Kerridge, current deputy chairman of Ransomes PLC, is to succeed Astley Whitall as non-executive chairman of the company in April. Mr Kerridge joined Ransomes PLC board in 1984 and became deputy chairman in 1990.



■ Guy Longbottom, latterly operations director with Rolawn Ltd, has formed his own fine turf supply company, Turf International, operating from Wressle, North Yorkshire. He can be contacted on 0757 638964.