

# NEWS

## Pesticides schedules: putting the record straight

Rumours abound that there will be changes in the pesticides test schedules this year – here are the facts according to Jon Allbutt:

“At the end of last year the NPTC (National Proficiency Tests Council) was asked by MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture etc) to conduct a review of the pesticides test schedules. A draft revised schedule was produced by a working party with minimum consultation. Following critical comment a further revised schedule has recently been submitted to MAFF.

“The document does not contain proposals for change. The most important change that affects the amenity sector is to discontinue the current arrangement whereby those who take and pass the PA2A test will also be qualified to use any hand-held applicator. If accepted by MAFF, this means additional training and testing for those who wish to use different types of sprayer. However, the change will not be retrospective.

“A decision by MAFF is expected this month (March) but there will need to be a period for instructors, training material, examiners and standard setters to be updated.”

Anybody wanting more information can call Jon on 0959 575575.

## Unusual features

Golf course superintendents at a course being planned in South Carolina, USA, will have an extra set of tees to tend.

And, if we tell you that the design team includes big-hitting pro John Daly, you can imagine where they'll be – yes, behind the championship tees.

Called the 'Daly Signature Tees', they're expected to be just one of the many unusual features of this 7,000-yard Myrtle Beach course being designed by Daly and architect Clyde Johnston.



## Wetting agent on test

Royal Liverpool Golf Club's links manager, Derek Green, has been testing a new long-term wetting agent, Ultraflo, in a bid to cure the course's dry patch problems.

Ultraflo is a once-a-year treatment, say the manufacturers Vitax. A low-foam, non-ionic wetter, Ultraflo can be mixed in cold water and at low temperatures and according to the sales bumpf “provides deep and rapid penetration through thatch and dry patch affected turf”.

## New man for Goodwood

Goodwood Park Golf Club in West Sussex has a course manager again. Twenty-four-year-old Stephen Norton takes over the job left vacant last April when Raymond Hunt, who'd been there six years, joined the geese and deer at another Whitbread site, Forest of Arden.

Eleven-handicapper Norton, whose father and grandfather were greenkeepers, was previously assistant course manager at yet another Whitbread club, Tewkesbury Park, Gloucestershire.

## Arena in deal with Moneystone

Arena Sports Turf Services have taken over the sales and marketing of Moneystone Ltd products, including sand for bunkers, top dressing and green construction. According to Jim Burrows, chairman of Moneystone, the new arrangement promises “lower prices and faster delivery”. ASTS's chairman, Paul Hutton,

says the new deal will enable them to offer golf course developers a complete service from course construction, supplying all drainage and rootzone materials to turfing or seeding of greens, tree planting, pathway materials as well as accessories such as holecutters, tee markers and flags.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ CHRIS HALE, FORMERLY with wholesale seed merchants DLF Trifolium UK and Ireland Ltd, has set up her own company, Napier Richards Ltd. She plans to expand her interest in natural grasses, wildflowers, herbs and garden flowers, as well as representing the Finn Corporation, manufacturers of hydroseeding equipment and WRI producers of recycled wood fibre. Tel: 0453 890706.

■ COMPACT TRACTOR specialists Kubota (UK) Ltd has appointed two new dealers in the south – Premier Groundcare in Arborfield, Reading, and Hewitts Agricultural and Garden Machinery who have bases in Cranleigh, Surrey, and Newport on the Isle of Wight.

■ RICHARD LONG Engineering Ltd, of Alfreton, Derbyshire are now marketing their own range of products under the name Long-Equip. The range includes the new RL2004 Hi-Tip Flail/Scarifier collector, the new RL Flexispread Top Dresser, the RL1502 Versatile Collector and the 60in Finishing Mower. Tel: 0773 520301 for more details.

■ DANNY GODFREY has joined Boughton Loam Ltd as technical manager, so if you've got a question about seeds, soils or dressings, he's the man to ask. Tel: 0536 510515.



■ ARTHUR KING, THE ex-chairman of greens at Brockenhurst Manor GC and a well known figure on the seminar/workshop circuit, had a heart attack while on holiday in Bermuda. He spent 10 of his 14-day vacation in intensive care before being flown to a UK hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

■ THE NEW DEPUTY HEAD greenkeeper at North Middlesex Golf Club, Whetstone, London, is Mark Tunstall, 28. He takes over Mathew Conarty's job in April after being a foreman in charge of three nine-hole public courses.