

Maintenance facility is a real luxury

Martin Smith, head greenkeeper at Nottinghamshire's Ramsdale Park Golf Centre, has a maintenance facility that most greenkeepers can only dream about.

Costing £32,000, its facilities include an implement and equipment store, top dressing preparation room, chemical store, office, mess room and staff washroom. It is 30.6m long, 16.2m wide and has an eave height of 2.74m. It also looks good with its olive green roof cladding, brown stone wall cladding and high roller shutter doors.

"Most golf clubs or centres do



not have adequate greenkeeper facilities and few have mess and washroom areas for their staff. It is for this reason that the Ramsdale Park's building is the envy of the county," says Mr Smith.

"For example, it is unusual to have an indoor top dressing store. Without the facility, we would have to buy top soil and sand when required because storage under an outside cover proves

wasteful with the bottom of the pile being too damp, thus causing clogging in modern machinery. So not only do we save money by buying materials in bulk at the right time, we also minimise on wastage and keep machinery maintenance costs to a minimum."

The Leofric Buildings' 'Enterprise system building' was erected in 20 days.

Training video launched

A new training video – a joint venture between BIGGA and Toro – is now available. Titled 'Raising the Standard in Mowing Management', the new video was premiered at the recent Saltex show. Topics covered include the proper preparation of machinery prior to use, the correct practice and technique for all mowing situations, such as cutting of banks, rough, semi-rough, fairways, surrounds, teeing grounds and putting surfaces.

The film features animated and slow motion sequences showing in detail the relationship between the cutting action of the mower blades and the removal of grass.

A typical mowing operation from start to finish is illustrated, demonstrating essential health and safety factors as well as the correct course courtesy to be followed. At the end of mowing

operations the film details the recommended practices for preparing machines for storage.

BIGGA chairman John Millen, who has been closely involved in



the video's scripting, believes it to be a major new training aid for all those responsible for golf course turf management. He said: "I welcome this collaboration and co-operation between BIGGA and

Toro in making this education and training video for the benefit of all golf course greenkeepers."

Graham Dale, managing director of Lely UK, distributors for the film's sponsors, the Toro Company, said: "Toro is a big supporter of the education and training of golf greenkeepers and already jointly sponsors the BIGGA-organised 1994 Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper Awards. We are pleased to extend this support through our sponsorship of the new turf management training video."

Free copies of the 40-minute video – filmed at the St Andrews Links Old Course, and Moor Park Golf Club – are being distributed to 2,000 UK golf clubs, including all those with BIGGA members. Copies are also being sent to greenkeeping training colleges. Other copies are available from Sami Collins, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF.

Further details are available from the video's producer, Richard Fry, at Marketing Link Associates. Tel: 0268 413798.

■ BIGGA's latest video, a comprehensive guide to course preparation, is being shot at Prestbury and Royal Liverpool courses at the moment. Due to be launched at the '95 BTME at Harrogate, it is being funded by BIGGA's Education and Development Fund.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ BIGGA's chairman, John Millen, has left the Weald of Kent, the course he helped design and build, to take up the new post of director of greenkeeping with Golf Partners International Ltd. He will be based at the company's headquarters at The Tytherington, Macclesfield, and be responsible for the company's greenkeeping interests. Golf Partners is looking to buy courses.



■ Keen golfer Masakazu Miyake, 47, has taken up his post as president of Kubota (UK) Ltd. He replaces Bon

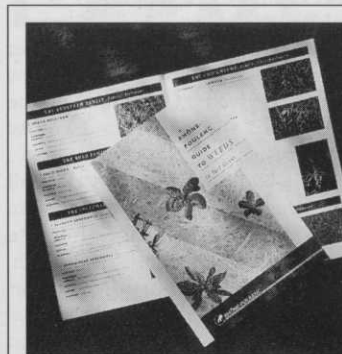
Tabata who has returned to Kubota Corporation's headquarters in Osaka, Japan, as manager of the engine export department.

■ Andrew Corstorphine, head greenkeeper of the Old and New Courses at St Andrews for more than 20 years has died, aged 94.

■ Paul Harley has wanted to be a head greenkeeper since he left school. Now the 28-year-old 14-handicap golfer has got the top job at Crewe GC.

■ Greenkeepers are about to be sold in many pro shops! 'The Greenkeeper' is the name of a new retractable pitch mark repairer produced by Activity & Leisure Products of Wareham, Dorset.

■ New courses opened recently include 18-hole Cookridge Hall near Leeds and nine-hole Blackwater Valley Golf Centre near Eversley, Hampshire. Ten new holes costing £265,000 have been opened at Newton Green, one of Suffolk's oldest courses. Courses in trouble include nine-hole Fingle Glen GC near Exeter which is now in the hands of the receivers. A course out of trouble, in theory, is Sleafy Hall. The Northumberland golf and country club complex, which went into receivership with debts of £27 million, has been sold for around £5 million to a Swedish bank, according to Golf Weekly.



■ Rhône-Poulenc has produced a new book on weeds. The comprehensive guide, which contains photographs and concise descriptions of the major weeds in turf, along with product advice for their control, costs £2 plus 50p post and packing. Alternatively, The Weed Book is free when you purchase a container of Spearhead, the new selective weedkiller for use on turf.

Telephone: 0277 301115.