

René Orban: promotion

## Leading light shines brighter

René Orban has been promoted from his current position of Managing Director of Jacobsen E-Z-GO and Textron Financial Corporation (TFC) within the UK to the role of Managing Director European Operations Jacobsen E-Z-GO and TFC.

In his new role René will be responsible for the sales and distribution of the Jacobsen and E-Z-GO products throughout the whole of Europe including the UK and Eire.

Following the announcement René Orban said, "This is clearly an exciting time for the Textron companies in Europe following the acquisition by Textron of the ORAG Distribution Company earlier this year. This acquisition formed the merger of Jacobsen and E-Z-GO distribution and the incorporation of TFC in Europe.

"I look forward to pulling all of these group companies together to create a turf based company with European dimensions."

René will continue to head up the UK operation in addition to his new responsibilities.

## Stalwart dies

Captain Paddy Hanmer, the secretary to the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers from 1968-83 has died. He was 80.

# 'Cut irrigation costs by planting tyres'

An American entrepreneur has claimed that up to £45,000 a year could be saved on irrigation costs by burying old car tyres under the fairways.

It was reported in a recent issue of the New Scientist that Bob Hendershot, President of Tire Farms, a Californian used tyre disposal company, had patented the Rain

# NEWS



**Selsdon Park Hotel in South Croydon is the home to the first Bob Torrance Golf Academy.**

The new academy, created under the guidance of Jack McMillan and built by Head Greenkeeper Simon Osborne and his team, was opened by the Mayor of Croydon. Unfortunately Bob Torrance couldn't attend the opening he injured himself in an accident shortly before the opening so his star pupil Ryder Cup hero Sam Torrance, pictured, was on hand to represent the Torrance family.

The academy includes two fully landscaped pitching greens, an all weather practice area, two putting greens, a practice bunker and a five bay driving range with video analysis equipment.

With 170 rooms and a host of leisure facilities Selsdon Park Hotel is one of the largest independently owned country-house hotels in the United Kingdom and boasts a magnificent par 73 6473 yard course designed by five times Open Champion JH Taylor.

Trap System which comprised of a series of old tyres split around the middle and buried a foot underground the fairways where they act as wells. The idea is that water will remain where the roots need it rather than seep away.

It is estimated that 1.2 million tyres would be needed for an 18 hole course.

Tests have already been carried out by the Center for Irrigation Technology at the California State University into how long the tyres can keep an area of unwatered grass green and further tests are planned to establish whether the tyres might work their way to the surface or end up waterlogging the course.

## FLYING DIVOTS

■ David Hemstock Associates has completed the design for the first phase of the upgrading of Hessele Golf Club in Humberside. The work will involve technical improvements and shaping to the greens and considerable improvement to the bunkering. Work is due to commence in the autumn.

■ Christopher Jack has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Carswell GC in Oxon. He has recently completed an HND course in golf course management at Cannington College and has practical experience at Henbury GC and Forest of Arden G&CC.

■ Andy Madden has been appointed SISIS area representative for the North West replacing Don Dixon who has retired after 21 years covering the



area. Andy has worked for SISIS for eight and a half years and has experience in the stores and spares departments before moving onto the sales force.

■ SISIS has also appointed American Andy Nelson to sell its machinery in the States from a Florida base. He has recently completed an intensive



training course at the SISIS headquarters in Macclesfield.

■ Manchester GC has appointed Peter Thomas as its new Head Greenkeeper. Peter, formerly the Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Wiltshire GC, takes over at an exciting time for the club with a PGA European Tour event being played at the course in September.

■ Driving Force Leisure has appointed Andrew Lofting as Area Manager for Sussex and Kent. He was previously UK Sales Manager for Euromats. ■ Deere and Company has announced its highest quarterly nett income and earnings.

The second quarter of the year produced a worldwide nett income of \$237 million compared with \$189.3 million at the same stage last year – a 25% improvement.

# Greenkeepers' opinions sought to shape policy

Greenkeepers are being called up to assist with a survey of pesticide usage on golf courses to be undertaken by the Central Science Laboratory, an executive agency of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The information collected from the survey will be used to make estimates of the quantities of pesticides used nationally. This in turn will allow the Advisory Committee on Pesticides to answer questions on its usage and make recommendations to the Government upon which official policy can be based.

The survey group contacted and obtained approval to conduct the survey from the R&A, BIGGA, the golf unions of England, Scotland and Wales, Royal Holloway

College and the European Golf Association.

"A number of courses throughout Britain have been contacted and some replies have already been received," explained David Garthwaite of Central Science Laboratory. "The quality of the completed questionnaires has been outstanding with extremely useful and detailed data being provided," he added.

However the survey group still require more returns in order to make the final report statistically valid and useful both to CSL and to the golfing bodies which have lent their support.

The group is interested in the total quantities of pesticides applied to fairway, green, tee and other areas of the golf course.

"Pesticides" includes insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, molluscicides, growth regulators, worm and mammal control (moles and rabbits) and repellents applied to young trees etc to prevent browsing.

It is intended that a full report on the usage of pesticides on golf courses will be produced and that a copy of the report will be sent to everyone who participated. All information collected is strictly confidential and data relating to individual courses will not be disclosed.

If you have recently received a questionnaire and have any queries on it or would like to take part in the survey please contact Joanne Hartley or David Garthwaite on 01582 715241.

## Duke of York to open The Duke's Course

The new 18 hole course at St Andrews is to be known as The Duke's Course and Royal golf addict The Duke of York will attend the inaugural opening of the par-72 7,200 yard course on July 16, just before The Open Championship is played over the town's more famous course.

The course, designed by five times Open Champion Peter Thomson, is two miles inland from the Old Course at Craigtoun Park with panoramic views over the town and the coastline. It is St Andrews' first inland course and will add to the existing 99 holes of links golf the home of the game has to offer.

The course will be open only by invitation or prior arrange-



ment until April next year when it will be available to the local community, general visitors and residents of the Old Course

Hotel, the local community and visitors to the area.

● Pictured is the 4th hole at The Duke's Course.

## Outcome of Dunfermline's special meeting

The special meeting into the condition of Dunfermline Golf Club and the performance of the greenkeeping staff (see page 5 of last month's magazine) resulted in an agreement to put a course

policy document in place.

"We had a very constructive meeting. It lasted an hour and a half and many views were aired," explained Secretary, Bob De Rose.

"The positive element of it was that it was decided to produce a course policy document and this is being prepared with Head Greenkeeper Ronnie Cunningham's agreement. We are now in a position to build for the future," he added.

Mr De Rose said that recently he had made a point of asking visiting parties what they had thought of the course. Their

views, and those of the members, were that the course had improved over May and June and that it was now extremely tidy.

"It is fair to say there has been improvement on the course since the matter was first raised," said Mr De Rose.

Ronnie Cunningham agreed that the weather had improved since the end of May and that as a result the course had benefited.

"I'm pleased we are producing the course document and hope we will now be able to get on with our job of looking after the course to the best of our ability," he said.

## Irrigation association swings into action

The European Irrigation Association has been launched with a view to defending the industry's interests before the European Community authorities and develop action plans in the following areas:

● Further the development, proper use, and standards of irrigation installations in all applications.

● Communicate information about the most recent technical advances as widely as possible.

● Carry out training programmes on irrigation techniques for specifiers, distributors, end-users, students or apprentices.

● Monitor the proper use of soil and water resources and promote research aimed at improving crop yields through proper irrigation practices.

● Promote the professional irrigation industry, residential and consumer products and explain its role in a country's economy and development.

● Defend the interests of the European irrigation industry.

These actions will be carried out within the context of a firm commitment to promote techniques which conserve water and environmental resources.

The Association membership is open to all professionals - manufacturers, dealers, installers or consultants.

More details from: European Irrigation Association, c/o Multiburo, 58 rue Pottier, 78150 Le Chesnay, France.

## Ransomes on the up

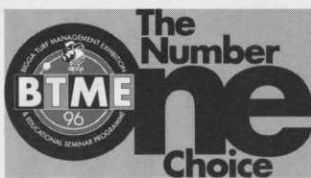
Ransomes has reported a substantial improvement in its trading position and a reduction in the Group's nett borrowings.

For the six months to April 1 operating profits more than doubled to £11.9 million with pre-tax profits standing at £5 million compared to a loss of £5.3 million for the same period last year.

Nett borrowings have also fallen by £20.7 million from £88 million in April '94 to £67.3 million this year.

### Sunny Southurf

Summer at last arrived at Motspur Park on June 21 when the sun blazed down on Southurf. On behalf of BIGGA members, many thanks to David Wood and Geoff Hills for a well organised show.



Working for the good of the fine turf industry

## Going up: next year's BTME now larger than 1995 event

In the last month eight more companies have committed to BTME '96 bringing the total number of exhibitors so far to 139.

Among the latest group are Driving Force Leisure and Headland Agrochemicals both of which are exhibiting for the first time.

The Strategic Marketing Alliance between BIGGA and the IOG means that if anyone exhibits at both Saltex in September this year and at Harrogate in January '96 they will be entitled to a 5% discount on stand costs at both events.

It looks likely that there will be a full turn out from the national golf unions who have been offered stand space at the exhibition.

"I'm pleased to announce that already we have had acceptances from the English, Welsh and Irish Unions," said Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer.

The latest acceptances mean that 90% of exhibition space have gone.

"I'm pleased with progress so far. With seven months still to go the '96 event is already larger than BTME '95 which means that there will be even more for the visitor to see and, with an extended education programme, additional opportunities to learn," said Bill Lynch, BIGGA Sales and Marketing Manager.

"The average stand size in '96 is 12% greater than in '95," explained Louise Lunn, Exhibition and Marketing Executive. "This means that although we have some space still available it is going faster than ever."

Anyone thinking of exhibiting at BTME 96 should contact Louise on 01347 838581 now.

● Site plan: pages 22-23.



■ Jim McKenzie, Course Manager at Celtic Manor, has just taken delivery of his latest batch of Massey Ferguson equipment taking the investment over £1 million. "We began using Massey Ferguson

equipment in '93 when we started construction and we will continue to use it for general course maintenance," explained Jim.

"At the moment we are moving between 1,200 and 1,300

tonnes of sand," he revealed.

The course will open for play in August.

● Jim McKenzie is pictured above with Ian Lee, Regional Service Manager for Massey Ferguson.

# Ditch relics of past, say Americans

Have you ever considered what it must have been like to be the person who lit the gas street lights when electric ones were just around the corner? Or a bus conductor when one man operated buses were introduced? Or a hot metal compositor when journalists were issued with computers which meant they could input their stories directly?

Well according to the bi-monthly Golf Course Superintendents Association of America publication *Leader Board* you should know exactly how those poor individuals felt.

The main front page story in the latest issue begins:

"Q: What do a Featherie and a Greenkeeper have in Common?

A: They both are old-fashioned and out-of-date."

It goes on:

"The featherie, an early ball, was composed of a leather cover stuffed with wet, compressed feathers and bears little resemblance to today's highly specialised and aerodynamic ball.

"The term greenkeeper has also become obsolete. The expanding responsibilities and specialised knowledge needed to manage a golf course has advanced the pro-

fessional beyond 'greenkeeping'.

"Correct terminology: Golf course superintendent, golf course manager, and director of golf course operations."

The story continues to explain that approximately 71% of GCSAA members have two or four year degrees; 24% of members are certified and 49% have certification as their long term goal; almost half of GCSAA members control maintenance budgets in excess of \$500,000; 73% of members are involved in their local non-golfing communities and over 98% place importance on environmental research to help them protect land, water and wildlife.

Obviously on this side of the Atlantic we have course managers but there are still a great many Head Greenkeepers. Do you feel that the title "greenkeeper" is insufficient to convey the full extent of your responsibilities? Would you rather be, perhaps, a Deputy Course Manager instead of First Assistant or one of the American titles?

Write in and let us know. We could even be forced to change the magazine name to *Director of Golf Course Operations International!*



Roger Robinson and Lord Griffiths

## All change at the STRI

The Sports Turf Research Institute has a complete set of new office bearings as well as a new Director.

Dr Mike Canaway recently took up the post of Director of the Institute, succeeding Dr Peter Hayes who retired, while the Rt Hon The Lord Griffiths has been elected President and Roger Robinson the new Chairman.

Lord Griffiths, who succeeds Lord Luke of Pavenham, has the unique distinction of having been both President of the MCC, in 1990, and Captain of the R&A, in 1993.

Roger Robinson succeeds Peter Wilson who has retired after being a member of the Board of Management since 1981 and Vice Chairman and Chairman since 1987.

A member of the Board of Management of the STRI since 1982, Roger Robinson has been Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Golf Committee. He is a member and past Captain of the Royal Liverpool GC as well as being President of the Cheshire Golf Union in 1987.