

BTME rival changes its name and dates

P&O Events has backed down from staging a rival event to BTME in 1996.

Following the success of the seventh BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in Harrogate in January, P&O has moved its proposed new show from January '96 to June 11-13 1996.

It has also renamed its show Landscape Professional 96 – significantly, dropping the word 'Turf' from its original title. The new show will be held in the National Hall at the Olympia Exhibition Centre, London.

The June timing and new title indicate that P&O is teaming up with BALI, although confirmation of this is not expected until a press conference on March 23.

The English Golf Union, which was due to organise the golf education seminars at the January show, said it had not been notified of the changes and would not comment until it knew what was going on.

SALTEX gets golfing boost

With BIGGA and the IoG working closer together, SALTEX '95 – the Institute of Groundsmanship annual trade show at the Royal Windsor Racecourse – will feature an increased number of golf-related products. Companies already booking space at the September 5-7 show include Tildenet, Standard Golf, Ransomes, Toro/Lely, Jacobsen Textron, the Inturf Group and Zeneca.

West country gears up for Westurf '95

You can do it all at Westurf, promise the organisers. If you're looking for new machinery or new products, you'll find them on show at Long Ashton Golf Club near Bristol on Wednesday April 26. If you want to see some being demonstrated, you can. Just fancy a day out? Want to meet old friends? Then join the rest of the fine turf industry at Westurf.

More than 40 exhibitors have already signed up for the show,

NEWS



Learning a lesson

Northop Country Park Golf Club has been forging closer ties with its local college, the Welsh College of Horticulture. Students spent a day at the 18-hole John Jacobs-designed course as part of their NVQs in greenkeeping and golf course management. The club's machinery maintenance engineer Malcolm Westcott (pictured right with Ray Cotgrave, David Coates and Paul Drennan) gave the 17 students tips on maintaining the equipment.

But the students are not the only ones swotting – course manager Noel Hynes is training to be an NVQ assessor. Noel is currently part way through a course at another Clwyd college and, if he qualifies, he will be able to put his own staff through their NVQ paces. Noel, who also helps with tutorials at the Northop college, said: "We like to help the students whenever we can and we do have a good relationship with the college."

including British Seed Houses, Roffey Bros, Sisis, Standard Golf UK, Farmura, Barenbrug, Ruffords Top Dress Supplies, Rigby Taylor, Avoncrop, the Sports Turf Research Institute, Toro and Ransomes.

Sabo-Roberine distributor Claymore Grass Machinery is, for the first time, taking a stand in its own right at the show, which is organised by BIGGA's South West and South Wales Region. Product

manager Clive Pentecost explained why they support Westurf: "All the profits go towards the education of greenkeepers. This gives us an opportunity to put something back into the industry." On the demonstration area they will be showing the new 1.8m wide Continent 400-3D for cutting tees and bunker surrounds. For further details about the show call 01803 844056.

FLYING DIVOTS



■ Grass care equipment manufacturer Dennis has appointed ex-Jacobsen man Max Peacock as northern area

sales manager. Sales director Ian Howard will look after the southern half of the country.

■ Wortley Golf Club deputy Robert Needham, 41, has been appointed head greenkeeper at Hickleton Golf Course, near Doncaster, following the departure of Tony Booth.

■ John Turner, 31, is moving from France's Golf National, where he was in charge of the irrigation system, to take up the deputy head greenkeeper post at Keswick Golf Club. This follows the death of Maurice Studdart.

■ Golfer Lennie Learmouth, 62, landed a 40lb pike in a flooded bunker at Wetherby GC. The 4ft whopper is thought to have been trapped when the nearby River Wharfe burst its banks.

■ The PGA European Tour's director of agronomy, Bruce Jamieson, has left to set up his own consultancy business. He was with the Tour, which sponsors the runners-up prizes in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, for six years.

■ Symbio has joined forces with three companies to distribute its biological products, such as Green Circle and Black Layer Treatment. These are Stewarts in Scotland, Turf-Actant Products in Norfolk, Suffolk Cambs and Essex and Roffey Brothers Ltd in South Wales and the south west.

■ Roffey Brothers Ltd of Bournemouth has appointed RE Rushbrook and Son of Ipswich as a distributor for its fertilisers, including the new mini-granular spring turf fertiliser Gypronit.

■ Maxicrop International tells us its no1 seller is its concentrated seaweed extract, No1 Triple Seaweed, while sales of No6 ProGreen have increased "significantly".

NEWS

Servicing incentive

Greenkeepers who buy Ransomes' G-Plex 160 and E-Plex mowers in south and west Wales are being offered virtually free servicing for the next three years by local distributors RS Bird Ltd of Cowbridge, South Glamorgan, and Carmarthen, Dyfed. The only charge made will be for consumable items such as oil, filters, fuel, batteries and tyres. Said managing director Jeff Bird: "In making this offer, we are giving customers the opportunity to receive 18 on-site service visits and three winter overhauls, including cylinder regrinds, at a fraction of the normal cost."

RS Bird also announced it has become the South Wales distributor for Japanese-made Shibaura tractors. Tel: 0446 772001.



Lost words of wisdom found after 65 years

A lost manuscript, written about 65 years ago by one of the world's most famous architects, Alister Mackenzie, has been found.

Called 'The Spirit of St Andrews', it covers the history of golf from the author's eyes, his favourite courses and holes and there is also a chapter on the swing. The manuscript also had a handwritten introduction by Bobby Jones.

It was discovered by Macken-



zie's step-grandson, Raymund Haddock, in a box of Mackenziana and is published as a book this spring.

Mackenzie's designs include many of the world's top courses -

Augusta National, Cypress Point, Royal Melbourne, Crystal Downs, San Francisco Golf Club and Pasatiempo.

An earlier book of his, *Golf Architecture*, is considered a classic. It contains memorable sentences like this: "One of the objects in placing hazards is to give the players as much pleasurable excitement as possible." *Golf Architecture* was published in 1920, prior to his emigration to America.

The *Spirit of St Andrews* was written around 1930, four years before the former surgeon died.

Top golfer Ben Crenshaw, a student of course design and an avid golf historian, is one of the people who has read extracts. He was suitably impressed: "It's incredible. Mackenzie goes on about how he uses camouflage in his courses, and how it relates to war tactics."

Peter Alliss has also seen it: "Perhaps the discovery of this manuscript written in the galant doctor's own fair hand was not quite as dramatic as Lord Caernarvon discovering the burial ground of Tutankhamen, but for lovers of golf it must run damn close."



Vitax technical sales adviser Mike Shephard (left) presents a BIGGA gift voucher for £100 to Jeff Dickenson of Hucknall GC. Jeff won the prize in a competition at BTME.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Three-year-old Mill Ride - the outstanding Donald Steel-designed course in Berkshire - has been sold, along with some nearby luxury apartments, for around £5 million. The buyer is a leisure and hotel operator from the Far East.

■ Phil Breakey from Irrigation Control has joined Tim Hooper and Paul de Rham's Weathermatic dealer network. Tel: 01606 558927

■ Martin Bros and Tim Banks of Fen Turf Dressings have teamed up to produce and market Fendress in the north-west of England. Martin Bros has also announced the appointment of Melvyn Guy as north-east area salesman.

■ Paul McDowell of Slinfold GC proved the value of greenkeeper education when he entered the Rigby Taylor Technical Quiz during the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate. His correct diagnosis and cure of eight problems was drawn by BIGGA chairman Barry Heaney and his prize - a hamper of assorted bottles - will be delivered to his home.

■ Grasslands Turf Farm, New Romney, Kent has appointed two new distributors as part of its expansion programme: The Cottismore Group, Newbury (tel: 0635 298368) and Evergreen Landscape Supplies, Congresbury, Avon (tel: 0934 876337).

■ Neil Toner of Heswall Golf Club has won the Sisis Trophy for being the best craft level student at Reaseheath College.

■ Brian Mitchell has been appointed to the newly-created position of director of engineering at Ransomes,



Sims and Jefferies. Previously the company's general manager of engineering, Brian retains overall responsibility for the design and development of all Ransomes' machines produced in Ipswich. He has been with the firm for 30 years.



Toro distributor Lely UK has reduced the price of its Groundsmaster 223-D rotary mower. At the new price of £11,605, this two-wheel-drive unit now costs £1,925 less, while there is a £1,769 saving on the four-wheel-drive model, which now costs £13,350. The model pictured features a 62in Toro Guardian Recycler deck.

ATV quad bikes are becoming more popular with greenkeepers – and thieves. One area which has suffered a series of thefts of Kawasaki machines recently is Shropshire and a £1,000 reward has been offered for the recovery of two green Kawasaki ATV quad bikes, one fitted with a white Logic 125-litre sprayer tank. Tel: 0952 641949.

Let greenkeepers take charge – call

Greenkeepers are the best people to take charge of a golf club, according to Alan Mitchell, secretary of BIGGA's South Coast section. He has been promoted from course manager to manager/secretary of The Hampshire Golf Club, Andover. "I think greekeepers should aspire to more than head greenkeeper," he said. "The best person to put in charge of a golf course is someone who has come through greenkeeping

because they understand the club's main asset."

Alan has been involved with the club, which opened in September '93, since its construction. It has 18 holes plus a 9-hole par 3 course and a driving range. It opened as a pay-and-play but is moving towards a private members club.

Alan's assistant, Jeff Drake, has been promoted to head greenkeeper.

Hayter appoints new agent

Hayter Ltd has appointed Rogers Engineers Ltd, suppliers of Hayter domestic mowers for 30 years, as agents for its Professional range of machinery.

The family firm will cover Northants, Bedfordshire and parts of Cambridge from its head office in Gt Barford, Bedfordshire. Open days and demonstrations are now being organised. Tel: 01234 870201. Hayter has also appointed Bredy Agricentre Ltd

of Dorset as agents for the Professional range of mowers.

King's is sold

Essex-based horticultural merchant Kings Horticulture Ltd has been bought by Cereal Industries Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Associated British Foods plc. Kings Horticulture will continue trading under its present name from its Earls Colne site and all of the staff have been retained.

Breakwell expands

ET Breakwell is expanding into Northamptonshire. And the Shirley-based Ransomes and Massey Ferguson dealer has taken on two new managers to cope with the expansion.

Former Ransomes area sales manager Mark Radford has been appointed key account manager and Graham Robinson has come on board as area sales manager for the new area and Warwickshire.

Peter Cooper will continue to cover West Midlands, Herefordshire and Worcestershire while Alan Prickett will look after Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Paul Breakwell, son of MD Len, has been appointed to the board as sales director.

The new area will receive thrice weekly spares deliveries and Paul Hudson, based in Banbury, will cover it with his mobile service facility.

In addition to Ransomes and Massey Ferguson, the new sales team will also be talking about two new product ranges it represents – from Richard Long and Wiedenmann.

Heriot & Bardot

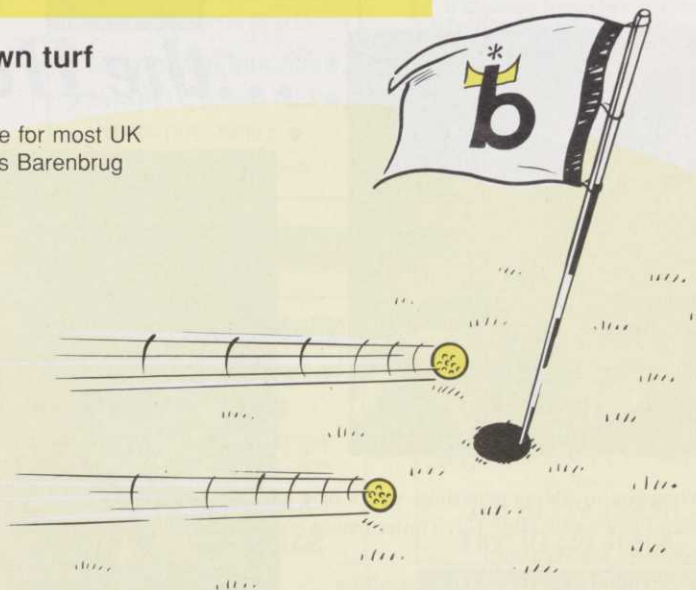
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Ransomes kit out slow moving Chinese course

■ Newspaper and golf course owner Eddy Shah will be the guest speaker at the conference dinner of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects being held at Wentworth on April 20. The dinner precedes the 1995 Conference which is entitled 'Golf Course Design in the Modern Age'. Speakers at this event on April 21 include Dave Thomas, Dr Alastair Cochran, George Shiels and David Piggins. The delegate cost is £125. Tel: 0883 712072.

■ Following the success of the first Grounds and Greens two-day seminar at Newmarket Race Course, another one is being organised for June. The speakers this time round include George Brown (Turnberry), Derek Ganning (The Belfry), Anthony Davies (Prestbury), Stuart Stenhouse (Monarch's Course, Gleneagles), Jeff Perris (STRI) and John Souter (Gti). The topics on June 20 will relate to general groundsmanship while the following day will concentrate on greenkeeping. Attendance is by invitation and places are limited so anyone wishing to attend should phone Lynn Hamilton at Sisis Equipment on 01625 503030.

A new 27-hole golf course being built in southern China has ordered £200,000 worth of Ransomes turf equipment. Items already in place include a Commander 3500 fairway mower, two Motor 180s for tees and surrounds, a Turftrak 420 with rotary mowing deck, three and four-wheel Cushman Turf-Trucksters with topdressers and Ryan aeraton and turf-cutting equipment. Machinery still to be delivered includes four Greensplex 1600 greens mowers with nine and 11 blade knife units, additional Cushman Turf-Trucksters and attachments, two further Motor 180s, Ryan pedestrian aerators and a Supreme Mowing Golf Leader cylinder grinder. Known as the Long Island Golf and Country Club, the new course is located at Chang An in Dong Guan Province, approximately one hour by ferry from Hong Kong. It is owned by Bout Holdings, a joint venture estab-

lished by Chang An Development and Malaysian developer Madusalat Berhad. This company is also the construction contractor for the course, which is to a woodland/links design produced by JMP Design.

Encompassing 384 acres of former woodland, orange grove and lakes, the complex will include a 27-hole golf course, hotel, residential housing and sports facility. Eighteen of the holes will be floodlit for night golf.

Senior superintendent Marty Alexander tells us that the first nine holes are expected to be ready for play in November with the final completion planned for June next year. "The construction period is longer than might be expected in other parts of the world, but we have to contend with an extended rainy season from May to September and cool winter months from January into March," he explained.

China now has 80 courses in

play, under construction or being planned.

■ A special conservation scheme for golf courses has been set up in Victoria, Australia. It is an adaptation of the Land for Wildlife scheme administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. So far seven clubs have been recognised by the department as having significant habitat values for native flora and fauna, and for their valuable contributions to the conservation of local plants and wildlife. Each course is provided with a sign acknowledging its efforts and given information and useful contacts. "The aim is to give golf clubs an excellent opportunity to receive recognition and advice for their contribution to the conservation of Victoria's flora and fauna and to increase the awareness and enjoyment of club members and other course users," said a department spokesperson.

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