

# 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.

