

NEWS

BTME 96 proves to be Number One Choice

With over eight months to go until the doors open, BTME 96 is well on its way to being the biggest and best yet.

Exhibitors, eager not to miss out, have already snapped up 84% of the available floor space – even with an additional 25% added especially for the 1996 event.

Not only have many new companies booked for next year – including Clifton Special Products, Petroleum Products and Services Ltd and Fairway Credit – many existing exhibitors have reserved larger stands. Lely/Toro, for example, has booked 208 square metres – almost three times bigger than in 1995.

Anyone wishing to reserve space for BTME 96, which takes place between January 24-26 at the Harrogate International Centre, should contact Louise Lunn now on 01347 838581.

More flexible

Richard Long Engineering Ltd has developed a 1.2 metre fully mounted version of its successful Flexispread topdresser.

The 4ft fully mounted Flexispread uses the same feed system as the larger, trailed 5ft model. Tel: 01773 520301.

Digging in

Greenkeepers picking up the pieces after an excessively wet winter have meant good news for Huxleys Grass Machinery.

They report exceptional demand for their new soil reliever (pictured). Director Paul Huxley explained: "Water-logged greens and fairways have led to courses being closed and loss of income. A lot of customers have ordered the soil reliever as an effective way of improving drainage and relieving compaction."



Janet makes her mark

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke congratulates Turfland's Janet Watmore on her success as winner of a Women Into Business award.

Janet, who set up the turf growing and turf machinery companies with husband Chris 30 years ago, was nominated in recognition of her work. Turfland and Turfland Professional Equipment employ over 20 staff on 600 acres in Cheshire and have an annual turnover in excess of £2m.

Within the two organisations, Janet is responsible for business strategies, sales and marketing and general management.

The meeting with the Chancellor at 11 Downing Street is only one of her steps into the spotlight: Janet's company has also taken part in a "Challenge Anneka" TV programme.



FLYING DIVOTS

Students at Reaseheath College in Cheshire are organising a vintage golf tournament – open to male golfers over the age of 70.

The third year HND golf course management students believe this inaugural tournament, to take place on May 17, is the only one of its kind exclusively for this age group. They hope it will become an annual event and will put Reaseheath Golf Club on the map.

Potential sponsors should contact Chris Ward on 01270 625131.

The numbers have finally been added up for the GCSAA show in San Francisco: a record 17,773 people attended the February event, including a delegation from BIGGA.

The attendance is up by over 2,300 on the Dallas show last year.

A new service has been launched for treating large ponds and lakes that suffer from algae in suspension.

Aqua Company Ltd, distributors of water treatment product O'Clear, offers to identify the problem and carry out a course of action to re-establish a balanced ecosystem. Costs depend on the size of the feature and amount of work involved.

More details from 01252 712307.



Barenbrug UK have appointed ex-golf professional Adrian Ellis as area manager for north England,

Scotland and Northern Ireland. He is also greens chairman at the Mellors and Townscliffe GC.

The Grass Roots Trading Company has entered a team of greenkeepers in the Top Gear European Pro Kart Challenge, which takes place this month at Le Mans.

If you're interested in trialing for the team, contact Jamie Bennett on 01734 771185.

A single demonstration of a Ransomes Fairway 300 mower in Hong Kong has led to three top golf courses buying the machines. The demo was organised by Ransomes' Hong Kong distributor, Agribusiness Ltd.



Licentiateeship holders are applauded

Four years of part-time study plus at least five years industrial experience has been rewarded for 16 greenkeeping and horticulture students at Askham Bryan College.

The Yorkshire college believe the 11 greenkeeping students are the first in the country to collect

the top award in their City & Guilds course – the licentiateeship.

Bob McLaren, past president of the Scottish Golf Union and chairman of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, praised the commitment the students have shown for staying with four years of demanding study whilst

in full-time employment. He urged them to use their success to promote training amongst their colleagues.

The 16 licentiateeship holders are pictured with their Askham Bryan course tutors, college principal Mike Pollard, and Bob McLaren.

Spray drift problems can be cut by using adjuvant

Research by the University of Paisley confirms that spray drift can be dramatically reduced by adding a suitable adjuvant to the spray chemical before application.

The researchers, from the department of biological sciences, monitored spray drift following insecticide applications with and

without the benefit of an adjuvant. Treatments containing the adjuvant showed a significantly confined spray pattern with greatly reduced drift loss.

The team, led by Dr John Thacker, used cabbage plants and strips of water-sensitive paper to monitor the spray drift which is now recognised as a major prob-

lem in the amenity sector. The plants were colonised with cabbage white butterfly larvae and ground beetles and placed at a series of downward distances, ranging up to 20 metres away and at right angles to the path of a sprayer. The field experiments were undertaken both in winter and spring so that drift patterns could be monitored under varying wind conditions.

Following spray treatments, the number of dead insects on each plant were assessed as an indication of the extent to which the insecticide had reached non-target plants. Larvae on plants as near as 1m away remained totally unaffected following the insecticide plus adjuvant applications indicating minimal spray drift. Conversely, the wide spray drift of the insecticide-only spraying resulted in some kill even as far as 20m from the sprayer.

These results – obtained using the adjuvant Headland Guard – were presented at the recent British Crop Protection Council conference.

"To achieve these benefits, the adjuvant only needs to be added at 0.1% of the total spray solution, adding very little at all to the overall cost of an application," said Headland Amenity manager Mark De Ath.



East Sussex National Golf Club was the venue for the first annual symposium of its kind of greenkeepers and golf managers.

The event was organised by Premier Golf Clubs, set up last year to promote standards of golfing excellence to match that of anywhere else in the world.

Delegates discussed many topical issues including environmentally friendly greenkeeping, training and the development of golf management and course conditions.

Next year's event will take place at Turnberry.

Some familiar faces are pictured amongst the attendees

FLYING DIVOTS

Deere & Company reports worldwide net income of \$138.4 million in the first quarter of '95 compared with \$87 million for the same period last year. This is the US company's sixth consecutive quarter of record earnings and the first time that earnings in the first quarter exceeded \$100 million.

Kings Horticulture Ltd has been appointed UK distributors for the Forum Floor Turf Protection System from Sweden. Tournament golf courses can use the product, originally designed to protect football pitches from pop concerts, to provide walkways behind greens. Tel: 01787 223300.

The Sisis development team swung into action when reps brought back word that customers needed both jumbo and pencil-slim tines for the Technicore vertical aerator.

As a result, the Macclesfield company now offer 22mm diameter hollow coring tines, for severe thatch problems, and 7mm solid tines for water percolation.

Sisis have also launched a "workshop on wheels" – a fully equipped service van joins their fleet.

Inter Seeds have published a new, ten section illustrated pocket guide to amenity grasses.

Corby-based plant growth stimulant manufacturer Maxicrop International has appointed David Evans as UK sales manager.

Previously regional sales manager for Timac covering south Wales and the south Midlands, Mr Evans has nearly 20 years experience in fertilisers and foliar feeds.

A new company has been set up to act as agents for Q-Lawns' range of turf.

Jubilee Seeds & Turf report firms orders for the Q-Lawns turf, which is grown on a dark, free-draining top soil from highest rated grass seed cultivars.

JST also offer the Techni-Turf range of grass seed and wild flower mixtures.

Renardine 72-2, from Roebuck Eyot, offers an "invisible fence" repellent for unwanted pests and pets, including dogs, cats, rabbits, foxes, moles and badgers.