

# Huxleys celebrate 50 years progress

More than 100 visitors representing golf clubs, local authorities, contract firms, schools, sports clubs, public and private parks, estates and gardens helped Huxleys celebrate its 50th Anniversary at Alresford Golf Club in June.

The day began with Managing Director, Paul Huxley, introducing his father, Edward, who founded the business in 1946. Paul went on to thank the company's many customers for their support over the years, pointing out that a number of those present had been associated with the firm for a quarter of a century or more.

"That in itself speaks volumes of the confidence and trust built up over the years between Huxleys and its customers," commented Paul Huxley. "Still wholly family-owned, the business was founded on the twin principles of straight dealing and good service, principles which hold true to this day."

He pointed out that Huxleys is one of very few companies within the turf machinery industry which has its own direct retail operation offering sales, service, parts support and local hire of the machines it manufactures and distributes throughout Britain and overseas. These facilities are available to professional customers located within a reasonable distance of Huxleys' New Alresford head office and its Scottish branch at Broxburn, West Lothian.

"Our retail operation helps provide a close understanding of cus-



In 1946 Huxleys sold the Allen Motor Scythe (top). Founder Ted Huxley, above, is pictured on the new all-hydraulic Teestar

tractors' needs while ensuring a fast and positive response to calls for assistance, service or repair," Paul Huxley explained. "Most of the machines developed and built by Huxleys over the years have benefited from the suggestions, comments and ideas of end users."

Following Paul Huxley's welcome and introductions came

product demonstrations and a hands-on opportunity to assess individual machines, followed by a golf competition in the afternoon. Ever popular, the golf attracted 80 entrants playing four ball matches around the attractive and immaculately-prepared Alresford course.

During the morning machinery demonstrations, Huxleys highlighted a number of its latest products. These included the quiet and exceptionally stable Teestar tees and surrounds mower, the remarkable Soil Reliever deep aerator and the Grainskeeper greens grooming brush, now suitable for use behind compact tractors and turf vehicles as well as fitting in place of the cutting units on most ride-on golf greens mowers.

Also demonstrated was the latest Turfblazer 1280 rotary mower equipped with 126in (3.2m) wide cutting deck, 61hp turbocharged diesel engine and four wheel drive option. This high performance machine features individually folded wing cutting units, enhancing work in confined areas and transport between different sites. Maximum transport width is just 70in (1.7m).

For those not playing golf, guided tours of Huxleys' manufacturing facility gave an insight into the teamwork involved in designing, developing, producing, demonstrating, supplying and supporting the wide range of professional grass and turf machinery carrying the Huxley name.

## Mike hits his quarter century

A quarter of a century of loyal service has been reached by one of the South West and South Wales Region's most respected greenkeepers.

Mike Pike of Elfordleigh Hotel, Golf & Country Club joined the club in 1971 when he was only 22 years old. Since then Mike has nurtured and looked after Elfordleigh's popular course and has turned it into one of the very best kept in the region.

After 25 years of service Mike has some very firm ideas about how a golf course should be run: "The secret of a good golf course is allowing the Greenkeeper to run his own course. I've always had this freedom at Elfordleigh which is probably why I'm still here and why I'll be hopefully be here for another 25 years."

"The feedback I get from members and visitors who play the course is that they most appreciate a firm and true putting service and I've always had very good remarks made about mine which makes me and hopefully the members very proud."

## Firm bought out

AM Russell, the 114 year old Edinburgh based Toro dealer, has been the subject of a successful management buy out led by new Managing Director Brian Goudie and Financial Director Joe Zawinski. The company which employs 33 people is the largest supplier of Toro equipment in Europe and has an annual turnover of £4 million.

## Beware of those rays...

A reminder to outdoor workers – that they should be aware of the health dangers from excessive exposure of the skin to the sun – comes from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Mindful of last year's heat-wave, a statement from the HSE points out that undue exposure of the skin to the sun should be avoided, particularly during the three or four hours around the middle of the day, and especially for those people who are more sensitive to the sun than others.

Senior HSE health policy official Mike Shepherd said: "Too much exposure of the skin to

sunlight can be damaging. It can prematurely age the skin, leaving it wrinkled and leathery, and increase the risk of developing skin cancer in later life. However, these adverse effects can be almost totally avoided by following the guidance contained in HSE's free leaflet, "Keep Your Top On" which includes simple advice on how to recognise skin types most at risk.

"It is important for outdoor workers to realise the possible dangers from the sun and to take sensible precautions to protect their health. These include shading the skin from direct

sunlight by wearing a long-sleeved top and also a wide-brimmed hat – the latter will be very effective in helping to shade the face, head and the back of the neck."

The leaflet supports HSE's current "Good Health is Good Business" publicity campaign, which aims to reduce the number of people who suffer ill health caused or made worse by work.

Copies of the leaflet can be obtained free from HSE Books PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6FS. Tel: 01787 881165 Fax: 01787 313995.

### THE BIGGEST MISTAKE I'VE EVER MADE AND WOULD ADMIT TO IS:



"Asking advice from Ronnie Bunting, who's just over the hill from me at Kilmalcolm"  
Gordon Kerr, Glendoch