

# Hi-tech parts service begins

Ransomes has invested £600,000 in its new hi-tech parts operation in Ipswich.

Carried out over the last year, each Ransomes dealer is now linked by computer to the parts operation with overseas dealers following on fast. Replacing the fax-based method of parts ordering the Powercom-2000 computer software uses the telephone network to provide a direct connection between each dealer and the parts stores.

Another major step forward for the company has been the separation of the replacement parts from those needed for the manufacturer of new machines. This will prevent occasions when the parts depart-

ment are unable to provide parts when the production department is meeting the demand for a specific machine. It will free the parts department to look after



dealers and customers.

The parts department is now housed in one 20,000 sq ft building – half the size of the multi-based department before with the

savings being achieved through the use of computerised parts storage and retrieval systems.

"In addition to concentrating all of the parts into a single building, we've housed around 2,000 of the fastest-moving items within a line of computer-controlled storage shuttles and carousels," explained International Parts Sales Manager, Phil Naunton.

Every part which leaves the site now carries the distinctive "Ransomes Real Parts"

branding and to encourage users to specify an item Ransomes is running a series of special offers on a range of selected parts from its range during 1996.

## European agreement signed

At the recent launch of Greenor, the latest DowElanco fine turf selective weed-killer to be added to the Rigby Taylor "Advanced Technology Products" range, a European Co-operation Agreement was signed for the development and marketing of fine turf products throughout Europe.

George Skylakakis, Director, New Products DowElanco Europe, reminded the Rigby Taylor team of the success of the recent introductions, Rimidin, Bastion T and Lorsban T in the UK and was confident that the launch of Rimidin in France would mirror



the results in this country.

"We are pleased to be associated with such a reputable research based chemical com-

pany," said Bernard Hedley, Chairman of Rigby Taylor, "and we are sure that the continued development of products tuned to the requirements of the sports turf industry will maintain the success of this fruitful partnership."

A joint European development team has been established to ensure the continued focus on the development of products most suited to the requirements of greenkeepers and groundsmen.

■ Picture shows Bernard Hedley, left, and George Skylakakis at the signing of the agreement.

## New Board member



Rod Mayes has been appointed a director of Atterton & Ellis Limited, the Haverhill based designers and manufacturers of lawn mower grinding machinery.

"Rod's experience within the industry, technical and production knowledge, will strengthen the company's management team" said David Smith, Managing Director.

Rod, 46, is married with two children, lives in Haverhill, Suffolk.

## Guidelines published

The Health and Safety Executive has published RIDDOR '95, the revised and simplified Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. The Regulations cover all work activities and come into force on April 1 this year.

RIDDOR '95 will require all deaths, certain injuries resulting for accidents, instances of specified diseases and specified dangerous occurrences, which arise out of or in connection with work activities to be reported.

The leaflet contains all the information employers need.

# Taking training out to the greenkeepers

This year seems to be flying by. I am still waiting for the "quiet spell", post BTME, but I am still very busy putting the education and training program together for 96/97.

The 1995/96 series of Regional Supervisory Management Courses draws to a close, this month with courses in Killarney and Hemel Hempstead. From the vast amount of positive feedback received so far, it is obvious that we have made a successful start in taking training out to greenkeepers. We are planning to expand the number of courses for Autumn 96 and Spring 97 and, thanks once again to contributions to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, we should be able to keep costs reasonable. Watch out for further details in future magazines. Courses will



## Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

take place, once again, at Aldwark Manor in October/November '96 and details will be published in the April magazine.

### Massey Ferguson Tractor Appreciation Workshop

The first Massey Ferguson tractor appreciation workshop for selected college students took place at Warwickshire College from February 19 to 23 and was a great success. Further workshops will be held at Oaklands College from March 11 to 15 and at Elmwood College from April 1

to 4. Nominated students will shortly receive joining instructions for each workshop.

### Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

Keep those nominations coming in. Remember, a trip to Las Vegas is only part of prize for winning the competition. See Pages 30-31 for details of previous winners and what they have achieved.

### BIGGA Lending Library

The number of titles now exceeds 200 with more books on order. Remember, it costs nothing to borrow books for up to six weeks except the return postage. For more information or for a copy of the book list, contact me at HQ.

### National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME

The search for speakers and subjects for the 1997 National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME Seminars has already begun.

If you wish to speak, know of a good speaker or have a subject that you would like to see discussed then please let me know. Video tapes of the 1996 Conference and Seminars have been produced and are available from HQ. Since the last magazine was published, I have negotiated a reduced price for videos ie 40 minute session £7.50 inc VAT, 60 minute session £8.50 inc VAT, 90-120 minutes £10 and 180 minutes or more, £15.

Written transcriptions of each session of the Conference are now available from HQ priced at £2.90 per session +£1.50 postage.