

Toro quality recognised at highest level

Toro has been awarded the prestigious ISO 9000 certification for international quality consistency at its US manufacturing plant in Wisconsin. It is the first commercial turfcare equipment manufacturer to receive the designation.

"It's long been Toro's practice to provide our customers with innovative quality turf products that provide superior long-term value," said Graham Dale, Managing Director of Toro distributors, Lely UK.

"This accomplishment is further evidence of Toro's commitment to market leadership, continuous product improvement and meeting our customers' needs."

A company whose processes meet the rigorous ISO standards is considered more capable of manufacturing products to a level of consistency and quality respected around the world.

NEWS

New man joins IOG at 'crucial time'

The Institute of Groundsmanship has appointed Patrick Gosset as its new Chief Executive.

Mr Gosset, 50, joins the IOG from portable accommodation hire company Premier Transline where he was Managing Director.

"I am joining the Institute of Groundsmanship at a crucial time in its development across a broad spectrum of sport and leisure activities," said Mr Gosset.

"I recognise that as a member organisation we must provide - and continue to develop



- a package of really worthwhile benefits and to market ourselves professionally so that those involved in our ever widening range of interests will recognise the value of membership."

Patrick Gosset lives in Oxfordshire and lists cricket and rowing among his sporting interests.

Does BIGGA need an Essex Section?

Over recent months there has been a great deal of debate about the need for an Essex Section of BIGGA.

It has been proposed that an Essex Section be formed as part of the South East Region and that the revised East Anglia Section be transferred from the South East to the Midlands Region. The proposal has been made purely on the number of current and potential members within geographical boundaries and the benefits of ease of access to Section events that the changes would produce.

A general meeting of interested members has been arranged for Thursday, June 27 at 7pm at Ravenwood Hall, Hotel, Rougham, approximately four miles east of Bury St Edmunds, off the A14.

The proposal is only viable with sufficient support and members interested in learning more or in having their opinions heard are urged to attend. If the proposal is adopted then there may be vacancies for Section Committee members for both East Anglia and Essex.

Think about the proposed change and talk to your colleagues.

How will it affect you?

Come to the meeting and have a say in how your Association is organised.

Lord Whitelaw opens complex

The new Eden Greenkeeping Centre at St Andrews was opened officially by BIGGA President Viscount Whitelaw.

A former Captain of the R&A, Viscount Whitelaw said how pleased he was to see this investment in first class greenkeeping facilities and that the high standards set by the Eden complex reflected the growing professionalism of greenkeeping. He then unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion.

The Centre provides accommodation for greenkeepers, machinery and materials required for the Eden, Straththyrum and Balgove Courses and the Golf Practice Centre. It also houses the Course Rangers and orderlies and their equipment. It has an overall floor area of 12,220 square feet and cost around £500,000 to complete.

Links Trust Chairman, John



Lindesay-Bethune, said that the new complex was the first physical sign of the Trust's heavy investment in its greenkeeping operations.

"The good condition of the courses is vital to providing golfers with enjoyable experiences and this facility will help

our greenkeepers to achieve that aim," he said.

Mr Lindesay-Bethune singled out the R&A for special praise for its contribution of a £1 million loan towards the construction costs of both the Eden Centre and the Jubilee Sheds, on which construction is about to start.

THE ONE JOB I DO WHICH GIVES ME MOST SATISFACTION IS:



"Walking down the 18th fairway at the end of the Volvo PGA Championship after the last putt has gone down thinking, 'Thank God it's over.'"

Graham Matheson,
The Wentworth Club



Golf course wildlife advisor appointed

Joint funding between the Scottish Golf Union, the R & A and Scottish Natural Heritage has resulted in Scotland becoming the first country in Europe to appoint a Golf Course Wildlife Advisor.

Jonathan Smith, 25, pictured above, was recently employed by the Duke of Buccleuch on his Bowhill Estate and took up the advisory position on 29 April. Initially he will be based in

Glasgow in premises provided by the Strathclyde Greenbelt Company.

"We see this appointment as a positive step to integrating golf courses into the environment," said Ian Hume, Secretary of the SGU. "We have been considering this move for some time and are now pleased to be able to offer advice to new and existing golf courses on the positive aspects of working in harmony with the landscape and

its wildlife in line with current conservation policies."

Karen Morrison, Urban Conservation Officer with the Scottish Natural Heritage said, "Golf Courses are an important element of Scotland's natural heritage. We hope that this initiative will make people more aware of the positive contribution their course can make to the environment, if it is managed in sympathy with its surroundings."

Consultant joins firm



Jason Sinden has joined Eamonn Wall & Co as an associate consultant. Jason has an Honours degree from

Aberdeen University in Forest Management as well as a range of practical experience. His duties will include site surveys, design, planning and management with specialist duties in mensuration, contract tendering and supervision.

"Although the production of timber is a secondary consideration on golf courses, the opportunity should not be missed to attain a return from assets which already exist. The good silvicultural practices which are required to achieve a suitable commercial crop (a long, knot free stem) are conducive to the needs of the golf course. The branch free stem allows play from underneath and facilitates turf management," explained Jason.

In the last three years Eamonn Wall and Co has been responsible for planting close to half a million trees on golf courses.



Thoughts while on the seventh

by Roy T.G. Hudson, First Assistant at The Lambourne Club

If it's not Fusarium, it's bloody Poa, It's about time we backlapped that mower!

Cut the greens and tee surrounds, Collect the balls from the practice ground.

Slit, scarify, perhaps hollow tine? When was the deadline?...Next Tuesday...fine!

Tournaments, medals...What? Not another one!

C.O.S.H.H. assessment forms, "Christ, that'll be fun!"

Heath and Safety, locks, security,

Training for staff...finish at three! Members suggesting greener greens with softer grass?

"As if pressure to play in frosty mornings wasn't enough!"

Holes to be changed, Repts to call, "Hell!...Where'd that come from? "Hey, next time mate, try calling Fore!"

Fine tomorrow, maybe frost, Damn!...Budget meeting with the boss.

But thinking, as I looked out from the 7th, towards the clubhouse, "Job wise...I just wouldn't give a four XXX for anything else!"

HAYTER CHALLENGE

Emotions run high



Flying the flag: Competitors at Oak Manor

The Devon and Cornwall Section Qualifier was an emotional occasion with the honouring of the host club's Course Manager, Gordon Child who retired last month. Gordon, the South West and South Wales Regional Administrator was presented with a television set from the Section to mark the occasion.

Qualifiers for the Regional Final of the Hayter Challenge to be held at Salisbury GC on Wednesday June 12 are:

0-9. G. Tamblyn, J. Mitchell, A. Parker, T. Gooch, C. Rawlings.

10-18. T. Farkins, M. Child, E. Barber, M. Parrish, W. Potter.

19-28. T. Blackburn, A. James, S. Getson, Miss L. Breyley, C. Pine.

The winners in each category were presented with a silver salver by Mike Lincoln-Smith of Hayter.

The South West Hayter Qualifier was played at the excellent Oak Manor GC, near Taunton.

A tough test (speaking from personal experience - Ed) Oak Manor was in magnificent condition thanks to the work of Nigel Pring and his team. Nigel also led the way in the competition as well posting a best gross score of 72.

Overall winner was Craig Fudge of Tracey Park who scored a fine nett 66.

Regional Final Qualifiers are:

0-9. C. Fudge, N. Pring, M. Fawcett, P. Godwin, C. Tozer. 10-18. A. Turner, J. Williams, D. Smith, A. Knight, O. Stevenson.

19-28. C. Sealey, T. Dabenett, J. Barr, S. Mitchell, P. Cox.

New man takes over the helm at Kubota

Kubota's new Director of Tractor and Grass Machinery, Rene Orban, highlighted the back-up customer care service as the area in which he hopes to make his mark.

Speaking at a briefing called to formally announce his appointment, Rene, previously Jacobsen's Managing Director European Operations, said: "Anyone who ever worked with me will tell you parts and service and the back-up customer care service are things which are very dear to my heart. This is where I will start."

"This is no criticism of the current situation but the management team and I will be looking at new ways of making Kubota even more efficient in this area," said Rene.

He also outlined the strengths his new employer had in the industry.

"As well as our dominant position in the UK market we have in Kubota Corporation at our fingertips the resources of a truly global player with 18 factories in Japan

and five factories overseas employing over 20,000 people worldwide.

"Kubota is one of the world's biggest and most innovative manufacturers of diesel engines and it is this which gives us our cutting edge."

He also paid tribute to the man he is replacing.

"Behind Kubota's success is a team which was led by Brian Hurlley. Under his leadership Kubota has achieved its brand leadership. Brian will, I am sure, be remembered with great admiration and considerable fondness. He has worked hard and with great dedication to make Kubota a formidable force to reckon with. He has always been a person respected and liked by all his competitors."

Brian Hurlley, who was also at the briefing and who retires in June, explained that it was Rene's proven ability to work closely with Japanese colleagues which was one reason Rene was singled out as the man for the job.



Rene Orban, right, Kubota's new Director of Tractor & Grass Machinery takes over his new role from Brian Hurlley who is retiring

Anniversary conference

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects will mark its 25th anniversary by holding its 1996 International Conference at The Wentworth Club on October 2-4.

Entitled "A Celebration of Golf Course Design" the Conference will feature contributions from America, the Continent as well as from British Architects during the day long proceedings on October 3.

A workshop on golf green design and construction will be held on the morning of October 4 and the conference will be preceded by the Barenbrug Golf Architects' Trophy and the Silver Jubilee Dinner.

Dealer support

Sports Ground Irrigation Co has appointed Michael Riley as dealer support representative to cover the North of England. He will promote the company's range of sprinklers, valves pH system and controllers through the dealer network.

■ Iain Richardson has rejoined Patissons and will be covering the South West part of the country. He met up with many of his old friends at Westurf at the beginning of May.



■ Etesia has appointed Spencer Southall as After Sales Manager based at the company's

headquarters in Warwick.

Spencer has worked as Etesia's Demonstrator for two years and has a full working knowledge of the product range.

"We appreciate the importance of providing dealers and their customers with full after sales support in the field."

"It is vital that technical queries are dealt with speedily and efficiently, especially in the height of the grass cutting season," said Robin Taylor, Sales Manager.

Expansion sees Tony in Singapore



Tony Doe has been appointed Technical Sales Manager - Pacific Rim, by Ransomes. Previously Area Manager for the south of England, Tony will be supporting Ian Mitchell, Ransomes' Area Manager - Pacific Rim, and the company's distributors located throughout the Pacific Rim and Australasia region.

Working from the Ransomes office in Singapore, Tony's brief is to provide technical, service and operational support to distributors and end-users of Ransome, Cushman and Ryan equipment being used to maintain golf courses, recreation and leisure facilities, landscaped grounds and other fine turf areas.

"This appointment is part of a planned expansion programme, building on the successes we have

had already in this important part of the world," commented John Wilson, Ransomes International Sales Manager.

"Tony's presence in the region will provide additional support for Ian Mitchell and strengthen Ransomes technical back-up service to our distributors and customers."

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"Cutting difficult pin positions for the weekend medal"
Kevin Green, Filton GC