

# Birdwatching 'Ryder Cup' sparks interest

Europe took on the USA in a special bird watching competition – on golf courses late last month. This ecological twist to golf's traditional transatlantic rivalry was billed as the first ever "Bird watching Ryder Cup". It was one of a number of green initiatives leading up to the 1997 Ryder Cup matches to be held at Valderrama, Spain, in September.

The competition proved a light hearted way to focus attention on the fact that properly designed and managed golf courses can provide important habitat for wildlife. It also provided some useful information concerning what species of birds are actually using golf courses.

Following the Ryder Cup format, a team of 12 European bird watchers on golf courses throughout Europe challenged a team of 12 Americans on prime sites in the US. Over the 24 hour period, each team member scoured a particular golf course with the task of observing as many bird species as possible. The team collectively scored the highest total won. However, to allow for America's naturally richer bird life, the European team had a handicap – they only had to find five species to match every eight species scored by the USA team.

Among the list of European golf courses competing in this event were famous names such as St Andrews, Falsterbo in southern Sweden and San Lorenzo in Portugal.

The premier site was none other than Valderrama, where local naturalist Martin Jacoby had the honour of spearheading Europe's bid to outwit the Americans. A site which is home to over 100 bird species, Jacoby thinks of Valderrama as "a nature reserve in which people play golf".



## Lessening the burden

**A new deal between Kubota and ING Turfcare Finance means that a new range of finance plans is now available to Kubota customers.**

**Called Kubota Credit, the joint finance venture is designed to provide finance solutions for compact tractors, ride-on mowers and implements.**

**Rene Orban, Sales Director,**

**Kubota (UK) Ltd said: "We believe this new scheme will satisfy the funding needs of Kubota users and owners operating in four distinct areas golf turfcare, estate management, amenity management and landscape and growing."**

**Pictured is Rene Orban, (right) and Bob Wilson, of ING Turfcare Finance Ltd.**

Two golf courses in Hungary and one at Bled in Slovenia made up Eastern Europe's contribution to the team. These were important sites because more species occur in eastern countries than western ones. Another key location was the magnificent Domain Imperial set in wooded parkland on the shores of Lake Geneva at Gland, Switzerland.

Both teams had non-playing captains – David Stubbs for Europe and Ron Dodson for America.

Prior to the big day David revealed that the Americans would start as favourites. "They have chosen pretty wild places but we have some very good sites of our own. I think people will be surprised just how many species of birds will be found on these golf courses. It is only to be hoped that the Americans have not found a Tiger Woods with binoculars."

**■ Stop press:** Europe won by 347 (including handicap) to 237. Full story next month.

## FLYING DIVOTS



**■ Karen Smith** who has worked for Jacobsen E-Z-GO Textron as a freelance for the last three years has

been appointed Marketing Manager of the company.

Peter Bell Managing Director of the UK Division of Jacobsen E-Z-GO Textron commented, "As a Sales and Marketing organisation we are delighted to announce the appointment of Karen Smith as Marketing Manager for the company. We believe that the role of marketing is of key importance to the long term development of the various brands we provide as a company."

Karen graduated from Cardiff University with a degree in business Studies and has worked within the horticulture, amenity and golf market in a marketing and PR role for over seven years.



**■ Peter Clark** has joined Charterhouse Turf Machinery as Product Manager of the new Connoisseur range of products. He has over 20 years experience within the trade promoting such products as Poulan, Alpine, Solo and Dolmar Chainsaws.

**■ Ruud Francissen**, who has been a Board member of Charterhouse for the last four years and Managing Director of Redexim BV has retired.



Ruud, as he is widely known, introduced the verti-drain on to a world market after it had been developed by Dutch contractor Aaron deRidder.

**■ Leigh Siddon**, Collier Turf Care Distributors Ltd's Sales Representative for East Bedfordshire, North Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, South Lincolnshire, East Northamptonshire and part of Suffolk has passed his Amenity BASIS exam.

Collier's has also appointed Daren Smith as Sales Representative for Norfolk and parts of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk.

## Tribute to Gerald Haynes

On April 18 Gerald Haynes, Course Manager of the Hartbourne Country Club, Herts died. He was 52.

Gerald had fought an unrelenting battle against a lung illness for a number of years. In this time never once did he lose his dignity, his passion for his work or his sense of humour.

I only knew Gerald for a relatively short time but will always remember him for his unbiased

honesty and natural talents as a greenkeeper and manager. He had supported greenkeeper education for many years through student placements and it is surely a fitting tribute to him that a great number of young professionals owe their knowledge to working with him.

Gerald was laid to rest close to the family home in Powys, Mid Wales, a spot chosen by himself, to be near the two great loves of his life, his family

and the countryside of the area.

Gerald leaves two fine sons, Richard and Martin and a widow, Susan. On behalf of them I would like to thank the staff and members of Hartbourne GC for the support over the years.

I am sure all those who knew Gerald will be saddened by his untimely demise and our thoughts are with Susan for the future.

*Pete Bradburn*

# HAYTER CHALLENGE

## Event is gathering pace

The Regional Finals are now looming into view and for those successful in the Sectional events, a rare opportunity of playing on one of the country's finest in-land courses is tantalisingly close. The fact that the chance involves playing on another excellent course is an added bonus. There are, of course, also places on offer to represent the Rest of the World team to play against the Americas in the Hayter International Cup to be played in the USA next year.

Ganton Golf Club, near Scarborough, has hosted many major events including the Ryder Cup, in 1949, and regularly welcomes The Amateur Championship.

Once there the player with a handicap of 12 or better, who represents and resides in each of the home countries and who performs best in this year's Hayter Challenge Final, will be selected for the Rest of the World team in the second Hayter International match, to be held at the Cherokee Town and Country Club, Atlanta, Georgia, in October 1998.

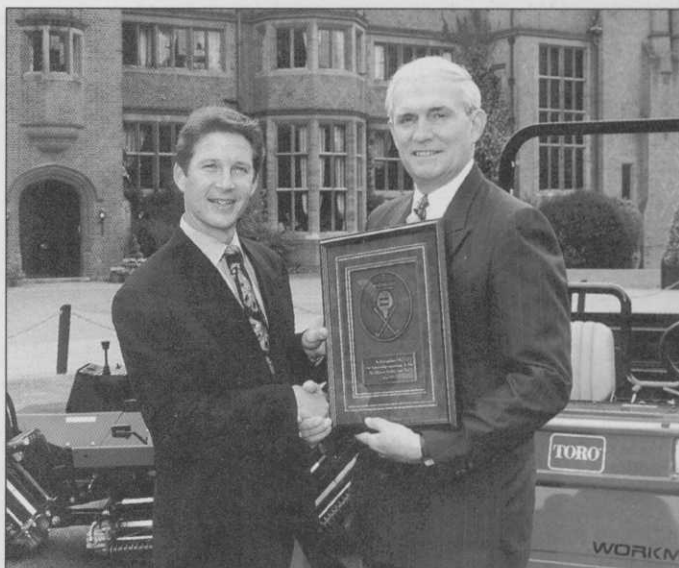
That team will have the chance to avenge the narrow defeat inflicted on the Rest of the World by the Americas at West Lancashire Golf Club last year.

The Regional Qualifiers are to be played at:- Scottish - Loch Green GC, Troon, May 27; South West and South Wales - Burnham and Berrow GC, June 11.; Midland - Warwickshire GC, June 26; South East - Ham Manor GC, June 27; Northern - Matfen Hall GC, July 9;

National Final: Ganton GC, September 17 & 18.

### Supporting role

TIS now support any requirement for Toro Irrigation product installation, service or retail in the south of England. Contacts are Colin Clark, Tel: 01903 859933 and John Roberts, Tel: 01425 479232.



Don Masini, right, Toro's MD of worldwide sales and Marriott's Rob Baruck

## Toro's hotel deal

The Toro Company has secured a multi-million-pound partnership agreement with Marriott Hotels in the UK, part of the Whitbread Hotel Company, as exclusive suppliers of golf course turfcare machinery and irrigation systems.

The deal covers all eight Marriott Hotel & Country Clubs with golf courses, as well as two others where new 18-hole courses are under construction. It is for an initial two-year term, with a view to a further three to five years after that.

"For six months the Whitbread Hotel Company golf development team has been assessing the turf management needs of the four 36-hole, one 27 and three 18-hole golf courses we own," said Rob Baruck, Marriott Hotels' Director of Golf and Leisure, speaking after the agreement was signed at Marriott Hanbury Manor Hotel & Country Club in Ware, Hertfordshire, the venue for the recent Alamo English Open.

"We made a detailed assessment of the turf equipment industry and short listed four companies that we considered potential partners for our company," he explained.

"Of the four, Toro was considered to be the most pro-active candidate to develop the partnership process."

"The Toro Company is also the largest manufacturer of irrigation equipment and brings the design and technical support of this specialist field into the deal," added Rob.

The deal was signed on behalf of The Toro Company by Don Masini, Managing Director of Worldwide Sales in the international division. He was joined by Toro's European General Manager of Sales, Bob Buckingham.

"It proves again that Toro not only has winning products, but provides a total solutions package which includes training, technical expertise and agronomic advice. Also, we are the only company in the industry who can cover both machinery and irrigation aspects together," said Bob.

As will be the case for all future machinery aspects, this was handled through Toro's UK commercial products distributor Lely UK in St Neots, Cambs; while the irrigation side will be catered for by TIL Irrigation in Ringwood, Hants, the UK distributor for Toro irrigation products.

## Bailey's open their doors

Bailey's of Norfolk has issued a general invitation to BIGGA members and their families to join them in celebrating 21 years in the turf dressing business.

All the events happening throughout their open week, July 7-12 are free and include a Family Fun Day, barbecue and dance, machinery demonstrations and a chance to look round the production and laboratory facilities.

Two golf competitions with prizes worth over £500 will also be taking place. Bailey's will also be welcoming greenkeepers to come and look round the production and laboratory facilities.

The Open Week is designed to take place in a relaxed atmosphere. For further information call Bailey's on 01603 754607.

## FLYING DIVOTS



■ Amenity Technology has made three new staff appointments. Steve Coleman, top left, becomes a Director of the company responsible for commercial development.



Lee Robertson, centre, has been appointed Northern Technical Sales representative and Gary Haines is the Technical Sales representative for the Midlands.



The company has also relocated to new offices with larger warehouse space. The new address is: Reading Business Centre, Weldale St, Reading, Berks, RG1 7BX.

■ Simon Hannam has left Inturf after seven years as Technical Advisor to take up a position with Allied Dunbar. Derek Edwards and all the staff at Inturf wish Simon well in his new career.



■ Briggs & Stratton has promoted Robert Preece to the new position of Technical

Sales representative. Previously Service Administrator and an Instructor at their Brentwood Training facility Robert, a Master Service Technician, will be supporting Registered Service Dealers in the Southern half of the country. Assuming Robert's previous roll will be Paul Shuttleworth, a Master Service Technician with 28 years experience problem solving and repairing Briggs & Stratton engines.

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“ Primer 604 is still producing excellent results. There has been no dry patch for the second year of its use on these modern sand based greens and it will be part of my management programme for 1997. ”

John Wells  
Course Manager  
Brocket Hall  
Golf Club

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PRIMER™  
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