

John Deere achieves certification to ISO standards

John Deere Ltd, the UK arm of the world's largest manufacturer of agricultural and amenity equipment, has achieved certification to ISO 9002:1994, the quality management system assessed by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance.

Both the company's headquar-

ters at Langar, Nottingham and the John Deere Training Centre at Bingham have received separate LROA certificates of approval.

Certification to ISO 9002 demonstrates that both sites operate formal procedures which lead to improved quality, not only of

the products sold, but also in John Deere's relations with its customers, dealers and suppliers.

"While ISO 9002 certification is an important criterion in customers' purchasing decisions, especially in bids for governmental and institutional sales, our

main purpose in wanting to achieve certification is that it forms part of our overall plan to continuously improve our services to meet or exceed our customers changing needs," said Alec McKee, Managing Director of John Deere in the UK and Ireland.

Dealers are recognised with bubbly at BTME

At BTME Jacobsen acknowledged the sales and service achievements of a number of their dealers.

The following dealers were awarded with plaques and bottles of champagne by Peter Bell, General Manager, Jacobsen E-Z-GO UK.

Steve George, BS Mowers, received their award for Outstanding Parts Performance in 1996 Steve Williment, Scats, received their award for Outstanding After Sales Service Care in 1996 Steve Pullman, Sharrocks received their award for Outstanding Sales in 1996 Ian Bridges, Jacobsen Business Manager, accepted the award on behalf of GreenCare who were given an award for top dealer in 1996. Mick Shaw, Abbey Mowers, received their award for Outstanding Sales Performance in 1996.

At the presentation ceremony, Peter Bell commented, "I am pleased to present a number of dealers with these awards and I feel it not only shows the high calibre of our dealers but also their commitment to providing their customers with not only a range of excellent machinery but also with first class after sales service and support. Customer Care is of paramount importance to us."



Peter Bell, seated, and winners



Ready for some night-time action: MG Wildlife

Night working keeps rabbits under control

A Home Counties-based company is making a name for itself in the field of conservation and the control of wildlife.

MG Wildlife, 15 years old and based in Hayes, Middlesex, specialises in work on golf courses, council parks and open land.

As these areas tend to be populated during daylight hours the company works at night using its own silenced all-terrain vehicle adapted for night work and silenced rifles to control animals such as rabbits and foxes.

"We expect to be able to cover a radius of 50 miles in a single three to four hours session during which they can go round the golf course three times and a by-product of our work is an ability to

survey the ground and monitor nocturnal wildlife including badgers, which are protected by law, and deer," said company Director, Max Gizzi.

"Grey squirrels are also a problem and we use feeder hoppers to poison the boisterous males who tend to be the ones which cause most of the problems by gnawing bark."

Special emphasis is placed on the conservation aspect of MG Wildlife's work as it wishes to maintain a natural balance of wildlife which means it is necessary to thin a particular species.

The company is fully licensed and insured to undertake conservation and control duties both day and night. For further information Tel: 01895 824395.

Jim Paton, Head Greenkeeper at West Kilbride GC, has uncovered a new talent at his club in the shape of 93 year-old Peter McNab, who drew this cartoon.

Peter, who was the Club Captain during West Kilbride's 50th anniversary and was also around for the club's centenary three years ago, is a retired banker but could easily have enjoyed a successful career with pencil and sketch pad.



HAYTER CHALLENGE

You could be playing in America

With the golfing season now virtually upon us the annual Hayter Challenge gets under way in earnest. This year there is a huge incentive to spend a few extra hours pounding balls on the practice range or honing your skills on the putting green as there are 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.

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.

A rare opportunity indeed, particularly as the 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.

As ever some excellent golf clubs are hosting Sectional Qualifiers while the venues for the Regional Qualifiers form a group of clubs which it would be hard to better.

- South West and South Wales - Burnham and Berrow GC, June 11.
- Midland - Warwickshire GC, June 26.
- South East - Ham Manor GC, June 27.
- Northern - Matten Hall GC, July 9.
- Scottish - Loch Green GC, Troon, May 27.