

The new name appears in the title of the National Tournament this year, and with Scotts UK Professional giving backing it will help to strengthen an already fine event...

National tournament

The fact that there is a change to the name of the sponsoring company for National Tournament will come as no surprise to the many regulars who play every year. In fact if the name had stayed the same for more than two consecutive years no doubt questions would have been asked.

In 1991 ICI Professional Products took over the role of main sponsor and since then that same company has undergone a series of identity changes - Zeneca and several forms of the Miracle name to name but a few. This year, however, the name change is there again but on this occasion it is slightly different.

Scotts UK Professional replaces Miracle in title of the competition for the first time as a result of the former's decision to buy the latter last year.

As well as the constant name changing two other constants remain in place at the National Tournament in association with Scotts UK Professional - the steadily improving prize table, surely one of the finest played for in any amateur golf event in the country, and the face of Richard Minton, who, while wearing a vast array of slightly differing logoed shirts, has organised the event since '91.

Now representing Scotts UK Professional, Richard will again be responsible for ensuring that this year's event, at the wonderful Letham Grange Resort, in Angus, will be a memorable occasion for all who take part.

"The aim of Scotts UK Professional is to reward the best golfers from within the greenkeeping industry with not only quality prizes, but to also build the prestige which should go with the title 'Greenkeepers Golf Champion'," said Richard.

"The event is the greenkeeper's



Richard Minton at the 1997 National Tournament

Open and open to all. The competition is certainly no less intense, but fun will always remain to the fore.

"It's a pleasure to sponsor and support such a long established and prestigious event in the greenkeepers' calendar," said Richard.

But what about Scotts UK Professional? It's always good to know a little about the company which is so generously supporting such a fine competition and enticing everyone with an amazing table of prizes.

Well if I tell you that the Scotts turnover exceeds \$1 billion you'll see that it is not exactly a bit player in the world's huge and ultra competitive fertiliser and chemical business.

As you may have gathered Scotts, although now truly a global company, has its roots in the States, Marysville, Ohio, to be exact, and it has grown at such a rate it is a great advert for many of its own fertilisers.

Founded in 1870 the company has expanded massively in the last 16 years with the help of an aggressive series of acquisitions and merg-

ers. It now boasts 2500 employees across the world and as well as factories across the length and breadth of the USA has divisions in the UK - with two major fertiliser manufacturing plants, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, the Benelux countries and eastern Europe.

Only late last year Scotts made its most recent acquisition when it bought Levington Horticulture giving the company a significant share of the British domestic and professional market.

The company started as a seed cleaner but by 1920 one out of five golf courses in the United States were using Scotts seed. Eight years later it introduced "Turf Builder" the first ever turf fertiliser and down the years the company has proved its self to be as keen to innovate as it has to expand.

With the Scotts name behind it the National Tournament in 1998 at the Letham Grange Resort is sure to be an event not to be missed. Those wishing to enter should contact Sarah at BIGGA Headquarters, or fill in the entry form which appeared in last month's magazine.

