

Rain won't stop play

The Duke's Course at St Andrews has released information about how it improved the drainage on the course.

The site is at an altitude of 200 feet, north-east facing with a South-west prevailing wind. Formerly arable land, the soil is predominately clay with low infiltration rates. Existing drains were dug by hand, well over 60 years ago.

The challenge posed by the conditions was to collect non-travelling surface water and to intercept sub-surface water resulting from collapsed original drains.

Involving an investment of £235,000, designer Peter Thomson's two-stage solution was the installation of perforated drainage and sand-banding. Work was scheduled for the end of the second season of play, to allow time for observation and to prevent contamination of the sand and gravel by clay particles. Only fairways and surrounds of greens and tees required attention: greens and tees are constructed to USGA standards - free draining, sand based.

Stage One intercepted sub-surface water and prevented water travelling into areas of play. The Duke's received hole by hole analysis and treatment: 100mm pipe was installed at a depth of 350mm, covered by 250mm of pea gravel and 100mm of choker sand. Additional areas were drained with 60mm of pipe at a depth of 300mm with 200mm of pea gravel and 100mm of choker sand.

Stage Two involved the digging of trenches 30mm wide and 225mm deep filled with choker sand. These "Sand-Bands" are positioned between one and two metres apart and have maximum length of 10 metres before they are intercepted by 60 - 100mm perforated drains.

The combined result: 12 month play on a course which previously would have faced significant closures due to rain. Indeed, during Winter '97 (the wettest for many years) not a single day's play was lost.

I use **RiteFeed** because



It satisfies the needs of both myself and the course

Fraser Ross, Renfrew GC

An award with a silver lining

AT BTME Allen Power Equipment Ltd was presented with a plaque by the National Mower Company, USA, in recognition of 25 year's of National/Allen association in the UK.

National design durable grass cutting machines specifically for the golf course market and their range includes National 84 powered by a Briggs & Stratton 16hp twin "Vanguard" engine and National 68DL with a 7.5hp Kawasaki 4 cycle engine.

Peter Jefferis, Managing Director of, Allen Power Equipment Ltd (Left), and Lance Bassett, Sales Director (Centre) receive a plaque from Stan Rinkead, General Manager, National Mowers, USA, (Right). The plaque marks 25 years of distribution of National mowers in the UK through Allen's national network of dealers.



New company launched

A new company name, but with familiar faces, was introduced for the first time to the Amenity industry at BTME. Twose Turf & Spray Limited (TTS) is a venture between Twose of Tiverton and the previous management and staff of Hardi Limited, Colin Gregory, Bill Oliver and Richard Tyas.

TTS has already attracted exclusive distributorships of the Greencare range of aerators, the Rogers Windfoil, drift control spray booms and Root Zone Injectors and, from Woodbay, the GreensIron greens roller.

In addition, the company has entered into agreement with the Italian sprayer manufacturer Gambetti Barre to develop a range

of specialist sprayers for the Amenity market.

Operating from a central location in the East Midlands, TTS will also be distributing the range of Twose Amenity products which have built up an enviable reputation over many years.

Commenting on this new venture, Colin Gregory, Managing Director stated, "The Amenity industry demands a better service than it has been given by companies who see it as a 'Cinderella' relation of the Agricultural market. TTS has a strategy to develop and introduce, through its network of specialist dealers, an exciting range of new products for the UK and Ireland Amenity industry."

Computer controlled?

Merrist Wood Golf Club has just taken delivery of the newly-released Qquest Maintenance Management Software for Windows. Installation and system setup was carried out by Wessex Software Systems, the Qquest Authorised UK Dealer.

The Qquest system, which can be found at a significant number of golf clubs throughout North America and other parts of the world, was developed as a computer based system to simplify and speed up many of the facets of maintaining both equipment and facilities on a golf course.

Managing and scheduling regular maintenance tasks one of the benefits afforded by the programme. Integral with the system is both the control of inventories of spare parts and consumables and also labour costs. Other features include chemical application tracking, departmental budget management and access to electronic parts imaging systems such as Powercom, PartSmart and Plus!

"We intend to use the Qquest system not only for running our maintenance operations at the club, but the College's greenkeeping students, by using the Qquest programme, will gain greater exposure to the necessary administrative aspects of greenkeeping" say Tom Smith, Head Greenkeeper at Merrist Wood.

Guy Coleman of Wessex reports that Wessex is developing a special educational establishment pricing package for Qquest Maintenance Management Software.

For further information Tel: 01798 831020

Training initiative for Wales

A new training initiative from the Welsh College of Horticulture combines training agency skills with the academic excellence provided by the College tutorial staff.

SDA Training limited became an integral part of the College during 1997. This partnership delivers their unparalleled expertise in training, counselling, support and assessment to form a unique link between the Welsh college of horticulture and commercial operators in their NVQ programmes.

Heading the land-based industry section is Phil Davies N.D.T. who joins the Company from Mommersteeg International, where he was Amenity Product Manager.

Phil's experience spans more



than 20 years both as Head Greenkeeper and in the turf Management industry. His primary responsibility will be for Greenkeeper training and support, but will also encompass Landscaping, Commercial Horticulture, Floristry and BAGMA Engineering.