

# Industry heavyweight retires

Mark Horner takes over as Commercial and Amenity Sales Manager at Vitax this month, following the retirement of Trevor Holmes after 14 years with the company.

Formerly with Sinclair Horticulture & Leisure, Trevor, who joined the company as National Field Sales Manager in 1984 and rose to Director two years later, following a company buy-out, has seen the successful merge of Vitax with Synchemicals in 1988, and Amenity sales figures triple since he joined the company.

During his time with Vitax, Trevor has introduced many new products including the wetting agent "Ultraflo", the entire range of slow release fertilisers and, most recently, the seaweed products "Seaturf Soluble" and "Seaweed Foliar Feed".

While building his early career in the horticultural and amenity sectors, Trevor had also been building his body. A self confessed seven stone weakling in his 20s, he joined a body building club in Grantham, of which he is now Honorary Secretary, and put on six stones in two years, helping him to take sec-



Trevor Holmes with the weight of the world on his shoulders

ond place in the British Power Lifting Championships in 1963 and become Champion of Champions of Great Britain in the same year.

Three British records still stand to Trevor for the "Pull-over and press on back", a lift which is his speciality - they are for the middle-weight, light heavyweight and mid-heavyweight classes, the middle-weight record since 1965.

The future holds a rigorous training programme, as Trevor will continue to lift, although not compete, and is looking forward to playing more golf.

Mark Horner, who has been with Vitax for three years, and working alongside Trevor as Commercial and Amenity Sales Manager Designate since September, was born into horticulture as his father grew over 30 acres of field vegetables at Scarisbrick, Lancashire, on the Fylde Coast.

With an HND in horticultural sciences and previous experience with Henry Alty Ltd, Mark, 30, was a Technical Sales Advisor covering the 15 South Eastern counties for Vitax, before training for his new post.

## PGA success assured from supporters

The response from members to the opportunity of joining a BIGGA Greenkeeper Support Team for the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth at the end of May has been overwhelming.

"Such has been the huge number of members who have asked to be included in the team I have been unable to contact everyone individually. However, I have now written to those who have been selected and would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those for offering their services to those who haven't been included," said BIGGA's Administration Manager, John Pemberton, who is organising the team.

"Hopefully the success of this inaugural Volvo PGA Championship Greenkeeper Support Team will see it continue in future years thus giving more people the chance of taking part," said John.

## Techno Toro

The need to control irrigation systems as an integral part of golf course management, and the need to optimise water usage is becoming one of the key tasks facing Course Managers. Over the last few years the UK and Ireland has seen the installation of some extensive irrigation systems to greens, tees and fairways. The number of sprinklers, and the necessary complexity of the irrigation programmes, makes PC based control an essential feature for a successful operation. Toro has been at the cutting edge of PC based technology and its latest system is named SitePro.

SitePro uses full graphic depiction of the actual course on which it is installed these graphics show the position of the pipework, cables and sprinklers. Operation of individual sprinklers is activated by simply clicking on the sprinkler marked on the screen. This is only the beginning; full utilisation of the system features, flow management, weather station communication to calculate site evapo-transpiration rates and a range of course management reporting functions. SitePro represents the pinnacle of irrigation system control technology and all that is required to run the system is a basic understanding of Windows 95, and a knowledge of a turf irrigation practices.

For further information on Toro Irrigation Products call Graeme Francis on 01425 476261 or contact Hydroscape, Water House, 10 Carvers Industrial Estate, Southampton Road, Ringwood, Hampshire UK BH24 1JS Fax: 01425 472380.

## A very fine vintage at Reaseheath



This unique tournament is approaching its fourth season. The brainchild of Bruce Whitehead and Paul Mayman, it has been nothing but a constant success.

Due to its one of a kind invitational, over 70's structure, it has gained great recognition as the only one of its type. In fact a real niche in the market has been uncovered.

This year's tournament has again started to make a name for itself. Staged in a small Cheshire hamlet envied for its natural characteristics, Reaseheath Golf Club provides the ideal venue.

Reaseheath College is a premier centre for training in the land based industries. Most noticeable is the HND Golf Course Management sector, whose students take charge of the event.

This year's tournament is to be held on May 13. Purely invitational, the experienced over 70's field are already working hard on their games ready to peak in time.

Sponsorship and contacts gained by the students in their industrial placements has given the tournament a professional lift. This year's sponsor has been finalised as Jacobsen



Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club.

Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



**Name:** Alan Jack

**Club:** Cathcart Castle

**Position:** Apprentice

**Age:** 21

**1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?**

One year

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**

SVQ Level 2 at Elmwood College

**3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?**

Hand mowing tees and greens

**4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?**

Divoting fairways on my own

**5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?**

Before greenkeeping I was a professional footballer

**6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**

Robert Hogarth, Head Greenkeeper at Cathcart Castle and Brian Hillan, Head Greenkeeper at Drumpellier

**7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?**

Less interference from members

**8. What are your hobbies?**

Football and golf

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**

Monthly magazine, Education, Reading articles on other courses and greenstaff

**10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?**

Head Greenkeeper

# Scotts Company has big move all planned out

The Scotts Company has announced the formation of a new structure following the company's purchase of Miracle Professional in '96 and Levington Horticulture Ltd last year. The new company will be called the Scotts UK Professional Business Group and will be based at the Levington Horticulture offices at Bramford, Ipswich.

The new structure is a key step in the integration of the professional operations of the two businesses.

In the Turf and Amenity sector, products include Sierrablen, Greenmaster and Longlife fertilisers plus treatments such as Daconil, Casoron, Tritox and Turfclear are involved.

Under General Manager, Louis de Kort, the Scotts Professional Business Group will have a dedicated Professional Marketing Department headed by Martin Morgan and a Sales and Customer Service Department similarly focussed exclusively on profession-

al grower and amenity customers. To maximise the quality of service offered to customers, three new UK Sales Support Teams have been established with the the Turf and Amenity team being headed by UK Sales Manager, Chris Briggs.

General Manager Louis de Kort said: "The creation of a dedicated UK Headquarters for the new business is a tremendous step forward, enabling us to establish skilled and experienced teams to focus specifically on the needs of our UK customers. That we are able to base ourselves at the Levington Horticulture site is especially important, as it will facilitate close and vital liaison with the Scotts Research and Development operation, located at the same site."

The new contact details for the company are: Scotts UK Professional Business Group, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4BZ. Tel: 01473 830492. Fax: 01473 830386.

## Tykes bowled over by mower

The first orders for Huxley's new HD84M mid/rear mounted triple mower have been placed by North Yorkshire County Council.

Huxley Area Dealer Gibsons of Kirkham, Lancashire, secured the first order at the end of last year and, following initial evaluation, North Yorkshire County Council recently ordered a further two machines from Gibsons.

The Huxley HD84M hydraulic cylinder mower has been developed specifically for fitting to the Kubota ST30 28.6 h.p. hydrostatic drive tractor. The three cutting units can be raised and lowered independently to allow variable cutting width - maximum 84" (2.13m) and minimum 57" (1.45m). Reel drive can be reversed for backlapping or for clearing obstructions.

Price for the Huxley HD84M (excluding tractor) is £8,990 plus VAT including independent hydraulic system and hydraulic oil.

For further information contact: Paul Huxley, Telephone: 01962 733222.

## Moss control advice given

Weed control specialist Nomix-Chipman has issued a new technical advice sheet on moss control for hard surfaces and turf. This includes details on its non-residual moss killer which now has MAFF approval for use on internal and external hard surfaces.

Based on dichlorophen, Nomix' liquid Mosskiller delivers effective control of moss and fungi on paths, hard surfaces such as car parks and ornamental paved areas as well as lawns and fine sports and amenity turf. Mosskiller also offers an unrestricted number of applications through the season.

Mosskiller is applied by knapsack sprayer during active growth at rates of 17 litres/hectare (170ml in 10 litres of water for 100m<sup>2</sup>) when treating hard surfaces. For turf areas, the application rate is 50 litres/hectare (500 ml in 10 litres of water to treat 100m<sup>2</sup>).

For further information Tel: 01179 574574.

## Early bird bookings!

The South West and South Wales Region are already planning for BTME '99 and have put together the package for the BTME Express which includes luxury coach travel, leaving Tuesday morning and returning Friday afternoon, three nights B&B and entrance to all seminars. All for £95.

On top of that, where a Head Greenkeeper is bringing an assistant the price for the assistant is £85, but both must be from the same club. For greenkeepers under the age of 21 on December 31, 1998, 20 places will be available on a first come first served basis at £45. Members wishing to take advantage of this should apply in writing to Paula Humphries,



Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, Crediton, Devon, EX17 6DF.

South West and South Wales Region wish to thank Amenity Technology for their generous help in sponsoring this event. A generous amount is also being contributed by the Region from the profits made at Westurf.

Payment may be made by instalment. Contact Paula on 01363 82777.

## Sweet smell of success!

A new competition involving four man teams from golf clubs in South Wales is to be held at Celtic Manor Hotel and Country Club in August. Teams comprising the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper, the Secretary or Club Manager, Chairman of Green or a member of the

Green Committee and the Club Captain or Vice Captain will play for the Golf Management Trophy sponsored by Scotts Turf and Amenity, on August 27, for the considerable prize of one tonne of fertiliser. The format for the competition is four ball better ball

with two score to count on each hole and the cost to enter plus coffee on arrival and a two course meal is £60 per team. For further information contact Paula Humphries, BIGGA South West and South Wales Regional Administrator Tel: 01363 82777.

# Scotch mist fails to help Peter

The annual match between BIGGA Scottish Region and the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, at Glasgow Gailes GC, ended in defeat for BIGGA and their Captain, Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd.

While still a rookie, Captain Boyd, did manage to amass an impressive array of excuses for the 7-3 defeat in the 20 man aside contest - the team had been fooled by the lack of rain; the team had been fooled by the lack of wind and finally that the

secretaries had made full use of their handicaps.

I don't think Seve himself would have been able to come up with a better set had the Ryder Cup result gone a different way.

"Despite the result everyone had a most enjoyable day with the weather being kind and the hospitality from the golf club first class. Our thanks to the Captain and Council of Glasgow Golf Club for affording us the facilities for the day," said Peter.

The BIGGA winners were

Willie McMeakan, Turnberry Hotel, and John Scott, Kirkhill GC, who won by the handsome margin of 7&6. Elliott Small, Tulliallan GC, and Martin Lothian, Turnberry Hotel, and Stuart Crawford, North Berwick GC, and Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC halved their matches while Peter Boyd himself also managed a win.

"We look forward to next year's fixture and hopefully we can improve and regain the Trophy," said Peter.

# BIGGA's new Membership Services Officer



Tracey Maddison is BIGGA's new Membership Services Officer having taken up the post at the beginning of April.

A native of York, Tracey joins the Association having recently completed a three year Leisure Studies degree course at Leeds Metropolitan University where she became interested in training and development and membership/sales.

"Since leaving university I have gained experience in the design of training and development material as a desk top publisher within a management consulting company" explained Tracey.

"I returned to education after eight years or so working in a variety of administration/secretarial roles and perhaps more excitingly travelling around the world for a year, visiting Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Malaysia and Europe, where I saw some of the most amazing golf courses, from the most beautiful to the most obscure!" she added.

"I have many hobbies, most of which are sport orientated, including golf which I played in my past and will possibly take it up again now that I am situated in such a lovely locality as Aldwark Manor. I also enjoy squash and aerobics."

# Aerators get to the point

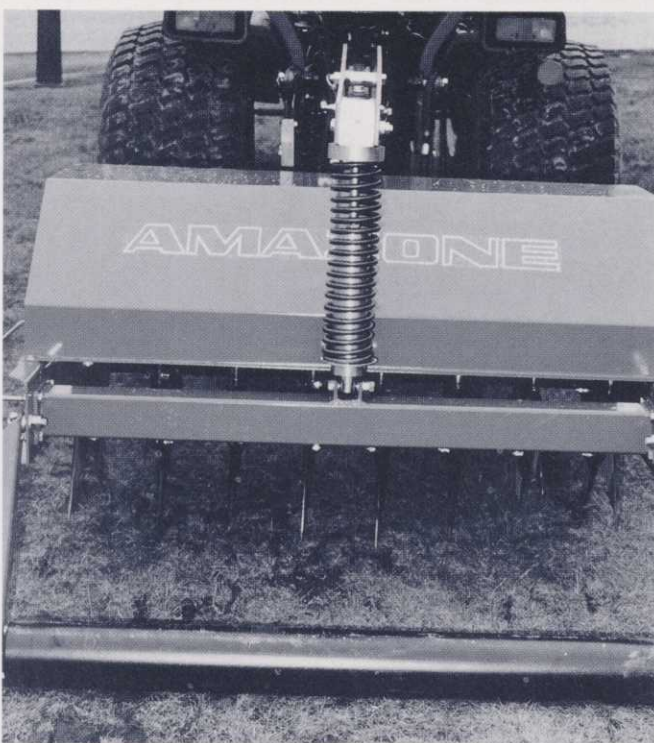
Amazone Ground Care has launched new range of slitter/aerators. The new four-model range incorporates a unique blade configuration that ensures high point pressure across the full width of the implement at high operating speeds, while exerting 91kg point pressure for entry into the thickest thatch.

Designated the Amazone, SLC and SLS series, they replace the current SL range. All the new models are three-point linkage mounted. The SL has a 1.2 metre working width, the SLC 1.2 metres and 2.4 metres; that of the SLS, which features a new contour following system, is 1.2 metres.

The SL forms the base of the new range and is intended for working on flat ground. Its fully enclosed 1.2 metre-wide ground-driven rotor is fitted with 40 blades, each of which, uniquely, is mounted with a 10 degree offset.

With that pattern, all the points in contact with the surface penetrate the ground to an equal depth when the slitter is driven forward, so eliminating the "walking" effect associated with some blade layouts.

Both the 1.2 metre-wide SLC and the 2.4 metre-wide version also feature contour following through a floating chain and bar support at the rear of the implement. Penetration depth on



these models is by means of weights around the rotor axle.

At the top of the new slitter range is the 1.2 metre-wide SLS. This model features a new contour following mechanism, comprising a front-mounted hydraulic depth ram connected through an arm to a pre-loaded

spring anchored to the frame at the rear of the implement.

When crossing an undulation the operating depth is maintained through ram pressure, while the spring releases to enable the tractor's rear wheels to remain on the ground, so maintaining traction.

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



**THE FACTS**  
~  
**NOT THE HYPE**

"I HAVE USED PRIMER 604 SINCE IT CAME ON THE MARKET - WITH GREAT RESULTS. IT WILL BE INCLUDED IN MY PROGRAMME FOR 1998"

MARK CHESMAN  
COURSE MANAGER  
SONNING  
GOLF CLUB

**PRIMER**  
PRIMER 604 IS MANUFACTURED IN ENGLAND BY SUPATURY PRODUCTS LTD UNDER LICENSE FROM THE AQUATROL CORPORATION OF AMERICA. TEL: 01488 234677

Ad Ref 184

## Ipswich becomes new Textron HQ

With Textron's acquisition of Ransomes now complete, a new Textron Turf and Specialist Vehicles Group has been created and the rationalisation process to pull together Ransomes and Jacobsen in the UK is well underway.

This process has involved a careful assessment of the requirements of each of the businesses in the Group and a full audit of all the physical and human assets that the company possesses.

The decision has now been taken to headquarter the new Group at Ipswich, the established base of Ransomes, and to combine the activities of Ransomes Textron and Jacobsen Textron on this site.

A number of key staff will be relocated and the principle objective is to ensure a continuity of the high quality levels of service for customers of both Jacobsen and Ransomes.

Textron Turf & Specialist Vehicle Group now includes brands such as Jacobsen, Ransomes, Cushman, E-Z-GO and Ryan. It is the company's stated intention to support fully each of these brands.

## David goes West



Etesia has appointed David Shepherd as Area Manager for the western side of the UK. David will look after a territory covering Wales, the West Country and the north-west, where he will be responsible for maintaining the company's existing dealer network and seeking opportunities to increase Etesia's market share.

"In the nine years since Etesia entered the UK market, the company has continued to affirm its commitment to selling quality machines through specialist dealers who can offer customers the kind of service and back-up they expect. The close support our Sales Team provides is a key link in ensuring complete satisfaction at every junction of the sales process," said UK Sales Manager, Robin Taylor.

# No bugs with this Millennium winner

The Sisis Ecospray, drift-free sprayer, has been selected for the first tranche of Millennium Products.

In September last year, Tony Blair, launched Millennium Products and began the search for the country's most innovative products and services. The challenge went out to submit for consideration ground-breaking products that will change the way we live in the 21st century. The aim is to have 2000 examples of British business ingenuity by the new millennium.

The selected products are allowed to carry the Millennium Products marquee, will go on display in national and international exhibitions and will be a major feature in the Millennium Dome at Greenwich. They will also be featured on the Millennium Products

website which went live in April.

The Sisis Ecospray was seen as an environmentally responsible sprayer, solving one of the major problems with conventional sprayers.

Most sprayers are based on agricultural models, with the attendant problems of spray drifting from the intended target. Spraying contractors, and indeed all users of spraying equipment, have to take great care to protect people and environment alike and should only spray when weather conditions permit. A slight breeze can cause a pesticide application to be abandoned; even on a still day, a freak gust of wind can cause damage to adjoining vegetation or watercourses.

Each unit on the Ecospray, therefore, is enclosed by a shroud to reduce "drift" to an absolute mini-

mum. Solid covers can alter the spray pattern; the Ecospray has specially designed and patented, perforated, shields developed in conjunction with an experienced spraying contractor and Cranfield University, who implemented computer modelling and wind tunnel tests to achieve the optimum design. Bubble jet nozzles were fitted to give a more uniform droplet size, which also reduces drift and improves leaf contact. Sisis subsequently developed the original idea into a viable, commercial product.

The Sisis Ecospray is available in two models, 5-unit towed gang and 3-unit fully mounted. Other models will be available shortly. The first production models are now in use with spraying contractors Complete Weed Control Ltd.



## Brushcutter with designs on success

The Stihl FS 85 brushcutter has been chosen to join the permanent collection at London's Design Museum, of objects representative of late 20th century industrial design.

The Conran Foundation, was set up by Sir Terence Conran in 1993 to assemble a collection of industrially designed mass-produced objects. Each year a British resident with an 'educated' awareness of design is given £27,000 to construct a collection of their own choice. Selectors can choose anything from domestic items are packaging to vehicles. The only criteria are that they must choose "things they would like to live with" and that are "in current production".

In time, a fascinating collection of mass-pro-

duced design will be formed, representing changes in design technology, as well as individual tastes. Such a collecting policy is unique among museums worldwide and will result in a truly fascinating collection that will provide a major design resource for the late 20th century and beyond.

The collection currently on display has been specially chosen by Dan Pearson the well known TV gardening presenter and Sunday Times' gardening columnist.

In selecting the Stihl FS 85 Dan Pearson said, "Lots of strimmers are very flimsy, but this professional quality model is designed to last. The frame is lightweight but strong and the nylon blade can be replaced."



Chris Yeaman, of Swanston GC, in Edinburgh, has come up with an interesting old photograph taken in the mid '80s during a trip by Scottish greenkeepers to the Ransomes factory. Included among the assembled group are some familiar faces captured in their prime of life, including current

Scottish Regional Chairman, Jimmy Neilson, South East Region Board of Management member, George Barr, Ray Day and Steve Dixon. Also in the picture, eighth from the right, is Eddie Holt, of Dunnikier Park, Kirkcaldy, who has since died but for whom a memorial trophy is played each year.

## Nixon gives thanks for vote of confidence

I am writing to express a big thankyou to all involved with BIGGA and Toro for organising and providing a trip of a lifetime to the USA. I will never forget the way I have been received and looked after since winning the Toro Student Greenkeeper award.

I would also like to emphasise the professionalism of BIGGA and Toro, they both put a great deal of work and effort into improving our

industry and because of this, I was proud to represent them in the USA.

Lastly, I would like to thank Askham Bryan College for putting me forward for this award and providing me with a first class education, and a special thanks to Mr Steve Prinn (course tutor).

**Steven Nixon**  
Toro Student of the Year

## Kubota challenge tees off

The inaugural Kubota Golf Club Challenge event has got off to a flying start with a full entry of 500 teams representing golf clubs from throughout the UK.

Being played over a series of five knockout matchplay rounds culminating in a Grand Final at Woodhall Spa Golf Club in October for the 15 remaining clubs, the Kubota Golf Club Challenge is an all-new golf tournament for teams of two players comprising the Secretary and the Head Greenkeeper of each competing golf club.

Tournament organiser, Sporting Concepts Ltd, said that the event is proving a tremendous success, having been over-subscribed by more than 100 entries in its very first year.

Rene Orban, Deputy-Managing Director of Kubota (UK) said, "Kubota has established an excellent working relationship over many years with golf club secretaries, greenkeepers and Course Managers. This tournament further reinforces our commitment to UK golf clubs and those who work in them."

## A clearer outlook...

Shropshire-based All Glaze has introduced a nationwide on-site fitting service for the replacement of broken cab glass using Amma-Glas, a clear plastic glazing alternative to glass. Not to be confused with perspex, Amma-Glas offers:

- Excellent impact strength, withstanding the impact of errant golf balls and low tree branches, thus offering the machine operator a safe working environment.

- Clarity is similar to glass, being UV stabilised to protect against discolouring for five years.
- Anti-abrasion and chemical resistant hard coated to help protect against scratching.

Amma-Glas is available in clear and tinted, replacing any flat and some curved glass. For further information contact All Glaze. Tel: 01691 658752 Fax: 01691 670201.

# Quick! Quick! Slow!



Microflow 28.0.0  
Microflow 18.3.6 +  
Micronutrients  
Microflow 15.0.10 + Iron  
Microflow 5.4.20 High K

The nitrogen sources within Mascot Microflow quickly get in through plant foliage\*. Nitrogen release then slows right down over extended periods of up to 12 weeks.

The Polymethylene Urea nitrogen within Microflow is one of the most leech resistant sources of nitrogen for plants. Microflow liquids leave no particles to influence or delay use of playing surfaces or to be wastefully picked up by mowers.

You can even safely combine Microflow with organic products (such as Mascot SRD 100 and Mascot Seaweed Mineral Supplement) to save application time and enhance performance!

Don't be slow to discover the advantages of Microflow for yourself. Ring Rigby Taylor - quickly now!

\* 4 hours is all it takes!

**Rigby Taylor**

your perfect partners

The **MASCOT**  
Turf Care Range

Fungicides

Herbicides

Fertilizers

Top Dressings & Composts

Grass Seeds

White lining materials  
& equipment

Tools

Golf Course equipment

FREE 0800 424 919

Rigby Taylor Ltd,  
Rigby Taylor House,  
Garside Street,  
Bolton, Lancs BL1 4AE  
Tel: 01204 394888  
Fax: 01204 398379



## News from Patisson's

The Oakland Tee Marker is a brand new product from Patisson's. Made from recycled waste polystyrene but with a wood effect, it is extremely durable and environmentally friendly. The body of the Oakland is colour impregnated so that if the surface becomes worn it is not noticeable. The ends are painted white with vinyl numbers and the marker is fitted with a single aluminium peg which is both resistant to erosion and can be easily put into the ground.

The Windsor Tee Marker is part of the Windsor Tee Collection which consists of a divot box, tee marker and a litter bin. They are all made from moulded plastic. It will hold a plate for course or sponsorship details and is hollow so that it can be filled with sand or water for ballast.

The Sarrell Roller has been a part of the Patisson's range for some time but it has been joined by a one and two drum version which are expected to be popular with people needing to aerate a small area of land.

Patisson's has appointed Matthew March to its Sales team. Matthew will be looking after Patisson's ClubCall members as well as the trade export side of the business.

## Boost for Huxleys

Huxleys has received keen interest and important orders from a number of prominent golf courses since taking on exclusive responsibility for the supply and installation of Campbell Turf.

Among the first customers to specify the advanced synthetic turf as a replacement for natural and artificial surfaces on golf tees and pathways were Marriott Hotels - Meon Valley, near Southampton; St Pierre, near Chesham; and Dalmahoy, near Edinburgh.

The most recent of the installations is at Dalmahoy, where eight Campbell Turf winter tees have been installed - four on the East Course and four on the West.

"We are delighted with the all-round improvement," commented Dalmahoy's Director of Golf, Brian Anderson. "I play off the surface myself and it is just like striking the ball from a good lie on natural turf."

Installed on the par threes on Dalmahoy's two 18 hole courses, Campbell Turf not only looks and feels like grass, giving golfers the ability to control the ball through the air, but the material will also accept a normal tee peg pushed into the pile.

Huxleys will be pleased to provide full information, quotations and details of other Campbell Turf installations in the UK on request.



Toro Scottish dealers A M Russell have scooped a hat-trick of successes in the turf maintenance equipment manufacturer's latest annual dealer awards. The Edinburgh-based firm ran off with the top accolade of Best Overall Dealer, as well as picking up the award for Best Sales Increase and producing the Salesman of the Year, in the shape of Alistair McRobert. The award for Best After sales Service went to A T Oliver & Sons, in Kings

Langley, Herts. Winners were presented with their plaques by Graham Dale, Managing Director of Toro distributors Lely UK, and Bob Buckingham, The Toro Company's European Sales Manager. Pictured from left to right are: John Cockburn, A T Oliver's Sales Manager; Director Joe Zawinski and Managing Director Brian Goudie, principals of A M Russell, Graham Dale, Bob Buckingham and Alistair McRobert.

## Full range on offer at new academy

Work on the six hole Greenkeeping Academy at the Berkshire College of Agriculture for which the first turf was turned by then BIGGA Chairman Pat Murphy last year, has begun in earnest.

J & E Ely are the contractors. They have worked with the College previously and have close links with the architect, Donald Steele & Co., and many of the Rootzone sponsors including Banks Amenity Products and Bardon Aggregates.

The majority of trees were planted and the broad fairways shapes were cut over the winter.

The irrigation supply will hopefully incorporate the use of grey water and will demonstrate all types of systems from valve in head gear driven through to impact heads. These heads have been sponsored by Toro, Rainbird, Hunter, Watermation, Weathermatic and Nelson via suppliers. The consultancy has been sponsored by York Martin & Co.,

The greens have been designed not only to challenge golfers, but also to show the problems that certain shapes create for maintenance. The architecture also shows the green shapes approximately repeating the period of their construction.

The green constructions cover the 20th century. They include 1900s soil based Tom Morris shaping; 1920-30 clay boiled green.

A great deal of sponsorship has been received. For example the perched water table used by Donald Steele & Co. is sponsored by Banks Amenity products and Bardon Aggregates. The UGSA type is sponsored by Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals Ltd. The modern Dutch green which uses full sand rootzone has been sponsored by Roffey Ltd. who have also sponsored the recycled materials green finally a tee will be constructed using a hi-tech foam based system sponsored by Greenscape (UK) Ltd.,

The areas will be seeded with greens and tees sponsored by Mommersteeg Ltd.

Considerable time has been given by the Industrial Liaison Team, these include Malcolm Peake, and Martin Gunn, of Temple Golf Club; Allan Collis, of Castle Royle, and Ray Clarke, of Harleyford Golf Club.

Michael Bonallack, Secretary of the R&A who have been major sponsors, will open the Academy officially in the autumn of 1998.

## Rain Bird set to fly stateside

Rain Bird has signed an agreement with American Golf to be the exclusive supplier of irrigation equipment to the world's largest golf course management company.

American Golf operates more than 260 private, resort and daily fee golf courses and practice centers in the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

The three-year agreement allows the exclusive use of Rain Bird products on all American Golf new course irrigation system installations and/or major renovations to existing systems. It is estimated that American Golf will use Rain Bird products in nearly 20 new course irrigation system installations in 1998.

"American Golf is very pleased to be teamed up with the golf industry's leading irrigation software and whole goods company," said John Meyer, American Golf's Director of Fleet Management and National Accounts.

"Rain Bird's exceptional products and expertise will help us continue our commitment to providing the most superior maintenance possible at our courses nationwide."