

# 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