

Aldwark Manor invest in Textron

Aldwark Manor Hotel and Country Club, home of BIGGA's new... and old headquarters, has taken delivery of a new stableful of Ransomes/Textron machinery.

The investment was made by the new owner of Aldwark Manor, Newcastle-based businessman Brad Holbrook, who is keen to forge close relationships with his sitting tenants, BIGGA and the Greenkeeper's Training Committee.

"Initially I didn't know who BIGGA were but when I learned of their importance in the industry I wanted them to be here as long as I am, which is for the long run," explained Brad.

"Now that BIGGA have built their own headquarters we'll be promoting ourselves as Aldwark Manor Hotel Golf and Country Club - the home of BIGGA."

Head Greenkeeper Richard Gamble was at the heart of the decision to purchase the Ransomes machinery.

"Ransomes put a lot in so when Brad asked for my input regarding machinery there was no question in my mind it had to be Ransomes," explained Richard.

"I explained what I wanted and the reasons why and got everything I wanted," said Richard.

The new Ransomes-*Textron* machinery was supplied by Henton

& Chattell of Nottingham and includes one Ransomes CT 325 compact tractor; one Ransomes CT 445 compact tractor; one Ransomes CT 333 dedicated hydrostatic tractor with cruise control; one Cushman three wheel truckster; one Ransomes Fairway 305 mower; one Ransomes Greensplex 160 Diesel, two Ransomes T-Plex 185; one three trailed Ransomes Magga gang mower and a GA30 top dresser.

Right: Brad Holbrook, owner of Aldwark Manor tries out the new Ransomes kit

Below: Head Greenkeeper, Richard Gamble and his team



A new name over the door

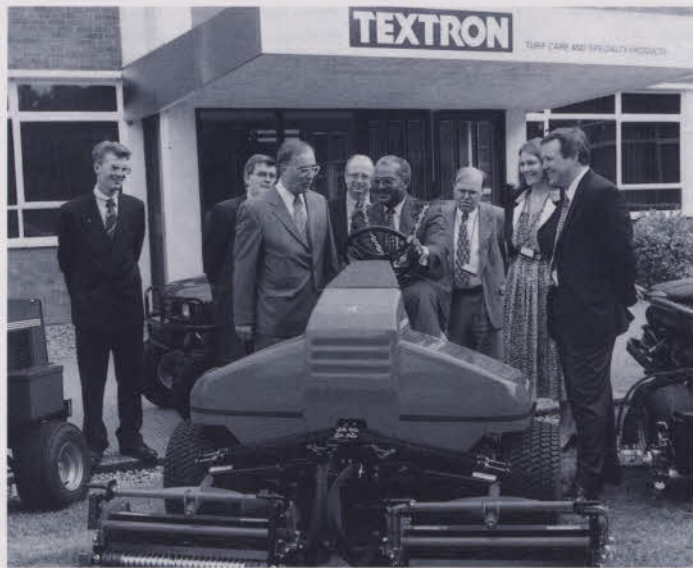
The Ransomes factory at Ipswich now has a new name over it. Ransomes was acquired in January by *Textron*, and joined with Jacobsen, *Textron's* American producer of golf course machinery to form *Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products*. The Mayor of Ipswich, Mr Hamil Clarke, unveiled a plaque to mark the launching of the new name on the factory.

The Ransomes and Jacobsen business, which also includes the Cushman and Ryan brands, has a combined world-wide turnover of \$650 million, will have its head office at Ipswich.

Ipswich will also be the manufacturing and central distribution point for the whole of Europe. Significant investment has already been made at the Europark site to gear up the company to meet the new needs of the Group.

This has involved new Cardex parts dispensing systems being installed and a large mezzanine floor being built for product storage to cope with the enlarged distribution aspect of the business. The main factory area has been reorganised to create additional space so that some of the Jacobsen product for the European market can be built at Ipswich.

"Ransomes and Jacobsen both have a proud history and an excel-



Above: Peter Wilson shows the Mayor, Mr Hamil Clarke, a *Textron-Jacobsen* ride-on mower outside the Ipswich headquarters.

lent reputation in the market, and we will continue to sell our products under these brands. Although we are now part of a large multi-industry company we will continue to stay very close to our customers and be a company that is easy to do business with," said Peter Wilson, President of *Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products*.

Ransomes and Jacobsen are now

the world's largest supplier of turf care equipment for the local authority and golf course market sectors and also supply people and burden carriers for a wide range of industrial applications.

The company is also responsible for the distribution of golf cars throughout Europe, which are produced by their sister company *E-Z-GO*.

On the move!

The new address for the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association is:

BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF.

Telephone: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801

E-mail: bigga@btinternet.com

Internet: www.bigga.org.uk

Robin makes the grade

The benefit of the greenkeeper assessment programme has been highlighted again with the success of Robin Evans, an assistant at Whitby GC, who has passed his NVQ Level 2 after working closely with his assessor, Andrew Boyd, Head Greenkeeper at Bridlington GC.

After a two year period which involved between 30 and 40 meetings between 32 year-old Robin and Andrew he received notification from the controlling body that he had attained level 2.

"Everyone is delighted including myself," explained Andrew.

"Robin is like a dog with three tails while his own Head Greenkeeper, Ian Lavelle's comment was that 'Robin is now a man we never knew we had' such has been the motivation and enthusiasm with which Robin now works."

Amenity Tech on the move

Amenity Technology has relocated to larger premises which offer better meeting facilities and a far larger warehousing capacity. The move coincides with the appointment of Amenity Technology as the exclusive European distributor of the Sustane fertiliser range and will allow better stocking capabilities of both the Sustane and the Andersons. The new address and contact numbers are Amenity Technology Products Ltd, 5 Arkwright Rd, Reading, Berks, RG2 0LU, Tel: 0118 931 1111.

Melvyn joins Green Pride

Melvyn Guy has joined Green Pride, the Lincoln-based company specialising in grass related products to the sportsturf and landscaping industries.

Melvyn is well known in the golf course industry and brings to Green Pride a wealth of experience in sands, rootzones and top dressings to add to their existing ranges of seeds, fertilisers and chemicals.

He will be covering the Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire area.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

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: Colin Noble
Club: Cathcart Castle GC
Position: Assistant
Age: 20

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

3 years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

SVQ III at Elmwood College

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

Cutting greens on competition days. (No golfers to hold us up!)

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Emptying bins on a warm day

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

Greenkeeping is what I decided I wanted to do from high school but I would probably have become a student or tried to get an assistant pro's job at a golf course.

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

Robert Hogarth and Elmwood College

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

Educate members on how to recognise when a course is unplayable

8. What are your hobbies?

Golf, football

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Education, helplines, outings and magazine

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

In charge of a team of greenkeepers on a good quality course and working with a very good committee

Norrie Whytock Trophy goes West

The Scottish Inter Section Tournament for the Norrie Whytock Memorial Trophy was played at Leven Links GC on one of the five best days of the summer.

The five Sections had their top players out for the challenge of winning the Trophy, which was being played for the third time, and the North Section were hoping to maintain their monopoly of it.

The tournament is run with teams of four playing Stableford with the three best scores counting. However at the end of the day two teams were locked together on 93 points and could not be separated despite various attempts so for the first time the two scores not used were taken into account.

This resulted in the West Section taking the Trophy by two points from the East Section. The difference may have been accounted for by the fact that the fourth member of the West team played all 18 holes while the fourth of the East packed in after 16 because he said he was playing badly.

Many thanks to tournament sponsors, Rhone Poulenc; organisers, McKenzie Munro, Rhone Poulenc's Scottish Area Sales Manager, Peter Boyd, and Andy O'Hara and his staff.



The victorious West Section receive their trophies

Building Fund: Contributing Clubs

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 Blackwood
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 Glenbervie
 Goodwood
 Goring & Streatley
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 Royal West Norfolk
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 Sandy Lodge
 Scarcroft
 Seacroft
 Seaton Carew
 Sedburgh
 Sherwood Forest
 Shipley
 Sitwell Park
 Skipton
 Sleaford
 Sonning
 Southport & Ainsdale
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 St Bees
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Stand
 Stanmore
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A tribute to Jimmy Neilson

A retirement dinner was held recently at Kingsknowe Golf Club to celebrate the greenkeeping career of Jimmy Neilson, the Scottish Regional Chairman.

To us in the East of Scotland Jimmy has and always will be a legend.

Jimmy is by nature, and you might find this hard to believe, a shy person but give him a few brandies and American and he is great company.

He began his affliction with greenkeeping at Swanston Golf Club after serving many years as an agricultural mechanic with Alexander's, local the Ford Dealer.

He then made his move to Murrayfield Golf Club and spent the rest of his career there.

To mention all of the things which have made Jimmy a legend would be impossible. Jimmy was a stalwart in the old SIGGA Brigade and has been a front line soldier for greenkeepers rights and better conditions of employment. Education has always been top of Jimmy's agenda - the most important thing in making the greenkeeping profession a highly recognised and respected trade.

Jimmy has made a lot of friends on both sides of the Atlantic and in Europe in all aspects and corners of our trade.



I would like to apologise to anyone who did not get an invite to the dinner but we could have filled a hall ten times the size. But finally to Jimmy. Have a long and happy retirement. You are, and you have been, a credit and inspiration to us all.

Steve Dixon, East Section Secretary

Above: Just a few of the many guests at the party

Right: Jimmy in fine form



Turfmech's Tornado

In the August edition Greenkeeper International the feature of leaf blowers and clearers omitted several types of machinery, some of which are produced by Turfmech Machinery.

Among these are the Tornado Blowers, the TM5 High-lift vacuum collector and the TurfVAC TM11 vacuum collector.

The Tornado Blower is available in versions suitable for mounting on tractors or on ride-on front mowers in place of the cutter deck. It produces a 150mph blast of air to blow leaves and debris rapidly and effectively into rows.

The TM5 High-lift vacuum is a high capacity, high-tip vacuum collector for use behind smaller tractors - 35hp-plus. It has a fully floating 1.5 metre wide suction head with a full-width powered agitation brush and a 2.2 m high unloading capability. The TurfVAC TM11 requires a tractor of 45hp plus and has a load volume of 11,000 litres. Trailed and pto powered it offers a choice of 2m, 2.2m and 2.5 m wide suction heads.

For further information Tel: 01889 271503.

Celtic Manor hosts new Welsh event

The first of playing of a new competition for the South Wales Section took place at Celtic Manor on August 27.

Club teams, comprising Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, Club Captain, Club Secretary and Chairman of Green, played for prizes, donated by Scotts, with the winning club enjoying the sweet smell of success thanks to a tonne of fertiliser!

Played out in tremendous weather the 20 teams faced up the daunting task of the magnificently conditioned Roman Road Course which had been brought to a peak by Course Manager Jim McKenzie, Russell Anderson and the rest of the staff.

Celtic Manor, who granted courtesy of the course, have agreed to host the event next year on August 25 when there will be a maximum of 30 teams.

Results: 1. Llanwern, 127, 2. Celtic Manor, 129, 3. Dewstone 137.

Longest Drive, Russell Anderson, Celtic Manor. Nearest the Pin, Jamie Probert, Pontardawe.

G.I. Apology

Greenkeeper International would like to apologise to Woodbury Park GC for the appearance of a 'bogus' photograph in the article on the club in September's edition. The photograph, and accompanying caption gave the impression that Woodbury Park used Ransomes equipment while in fact it is another Textron brand, Jacobsen, which Woodbury uses. Greenkeeper International is happy to put the record straight.

Kubota Golf Club Challenge Finalists

The 15 golf clubs which will compete in the final of the revamped Kubota Golf Club Challenge which will be played at The National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa has been confirmed.

A total of 480 golf clubs from throughout the UK set out of the course to the final, teams of the Club Secretary and the Head Greenkeeper playing head to head matches, with five rounds required to set up the final which is due to be played at the beginning of this month.

"It was decided that a new format was needed which would directly involve golf club secretaries and

Head Greenkeepers playing together as a team, furthering Kubota's long and close relationship with their respective Associations," said Tom Barnes, Kubota's Marketing Manager.

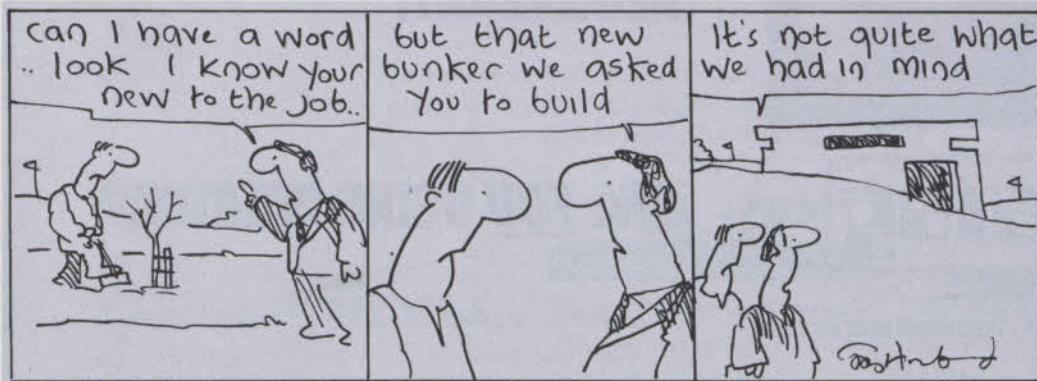
Finalists

Bonar Bridge & Ardgay GC - H. Sutherland & J. Evans
 Carluke GC - M.D. Black and A. Colquhoun
 Chippenham GC - D. Maddison & C. Sealey
 Clayton GC - D. Smith & R. Smith
 Dainton Park GC - A. Ryland & C. Bland
 Fynn Valley GC - T. Tyrrell & N. Hickford

Haverfordwest GC - J. Solly & A. Roach
 Liphook GC - B. Morgan & D. Murdoch
 Lullingstone Park PC - B.M. Seymour-Vallance & P. Bennett
 Moor Park GC - J. Broome & S. Bertrum
 New North Manchester GC - D. Parkinson & J. Cumiskey
 Pines Golf Centre - B. Gray & D. Gray
 Ramsdale Park Golf Centre - B. Jenkinson & M. Smith
 Rawdon GC - S. Clark & A. Armitage
 Welshpool GC - D. Lewis & T. Horsan

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



'Brand' new role for David



Rigby Taylor has expanded its specialist technical sales team in Scotland with the appointment of David Morrison as Brand Manager for the company's Mascot range of turf care products in Scotland.

Having worked for over 30 years in the amenity sector in Scotland, David is well known and his appointment will utilise his wealth of knowledge and experience.

Based at Newbridge, Mr Morrison will also have responsibility for direct sales in the central, Tayside, Grampian and the Highlands region to provide greater support for Rigby Taylor's existing customers. He will deal directly with local authorities, landscapers and contractors.

David worked for 10 years as Area Sales Manager with ICI/Zeneca and more recently with Scotts Miracle. In his new role, he will be responsible for new product launches throughout Scotland.

Turner sketches out winning round

Sunningdale Course Manager, Brian Turner, put his local knowledge to good use during The Gerald Micklem Cup at the famous Berkshire course.

While former Amateur Champion and Walker Cup player, Gary Wolstenholme, was winning the main prize with two rounds of 68, Brian won the Over 50s prize.

Brian has been at the club since 1996 and is a member of Sunningdale Artisans Golf Club.

Right: Brian is pictured receiving his prize from Sunningdale Captain, Christopher Needham.



Royal appointment at Askham Bryan

Tickets are still available for the Golf and the Environment Conference to be held at Askham Bryan College, York on October 21 - 23.

The Conference, which is to be opened officially by HRH The Duke of York has assembled a top quality list of speakers for the three days and will cover a wide range of environmental related issues.

Programme highlights.

Wednesday, Session One

- Official Opening by HRH The Duke of York
- Golf Courses - Their Amenity and

Environmental Impact - Dr Roger Bennett.

- Securing Planning Permission - Avoiding the Bunkers - Mr D.M Rolison
- Wildlife of the Golf Course - Is Management Necessary - Dr. Gordon McKillop.

Thursday - Session 2

- Is Golf Committed to Green - David Stubbs
- Golf Course Management - An Ecological Perspective - Bob Taylor
- The Use of Pesticides on Golf Courses - David Garthwaite

Session 3

- The Scottish Golf Course Wildlife

Initiative - Jonathan Smith

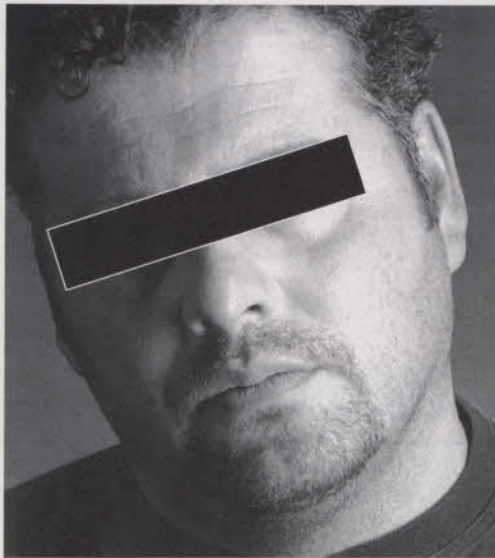
- Golf Environmental Management. Gain of Pain - Rod Baker
- Golf and Landscape - Jeremy Pern

Friday - Session 4

- Keynote - Dr Keith Duff
- The Latest Developments in cultivating turf production and turfgrass systems - Derek Edwards
- The Ridding Experience - Mark Mackaness
- Plenary Session led by Dr Roger Bennett

Ticket Information can be obtained from Kate Eckett, at Askham Bryan College Tel: 01904 772277.

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Going Stateside!

GCSAA Conference and Show,
Orlando, February 8-14, 1999

GCSAA's 70th International Golf Course Conference and Show will be held in the Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando from 8th - 14th February 1999.

As in previous years BIGGA is offering you the opportunity to travel on the trip to Orlando.

The BIGGA party will meet at Gatwick Airport on Sunday 7th February for departure to Orlando at 12.30 pm.

BIGGA will be able to arrange accommodation for any member wishing to stay overnight before the flight at competitive rates.

The Omni Rosen Hotel, chosen by BIGGA to accommodate our party, offers excellent facilities and is located on International Drive next to the Convention Centre.

The GCSAA Conference and Show takes place from February 8 - 14 with the trade show on February 12 - 14. You will be able to attend the conference seminars and education programmes as well as take in the latest golf course equipment, products and services at the trade show.

Itinerary

Sunday, February 7

All members will assemble at Gatwick Airport and will take the 12.30 pm Virgin Atlantic flight to Orlando with onward transfer to the Omni Rosen Hotel for an eight-night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

Monday, February 15

You will be transferred to the airport for your return overnight flight to London, departing Orlando at 19.10 pm arriving at London Gatwick at 8.15 am, on February 16.

Prices

£775 per person based on a twin share. £1188 per person based on single occupancy.

Plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration at £30.

Included are:

Return Economy class flights London Gatwick/Orlando; UK and US taxes; Transfer to and from the airport to the Omni Rosen Hotel; Eight nights accommodation on a room only basis and US accommodation taxes.

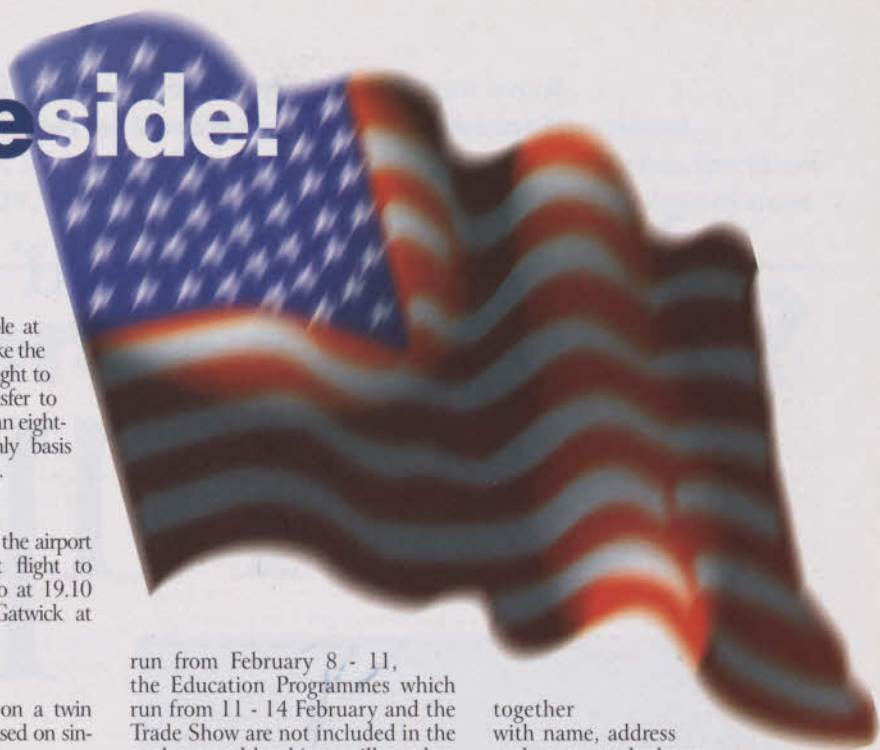
Please note: Registration costs for the Pre-Conference seminars which

run from February 8 - 11, the Education Programmes which run from 11 - 14 February and the Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £805 or £1218 (unless travel insurance is not required) to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF to arrive no later than Friday 13th November;

together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of 6th February please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel.

N.B. Places are limited on this trip and demand will be high - book early!



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