

## Sad passing of Ron Whitehead

Ron Whitehead, until recently Head Greenkeeper at La Moye GC, on Jersey, has died after a short illness.

Ron, who was 68, retired to Skegness two years ago but in that time designed a golf course for a Jersey-based syndicate at Tattershall Castle, in Lincoln. He had started work on the construction of the course when he was taken ill.

He had started his greenkeeping career at Beauchief GC and worked at both Dore and Totley GC and Wheatley GC before moving to Jersey.

He is survived by his wife, Pauline; sister, Mavis; son, John and daughter, Delyce.

## New MD at Stihl

Peter Baker has retired as Managing Director of Andreas Stihl Ltd on the grounds of ill health.

Martyn Thomas, the newly appointed MD joined the company at the beginning of May and the formalisation of his appointment as the new Managing Director takes immediate effect.

As head of the STIHL operation in UK, Peter Baker has been a key figure in the industry for over 20 years. His retirement, which had been planned and announced for December of this year, has been brought forward to allow him to concentrate on recovering his health and thus fully pursue his active plans next year. Friends and colleagues throughout the organisation wish Peter a full and speedy recovery.

Martyn Thomas' first months in the business were spent visiting the company's global headquarters in Germany and working closely with senior management to ensure the smooth transition of his role for customers, suppliers and staff.

Previously with Mitsubishi Electric Europe, Martyn was Divisional Manager responsible for the significant multi-million pound Industrial Automation Systems business - a major supplier of control systems to manufacturing industries throughout the UK.

Prior to working for Mitsubishi Electric, Martyn spent 15 years with DuPont, the US based chemical company in a number of sales, marketing and technical roles. Since graduating from Bristol University in 1977 with a First Class Honours Degree in Chemistry, Martyn has lived and worked in Germany, Switzerland and the USA, and has travelled extensively throughout Europe and Japan.

## Daniel returns to STRI

A former STRI employee has returned to Bingley, following the loss of three turfgrass advisers in June.

Daniel Binns, previously employed as an STRI Research Officer in Soil Physics, is currently working as a project team manager for a community environmental programme operating a recycling business.

Daniel will be joining Henry Bechelet, also a former STRI Turfgrass Agronomist who re-joined the Institute in May.

# Sisis record a busy year after merger

A year on from the company's take over of Huxley's, Sisis has completed the extensive consolidation work and is now ready to face the future with confidence.

"With ourselves based in Macclesfield and the Huxley headquarters down in Hampshire it was a logistical nightmare," explained Lynn Hilton, who added that she believed the company now offered the largest single range from a single company in the world.

"A team including joint Managing Director, William Hargreaves; Operations Manager, John Arnold, and Design and Development Manager, Brian Hartley spent three months at the Huxley site ensuring a smooth change over.

"Some 40 wagon loads of parts came up from Hampshire and all had to be logged and found space in the existing storage here," she explained, adding that a recently built mezzanine floor will help to alleviate the congestion.

The "merger" of two of the best known British companies in the fine turf industry made sense from an economies of scale factor but also because Huxley was a grass cutting specialist whose portfolio of products fitted nicely into Sisis' wide range of products.

Since the purchase of Huxley's, the Sisis staffing numbers have increased to around 77.

Huxley's had around 30 products in



its range and Sisis will be concentrating on around 12 of these - the other 18 being covered by products in the existing Sisis range.

"On a few instances we shall be continuing with the Huxley machine and dropping the Sisis one," said Keith Vertigan, the UK Sales Manager.

"It is good to be getting back into grass cutting which Sisis did 20 years ago," added Keith, who is relishing the task of selling the new expanded Sisis range.

Sisis now export to 42 countries and to every continent while the recently

formed outlet in South Carolina, under the stewardship of Ian Camp, is making headway.

Although the Huxley name no longer appears on machines Sisis have retained the familiar burgundy colour for the grass cutting machines.

"It was felt that burgundy was a better colour than our usual black and yellow colours for grass cutting machines," explained Lynn.

Martin Cook, one of the former Huxley staff who joined Sisis, drives on of the Huxley machines which now carries the Sisis name.

## New storage system increases efficiency



Textron dealer Scottish Grass Machinery has invested £30,000 in a storage facility for parts to dramatically increase the speed and efficiency of their distribution and after sales support.

The Inverkeithing based company, part of the SGM Group, purchased the giant-sized Kardex Industriever as part

of its constant drive to improve customer service as the machinery operates a carousel enabling quick and easy access to more than 10,000 stored parts.

"Time is of the essence in meeting customer demand. It now takes seconds to access a part using this piece of machinery. This means we

are able to provide an even more efficient maintenance and support service to our customers. It has also reduced the floor space required for parts storage by around 60%, which we now use as additional workshop space," said SGM Managing Director David McInroy.