

Grade A Club benefits for Dartmouth G&CC

Membership of an innovative club is helping Dartmouth Golf and Country Club Course Manager Terry Farkins supplement his annual staff training budget. Soon his in-house training library will boast the full range of BIGGA greenkeeper training videos. Terry employs eight full time staff and one casual worker at the 27-hole golf and hotel complex situated at Blackawarton, near Totnes in Devon. Investment in training has always been a priority for both Terry and his employer BBC Director General, Greg Dyke, who owns Dartmouth G&CC.

"We are constantly looking to move our greenkeepers up the NVQ qualification scale. At the moment, half our staff are qualified and the rest are keen to progress right up to NVQ level three. We run regular in-house training days and attend short courses where appropriate," said Terry. In fact, Terry is so committed to continued career education that he plans to set up his own library within the course



workshop area, and introduce a personal computer so that staff can regularly access the Internet for information.

"Ultimately, I'd like to undertake 90% of the training in-house and this means investing in educational materials. The British Seed Houses training credit scheme is an excellent idea has been well received by

both the staff and the company. We've redeemed our first batch of points and will be using the money to build up a library of BIGGA training videos," he revealed.

As a member of the British Seed Houses Grade A Club, Terry has built up his points as a loyalty bonus based on the on-going seed business he has done with the company.

Estimated £60k damage caused by vandals

Five greens were decimated overnight in an act of mindless vandalism at Llanymynech Golf Club when weed-killer was thrown over them.

The greens will now need to be rebuilt and new turf laid at a cost of approximately £10,000 to £12,000 per green.

Course Manager Allen Lewis could not believe his eyes on the morning of September 18 when he was alerted by a member of his staff to a white powder on the greens. This is now thought to have been Sodium Chlorate.

In the following three weeks the greens changed to yellow then white and finally brown as the grass covered died off over 60% to 70% of each green.

Officials at the club can think of no reason why anyone should want to do such a mindless act. The golf course is situated on the top of Llanymynech Hill with three greens in England and 15 in Wales.

Turfgrass Seed 2

TURFGRASS SEED 2002
SECOND EDITION

STRI

Published by STRI, BINGLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE, BS18 1AU, ENGLAND

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STRI has produced a second edition of Turfgrass Seed 2002.

The new booklet has revised information describing the performance of perennial ryegrass cultivars for use in winter games pitches.

For further details telephone: 01274 565131.

Top marks given to Thiefbeaters

Thiefbeaters has launched the Thatcham Permanent Security Marking and Database registration system.

Designed to protect valuable vehicles and equipment, Thiefbeaters acts as a theft deterrent. The new system can be applied to a wide range of landscaping and amenity items, including mowers, chippers, tractors and hand tools.

It works by applying unique alphanumeric numbers, electronic

tags and microdots to the structure and fabric of an item. This identification put in numerous overt and hidden locations, make it impossible for the thief to conceal, or remove the identity and legal ownership of the property.

Full details of the property and its unique markings are held on a national database which the police can access in the event of a theft.

Further information can be obtained Tel: 0870 794 0111.

Latest brochure now available from Tonick

The new, full colour brochure from Tonick Watering features a comprehensive range of irrigation control products and accessories for golf course, sports grounds, garden centres and landscapes.

The range includes decoders with programmer/testers, irrigation controllers, lightning protection modules, field-wiring connection and fault-finding kits.

The text provides useful technical information for both greenkeepers and installers.

All of the products described are designed and made in the UK by Tonick Watering and most items are available from stock.

The brochure is available free, on request, telephone: 01269 832325.

Andrew joins Advanta Seeds UK



Andrew Hodgskiss has joined the Advanta Seeds UK amenity sales team, to support the Advanta "MM" and "Designer" distributors, and their customers, in East Anglia and the South East.

Based in Ely, Cambridgeshire, Andrew has many years experience working in the grass seed business, selling to local authorities, major turf growers, architects and other landscape specifiers, as well as private sports and golf clubs.

High flotation tyres from Nokia

New Nokia high flotation tyres - yes that's Nokia - are helping to reduce the round pressure of the Carraro TRX 8400 tractor, which is a 74hp machine weighing 2100 kg, to 6 psi. The Nokia tyres, which fit comfortably into the Carraro tractor's frame, boast a lifespan which is typically equal to or greater than the vehicle to which they are fitted.

"Even when the TRX is working with one of the larger Verti-Drain deep aeration machines mounted on the back, it still creates less disturbance to the grass than an empty turf utility vehicle moving personnel around," said Dustin Houghton,

Head Greenkeeper, at Seaford Head Golf Club, who purchased a Nokia shod machine recently.

Like other Carraro tractors, the driving position and controls are fully reversible. This means that attachments can be fitted at both front and rear, and the operator can switch from using one to the other almost instantly.

This saves time and boosts productivity, with various tasks being carried out quickly and efficiently, without damaging the turf.

Carraro tractors are distributed in the UK by Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd.

