

Where does all the time go?

It seems amazing that as I sit writing this column David Toms has just been crowned USPGA Champion and the four Majors of the season have all been played. It doesn't seem like five minutes ago that I was sitting in this self same seat wishing you well for the start of the golf season.

Where does all the time go? I'm sure if we took time to look at it we could account for every second but it doesn't half seem like nothing more than a blink of an eye at times. I do think that the pace of life in this country, in particular, is a little manic at times and we could all do with slowing the pace down. Our sanity might then be preserved a little longer.

Talking of the USPGA Championship. The venue, the Atlanta Athletic Club, hosted the first round of the Hayter International Cup back in 1998. I recall the occasion quite vividly because there was a wonderful statue in honour of Bobby Jones, for whom the Athletic Club was a home golf club together with a fine museum in his honour.

It was a "big" golf course in every sense of the word and the players in the Hayter International couldn't help but feel privileged to have the chance to play it and all acquitted themselves well.

I remember standing on the 1st tee on a gloriously sunny morning watching them all tee off and not one of them failed to strike a fine tee shot despite probably being as nervous as they have ever been on a golf course. Well wouldn't you if you were representing either "The Rest of the World" or "The Americas"?

This month we include a preview of the Ryder Cup at The De Vere Belfry and the work of Dave Samuels and his team. The Brabazon Course will be hosting its fourth Ryder Cup and whatever you say about the rights and wrongs of the course hosting "The Greatest Show on Earth" so often you cannot but admire the transformation that has taken place on the course.

The course used to be defined by about three holes - the 10th, the 18th and, to a slightly lesser extent, the 9th. Elsewhere it was a bit of a slog with a lack of really memorable holes. It is only my opinion but if the '93 Ryder Cup hadn't seen so many matches go down the last and produce real drama I doubt whether the Ryder Cup Committee could have justified taking the Ryder Cup back to the course for an unprecedented fourth visit.

Now, however, there are any number of interesting holes any one of them capable of producing the sort of excitement for which the Ryder Cup is famous. So while 2001 will undoubtedly be The De Vere Belfry's Ryder Cup swan song I'm sure that the Brabazon's contribution to the 2001 Ryder Cup Match will be a memorable one.

Scott MacCallum
Editor

Textron unveil new branches

Textron is opening three branches in strategic areas of the UK in support of their dealer network.

Representing a significant investment in both people and premises the new branches will aim to enhance the quality of service, sales and parts support with direct links to Textron's headquarters in Ipswich.

The launch of the new branches comes following the termination of dealership agreements with ET Breakwell Ltd and Henton & Chattell Ltd by mutual consent in July.

"This latest move represents a major investment for Textron Golf, Turf & Specialty Products," said Harold Pinto Managing Director.

"It demonstrates our commitment to our municipal and golf customers in Warwickshire, the West Midlands, Hereford & Worcester, Leicester, Notts, Derbyshire and Yorkshire. The Nottingham facility will provide a strategically located service centre with Solihull and Pontefract offering a complete sales, service and parts operation for their respective territories," he explained.

The new branches in Redditch,

Worcestershire, Selby in North Yorkshire and Mansfield in Nottinghamshire are progressing at a rate of knots with the Redditch premises scheduled to open by the end of August.

Staffing is virtually complete with Textron having received an overwhelming response to press advertisements from applicants with experience of the turf and sweeper industries in general and their products in particular.

"We have reacted extremely quickly and efficiently to the termination of the dealership agreements with Breakwell's and Henton & Chattell. We nominated Alan Prickett, former Senior Regional Sales Manager to head up the Branch structure. He has already appointed a good number of quality people and found premises which suit our needs," said Glynn Patrick, Textron's Sales Director.

"We have taken a three month lease of Henton's former premises in Leeds to provide an immediate presence in this area and have leased a modern industrial unit of 8,500 sq ft at Selby that will be the permanent hub

for our Yorkshire operation. We already have a service team operational in this region.

"We have sourced a building at Redditch, which totals over 14,000 square feet that will be operational before the end of August. One of the new team, Peter Cooper, Breakwell's former Sales Manager will head up the sales team that will market our turf and industrial sweeper products. He will be supported by two Area Sales Managers responsible for Hereford & Worcester, Warwickshire and the West Midlands. A fully equipped workshop will accommodate a workshop manager, two technicians, two field technicians and a fully resourced parts department. Most of these people are already on board," explained Glynn

"We have been pleasantly surprised by the high number of quality people who have applied for a wide range of jobs. Most of them have experience of either the turf or industrial sweeper industry, and many are already familiar with our products," he added.

Scotts to distribute Casoron in the UK

Uniroyal Chemical and The Scotts Company announce the signing and implementation of a new distribution and marketing agreement for Uniroyal's Casoron brand dichlobenil, whereby Scotts will act as Uniroyal's distributor of Casoron products for the amenity market in the U.K. This new arrangement is aimed at increasing product availability and service to customers.

Casoron, which contains dichlobenil, is a pre-emergence

granular herbicide widely used in the UK landscape and amenity sector. The product can be applied among established plantings, controlling annual and perennial weed growth for a full season.

"We are pleased to announce Scotts as our UK distributor, Casoron fits neatly into their herbicide product range and they offer us increased distribution opportunities. This is an important product range for us and as such, we are determined to pro-

vide the long-term availability of Casoron in the European Union in spite of the high related registration costs," said Marcus Meadows-Smith, of Uniroyal.

"We are delighted that Uniroyal has decided to support Casoron through the EU review process thus preserving the product. For our part, we will continue to distribute Casoron throughout the industry, and customers should experience no disruption of supply," said Dave Steward of Scotts.

Top Award for Carraro Tractors

Tractors distributed in the UK by Charterhouse Turf Machinery have scooped a major European award for their innovative features. The Antonio Carraro Ergit TC and Ergit TN tractors triumphed in the 'Best of Specialised' category in the Tractor of the Year Awards announced during the recent FIMA exhibition in Zaragoza, Spain.

A panel of 12 trade journalists, representing a dozen European countries, considered 19 tractors from all over the world. To be eligible, a tractor had to have been publicly launched before the end of November 2000, and in production by the end of that year.

"We sincerely congratulate Antonio Carraro on winning this prestigious award," says David Jenkins, Managing Director of

Charterhouse Turf Machinery. "This confirms our belief that these tractors break the mould of conventional compact units,

with power outputs starting where others leave off and unique features that set them apart."

