

# John Deere launches Turf Tech scheme

A major new training scheme for the UK groundcare machinery industry is being launched by John Deere Limited, in conjunction with Brooksby Melton College in Leicestershire, with the approval of BAGMA and the City & Guilds of London Institute, and the support of the Learning & Skills Council.

The only scheme of its kind in the groundcare industry, the John Deere Turf Tech apprentice engineering training programme has been developed to assist dealers and their service departments in the recruitment and training of suitably skilled technicians. It is based on a similar John Deere scheme that has already been operat-

ing successfully in agriculture since 1992, and which won a National Training Award at the end of 1997.

Turf Tech is a four-year block release course at Brooksby Melton College, leading to the BAGMA/ City & Guilds of London Institute 4024 Agricultural / Groundcare Service Engineers NVQ Level 2 & 3 Certificates, and the John Deere Turf Tech Certificate. The standard three year apprenticeship will cover all the normal engineering principles and systems, and include regular sessions at the John Deere Training Centre in Langar. During the additional fourth year, the trainee works at the sponsoring John Deere dealership, and attends at least

three service schools at the John Deere Training Centre.

Successful completion of the fourth year of the scheme also qualifies technicians for Associate Membership of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers, and registration as Eng Tech with The Engineering Council.

The first intake of students, who need to be resident in the UK, sponsored by a John Deere dealer and aged 16 or over, is planned for September 2002. Anyone interested in applying will be able to obtain a brochure outlining the scheme from Brooksby Melton College, area careers officers, John Deere Limited at Langar, Nottingham, and John Deere dealers nationwide.

## Trilo buys Long Equipment range

MJT Contracts Ltd and Trilo have added the Long Equip range to their own range of Trilo Vacuum Sweepers. All production has been moved to the factory in Holland with MJT continuing the supply of parts and machines to the UK. The range has been "thinned down" to the successful collectors and sand spreaders, other machines may be made on request as



all drawings are held by Trilo. The company is hoping that the reputation of both TRILOs and Long machines will go hand in hand for a stable future and ask customers to bear with them while we gear production of machines and parts up to the standard expected by existing TRILO customers. They are holding some parts in stock and hope to have things back in operation within six to eight weeks with full production being resumed by Saltext at the latest.



## Sportsworld seminar a great success

David Bates (left) gets up to his elbows in a demonstration of hydraulic conductivity at the Sportsworld Amenity-sponsored North Wales Section Seminar at Carden Park. Chaired by Bill Lawson and with speakers including Peter Wisbey, of the EGU; Duncan McGilvary, of Potters Bar GC, Ken Richardson, of BIGGA, several speakers from Sportsworld Amenity as well as Colin Hood, from Turftrax, the audience was treated to a wide ranging array of topics.

## Great news for Woodlands

The Forestry Commission has changed its Woodland Improvement Grant giving more opportunity to golf courses to access grant aid for the management of their woodland.

The grant is split into 3 units: - WIG1 for Public Access, WIG2 for Undermanaged Woodland and WIG3 for Biodiversity. It is WIG 2 and WIG3 that are generally of interest to golf clubs, previously uneconomic thinning was not applicable for grant aid under WIG2. This has now changed and therefore golf courses with woodland should now be eligible for 50% of the agreed costs to bring their woodland back to environmentally acceptable levels. This

grant has a ceiling limit of £10,000 in grant assistance.

WIG3 has also been restructured with a new ceiling limit of £50,000 in grant aid. This is available to clients wishing to improve the biodiversity of their woodlands providing it is in accordance with either, the National or Local Biodiversity Action Plan, a Habitat Action Plan or a Species Action Plan. The grant gives a 50% contribution towards agreed costs. For further information please contact John Nicholson Associates at:-

John Nicholson, John Nicholson Associates, 18 Douglas Gardens, Durham, DH1 3PT Tel: 0191 3842556

## South Wales Seminar well supported



Pictured at the South Wales Seminar are Professor Bill Adams, David Ward, Head Greenkeeper at Royal Porthcawl GC, Simon Barnaby, Scott's Technical Manager and Martin Townsend, Scott's Sales Manager. The event was very well supported and the South Wales Section would like to thank Scotts for their very generous sponsorship of the event.



Take a time-honoured look back through the pages of Greenkeeper International from a decade ago



JUNE 1992

Greenkeeper International reported that golfers at Aldwark Manor, built in 1876 and headquarters of BIGGA, had to give way to a giant crane recently as a 30 tonne 60 metre span bridge was eased into place between the fairways. Engineers used a 500 tonne mobile crane to lift the steel frame timber decked bridge, which now stands as a splendid course feature and access for golfers and maintenance machinery over the River Ure, running through the picturesque 6,171 yard par 71 parkland course. This operation brings to an end a two-year project to extend the original nine holes (opened in 1978) to eighteen, and is the first new bridge to span the Ure since 1887, when Aldwark Toll Bridge was reconstructed.

In an article on 'Vandalism', David White asked, Why do vandals especially target golf courses? Is it that they mistakenly perceive golfers as some kind of rich kids on the block: hurt the rich and you hurt ordered society? I have a theory that vandalism stems from the attitudes of couldn't-care-less parents, giving vent to violence, anger and frustration from their unloved offspring. Theories apart, if you are victim to vandalism and all else fails, consider the course of action taken by one club, that of vigilante patrols over the peak hours of 10pm to midnight. Even the most persistent vandal jobs at being caught and a posse on the war-path will often prove the ultimate deterrent.

Neil Baldwin described some of the more common sources of injury to golf greens and ways of minimising the danger should a problem occur. Under the heading 'Chemical Scorch', he pointed out that perhaps the most important consideration when using pesticides is to read the label and follow the instructions carefully. Under normal use chemical scorch due to over application of pesticides is rare. However, over application due perhaps to incorrect sprayer calibration may cause severe problems. Certain turf treatments such as wetting agents are widely known to scorch fine turf if not watered in after application. Thus the correct use of pesticides and other chemical treatments must be emphasised. Extreme care must be taken in the use of total herbicides as these chemicals will kill any turf in which they come into contact. For example, heavy rain shortly after application may wash the total herbicide off the path or other area to which it has been applied, especially if the treated area is on sloping ground.



## What a whopper!

Mark Cox, an assistant of 23 years standing at Long Ashton GC, in Bristol, became an overnight star in the angling world when he hooked this 10lb 2oz rainbow trout near the club. The catch came as Mark was giving a lesson in the art of fly fishing to a friend. His story was recounted in the fishing column of the Bristol Evening Post.