

AWARD FOR EDITOR

Greenkeeper International Editor Scott MacCallum has won the Writing category of the Communicator in Business (CIB) North Awards.

Scott won the prize for his "A Racing Certainty" article on Nigel Mansell and his Woodbury Park Golf Club in Devon, which appeared in the magazine in October '03

The Award ceremony was held in the world famous Cavern Club, in Liverpool, and to mark the occasion, and in keeping with a venue made famous by The Beatles, each of the category winners was presented with a specially made Gold Disc by CIB National Chairman, Ken Runicles.



ETESIA CELEBRATES NEW PARTNERSHIP AND DEALER SUCCESSES

Etesia UK Ltd have entered into an agreement with Kramp UK, appointing them as official replacement parts distributors to Etesia's specialist outlets.

The announcement was made at Etesia's 2004 Dealer Awards event, when over 50 representatives from the company's UK network were invited to visit Kramp UK's 70,000 square metre headquarters in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.

Speaking at the launch of the new initiative, Managing Director, Patrick Vives, said, "Kramp have been successfully handling Etesia's spare parts for some time, so this is just an extension of that service."

At the awards dinner Burrows GM Ltd received the UK Dealer of the Year Award.

Other award winners included: Alex McDougall Mowers – Best pedestrian mowers sales; Parks & Grounds Machinery Ltd – Best new professional dealer; Tom Williams Garden Machinery – Best new domestic dealer; Dean Mowers received the plaque for Best increase in turnover.



Bill Nelson, MD of Burrows GM Ltd (left) receives his UK Dealer Of The Year Shield from Etesia's MD Patrick Vives.

CLARKE PLANS WORLD CLASS GOLF RESORT

GML Estates Ltd, part of Channel-Island based Orana Group, has agreed terms to acquire Gilford Castle, in Gilford, Co. Down. GML intends to submit plans to renovate the Castle and outer buildings and to convert the grounds into a world-class 18-hole golf course and golf club, with the first Darren Clarke Golf Academy.

It is believed that the total investment will be around £25 million and will create approximately 100 full and part time jobs.

Darren, with ex-pro golfer David Jones, will be designing his first golf course in Northern Ireland specifically for the Gilford Castle project. It is intended that the course will rank among the best in Europe and be of a standard high enough for international competitions. He will also help to set up and oversee the first Darren Clarke Golf Academy, which will encourage and train young people from all over Ireland.

GML plan also to provide a first class clubhouse, with restaurant, bar, golf shop, and other facilities. The golf course will be 7,000 plus yards in length and designed to both preserve and to take advantage of the existing mature woodland, with the River Bann providing a major water feature to challenge the world's best golfers.

"I am very excited about doing my first course at home, especially somewhere as good as the Gilford Castle estate. The landscape is beautiful and we will create a stunning course, said Darren Clarke.

"My mindset going into it is to create a championship golf course, but also one that amateurs can enjoy as well. We have two fantastic golf courses in Northern Ireland, Royal Portrush and Royal County Down, which are known worldwide. My ideal would be to make Gilford Castle every bit as good as those two – to have it right up there so that we have three of the world's top golf courses in Northern Ireland. We want people not only from Ireland travelling to play it, but people from all over the world."

NEED A LIFT TO BTME?

BIGGA have placed a new discussion forum on the BIGGA Bulletin Board for members to arrange transport to BTME & ClubHouse, in Harrogate, on 18 – 20 January.

Entitled 'Car Share Scheme to BTME & ClubHouse' the forum is designed for members to organise transport arrangements with other members in their Section or Region.

So if you need a lift to the Exhibition or if you have spare space in you car, and are willing to offer your services, then get on the Bulletin Board, which is located in the members' section of www.bigga.org.uk.