

ALUN RACKS UP THE MILES

Alun Wright, Sales Manager at TH White Ltd, has fulfilled a lifelong ambition by riding his Honda XRV 750cc Africa Twin motorbike from Land's End to John O'Groats.



It took three days overall, a total of 915.5 miles avoiding all motorways, with the exception of one mile on the M48 over the old Severn bridge. He spent 16 hours 15 minutes actually in the saddle at an average speed of 56.33 miles per hour and averaging 54.2 miles per gallon.

Using all of his charm he managed to acquire a set of HotWired heated clothing, normally used in winter by greenkeepers, from the marketing department at Ransomes Jacobsen to ensure that he kept warm and dry throughout the 1,946 mile round trip.

"I've always wanted to do it and I had to use up some annual holiday by the end of April or lose it. This presented the ideal opportunity, so I hopped on the bike and just went for it," said a delighted Alun.

SMART THINKING

Cancer Research UK has launched a SunSmart campaign to help people reduce the risk of skin cancer, with individuals who work outdoors being targeted.

Over 2,000 people a year die from skin cancer, with over 69,000 new cases of the disease diagnosed in the same period. Malignant melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, is one of the few cancers to affect young adults and is the second most common cancer in 15-34 year olds.

The campaign is offering the following advice: Stay in the shade between 11am-3pm; Make sure you never burn; Always cover up; Use factor 15+ sunscreen.

Never use sunscreen in order to spend longer in the sun. Sunscreen alone does not offer complete protection from sun damage. It should be used to increase your protection at times when you are exposed to the sun without adequate shade or clothing.

A crucial message the campaign is attempting to get across is that it does not have to be a scorching hot day for someone to burn. The sun does not have to feel hot in order to damage skin, as the heat from the sun comes from infrared rays, not UV rays, so sunburn can still occur on cool days.

"It is vitally important that melanoma is detected and treated early. The best advice we can give people is to keep an eye on moles and any unusual skin blemishes," stated Dr Catherine Harwood, a Cancer Research UK dermatologist.

Index	Skin type:			
	Fair, burns	Fair, tans	Brown	Black
1, 2	Low	Low	Low	Low
3, 4	Medium	Low	Low	Low
5	High	Medium	Low	Low
6	Very High	Medium	Medium	Low
7	Very High	High	Medium	Medium
8	Very High	High	Medium	Medium
9	Very High	High	Medium	Medium
10	Very High	High	High	Medium

GALLAGHER SO CLOSE

With The Open Championship upon us and the BIGGA Support Team warming up to aid in proceedings, one of the Association's greenkeepers has already lived his Championship dream.

John Gallagher, greenkeeper at Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Club, but who plays at Swanston Golf Club, finished runner up in the Amateur Open Championship at Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale GC. After battling through the rounds during an early week in June, John lost out 5&4 in the final to Irishman Brian McElhinney.

"It's a hell of a hard game when you're down all the time and although I'm disappointed I'm also delighted with how far I got. I putted well all week, but lost the pace of the greens in the final. It's a long week when you play 10 rounds and I just ran out of steam," said John, the Lothian's Champion.

John, 24, has taken a year out to play golf full time, a decision which is clearly paying off, and

reaching the final of the Amateur Championship may well help him achieve a lifetime ambition.

"I've always dreamt of playing for Scotland," stated the Amateur finalist, who plays with his left hand below the right.

"My grip lets me hit the ball low and that's been very effective throughout the week. My swing isn't pretty, but I get the ball round. I'm more of a grinder than a golfer."



John Gallagher, left, congratulates winner Brian McElhinney

LELY TEAM UP WITH YANMAR

Yanmar's range of compact tractors and power products will be distributed by Lely (UK) Ltd as from September 1. The announcement comes after Claymore Grass Machinery and Yanmar decided to go their separate ways.

Claymore, Yanmar and Lely will work together over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition of the distribution and, in particular, the continued availability of spare parts and services. Lely's Peter Wheeler will head up the activity.

AVONCROP ADD NEW NAMES



Joe Crawley

Avoncrop Amenity Products have announced that Joe Crawley and Ceri Richards have joined their sales team.

Following the loss of Colin White, Joe Crawley will be covering the Hampshire, East Dorset and West Surrey area for the Company. Ceri Richards will

be taking over the South Wales area in July after the retirement of Ray Burrows.

Both Ceri and Joe are well known in the amenity industry, both having worked for Vitax in the past.

"I'm really pleased that Joe and Ceri have joined Avoncrop Amenity Products. For both of them they have hard acts to follow, but I'm sure they will

look after their customers with dedication and excellent technical support," commented Chris Briggs, Business Development Manager.



Ceri Richards

SYMBIO UP BY TWO

Symbio has announced that two new members are joining its technical sales team.

Paul Sheather, previously Head Greenkeeper of the Arden Course at the Marriott Forest of Arden, has joined Symbio as Regional Technical Manager covering North London, East Anglia and Leicestershire. Paul completed his HND in horticulture and moved rapidly through the greenkeeping ranks, preparing the Arden course for several European tour events and of course The Masters Championship.

Vicky Willet, whose first degree was in agronomy and forestry, did a PhD assessing the role of organic nitrogen in plant growth. Vicky is based in Skipton North Yorkshire and will help Symbio to grow in the North of England. Vicky spent a year in Malawi managing a plant research project on top of seven years of research into UK soils and she is looking forward to applying her knowledge to help greenkeepers improve growing conditions and their playing surfaces.