



Welcome

RESPECT

I have uncovered some new found respect for greenkeepers.

Sure, I've marvelled at the condition of your golf courses; your ability to make a lot out of budgets which, like belts after a large meal, are just a little bit tight, and problem solving skills which would make you prime contestants for that cult Channel Four show "The Crystal Maze" but last month the pedestal beneath your feet seemed that bit taller.

We moved house about a year ago and there was one area of the garden which wasn't quite right. The previous owner had used it for her garden furniture and had put down polythene and gravel, but with no furniture there and the black polythene sticking through the gravel it looked a tad unsightly.

No problem thought your intrepid landscaper I'll just return it using the knowledge I've gleaned over the last 10 years.

I set out with great gusto, clearing and bagging the gravel and pulling up the polythene before spending time preparing the ground, adding top soil in a bid to level it up with the rest of the lawn. It took hours and I certainly won't lie to you and tell you I was fresh as a daisy afterwards. I sweated like a pig in a sauna and muscles, previously used to the cushy life of getting a journalist from A to B, thought they'd been transplanted onto Ricky Hatton.

Then for the maths. I had to work out how much turf I needed. Not an easy task when the area was not a conventional square or rectangle. Now it's ages since I did geometry at school but, for the life of me, I couldn't recall measuring semi circles. From what I remember it was all straight line stuff you could do with a 12 inch ruler. But erring on the side of too much being better than too little I got there.

At this stage a little panic set in. How was I going to cut the turf round corners? How was I going to make it look neat? I have to admit the job stalled a little and having done the initial hard work it was two months before I plucked up the courage to see it through.

This I did in one weekend with a final, desperate all out blitz. Two journeys with a turfed filled boot, a pair of topiary shears and I was in the middle of a green and hairy jigsaw - snipping here filling a hole there. I know you pros use lasers but outside of a lot of trial and error how do you get it completely level? Exhausted, I left the finishing touches to my better half with her well honed attention to detail and between us it was looking quite good.

But then it was out with the watering cans morning and night to keep it from dying off.

The stress and responsibility is not something I was used to yet it's a nothing job you guys knock off in a couple of hours before moving on to more important matters.

Respect!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

GREGORY MOVES TO MASSEY



Colin Gregory has been appointed as Massey Ferguson's UK and Ireland Sales Manager for Grounds Care and Utility Vehicles. In this new role he will be responsible for MF's expanding range of

equipment aimed specifically at this sector.

Colin, a well-known figure in the industry, brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the role. After starting work as an engineering apprentice at Ransomes he transferred to sales for the company before moving to Lely, ending up as Sales Manager for Lely Iseki. Colin was then appointed Managing Director of Hardi (UK) and

more recently has worked for Port Agric for the past few years.

"I am very pleased to be now working for Massey Ferguson, which is a large and progressive company. I am really looking forward to the interesting challenge of helping to expand the grounds care business. Grounds care is becoming an increasingly important sector of the market and I will be working closely with Massey Ferguson dealers to ensure our machinery gets the attention and sales it deserves," said Colin.

David Sleath, MF's Sales Director said: "Colin has a great deal of experience with grounds care equipment that will help Massey Ferguson and our dealers progress in this specialist sector. Indeed, we will also be appointing two new product specialists, who will work with Colin to provide the highest levels of product support to this important part of our business."

BOBCAT ON THE BORDER

Bobcat has confirmed the appointment of Gwent based Border Bobcat as the new authorised Bobcat dealer in south, west and mid Wales. Part of Border Industrial Services Ltd established in 1986, Border Bobcat is now responsible for sales, service and spare parts for the Bobcat range of equipment in the counties of Gwent, Glamorgan, Dyfed and Powys.

Jointly owned by Sales Director, Huw Edwards, and Operations Director, Cliff Cookes, Border has substantial experience dating back well over 20 years in the skid-steer and mini-excavator markets in Wales. Huw is a specialist in sales and marketing in this area, while Cliff Cookes manages the parts and service back up for Border customers. The business is located close to Newport at the Birds Industrial Estate on Commercial Street in Risca, Gwent.

"We are delighted to be chosen to represent the Bobcat brand in south,

west and mid Wales. Our specialist experience in the markets for skid-steers, excavators and associated attachments was particularly attractive for Bobcat," commented Huw.



Cliff Cookes, left, and Huw Edwards of Border Bobcat

AGREEMENT RUBBER STAMPED

To avoid conflict in the top dressing of natural grass with rubber crumb for wear resistance and reinforcement market place, Dunweed Ltd of Ellesmere Port and Tebbutt Associates have agreed to cooperate in the selling and distribution of the product. Dunweed Ltd will handle all the retail inquiries from Garden Centres, Nurseries, shops, mail order, etc, while Tebbutt Associates will handle all non retail or commercial inquiries from golf, football, rugby, National Trust, large gardens,

Local Authorities, etc.

Tebbutt Associates have been selling the Crown III product for the prevention of wear and reinforcement of natural grass for five years. Dunweed Ltd produces Plain and colour Mulch from recycled tyres for as weed suppressant, path and playground material, along with rubberised top dressing for wear resistance. These are to be sold through retail outlets throughout the country.