

NEW RECRUIT IN SALES

Sam Honeyborne has joined Countrywide Farmers (CWF) as Turf & Amenity Area Sales Manager, covering South Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset.



Having previously worked for CWF as an Agri Trade Sales Specialist, Sam has extensive knowledge of the full range of CWF products and services, featuring agricultural, energy and country lifestyle products, including clothing and footwear.

NEW WEBSITE

Tycrop Manufacturing, have launched a new website designed for turf maintenance professionals.

Dedicated to Tycrop's turf maintenance equipment for golf courses, sports turf and playing fields, the website provides an in-depth look at each of their five flagship products.

For more information on Tycrop visit: www.tycropturf.com

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Bio-tech solutions company Symbio, have pulled off something of a recruitment coup by bringing Kevin Munt back to the Turfgrass industry as Sales Manager. With a 25 year history in golf maintenance, development and operations, Kevin's past employers have included industry luminaries: Royal Dornoch GC, The Wentworth Club, John Jacobs Golf Associates, Kajima (UK) Engineering and Buckinghamshire GC. In 1985 Kevin was a member of the steering committee for the formation of BIGGA.



Munt commented: "I have been considering a return to the golf course maintenance industry but wanted to ensure that it was with a company that worked in support of greenkeepers and sustainable course management practices. Symbio meets those criteria and I am looking forward to helping them aid the movement to greater sustainable golf in the UK and Europe."

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS IN LAND-BASED INDUSTRIES

The Cannington Centre for Land-based Studies at Bridgwater College, one of the UK's premier centres of vocational excellence for greenkeeping and sports turf management, has signed an agreement with equipment manufacturers Ransomes Jacobsen, to suit the requirements of the college.

Over £200,000 worth of equipment has been delivered and will be used by the grounds staff team to maintain their nine-hole, 18-tee golf course; the college gardens and by students in the sportsturf faculty. The equipment includes walk-behind mowers, ride-on greens, tees and fairway machines; diesel-powered turf utility vehicles, tractors, an aerator and a turf cutter.



Ransomes Jacobsen will be sponsoring two student awards: one further education and one higher education, providing branded clothing, as well as participating in student development by supplying workshop manuals, operator training materials and undertaking tutorials both at the college and at their training facilities in Ipswich.

HEAT TURNS SAHARAN

Omar, a single-humped camel, shocked golfers as he lolloped across the course at Bletchingley.

Making a document about the drought, Channel 4 had transported the camel from a zoo in Chipping Norton to help illustrate the programme.

Although Bletchingley has its own private reservoir, the Surrey greens were still showing signs of scorching from the sun as Omar was led across the course.

DEALER DINNER

This year's Garden Machinery Dealer Dinner will be raising funds for the Wood Spoon Society. The raffle, with prizes donated by Briggs & Stratton, Countax, Hayter, Honda and Stihl, is expected to raise between £2,000 and £3,000 for the Charity, which supports children and young people challenged by mental, social and physical disadvantages.

COMPOST KEEPS PLANTS DISEASE FREE

A report has concluded that compost made from recycled garden or food waste can protect plants and turf against soil-borne diseases.

The review involved study of recent research into 49 different turf and plant diseases, and was carried out over a four month period by the University of Warwick, for WRAP (the Waste & Resources Action Programme). The review focussed both on container based and field based experiments. It found overwhelming evidence that the addition of compost made from garden or food waste can suppress a range of wilts, rots and turf grass diseases.

Using data from previous container experiments, the study highlights that mixing compost into soil or peat to a level of 20 per cent or above enables good microbes to fight off common pathogens. 74% of the data reviewed, demonstrated a suppressive effect and showed that the average level of disease suppression was highest for wilts caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* ff.sp.

Examining field trials data, there was also evidence foliar pathogens, such as bacterial leaf spot on radish (*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *armoraciae*) and powdery mildew of barley (*Erysiphe graminis* f. sp. *hordei*), can be suppressed by amendment of peat or soil with compost. The research illustrated that compost amendment can

successfully suppress diseases caused by *Fusarium* species, provided that compost application rates of at least 100 tons/ha are used.

The study also shows that different types of composts are effective against different diseases of turf grass. For example, top-dressing with green waste compost has been shown to control *Pythium* damping-off and *Rhizoctonia* brown patch, and may give control of dollar spot but is less effective in controlling red thread. Furthermore, the review highlights a possible trend that composts intermediate in age (about 12 to 15 months after composting started) appear to be more reliably suppressive than 'immature' (less than six months old) or 'very mature' (more than two years old) composts.

The report concludes there is a large potential market for compost in vegetable and ornamental crop production, turf grass top dressings and amateur gardening, providing end-users in those sectors can be convinced of its reliability as a weapon against plant disease. Demonstrating such benefits will also help reduce dependency on chemical fungicides – a significant selling point for professional growers and amateur gardeners.

To access a full copy of the report, or for more information on compost, visit: www.wrap.org.uk/organics