

NGCCA BACKS CALLS TO CHANGE RIGHT-TO-ROAM LEGISLATION



National Secretary for the NGCAA, Michael Shaw, wants designated access points for non-golfers

The National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association (NGCAA) is backing the Scottish Golf Union's (SGU) call to change the right-of-way legislation.

Since the 2003 Land Reform Act was passed, ramblers have had enhanced rights-of-way across Scotland's courses,

a change in the legislation will endorse that non-golfers stick to footpaths and off course fairways and greens.

National Secretary for the NGCAA, Michael Shaw, comments: "There are many health and safety issues associated with giving unrestricted access to non-golfers, not least the risk of serious injury caused by a golf ball being mis-hit or driven off line. There are other issues including the potential for serious damage being done to the course, which could cause a person to trip or fall and for example, the unpleasant issue of dog mess left behind by irresponsible dog walkers - a known health and safety issue."

The NGCAA is in agreement with the SGU and proposes that non-golfer access is managed, rather than completely restricted. Shaw continues: "Designated access points for non-golfers should be determined and safe pathways clearly marked. Simple measures such as these would enhance safety for both golfers and non-golfers."

The NGCAA aims to reduce the risk of needless accidents and to continue to attract golfers to Scotland's courses.

TOP DRESSER FOR SPEED AND EFFICIENCY

Opened in 1993, Wharton Park is a high quality, 18-hole championship length golf course, constructed to USGA standards and situated in a parkland setting within the rolling Worcestershire countryside.

Course Manager, Neill Smith has recently taken delivery of a Turfco WideSpin top dresser, mounted onto a Cushman Turf Truckster, to aid his turf maintenance regime at the Club.

Graham Willetts, a Director at Wharton Park, who works closely with Neill on all greenkeeping matters said: "our previous machine wasn't the spinner-type, which resulted in large quantities of sand being deposited on the greens and sometimes they were out of play for as much as a week! On Neill's recommendation

we have gone for the little and often approach and the WideSpin allows us to do this. It can put down anything from a fine dusting, to a really heavy application. With the little and often approach, our golfers don't really notice that we've top-dressed! We now have the flexibility to get out on the course as and when we want to - quickly and with minimum disruption."



JCB GROUNDHOG TEES OFF AT TOP SCOTTISH GOLFING VENUE

The new JCB Groundhog is now a familiar sight on the fairways of the Strathpeffer Spa Golf Course, situated in the Scottish Highlands. It is one of the first JCB Groundhog utility vehicles to be delivered and sales of the latest addition to the range have really taken off.

The challenging landscape of the 40 hectare, Strathpeffer, is no problem for the yellow and black newcomer.

Head Greenkeeper Mike Wilson said: "We evaluated the JCB against the competition and we were immediately impressed by the performance and agility of this rugged utility vehicle. The JCB Groundhog was the most suited to our golf course.

It was the easiest and most comfortable to drive and has the performance to tackle all our terrain."

The keys were handed over by JCB Groundcare dealer, Frank Nicol Farm and Garden Machinery Sales Director, David Nicol, who said: "We're delighted with the reception the JCB Groundhog has received. It's proving a tough and versatile vehicle, which our customers in the Highlands demand."

The JCB Groundhog is designed for the grounds care industry with features that include four wheel drive and high flotation tyres, to give the vehicle excellent traction for transporting loads in remote or rough ground locations.

PLUMPTON COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Twelve thousand visitors flocked to Plumpton College, Sussex, last Saturday, for what turned out to be one of their most successful Open Days to date. This specialist land-based college, covers a wide range of courses including Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, from entry level to degree.

Set in a 700 hectare estate, at the foot of the picturesque South Downs, many visitors were keen to participate in guided walks, including the beautiful bluebell woodland, around the College estate. Garden lovers enjoyed the attractively landscaped grounds and colourful horticultural displays, while those with a sporting interest enjoyed the outdoor sports



Visitors to Plumpton College were impressed by the Open Day's machinery displays

displays, including clay pigeon shooting and a chance to try out a canoe or climb the climbing wall.

Machinery displays received many admirers, as they enthused at the powerful agricultural machinery and equipment on show, including tractors, combine harvesters, seed drills and mowers.

Plumpton College has been awarded status as a Centre of Excellence (CoVE) for Rural Business Management Training as well as Sport and Recreation and Horticultural Technologies. It has also received accreditation as Action for Business College. For further details on the wide range of Land-based courses at Plumpton College you can visit the website: www.plumpton.ac.uk, telephone: 01273 890454 or email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk