

NEIL THOMAS MEMORIAL GOLF DAY

Anyone wishing to enter a team at the annual BIGGA Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day should contact Sarah Norris, at BIGGA HOUSE, Tel 01347 833800 email sarah@bigga.co.uk. Closing date for entries (subject to available slots) will be Monday May 15.

This year the Chairman's Nomination will be split the money raised between testicular and breast cancer charities.

A team can be entered for £200 + VAT with the day comprising a bacon roll on arrival, 18 holes of golf at Aldwark Manor Golf Club, a ploughman's lunch, half way house, a barbecue and the opportunity to win some spectacular prizes.

Holes can also be sponsored for £200 + VAT which gives signage on the chosen tee and recognition within the pages of Greenkeeper International.

The companies currently sponsoring the event are:- Rigby Taylor; Hunter Grinders; Premier Plan; Heath Lambert; Kubota; John Deere; Ransomes Jacobsen; Golf Finance; Toro; Hayter; Greentee Golf and the "A" Group of Hotels.

CWC FRANCHISEES GATHER FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Complete Weed Control's head office staff and franchisees headed to the Algarve recently for the company's annual conference. They gathered at the Penina Golf Resort, a past venue for the Portugese Open, for three days of seminars, networking and, of course, golf.

Bringing the franchisees together outside their working environment enables them to pool their knowledge and experiences, with the aim of raising the standard of the services they provide to their diverse client base. It also provides them with the opportunity to discuss issues which affect their

work, including new and changing legislation, product development and market trends.

"As well as being an enjoyable social occasion, the conference was hugely beneficial to me as a new franchisee. I can learn a great deal from the guys who have been operating successfully for years. It was very motivational, sitting together and talking about business development and different work situations. I went back to Scotland with lots of new ideas and a great support network to help me implement them," stated Keith Gallacher, owner of the Scotland South West.



NINE HOLE EXTENSION

Saddle Creek Resort - the gated, 900-acre Castle Cooke community in the scenic California Foothills - has announced that Carter Morrish, architect of the resort's existing 18-hole course, will design a new nine-hole layout on the property's northern reaches.

Once complete, Saddle Creek will feature 27-holes of challenging, resort-style golf available for play by members, residents and guests. The new nine will blend seamlessly with the existing, award-winning 18 hole circuit that opened in 1996 and

ranks as the No. 8 course in the state according to Golfweek.

"I am excited about the opportunity to team with Castle Cooke and Saddle Creek Resort to create an inviting, challenging resort golf experience. We'll strive to maintain the look and feel of the original 18 holes by creating similar bunker patterns, stunning visual corridors and green complexes," said Carter.

GARSDIDE SANDS STRENGTHENS

Following the acquisition of Aggregate Industries by Swiss company Holcim Ltd, Aggregate Industries' silica sand business, Garside Sands, and its Holcim counterpart, are working closely together to offer a wider product portfolio. The partnership also significantly increases the business' ability to supply in volume within the UK, across Europe and for international projects.

Garside Sands, based in Bedfordshire, and Holcim France's silica sand business, located in Nevers and Orléans, central France, have incorporated their product range to offer customers a greater variety of specialist graded silica sands for markets, including water filtration and industrial applications.

NEW SPONSORS FOR ENVIRONMENT COMPETITION

The future of the prestigious BIGGA Golf Environment Competition has been secured for the next three years thanks to the injection of sponsorship from two new industry partners.



Golf Environment
Competition

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd and Course Care will join the existing sponsoring companies of Scotts UK Professional and Syngenta Professional Products to ensure that the competition, which has helped to raise the profile of the outstanding environmental work done on the nation's golf courses, will continue to be the premier event of its kind in the game.

"We are delighted that Ransomes Jacobsen and Course Care have recognised the importance of the competition to the game of golf and their investment, together with that of our outstanding existing sponsors Scotts and Syngenta, will ensure that we can extend the reach of the judging process, so more clubs can benefit from visits from our expert judges," said BIGGA National Chairman, Richard Whyman.

The competition is in its ninth year and the role of honour includes some of the most environmentally committed courses in the country. The National winner receives £2000 to spend on environmental projects plus a weather station.