



AN INNOVATIVE SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE



As climate changes lead to extremes of weather and even more unpredictable rain patterns for turf professionals to combat, Dennis offers the new mini Blotter as a solution.

The mini Blotter is ideal for the removal of surface water from football pitches, cricket grounds, sports stadia, golf courses and racecourses. It is equally at home on artificial turf, athletics tracks, tennis courts and hard surfaces like car parks. Its speedy results mean that facilities can be kept open after unexpected downpours, avoiding fixture cancellation.

For more information visit: www.dennisuk.com

BREAKER ADVANCE

Rigby Taylor has launched Breaker Advance, their latest wetting agent for treating Dry Patch and other water related problems.

The product still incorporates unique Complete Immersion Technology and contains three active components to prevent and cure Dry Patch – a Wetting and Spreading Agent, a Soil Penetrant and Re-wetting Agent.

For a free brochure call freephone: 0800 424 919. For more information visit: www.rigbytaylor.com

NEW TRACTORS AND GROUNDS CARE PRODUCTS

Massey Ferguson's all-new 3600 Series mid-range is suitable for a wide range of on- and off-road applications within the grounds care, landscaping and commercial horticulture sectors. Massey Ferguson's 3600 Series comprises the MF 3615, MF 3625, MF 3635 and MF 3645 tractors rated at 58hp, 68hp, 78hp and 91hp respectively. All are powered by three-cylinder turbocharged Sisu engines, the top model benefiting also from an intercooler.

For more information visit: www.masseyferguson.com

BIGGA SUPPORTS NEW COURSE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Golf course management software OnCourse, developed by Swedish company SYSteam Epani and endorsed by BIGGA, was re-launched with some new features during Harrogate Week.

The programme enables Course Managers to budget and track expenses; prepare personnel records and time sheets; record equipment and property maintenance records; stock control; list details of suppliers; write reports and keep a diary.

OnCourse was first launched in the UK seven years ago but since then several improvements have been added, including new improved user interface, which simplifies navigation around the software offering opportunities to link to websites and a unique web marketing enabling users to advertise second hand machinery between OnCourse golf clubs.

"Ultimately OnCourse saves you time and money and with record keeping and a detailed paper trail so important to the modern Course Manager we feel we offer an easy-to-use comprehensive solution," explained Daniel Henningsson of OnCourse Epani.

"We are delighted to receive the endorsement of BIGGA and we hope that the Association members benefit from OnCourse," he added.

OnCourse package costs £2,000 for a multi-user 12 month license with full training and aftercare, however there is a three year payment plan option which helps reduce the costs.

For more information contact Fliss Chaffer on: 01347 833800.

HOBBIES

Our new feature, finds out what greenkeepers get up to in their spare time.

Here's something you didn't know about me...

Name: Steve Pope

Age: 75

Club: Tyneside GC

Position: Retired Member after 39 years

Hobby: Building Rocking Horses



When and how did you get introduced to the art of building rocking horses?

"I was first introduced to the craft when I decided to build a rocking horse for my grandson. I got tuition at Kirkley Hall College, Ponteland in a class of 10. At first I just made a small one but my grandson grew out if too quickly. I decided that a medium height rocking horse was best, measuring about 36-38 inches off the floor. I'm now on rocking horse number four. I got into this hobby as I thought they were nice gifts for children and I wanted something to do in the wintertime."

How long does it take to build a rocking horse?

"Well it's a lot of work. I do a couple of hours at a time and then keep coming back to it. I'll start one in June and be finished in time for Christmas."

What is it about the craft that appeals to you?

"I find it relaxing."

Where does the building take place?

"In my greenhouse. I use the greenhouse to store bedding plants for golf clubs and when they go I use the greenhouse as my workshop."

How long have you been building rocking horses?

"Five years. The last one I sold for £700 last Christmas and I'm just finishing one that is going to Kent shortly."

£700 sounds like a lot of money, do you make much of a profit?

"Well considering the the tac costs around £189 on it's own, I don't make much profit but I enjoy doing it."

Steve is happy to take orders for his handmade rocking horses, you can contact him on: 0191 4132662.

Do you or your fellow greenkeepers have an unusual hobby? If so, get in touch, email: melissa@bigga.co.uk or tel: 01347 833800

