

ICELANDIC GOLF DAY AWARD



Ransomes Jacobsen and their local distributor
MHG of Reykjavik, sponsored the Icelandic

Greenkeepers Association's annual golf tournament, held at Golfklubbur Kidjaberg, 90 miles northwest of the island's capital.

82 greenkeepers representing 65 courses in Iceland took part in the event at the 18-hole course, which is situated on the river Hvítá in a spectacular landscape of lakes and mountains.

Scott Forrest, Ransomes Jacobsen's North European Sales Manager, who hosted the event said: "Over 70% of the courses in Iceland are maintained using Ransomes Jacobsen equipment. That's a testament to our distributor, MHG, who have been tremendously active in the country. The turnout was very impressive and it was great day's golfing in a truly spectacular setting capped off by a superb dinner and prize giving in the evening."

TRAINING SCHEME

Lely (UK) Ltd have recently employed the first recruits to their own Apprenticeship Training Scheme. The St. Neots, Cambridgeshire based company has been investigating a joint college / workplace scheme for several months and now has three trainees working within its many departments.

Lely has enjoyed substantial growth for many years and sees the Apprenticeship Training Scheme as an integral part of the company's expansion. The scheme also embraces recommendations made by the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA) who has voiced concern at the lack of such apprenticeship schemes available within the industry.

The training scheme lasts for four years mixing academic, workshop and field experience into a superb work package, culminating in the students

attaining a Grade 3 NVQ in Engineering. Lely's partner in this enterprise is Writtle College in Essex, where students will experience course work in hydraulics and electronics while increasing their knowledge and skills in practical day-to-day activity.



RAYMOND DAY

It is with a heavy heart that I find myself writing a few words on behalf of his friends on the sad passing of Raymond Day, one of the Big characters of The Greenkeeping world.

Raymond passed away on Jan the 21st after a hard fought fight with cancer. During his illness Raymond strove to overcome the many problems that arose in his usual dogmatic and forthright manner and with great humility, and he had the great support of his wife, Jill, his two stepsons and his brother, Colin.

Throughout his illness Raymond carried on working at his much loved East Sussex National as long as his health would allow, and I know he would like me to record his thanks for the tremendous support he received from Scott, and his Greens Staff, and from Derek Howe and all the management.

Raymond was an out and out Greenkeeper who lived for his job and his Golf. He started his career north of the border as an apprentice at Erskine GC

before becoming Head Greenkeeper at Pitreavie GC and Gleddoch House GC. When he moved south he became Head Greenkeeper at Ifield GC before becoming Course Manager at Sundridge Park GC and latterly East Sussex National GC. He was a category one golfer and represented his county on many occasions and was still playing scratch team golf at 49 off a handicap of two.

Raymond had also played a great part in BIGGA. He was a Section Secretary of the Sussex Section for seven years and Chairman of the South East Region for six years and was the current South East Board of Management member of the Association.

We are all proud to say that Raymond Day was our friend and companion and we will miss his great booming laugh, his uncompromising approach to greenkeeping and his willingness to help others.

The world of Greenkeeping will be a sadder place without him.

George Barr

BIGGA AND AGCS LAUNCH NEW SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Golf clubs could be enjoying lower insurance premiums thanks to the launching of a new Health and Safety Management system which has been the product of a joint initiative by the Association of Golf Club Secretaries (AGCS) and BIGGA.

The system which has been developed with the help of some of the best known Health and Safety specialists in the country ensures that there is a standard format for carrying out risk assessments in all aspects and areas of a golf club.

Based on Health and Safety Executive guidance, the SMS will enable golf clubs to set their health and safety policy; specify their club's organisation; list hazards and assess risks; plan for the future; introduce a review procedure and agree where and how to audit their system. Additionally, the system will allow Club Managers to access a wide range of data on a range of hazards.

"We are delighted that the effort both ourselves, the AGCS and all the people, who have given up many hours to work on this project, has come to fruition. We are convinced that the new system will be of huge benefit to everyone who uses it and help to ensure that golf clubs are much safer and healthier places for employees and golfers," said BIGGA Chief Executive John Pemberton.

"We are delighted that this example of two golfing bodies working closely together has proved so successful," he added

The system will be available to all BIGGA and AGCS members through their websites in early April.

