



Industry Update

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Long service awards were presented to several staff at Ransomes Jacobsen, with each receiving a commemorative gift and a specially decorated cake to recognise their commitment and loyalty to the company.

Mick Lewis and Jim Snell, who both work in the manufacturing plant, celebrated their 40 year milestone. Mick is a welder in the fabrication, section while Jim is the Weld Cell Supervisor.



Jim Snell (left) and MD David Withers

Alan Flewitt, the company's International Financial Accountant, celebrated 25 years having joined the company in August 1982 as a Trainee Accountant.

Owen Burch, Senior Payroll Officer, Tony Balaam of the Customer Care department, Shirley Stephens, Main Tractor Assembly Technician and Domenic O'Brien, Inventory & Warehouse Manager, were also presented with 25-year service awards.

Completing the awards, again for 25-years service, were Christian Clifford and Adrian Kindred of the Engineering department; Christian is the Engineering Manager and Adrian is one of the company's Senior Design Engineers.

Commenting on these latest long service awards, Managing Director David Withers said, "I was delighted to be called upon to present these awards recognising the loyalty and outstanding service that these individuals have given to the company. It only goes to strengthen my belief that we have a vibrant manufacturing company here in the heart of East Anglia, offering career opportunities and long-term employment to the people of Ipswich. Having celebrated our 175th anniversary of mower manufacturing in Ipswich earlier this year, I would like to think that we will continue to offer employment opportunities for the next 175!"

IRRIGATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Hunter recently announced that Revaho UK have become Hunter distributors in the UK and Eire. 'This represents for us a tremendous opportunity to sell the irrigation installers the complete package of pipes and fittings as well as the market leading equipment available from Hunter' commented Stewart Penny, Managing Director of Revaho, 'to be honest I'm pretty excited!' he continued, 'with our logistic and marketing expertise we will be concentrating on giving existing and new Hunter customers a much more streamlined and efficient service'.

John Sheppard representing Hunter added that 'we (Hunter) have been looking to strengthen our position in the UK and Eire and our alliance with Revaho will give us the impetus to really attack the market and basically offer sports and landscape irrigation users a better package'.

GREEN APPLE AWARD FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Nomix Enviro are proud winners of a Green Apple Award for sustainability. Professor David Bellamy presented the prestigious award to the company at a glittering ceremony held at the houses of parliament recently.



Lorna Aiken and Rachel Robbins flank David Bellamy

Nomix Enviro Marketing Manager Lorna Aiken and Business Development Manager Rachel Robbins collected the silver award for Product Innovation for the Nomix Total Droplet Control herbicide application system.

The Nomix TDC Herbicide System Project was developed to minimise the volume of herbicide put into the environment and provides users with a safer means to spray chemicals.

There are already many thousands of customers using Nomix TDC who achieve an excellent level of weed control without wasteful and environmentally damaging herbicide use.

The Green Apple Awards are run by The Green Organisation. This is an independent, non-political, non-activist, non-profit environment group dedicated to recognising, rewarding and promoting environmental best practice around the world.

EGU SIGNS UP

The English Golf Union (EGU) at Woodhall Spa, has signed a new five-year agreement with Toro for a complete fleet of course maintenance machinery. The prestigious Lincolnshire site is home to two 18-hole courses, the Hotchkin – voted 47th in the world by Golf Magazine – and the Bracken. Opened in 1998, it perfectly complements the Hotchkin, with its large undulating greens and water hazards.

Courses manager Sam Rhodes said: "In terms of precision and quality of cut, ease of maintenance and operator comfort, Toro is our top choice. We also receive excellent back up from Toro dealer Chris Sellars, and our total confidence in them to look after us is a vital component of the deal."



Richard Latham, seated left, and Lely's Jeff Anguige, with, back left, EGU finance director Craig Wagstaff and courses manager Sam Rhodes

As part of its relationship with the EGU, Toro is sponsoring the EGU's well-known Course Rating Manual, which is used at county level to grade golf courses in England. Lynne Fraser, marketing and public relations manager at the EGU, said: "With Toro's support we can ensure that the manual is produced to a very high standard and is a more hard-wearing and substantial document."

TOP DEALER FOR THE FIFTH TIME

For the fifth consecutive year, Etesia UK Ltd has awarded their top accolade for UK Dealer of the Year 2007 to Burrows (GM) Ltd. The company has branches in Leyland and Stafford. At the presentation ceremony, which took place at a dinner following a Dealer Conference at The Puckrup Hall Hotel, Tewkesbury, UK General Manager, Les Malin said, "Burrows have put in a terrific performance this year – their Etesia turnover has continued to grow to the benefit of both businesses."

During the afternoon seminars, delegates received in-depth information about bio-fuels and the benefits to end users as well as to the planet of Etesia's new Bio Concept range of ride-on mowers.

Guest conference speakers included Julian Thompson from replacement parts specialists, Kramp; and Colin Theedom who outlined the variety of funding packages available under the Etesia's finance scheme operated by Tech5.



Burrows (GM) winners of Dealer of the Year 2007

Other awards were presented to...R T Machinery Ltd for Best Overall Performance 2007; Alistair Whitby of Lloyds, County Durham, and Alan Ford of Colchester-based P Tuckwell Ltd were both acknowledged for their Individual Sales Achievement during 2007. The company that had achieved the Best Marketing & Promotion in 2007 was Turner Groundscare of Princess Risborough.

In addition, Etesia's two Area Sales Managers (Richard Williams and Ian Collington) made their own selection of individuals who had had notable success during 2007. These ASM Dealer Awards went to South East Groundcare Machinery from Sussex, and Leicestershire-based R J Holland GM.

Looking towards next year's Etesia Dealer Awards Event, Managing Director, Patrick Vives, launched an incentive promotion whereby dealers can win a luxury 5-star holiday for two to Mexico's Cancun.

QHOTELS SIGNS GROUP DEAL

Leeds based hotel group, QHotels, has signed a five year deal with John Deere, worth around £500,000 in the first year, for the exclusive supply of course maintenance equipment across the group's five golf courses. These include Forest Pines Golf and Country Club Hotel in North Lincolnshire, Hellidon Lakes in Northamptonshire, Aldwark Manor near York, The Westerwood near Glasgow, and Telford Golf and Country Club Hotel in Shropshire.



In addition to the machinery, the deal includes regular product training at the John Deere Training Centre in Langar, with parts back-up and support provided by the courses' local dealers.

Course manager David Norton has added six new John Deere machines to the Forest Pines fleet, bought from local dealer F G Adamson & Son at Swanland, East Yorkshire. These include a 3245C roughs mower, 3235C fairway mower, two 2500E hybrid greens mowers, TE electric Gator and Pro Gator utility vehicles, with the total John Deere fleet now standing at 33 machines.

"All the staff have found the technical training programme at Langar very beneficial," says David. "The company offers a range of different courses, so we normally send two staff on each in turn. We've found it very useful to do refresher courses on even simple things like setting cutting units, for example."

The club is also looking to expand the golf course to 36 holes, with two 18 hole loops replacing the current three 9 hole loops, and create a top class practice facility, which it plans to open in 2009/2010.

NEW RECRUIT

Chris Buckle has joined the sales team at Ransomes Jacobsen. Reporting to Rupert Price, sales manager UK and Ireland, he will be responsible for golf car sales and territory development in the south of England and Wales.

Chris joins the E-Z-GO team following a 13 year career with a family-owned distributor of power tools based at Christchurch in Dorset.

