



Industry Update

WATER REMOVAL SOLUTION

They say travel broadens the mind, and a trip to America certainly paid dividends for Chris Brook, who is in charge of course maintenance at the prestigious Mentmore Golf & Country Club in rural Buckinghamshire.

While attending the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Chris discovered the perfect solution for removing water from bunkers and hollows on the Club's two championship courses. The TrunkPump, from Campey Turf Care Systems, attaches to a tractor for speedy and efficient pumping tasks.



MOWERS FOR PRESTIGIOUS PEBBLE BEACH

Ransomes Jacobsen mowers built in Ipswich are being used at the world renowned Pebble Beach Resort in California, following a new national supply agreement with Ransomes Jacobsen's sister company in the USA.

Pebble Beach Resorts has extended its relationship with Jacobsen, reappointing the Charlotte-based turf equipment manufacturer as their official supplier to the golf course complex for the next five years.



FIRST CLASS

New Holland tractors are achieving first-class results in maintaining facilities at Harper Adams University College in Shropshire.

Grounds Manager Mark Hall and his six staff care for many different facilities within the 27-acre University campus, located ten miles north west of Telford. They include three rugby pitches and two for football with another currently under construction, a cricket pitch and a bowling green, as well as woodland and open grassland, plus an artificial sports surface.

Three New Holland tractors are at the heart of Mark's equipment fleet, including a 12-year old 38p 1920 model still giving good-as-new performance, a 75hp TN75DA and a very recently acquired compact 24hp TC24D.

Apologies to New Holland for printing the wrong news item and picture in our June issue.



KEEPING BEECHGROVE GARDEN TRIM

Kawasaki Motors UK has provided the team at The Beechgrove Garden with a helping hand for this summer. A Kawasaki KHS750B Hedge trimmer has been given to the gardeners to help take care of the large hedges around the three-acre site in Scotland.

The garden features in the television programme of the same name and is a celebrity in the world of compost, cauliflowers and clematis. From April to September, it is a weekly date in the diaries of dedicated gardeners from Lerwick to Berwick. One of the main presenters, Carole Baxter, was pleased with the latest addition to their gardening tools. "With a number of large hedges at The Beechgrove Garden that need trimming every year, these clippers will be the ideal tool for the job."

CUSTOMER SUPPORT BUSINESSES HONOURED

Two JCB companies - one manufacturing the world's best-selling backhoe loader and the other providing aftermarket support to global customers - have been honoured with Queen's Awards for Enterprise.

The Rocoester-based Backhoe Loader business unit and Uttoxeter-based JCB Service each received an Award in the International Trade section. The double success, honouring a substantial growth in exports for the two companies between 2004 and 2006, means the JCB Group has now won 23 Queen's Awards since being presented with its first in 1969.

ATTILA TAKES ON HADRIANS WALL TRIAL

Attila the Hun at Hadrian's Wall? Sounds unlikely until you realise that the 'Attila' in question is Etesia's ride-on brushcutter.

Like its mighty warlord-namesake, this powerful machine ravages everything in its path! Tough undergrowth is reduced to mulch so it's not surprising that, new for this year at the historic Hadrian's Wall, two Attila brushcutters are now being used to maintain the National Trail that follows the line of this World Heritage Site.

Local dealer Terry Steele, from Lloyds of Carlisle, suggested they try Etesia's latest Attila AV98 ride-on brushcutter. Since purchasing two of these 98cm machines at the beginning of this season, Richard and Alan have used them non-stop and agree, "They are doing a cracking job in a smashing spot!"

Not surprisingly, each year, thousands of tourists pack their rucksacks and walk or cycle along the Hadrian's Wall route to amaze at the incredible construction of what is one of the world's best preserved ancient monuments, and enjoy the wondrous countryside.



NEW TERRITORY MANAGER

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd is delighted to announce the appointment of Grant Broderick as Territory Manager for the London Boroughs. Grant is Australian and has spent his whole working life in the Australian turf industry as a greenkeeper, landscape contractor and Sales Representative. He is a keen follower of all sports, has played Australian Rules football, and now golf.



RENOWNED TURF PROFESSOR TO OVERSEE

Floratine Products Group has announced its relationship with Dr. Tom Watschke, professor emeritus of turfgrass science at Penn State University.

Dr. Watschke will join Floratine as a consultant, specifically in the area of university research protocol.

Dr. Watschke is an expert in turf growth regulation and has spent much of his career studying and evaluating biostimulants and plant growth regulators and their effects on turfgrass development and management.

GROWING IN NUMBERS

Gloucestershire-based LED lighting provider, Greenled, has appointed four new sustainable lighting specialists to its expanding team – Ian Russell, Paul Stearman and Paul Haines join the sales force, and Nigel Thomas joins the technical team. Based in London, Ian Russell will manage key sales accounts in London and the South East, focusing on the new build and built environment sectors in particular.

Merseyside-based Paul Haines has been in sales for 15 years, and now heads up Greenled's Northern UK sales team. Nigel Thomas joins Greenled's technical team, having worked as a technical manager with Metropolis in Swansea for the last four years.

HELPING WITH OPEN PREPARATIONS

Fairway mowers supplied by Ransomes Jacobsen dealer, Burrows GM of Leyland, are being used by Chris Whittle and his greenkeeping team at Royal Birkdale as preparations for The Open gather pace.

Chris has been using the two-wheel drive version of the Jacobsen LF-3400 light fairway mower for the past few years and his current pair of machines will be supplemented by a further three from Ransomes Jacobsen's tournament support fleet as the prestigious event commences this month.

The R&A has stipulated that the fairways will be cut in one direction only, once every day from tee to green, with all clippings boxed off. The five machines will drive in staggered formation down each fairway to achieve the required finish.

Royal Birkdale has seen many alterations over the past couple of years with only holes 7 and 12 remaining in their original configuration. Bunkers have been removed, refurbished or moved with eight new ones created to bring the total up to 123.

"I won't be changing my maintenance regime, it will just become more intense in the final weeks leading up to The Open," said Chris. "I have 10 permanent staff and I will supplement those with 12 experienced greenkeepers from local clubs. We'll be working from 4am until 10pm and we're really looking forward to it with increasing anticipation."



HAMPTON COURT CHOOSES TORO

Hampton Court Palace Golf Club has become the latest golf club to invest in the new Toro Golf Decoder Controller (GDC) irrigation system.

Owned by Crown Golf, the 112-year-old parkland site in Kingston-upon-Thames is the only course in Britain where golfers can play in the grounds of a royal palace.

Though flanked by the River Thames, the club is all too aware that water is an increasingly valuable resource and so, when its old irrigation system became wasteful, General Manager, Guy Riggott, sought an efficient and cost-effective replacement.

Guy turned to irrigation specialist, Irritech, to manage the project and source the ideal system, and the installation contract was awarded to Lakes & Greens, from east Sussex, which began the work in September 2007 and completed just six weeks later.

Toro 834 and 835 sprinklers were used on the greens, tees and approaches and 2001s and 720s on tees. The PC-based SitePro controller operating the entire system enables the course manager to programme a precise watering plan and view the course layout on screen from the comfort of his office. He can also use a hand-held remote control to start the irrigation system when he is out on the course.