



# Industry Update

## NEW RECRUIT

Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd have announced that Darren Homer has joined their sales team as their Area Sales Manager for Hampshire and surrounding area. Darren will be visiting Golf Courses, Sports Grounds, Local Authorities, Schools, Bowling Clubs and Landscapers, promoting the extensive range of amenity products in the portfolio, along with offering technical services that are provided by the company. Darren has a wealth of turf management experience, having worked at Chichester Golf Centre for the past eight years as Course Manager, before that Darren worked for Marriott Hotels at The Forest of Arden, where he was responsible for setting up the course for the numerous European Tour Events, such as the English Open and The British Masters. Prior to this he was at Marriott Goodwood Park.



## MOWERS FOR PRESTIGIOUS MALAYSIAN CLUB

Ransomes Jacobsen Malaysian distributor, Tractors Malaysia, has delivered new Jacobsen mowers to one of the most prestigious resorts in the country, Glenmarie Golf & Country Club.

The package of Jacobsen equipment included two LF3800 fairway mowers with 11-blade cutting cylinders and two AR250 rotary mowers with fully articulating side discharge decks which are ideal for the superior presentation of semi-rough areas demanded by the club.

Established in 1993, the Glenmarie complex is owned by DRB-Hicom, the owner of Malaysia's national car manufacturer, Proton. It features two 18-hole golf courses and was designed by the renowned course designer, Max Wexler.

## NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE AEA

Geoffrey Davies O.B.E. (BA Hons) DipMS MIMgt was elected President at a recent AGM of the Agricultural Engineers Association. He then chaired the Association's conference at which the AEA's new branding was launched.

Geoffrey has since 1988 been Managing Director of Alamo Group Europe Limited and Vice President of Alamo Inc (USA). Companies within the Alamo Group design, manufacture and market a comprehensive range of agricultural machinery, commercial mowing equipment, vegetation maintenance machinery and road sweeping equipment.

Prior to assuming his present position Geoffrey had been Chairman and Managing Director of Dabro International before its acquisition by Wolseley plc and previously Managing Director of a number of engineering companies. He was awarded his OBE in 2003 for services to British Agriculture and to the community of Ludlow.

Commenting on his election, Geoffrey said that at this time demand is favourable in a number of sectors but there are challenges emerging and that looks forward to leading the Association in facing these within the various sectors represented, from agriculture to commercial groundscape, through to consumer products.

## NEW EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT WORTH OVER £30 MILLION

A-Plant has placed orders for new equipment for the company's hire fleet worth over £30 million. The orders have been placed with a number of manufacturers including Terex, JCB, Doosan Infracore Portable Power (formerly Ingersoll Rand Utility Equipment), GenSet, JLG, Skyjack and Ausa.



## EXTENSIVE REFURBISHMENT AT FAIRMONT ST. ANDREWS

MJ Abbott Limited has been appointed by St Andrews Bay Development Limited to carry out extensive remedial work to the Torrance Course at Fairmont St. Andrews.

The re-modeling of the existing 18 holes has been designed by American architect Gary Stephenson, founder of The Linksmen Golf Design Group.

The work will result in subtle changes to the layout and routing of the course to enhance the golfing experience and to make the most of the staggering coastline and views over the historic town of St Andrews.

The work commenced in January this year and includes the relocation and rebuilding of each tee to improve playability, turf condition and drainage. The 12th green will be reconstructed and two additional greens, the 14th and 18th will be constructed in new locations. Three new holes will also be constructed on the Devlin course.

Each bunker on the Torrance course will be reconstructed, re-sited and finished in the classic revetted style.

Focusing on water as a feature and a commodity, the existing inland lake and irrigation reservoir will also be rebuilt and the lakes re-shaped, deepened and re-lined.

The existing water supply to the reservoir will be upgraded to meet the requirements of the new state-of-the-art irrigation system.

A new land drainage system has been designed to improve turf conditions and will be installed to each hole.

The work also includes the construction of the greens, tees and bunkers and provision of irrigation and drainage for three new holes which will become the starting holes of the new Devlin course.

Hugging the rocky shoreline they'll be built in a more rugged style which will be the signature of the re-constructed championship course.

The re-opening of the Torrance course is currently scheduled for Spring 2009.

## UK ENGINE ROLE

Kawasaki has appointed EP Barrus as principal engine distributor to serve the UK market.

In what is regarded as a significant development by the Japanese manufacturer to step up its stationary engine business across the grounds care, turf care, utility and industrial sectors, Oxfordshire-based Barrus will take on responsibility for sales and after sales throughout the UK from the beginning of April.

The appointment will build on the previous engine business established and managed across these sectors by Kawasaki Motors UK since 1987. The operation will be co-ordinated by the recently created Kawasaki Motors Europe Engines & Power Products Division offering an extended range of the manufacturers' highly regarded two-stroke and four-stroke engine technology.

Barrus will be working closely with Kawasaki over the coming months to ensure the business transition is smooth. With access to an extended engine product range, the Bicester company will be taking the opportunity to extend the sales and service offering to OEMs and dealers. Among other areas to be addressed will be dealer training programmes and the possibility of extending the existing UK dealer network even further.

## GOLF CAR FLEET FOR EUROPE

Golfsocieteit De Lage Vuursche near Den Holder in the Netherlands is the first golf club in Europe to take delivery of the new E-Z-GO RXV golf car, launched in January.

A fleet of 10 electric-powered vehicles has been delivered to the club by Duchell b.v. the long established E-Z-GO distributor for the Netherlands.

Not content with the contract at the Netherlands' flagship course, Duchell has also supplied fleets of 10 RXVs to Golfclub Edda Huzid in Voorthuizen and Golfclub De Haenen in Tilburg.



## ECOSOLVE EXPANDS IN EUROPE

Drill n Fill aerator's reputation as a problem solver in turf care is spreading across Europe. Koln Golf und Landclub (Cologne) recently took delivery of their own Drill n Fill from Ecosolve Ltd, sales company for Europe.

The recent sale broadens Ecosolve's growing development in Europe in response to the growing popularity of the aerators. All over the Continent, golf clubs are using the equipment to tackle previously insurmountable aeration issues. The machine's unique ability to create 12 inch deep hollow tine-like ducts AND backfill them simultaneously, has enabled remedial treatment to be used to cure major problems of poor drainage rather than to rebuild. In addition to the machine's dramatic effects, the treated turf can be further enhanced by using other aeration equipment to build upon the "foundation" work of the Drill n Fill.

Koln is delighted with its purchase, having seen good results at Gut Kaden Golf Club in Hamburg, Munchen Eichenreid Nord in Munich and various courses in Holland. "This club aspires to present a course in prime condition," says Rolf Henrich, chairman of greens at Koln. "We appreciate that investment must be made to achieve that, but if we can avoid greens reconstruction, there are major benefits to finances, membership, playability and smooth running of the club."

## WARNING OF POTENTIAL KNOTWEED EPIDEMIC THIS SUMMER

The scourge of Japanese knotweed infestation could reach unprecedented UK levels this summer and the problem is being exacerbated by many of the companies brought in to treat it. That's the warning from industry specialist, Richard Podmore, who believes that untrained and under qualified treatment 'experts' are potentially making a serious problem worse.

Speaking on the eve of the new growing season, typically the start of May, which could see the problem escalate to more than one serious Japanese knotweed infestation for every 10km in England and Wales, Podmore, joint managing director of Cheshire-based Japanese Knotweed Control, is concerned that the lack of regulation means many of the new entrants into the market are just not up to the job.

"Japanese knotweed contamination is now much more widely recognised as a major problem, not least by developers, local authorities and highway agencies, but as a result everyone is suddenly an expert on how it should best be treated.

"A prolific grower, Japanese knotweed has the ability to reproduce itself frequently and quickly. Within weeks of the growing season starting it can become dense clumps of weeds up to three metres in height, and while it does die back each year it never becomes dormant and its ability to reproduce itself is the reason the weed is so invasive. Climactic conditions over the past few months have also paved the way for potentially prolific growth this summer."



Koln Machine. Caption: (L to R) Dirk Thelens - Course Manager, Rolf Henrich - Chairman of Greens & Andreas Doring - Club Manager, taking receipt of the Drill and Fill