



# Industry Update

## GRASSFORM COMPLETE WORK ON THE "RJ NATIONAL"

Building a golf course on a factory site in the middle of Ipswich may seem like a crazy idea, but not when the client is Ransomes Jacobsen. This exciting course construction opportunity fell to Essex based Grassform Ltd, who built the three-hole course on the site during 2007. Known unofficially within Ransomes Jacobsen as the "RJ National", the course features a challenging set of holes, bunkers and water hazard just yards from the manufacturing facility and offices of the well known mowing machinery company.

David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen, commented: "This has been a great project, and we are so pleased with the result, which reflects the quality of the team we put together. Our main contractor Grassform did a fantastic job.

"We have taken the decision to allow the course to grow in through to September and then celebrate the opening with an event to thank everyone who participated in its construction. It is a superb addition to the facilities we have here at Ipswich and will enable us to demonstrate our machines as well as our acknowledged environmental leadership."



## DIVOT-STOPPER

As every greenkeeper knows, tee pegs can be a pain in the neck, puncturing tyres and knocking out blade settings on mowers.

In 1994 Nigel Nangreave thought he had found the answer with a biodegradable tee that snapped as easily as an ordinary wooden tee peg, but would biodegrade within a few months, however, players didn't like it.

In 2004 he tried again with a dome shaped tee made from grass, but that one was too expensive to produce due to machinery costs and in any case was not accepted by players for a number of reasons.

Two years later he went back to the drawing board and came up with Divot-Stopper, a fine grade biodegradable green paper cylindrical tee that ticked all the right boxes.

In November 07, Aston Wood GC agreed to trial Divot-Stopper and provided their members and guests with complimentary divot-stoppers that players collected from a tray with scorecards, and over the winter period it is anticipated at least 40,000 divots were prevented from ever happening. Online demonstrations can be viewed at [www.divot-stopper.co.uk](http://www.divot-stopper.co.uk)

## PARTS TRAINING PLACES UP FOR GRABS

Applications are already being received from John Deere dealers for places on the 2008/2009 Parts Tech training programme for aspiring parts apprentices.

Launched by John Deere in partnership with Brooksby Melton College in 2007, Parts Tech is the first such specialist programme for the agricultural and grounds care industries. It is run on similar lines to the award winning John Deere Ag Tech and Turf Tech apprentice engineering technician programmes, which have been running since 1992.

Parts Tech is an all-round programme, designed to provide John Deere dealers with the opportunity to train their parts support staff to the same high professional standards as their service technicians. The 12-month training programme is based on the existing City & Guilds NVQ course in Vehicle Parts Operations, Levels 2.

Due to start in September 2008, the next John Deere Parts Tech programme is available for enrolment now. Further details are available from local John Deere dealers or from Brooksby Melton College, tel: 01664 850850 or 855444.

## NEW WEBSITE HAS ARRIVED

Mascus has launched an updated and improved version of its online platform. It aims to provide a one-stop resource for those looking to advertise and purchase used machinery and equipment. Mascus, the Pan-European e-marketplace for used equipment and transportation vehicles, was established in October 2000 and launched in January 2001. After almost seven years of market presence, it is already internationally-known among many buyers and sellers of used truck and trailers, forklifts, construction, agricultural, forest and grounds care machines.

The new website [www.mascus.co.uk](http://www.mascus.co.uk) has been designed in accordance with updated technology and customers' feedback.



## STEPPED DOWN

Charterhouse Turf Machinery Managing Director Philip Threadgold stepped down from the day to day management of Charterhouse Turf Machinery at the end of March.



Philip, a founder of Charterhouse Turf Machinery some 26 years ago, has been Managing Director since 2002.

Philip plans to remain in the industry and will retain an important role as an ongoing advisor to Charterhouse Turf Machinery, with a special focus on the development of Soil Harmony.

Overall management and control of Charterhouse Turf Machinery will be passed to Geoffrey Burgess, Director, representing the main board of Redexim, which owns the company. Nick Darking remains in charge of sales working in the south of the UK and Wales while Richard Heywood looks after the North of England and Scotland with full parts and service back up from the Charterhouse team in Haslemere.

## TORO AND MARRIOTT SIGN PARTNERSHIP DEAL

Toro and Marriott International have signed a worldwide partnership agreement that will see Toro machinery and irrigation products supplied to all Marriott golf properties outside the United States and Canada until at least 2012.

The new deal will benefit the Marriott hotel and resort group's existing 28 golf properties outside the US and Canada, plus all its new developments across the globe.



## FOURTH GENERATION JOINS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Frank Barenbrug has been appointed to the Royal Barenbrug Group's board of directors.



The fourth generation of Barenbrug to join the board of this Netherlands-based family business, Frank will assume responsibility for the group's global business development, marketing, sales and production strategies, working from head office in Oosterhout Nijmegen in the Netherlands.

Frank, 34, has been with Barenbrug for over a decade. Having studied International Trade at the Agricultural University of Wageningen in his home country, Frank began his career as export manager for an international packaging producer and went on to join Barenbrug as a member of New Zealand Agriseeds' marketing team in 1997. Key positions with Barenbrug's South African, Argentinean and European operations followed, before he most recently became managing director of Barenbrug Palaversich in Argentina in 2005.

## PRESTIGIOUS GOLF RESORT CHOOSES RANSOMES JACOBSEN

The Kaya Eagles Golf Resort in Belek, Turkey, which opened in November last year, has selected Ransomes Jacobsen as their preferred supplier for course maintenance machinery and E-Z-GO for golf cars.

The 18-hole course was designed by Irish golf course designer and Master PGA Professional David Jones on a compact site, which although relatively short at 5,900 metres provides a test for golfers of all abilities.

The course is close to the Kaya resort and includes many water features including six lakes, all faced with rock and extensively landscaped. Facilities include a state-of-the-art clubhouse, a 280 metre long driving range, 700 square metre practice putting green and a soon-to-be-completed golf hotel in the middle of the complex.

UEFA President and former captain of the West German football team, Franz Beckenbauer, was the guest of honour at the official opening.

