



Industry Update

NEW EURO HQ

Kawasaki's Engine and Power Products Division officially opened the doors to its new European head office recently.

The global Japanese manufacturer has put in place a new structure for the development of the company's engine and power products business. The new division which has moved from Amsterdam now operates just outside London.

While the rest of Kawasaki Motors Europe's business will continue to be conducted from the European headquarters in the Netherlands, the decision to move the engines and power products administrative office to the UK is designed to create a dedicated department to develop these key business areas in the future.

As well as a new engine and power products department for Europe and a new structure, a larger team has been put in place under the direction of Senior Product Manager for Kawasaki's European Engine and Power Products' business Jack Ford.

GOLF ADMINISTRATORS DREAM TOOL WILL ALSO GIVE PLAYERS AN EDGE

A new on-line management system for golf clubs - www.intelligentgolf.co.uk - offers an advantage to their members on the course as well as off it.

Intelligentgolf, the brainchild of software developer and creator Jamie Abbott, enables players to see where other players have scored well or not so well in any official tournament in which they have played.

All the details of every birdie, par, bogey, double-bogey or worse are logged into the system which is then available for all the club's registered members to view.

Because the system is internet based, members can review their stats, book tee times, enter matches and tournaments and even download handicap certificates.

Intelligentgolf is also a valuable administrative tool, designed to be easy to use so that it is no longer necessary to have one person sitting at an old PC in a corner of the clubhouse keying in scores. Instead it creates a hierarchical way of administering every facet of the game - anytime, anyplace, anywhere at the convenience of the administrators.

ROYAL VISITOR PRESENTS QUEEN'S AWARD TO JCB SERVICE

HRH The Duke of Gloucester recently presented a Queen's Award, marking export achievement, to JCB Service for providing parts and service back-up to thousands of customers around the world.

JCB Service - based at the World Parts Centre in Uttoxeter - received the Queen's Award for Enterprise after increasing overseas sales by more than 36 per cent between 2004 and 2006.

The Award - in the International Trade category - was presented to Group CEO Matthew Taylor at a ceremony at the World Parts Centre attended by many of the employees who contributed to the success.

"JCB Service is very proud to have been chosen for this Queen's Award, which is the 23rd for the JCB Group. It is well-deserved recognition of the achievement of the people gathered here today and their colleagues around the world. It is a fitting tribute to all their hard work," said Matthew.

"The World Parts Centre is at the heart of our worldwide dealer and customer support network - which includes facilities in Paris, Madrid, Singapore, Shanghai, Sao Paulo, Savannah in the USA and India. Very shortly, our new Moscow warehouse will be fully operational - and next on our list are the Czech Republic and United Arab Emirates - evidence of our ongoing investment in service support."



The Duke, left, presents the Queen's Award to JCB CEO Matthew Taylor.

ALL-WEATHER GREEN HELPS TOP GOLFERS FINE TUNE THEIR PUTTING STROKE

The recent upgrade to the Huxley all-weather putting green installed at Dr Paul Hurrion's Quintic putting laboratory has resulted in even better ball roll on a surface that remains consistently true and even throughout the year, irrespective of weather conditions.

Laid originally in 2003, the Huxley all-weather putting green is an important element of Quintic's professional sports training, analysis and consultancy services, said Dr Hurrion, one of the UK's leading sports science consultants and performance analysts.

"Upgrading the green to the very latest Huxley all-weather putting surface has produced measurable improvements across the board," commented Dr Hurrion.

"The result has enhanced the experience of golfers who use our services. Regular Quintic visitors include three-time Major Championship winner, Padraig Harrington, along with other members of the European Ryder Cup team and PGA European Tour."

MEMORIAL GARDEN RECOGNISES LEGACY OF HARRY FERGUSON

The life, work and inventive genius of tractor pioneer, Harry Ferguson, have been officially recognised in the creation of a memorial garden less than 50 metres from the farmhouse in which he was born and grew up in County Down, Northern Ireland.

Formally opened by his grand-daughter, Sally Fleming, the memorial garden has as its centrepiece a striking life-sized bronze sculpture of Harry Ferguson leaning on a farm gate with, appropriately, spanner in hand.

The opening of the garden marked the culmination of almost 10 years planning and fund-raising by the Harry Ferguson Celebration Committee, a group of Ferguson and Massey Ferguson tractor enthusiasts who wanted to establish a fitting memorial to the inventor of the hydraulic three-point linkage which first saw light in 1933 on the Ferguson Black tractor, now housed in London's Science Museum.



COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE GOLF RE-AFFIRMED

Ransomes Jacobsen has re-affirmed its long-standing commitment to sustainability in golf through its appointment as the official and exclusive partner of the Golf Environment Organisation's (GEO) latest project.

The company will partner in the production of international Sustainability Guidelines for New Golf Development.

David Withers, Managing Director at Ransomes Jacobsen said: "We are an environmentally aware organisation and market our products using the strap line 'Driving Environmental Performance', but this is much more than a marketing slogan. We are totally committed to the ethos of sustainable golf and have clearly demonstrated our support as sponsors of BIGGA's Golf Environment Award and the STRI's Sustainable Golf Course Management DVD."

"We are also the initiators of an industry-first programme for the environmental disposal and recycling of redundant mowers and turf maintenance equipment, known as ELMO. We are delighted to accept GEO's proposal to partner this project and to see the body go from strength to strength."

With the funding and support now in place, this high profile project will run for two years and deliver strategic and practical guidelines for the planning, design and construction of golf courses, which will be of value to: Investors, Developers, Designers, Course owners, Governments and Environmental organisations.

ALL IN THE NAME OF CHARITY

A special gold-painted Bobcat S175 skid-steer loader will be auctioned later this year to Bobcat dealers in Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) to raise funds for the 'Schools for Africa' campaign by UNICEF. The auction of the unique Bobcat loader is the latest initiative in the 3-year collaboration between Bobcat EMEA and UNICEF Belgium.

A second Bobcat S175 "Heart of Gold" loader will be put on permanent display at the reception area of the Bobcat plant at Dobris in the Czech Republic.

To emphasise the link with the children being helped by UNICEF, the auction of the golden loader is timed to close the day before St Nicholas' Day. The dealer winning the auction will be invited to come to the Bobcat EMEA headquarters in Brussels a week later, on Saturday, December 13 2008, at the annual company Christmas party to hand over a cheque for the winning bid to a representative of UNICEF Belgium.

Information about 'Schools for Africa' is available at www.schoolsforafrica.com

THE NEW INDIA REVEALED!

The championship course at the Karnataka Golf Association in Bangalore will be ready for play this month, after a two-year renovation project.

The original Peter Thomson course has been redesigned by Howard Swan and his Swan Golf Designs team and rebuilt completely to the most modern of standards and performance expectations.

The 7100 yard par 72 layout will be unveiled with new greens, tees, bunkering, and irrigation system together with new grassing throughout.

Much attention has been given to the design of the fairways, raising them above the flood plain, and enlarging the course's water features so that, even in the worst of the Southern Indian monsoons, the course recovers quickly for play.

"We are delighted that the objective in raising the bar at KGA has been achieved and that the first nine holes of the course, opened after completion of the first stage of the renovation, are proving playable even in the most inclement of weather.

We look forward to seeing the full 18 holes opening soon," said Howard.