

## A COURSE WITH A DIFFERENCE

The much awaited Ransomes Jacobsen International Golf Course was opened officially by the Major of Ipswich last month.

The three hole course, designed by Howard Swan and James Edwards, of Swan Golf Designs, will give Ransomes Jacobsen staff the opportunity to road test new equipment in their own back yard and offer guests the chance to put their short game through the toughest of examinations.

In addition to Swan Golf Design the course benefited from support from Rainbird Europe, who supplied the irrigation system; Tarmac Topsport, who provided all the rootzone material, and Barenbrug, who were responsible for all the various grass types used.

Each hole has a different construction so that machinery can receive different tests.

Recently appointed Head Greenkeeper is Rory Ferguson, son of Ipswich Town's Groundsman, Alan. Rory works on site four days a week and the remaining day at Writtle College.

"This has been a great project and we are so pleased with the result, which reflects the quality of the team we put together," said RJ Managing Director, David Withers.

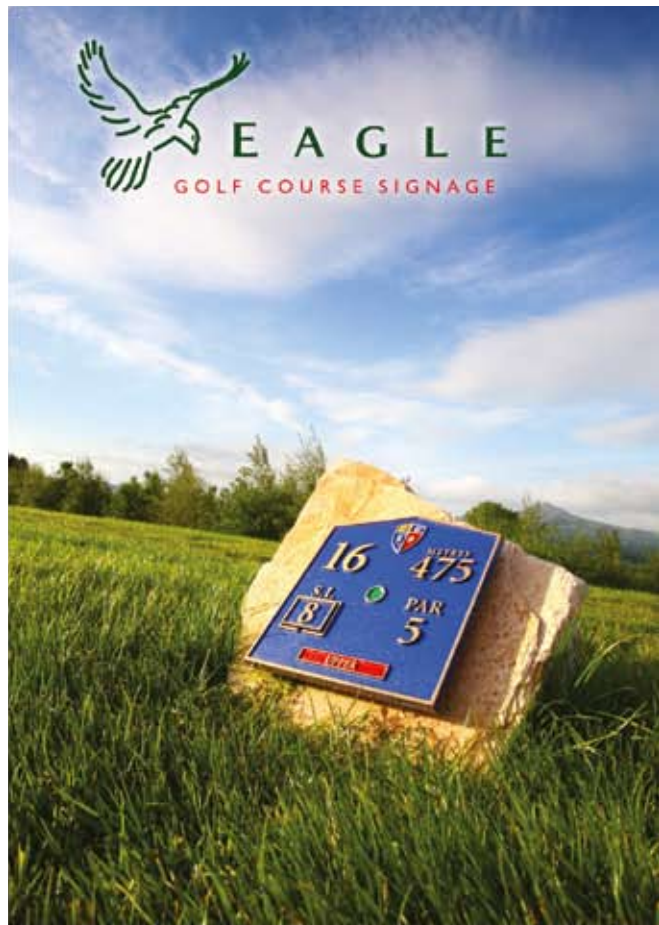
"We have about 1000 visitors a year coming through our Ipswich facility and we can now demonstrate our machines as well as our acknowledged environmental leadership," he added.

The three holes, Heather, Sand and Water measure 93, 82 and 49 yards respectively off the back tees and they are built round a superb water feature.

The 1st green has Bar 2, a slender creeping red fescue, chewings fescue and two browntop bents. The 2nd, Bar Fescue, a mixture of two slender creeping red fescues and two chewings fescues with the 3rd, an all browntop bent mixture of 50% Barking and 50% Heriot. Each of the tees boasts different mixes.



The Major of Ipswich, David Hale, cutting the ribbon in the presence of David Withers.



"WE SET EAGLE A VERY TOUGH DESIGN AND TECHNICAL BRIEF, BUT THEY CAME BACK AND GAVE US A SOLUTION THAT'S EVERY BIT AS IMPRESSIVE AS THE COURSE AND THE CLUBHOUSE."

"EAGLE REALLY DID GO THE EXTRA MILE, AND THE RESULTS ARE JUST SPECTACULAR."

PAT SMITH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF GOLF, DUN LAOGHAIRE GC

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