



Industry Update

BEST EUROPEAN DISTRIBUTOR ACCOLADE

Wiedenmann UK has, for the third successive year, been awarded the accolade 'Best European Distributor' by turf and groundcare specialists, Wiedenmann.

At a reception to mark the official opening of the new worldwide HQ at Rammigen Germany, the Wiedenmann UK team scooped the coveted title for 2007.

David Rae, Wiedenmann UK's managing director said: "It's exactly 20 years since my brother Martin, my father Alistair and I attended a German trade fair where we met the Wiedenmann family embarking on the early prototypes of the famous Terra Spike deep, fast aerators. We've watched the product range expand and Wiedenmann GmbH become truly a worldwide exporter. Wiedenmann turf and groundcare machinery is now available in 48 countries, so it's particularly satisfying for our twenty dealers across the UK and Ireland to be recognised for their ongoing efforts."

NEW PRODUCT MANAGER

Rigby Taylor has appointed Susan Murray as a Product Manager with special responsibility for developing the national sales of its range of artificial surfaces, pitch protection products, banners and flags.

Susan is a competitive lawn bowler and Scottish International.

NEW COMPANY NAME

The Shropshire-based company formerly known as Amenity Land Services Limited has changed its name to Amenity Land Solutions Limited.

Introduced to better reflect the diverse and comprehensive range of products and services now offered to customers, the new trading name allows the business to retain its ALS acronym and logo, which has become well-known and respected over the 20 years that the company has been serving the amenity horticulture, landscaping and groundcare sectors.

To coincide with the change of name, ALS has relocated to a new and larger operations centre and warehouse facility at Units 2/3, Allscott, near Telford, less than four miles from its previous base at Long Lane, Wellington, near Telford.

42 YEARS SERVICE

Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd has announced the retirement of Publicity Manager, Lynn Hilton, after 42 years service. Many of Lynn's duties will pass to her assistant Jane Bayley.



Lynn came to Sisis as temporary PA to the Company Secretary but enjoyed it and was asked to stay on. Lynn worked in virtually every department in the company before finding her true vocation in Publicity and Marketing 38 years ago.

Asked what she will miss most, Lynn said "I have been very fortunate to have worked with such a fantastic team at Sisis, particularly Jane, and Veda Brindley who have given me the most superb support anyone could wish for and been great fun to work with. I'm not sure how I am going to manage without them."

MJ ABBOTT ON TV

Golf course constructor MJ Abbott Limited is to feature in a television documentary for Channel 5.

'How do they make a golf course?' was commissioned by WAG-TV as part of its 'How do they do it?' series. Filming took place at Rockliffe Hall near Darlington where MJ Abbott is nearing completion of construction work on one of the longest and most challenging courses to be built in the UK in the last 10 years.

MJ Abbott's staff were joined on-site for filming by the Course Architect, Marc Westenborg, from Hawtree.

Natalia Dannenberg, Assistant Producer of the programme, explained why they'd chosen to look at golf course construction: "We have a few keen golfers on our production team and our Executive Producer suggested the title. Our researcher began to look for construction projects in the UK and contacted the British Association of Golf Course Constructors. From that contact, MJ Abbott sent us some information about the Rockliffe Hall development."

The episode of 'How do they do it?' featuring 'How do they make a golf course?' will be broadcasted at 7.30pm on Thursday, October 16 on Channel 5 and later in the year on the Discovery Channel.

GOLD MEDAL PERFORMANCE

The Shibaura ST318 Compact Tractor was called into action recently during the Beijing Olympics, to help prepare the Olympic Stadium playing surface for the football final.

Four days prior to the final it was felt that the playing surface was far too hard for the game to go ahead and the decision was taken to aerate overnight on Tuesday, August 18. With field athletic events due to take place the next morning, swift remedial action was called for.



KUBOTA TO REPRIS OATRIDGE ROADSHOW

Oatridge College in West Lothian has again been chosen by Kubota to launch their 2008 roadshow series, thanks to the outstanding success of a similar event two years ago.

Richard Harrison, the company's Sales and Marketing Director said: "The location and facilities are first class. We had looked at alternative sites around Scotland but decided to revisit Oatridge as it was universally accepted by the Kubota Events Team and our Scottish dealers as the best geographical location to attract the highest number of visitors."

The Kubota Live! Roadshow will be at the specialist landbased College near Broxburn on September 2 and will feature most of their range of 19 mini-excavators, from 850kg to 8 tonnes, plus ride-on mowers, tractors and the RTV 900 rough terrain vehicle. Entrance is free and it is not necessary to register. Visitors can simply turn up on the day, between 10am and 4pm.

The Kubota Live! Roadshow will move on from Oatridge to seven other locations in England and Wales, ending at Chepstow Racecourse in Monmouthshire on September 25.

CHANCE TO BEAT THE WET WEATHER

Wimbledon Park Golf Club is prepared for wet weather after drainage work was carried out by Speedcut Contractors of Oxford.

The magnificent 18-hole course, in the shadow of the All England Lawn Tennis Club, is on clay and required drainage round more than half a dozen holes.

Under foreman Peter Little the Speedcut team used one of their Mastenbroek laser-guided trencher and pipe-layers to carry out drainage over the course of a week.

Trenches were back-filled with shingle and sand and surfaces levelled with minimal disruption to the smooth running of the busy course.



NEW RECRUIT FOR SALES TEAM



Tycrop has welcomed Robin Lott to their turf division sales team.

"I come to this industry, most recently, from industrial equipment manufacturing and distribution, where I spent 13 years building a dealer network in Western Canada.

Pressure washers and industrial cleaning equipment sales has been very good to me, but the opportunity to work in the golf, turf and sport field industry for a respected Canadian manufacturer was something I couldn't pass up," said Robin.

NEW TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Becker Underwood Ltd has appointed Karl Geary as Technical Sales Representative with responsibility for sales in the UK and Ireland.

Karl Geary joins Becker Underwood bringing over 10 years experience to the post. Prior to joining Becker Underwood, Karl spent the last six years working for a leading manufacturer of fertilisers and pesticides with activities in the horticultural, amenity and retail sectors and previously studied Commercial Horticulture at Writtle College.



NEW EXPORT ROLE



Steve Elms joins Vitax Supaturf Ltd in the newly created role of Export Sales Manager.

Responsible for co-ordinating and expanding the company's export business interests, Steve, who started his career in greenkeeping in 1976, brings considerable overseas experience to the post having worked as a Course Manager in Switzerland, Denmark, Germany and the Caribbean.

Now based in his home county in South Wales, he is looking to develop his career in a field that he knows, which will still allow him to travel.

"I've known Vitax since my first days as Head Greenkeeper," he said.

"It's a well established company with a good reputation, which I'm sure I can develop further."

NEW H&S TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED

Bedale based training specialist KNW are delighted to announce a new joint venture with Lucid Training of Sedbergh to deliver the best in Health and Safety Training.

KNW established in 1997, has built its business on the core values of consistency, quality and flexibility delivering a comprehensive range of training courses throughout the UK.

The joint philosophy is to help businesses implement health and safety policies, processes and procedures so that business benefits from H&S rather than being restricted by it.



(L to R) Mike and Jean John from KNW, Andy Binstead (CMIOSH) and John Colton from Lucid Training.