



Industry Update

HIGH PRAISE FROM THE 'HOME OF GOLF'

St Andrews Links has recently renewed its Toro agreement, with Links Superintendent, Gordon Moir, saying that the Toro equipment the 'Home of Golf' exclusively uses to maintain its greens and tees has "proved extremely reliable and allowed the Links Trust to present the golf courses to the standard golfers expect."

Comprising seven courses, the world-famous St Andrews Links in Fife sustains more than 200,000 rounds of golf a year and so it is crucial that the courses are immaculately maintained.

"Many golfers view their trip to St Andrews as a pilgrimage and have very high expectations. It is vital, therefore, that we present the courses in the best condition we can every day of the year – not just for The Open or the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship."



St Andrews Links Superintendent Gordon Moir, left, and Lely's Jeff Anguige, with, standing, Links General Manager Alan McGregor.

WIMBLEDON WELCOMES SCOTTS

A Scotts Seminar, held at The All England Club, Wimbledon, proved to be a very successful event for the 150 invited guests

Speakers included Eddie Seaward MBE, Head Groundsman at the All England Lawn Tennis Club, who gave an entertaining talk on the Wimbledon Year. He was followed by Leon Terlingen, the Global Professional R&D Director for Scotts Europe, who discussed the advances in fertiliser technology.

He stated that the four point combination for a success was Right Product; Right Rate; Right Time and Right Place, while performance usually was in direct relation to price.

After a short break Simon Barnaby, Technical Manager Syngenta UK & Eire, explained the merits of Plant Growth Regulators in Turf Management featuring the qualities of Primo Maxx.

Simon was followed by Andy Newell, Head of Turfgrass Biology with the STRI and the official agronomist to the All England Club who talked of Testing Grasses for Sport.

After lunch the guests were treated to a tour around the Club where they were able to see the progress on the Centre Court roof and the new Number 2 court which will be ready for the Championships later this year.

HAND ARM VIBRATION SEMINAR

Echo UK are sponsoring a free seminar on the subject of Hand Arm Vibration at Harrogate Week 2009. The Seminar, which is planned for Tuesday, January 20 at 10.15 am in the Queen's suite, will be delivered by Fivesquared (a division of Earlsmere ID Systems), the UK's leading independent vibration assessor. Statistics show that more than one million people are still subjected to levels of vibration that are above the exposure limit level.

Employees are regularly being issued with and are using tools and equipment that offer excessive levels of vibration on a daily basis and vibration information presented by some manufacturers can't be used for risk assessment as it has not been tested under load or indeed in working conditions. Fivesquared carry out major testing projects for Echo on all tools and equipment in actual working conditions, providing data that can be used as part of the risk assessment process. For further information regarding the Vibration seminar at Harrogate Week, or to register attendance, contact Fivesquared on: 01226 750111.

BLEC IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

BLEC Landscaping Equipment Company Ltd has gone into administration. Gary and Sue Mumby started BLEC in 1986 and have, over the last 22 years, built the company into a worldwide enterprise, supplying machines across the globe. At its peak, the company employed 50 people and the premises at Deeping St. James, nr Peterborough, were expanded to accommodate a new office and manufacturing facilities. However, since early 2008, the company has suffered a series of blows, including a severe downturn in orders from Europe and particularly the United States, coupled with the appalling weather effecting UK sales of their large range of landscaping equipment.

The 35 members of staff have been laid off and the premises are now closed.

Gary and Sue would like to thank all of their distributors, customers and suppliers who have shown their continued support for BLEC products over the years and hope that the future brings a more positive outcome for everyone struggling in today's difficult climate.

CRICKET BOOM FOR SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

The first New Holland Boomer series tractor has been purchased by Anthony Hough, Director of Grass for Shrewsbury School. A longstanding New Holland customer, "I always buy New Holland because I get great peace of mind! Buying from a large company which offers such fantastic manufacturer back up is my priority. I have always bought New Holland, and the addition of the Boomer now means that I have a fleet of four tractors all under four years old," said Anthony.

Anthony's existing fleet includes tractors from New Holland's TC range and a TN60DA, which have after market cabs fitted and he comments that they are comparatively small.

"The Boomer has a factory fitted cab which means it is so much more comfortable, there is more space and as a result it is normally the first tractor out of the shed every morning! My staff love it!" he said.



Director of Grass for Shrewsbury School, Anthony Hough, with the new boomer

BUSINESSES NEEDED TO MAKE NEW DIPLOMA A SUCCESS

Now is the time for businesses to sign-up and help shape the country's future workforce. England's next generation of employees and professionals will have the opportunity to choose the new Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies, which enables students to learn about industry from employers.

Aimed at 14-19 year olds, the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies is an industry-led Diploma that becomes available in schools and colleges from 2009.

The content gives learners an opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge required to progress into further learning or employment within the sector. The Diploma can be studied alongside GCSEs and A Levels and is available at three levels.

Some 51 partnerships of schools, colleges and employers across England have already been given the green light by the government to start teaching the new Diploma in 2009, with a complete roll-out across England in 2013.

For information on how you can get involved with your local consortia, please visit:

www.diplomaelbs.co.uk
or contact Lantra Connect
on tel: 0845 707 8007 or
email: connect@lantra.co.uk

18TH CENTURY AVENUE PART OF ON-GOING RESTORATION

Around 130 ancient trees, forming part of a famous 18th century landscape have been treated to one-metre deep aeration treatment as part of ongoing restoration.

Gibside, near Newcastle upon Tyne, formerly owned by the Bowes-Lyons family but now under the protection of the National Trust, boasts 'The Long Walk', an avenue half a mile long lined with Oak, Sycamore and Lime. "As the gardens were designed between 1722 and 1760 the trees are at least 150 years old," said Gibside's Landscape Gardener Keith Blundell.

The gardens, originally designed by Stephen Switzer are open 12 months of the year. Due to the popularity of the attraction, visitor numbers have increased from approximately 30,000 to 115,000 people annually in the past eight years, and this has put more pressure on the long walk, which is one of the main attractions of the property. "Some of the trees were suffering from stress with crown die-back and nutritional problems," Keith continued.

Specialist aeration contractors, Terrain Aeration worked at Gibside for



three days injecting compressed air, via a probe, one metre below the surface to create underground fracturing and break up the compacted soil.

"They worked between the drip lines of the trees and needed to use the JCB hammer to insert the probe most of the time because the ground was so hard," Keith explained. "Conditions in the walled garden, some of which is used as a car park but most of which is dedicated to community and volunteer allotments were much softer."