

CONTINUING TO INVEST

Ransomes Jacobsen, and its affiliate company Jacobsen, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, continue to invest in new products that demonstrate their unrivalled commitment to the sector, despite the economic downturn.

With the support of parent company, Textron, both companies are launching new mowers into the golf and municipal markets in 2009, while continuing their commitment to environmental management.

In the U.S., Jacobsen launched the new R-311 batwing rotary mower earlier this year at the Golf Industries Show in New Orleans,

Louisiana. They also launched the innovative Eclipse 322, a hybrid ride-on mower with electric drive to the cutting cylinders with a choice of motive power from a

battery pack or diesel engine.

Here in the UK, Ransomes Jacobsen will be unveiling a significant new Ransomes mower at Saltex in September 2009 for the municipal sector, and are continuing to invest in the Jacobsen golf mowers built in Ipswich. The companies have also recently introduced a new range of cutting cylinders with a 45 degree relief, another first for the industry.



The new Jacobsen R-311 launched earlier this year.

NEW RECRUIT

Building on success, the STRI is adding to its South East Consultancy Team to cater for an increasing and diversifying demand for its services.

STRI has employed Sports Turf Agronomist, Charles Henderson, to add strength to the Southern Team. Charles, originally from East Yorkshire, has spent the last four years as a Sports Turf Agronomist for The New Zealand Sports Turf Institute.

Prior to the NZSTI Charles studied a HND in Turf Science and Golf Course Management at Myerscough College and a BA in Landscape Management at the UCL.

MARKET PRESENCE INCREASES



Tim Saville

Tim Saville has joined Rigby Taylor as a Area Sales Representative, working in the company's Local Authority team throughout the counties of the East Midlands.

Tim is a qualified horticulturist, having studied at Brackenhurst College and, in the 18 months prior to joining Rigby Taylor, was Head Groundsman at Rampton Hospital.

Trevor Helme has been appointed as the Linemarking Business Development Manager for the North of England and will be assisting the Rigby Taylor area sales team in expanding their linemarking products business.

Trevor brings to the company a wide experience having worked in the Amenity industry for over 15 years.



Trevor Helme

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE WINNERS

A-Plant has won a prestigious Access Industry Training Award at the inaugural International Awards for Powered Access held in Dublin.

Organised with the support of the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) to celebrate good practice, professionalism and quality in the access industry, the Access Industry Training Award was one of ten Awards being competed for by companies around the world and one of three categories in which

A-Plant was nominated.

The Award Judges commented on A-Plant's win: "A-Plant's win has been realised due to the fact that the company has made itself one of the UK access industry's most successful 'one stop shops' for training.

In 2008, the company trained over 3700 employees, and held over 4500 training days for its 2000 staff.

Further to this the company also invested in a new state of the art National Training Centre."

Pictured at the controls of Fenner's two brand new Allett Regal 36 mowers are Head Groundsman, John Moden (right) and his Deputy, Robert Costen.



CUT BY NEW MOWERS

Outfields at one of Britain's best-known and most attractive university cricket grounds will be cut this season by two new Allett Regal 36 mowers equipped with trailed seats.

The ground is Fenner's, home of the Cambridge University Cricket Club for more than 100 years and an integral part of Cambridge University's Physical Education Department which purchased the machines.

Replacing two Allett Regal mowers dating from 1998, the two new machines were specified by Head Groundsman, John Moden, and supplied by local Allett sub-dealer, Rod Widdowson Garden Machinery.

Team Expansion

The UK economy may be encountering choppy waters, but at Fieldfare Amenity it's full steam ahead. An ever increasing demand for services and products - including the innovative and highly successful Liquitec fertiliser - has resulted in us expanding our team.

The latest recruit is Mark Phipps-Jones who will be working

closely with the existing and soon-to-be customers in the amenity sector. Mark studied sports turf management at Writtle College and subsequently gained considerable experience as a greenkeeper in the Essex area.

A keen golfer himself, Mark is a key addition to the Fieldfare Amenity team.



Philip Spencer welcomes Mark Phipps-Jones to the Fieldfare Amenity team.



RETIREMENT

Test and Assembly engineer, Dai Williams, who joined Ransomes Sims and Jefferies in 1959, has retired after 50 years of dedicated and loyal service with Ipswich-based turf maintenance equipment manufacturer.

Dai joined the company in 1959 and because of his age, just 14 years and 11 months old, he worked initially in the Tinsmith's Shop, before beginning a five-year apprenticeship during which he was required to make his own tools which included measuring blocks, punches and various other items.

In 1964, after completing his apprenticeship he was seconded to the Forklift Truck assembly line.

During the early 1970s he was involved with making ploughs, cultivator and sprayers for the Agricultural division, before moving to the Experimental department in New Works. By the mid-70s he was working in the mower division and more recently on the main tractor line, building ride-on mowers. Leading up to retirement and following a recent health scare he was undertaking light duties on this line.

Commenting on Dai's retirement, David Withers, Managing Director said,

"It's people like Dai that are the backbone of this company; you only have to look at our annual long service awards, where those who receive their 20 year certificates are looked upon as just learning their trade! We are extremely grateful to Dai and the men and women like him, who have given such loyal service over the decades."

QUARTET MAKES GOLF DIGEST TOP 100

Four of St Andrews Links' seven courses have been listed in the Golf Digest Top 100 Courses ranking for the first time prompting the magazine to name the town as the world's "pre-eminent destination" for golf.

After only four months in operation The Castle Course has been listed at number 65 in the list, two places behind the New Course. The Jubilee Course has moved into the top 100 at number 92, while the Old Course is in second position overall.

The magazine's biannual ranking of the top 100 courses outside the US is compiled by more than 900 golf course panelists, the editors of its 23 editions around the world and a range of golf experts. The poll appears in the May edition which describes St Andrews as "the game's pre-eminent destination". The magazine praises David Kidd for his work on The Castle Course and suggests it demonstrates the "continuing evolution at the Home of Golf".

Alan McGregor, Chief Executive of St Andrews Links Trust, which manages and maintains the seven public courses in St Andrews, said, "It is a wonderful achievement to have four courses recognised in such a definitive ranking.

For The Castle Course to be included so soon after it opened is remarkable. It is also pleasing to see some well deserved recognition for the Jubilee Course. This is no mean feat when you see the caliber of the courses from around the world included in the ranking."