



Industry Update

COURSE RECORD BROKEN

Emmett Curran, Head Greenkeeper at Downpatrick Golf Club, in Northern Ireland, is the first person to break par at the RJL golf course, the company's recently opened three-hole course at the head office in Ipswich.

He was a member of a party of greenkeepers on a visit to the RJ European HQ, hosted by the company's dealer for Northern Ireland, Brodericks (NI) Ltd. Emmett, who was a five handicap player before giving up the game years ago due to arthritis, was amazed at his sub-par round.

"This is a great little course, very tricky due to the pin placements and the final hole, which is almost an island, so I was delighted to get round in just eight shots. This course is a credit to Ransomes Jacobsen and is in excellent condition. We had a superb visit and I must admit that I didn't realise the extent of the manufacturing capability at Ipswich. It was a great experience and the round of golf was the perfect end to a really enjoyable day."



20 YEAR TURF VETERAN JOINS STAFF

Tee-2-Green has appointed former Superintendent, Lewis Sharp, to serve as golf course consultant with primary focus on U.S., Canada and Europe.

"We realise the need for a person like Lew to assist architects, golf course builders and superintendents to serve Tee-2-Green customers," explained Bill Rose, President of Tee-2-Green.

"Lew is a guy who has real-world experience growing in and maintaining the Penn bentgrasses, so he can relate to agronomic and cultural challenges faced by our end-users."

With 20 years of professional turf experience, Lewis most recently worked as Superintendent at Dye's Walk Country Club, in Greenwood, Indiana. Throughout the span of his extensive career, he worked in course maintenance at several Midwest golf courses, and also served as Director of Golf Operations at Valle Vista Golf, also in Greenwood. After obtaining an associate's degree in architecture from Vincennes University in Indiana, Lewis went on to earn a bachelor's degree in engineering and turf management from Purdue University.

NEW COMPANY

Duncan McNab, of McNab Sport Ltd, Kinross, has launched a new company All Sport Consultants to run in conjunction with the existing Sportsturf Maintenance & Supply Company.

All Sport Consultants will offer Health & Safety Advice and Sports Turf Consultancy to amenity outlets throughout the UK.

Duncan holds I.O.S.H & NEBOSH qualifications in Occupational Health & Safety and Fire Safety & Risk Management.

For more information contact All Sport Consultants on: 01577 864206.



CUTTING EDGE TRAINING

Turfmech Machinery has reported strong and positive feedback from dealers' sales staff who attended one of a series of intensive Allett mower training courses held during the first three months of 2009.

Staged at Turfmech's headquarters in Hixon, Staffordshire - the manufacturing and support centre for Allett mowers - the one-day courses attracted more than 50 sales staff representing 15 different Allett dealers from across the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Each day was split into two sessions, the morning being devoted to the classroom where attendees were instructed in the adjustment, operation, maintenance and application of the 14-model range of Allett cylinder mowers and turf-care equipment.

The afternoon was spent outside on a variety of turf surfaces where theory could be put into practice, giving dealers' sales staff the opportunity to set-up and use the machines under actual working conditions.



AWARD WINNING ANGUS

Etesia's Managing Director, Patrick Vives, recently made a special trip from the company's headquarters in France to visit Scotland – his mission was to present Arbroath-based dealer, Angus Chainsaws with an Award.

This accolade came as a result of a 2008 international sales incentive scheme set up by Etesia in which Angus Chainsaws was placed among the top five world-wide retail outlets for 'Sales of Bahia ride-on mowers'.

Ken Wallace, a Partner in Angus Chainsaws, received the accolade on behalf of the company.

At the presentation, Patrick Vives said, "While this is a great achievement, in some ways it is no surprise – over the past 15 years this dealership has consistently excelled at selling Bahia ride-ons and has, during that time, won a number of UK Awards for high turnover.

In addition, in 2003 they were commended for their 'Commitment and Loyalty' and in 2005 Ken Wallace personally came top in Scotland in our 'Best Salesman' category."

Under the sales incentive scheme, winning dealers from all participating countries received the prize of a luxury holiday for two in Cancun organised by Etesia in January. Ken Wallace had been unable to attend – hence his award was presented to him in Scotland.



Ken Wallace (right) receives his award from Etesia UK MD Patrick Vives (L)

FELL BECOMES NEW TGA CHAIRMAN

Tim Fell is the new Chairman of the Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA).

Tim, whose company Tillers Turf has been growing turf in Lincolnshire for 25 years, took over from Robert Adcock when members gathered at the STRI for their spring meeting recently.

He is an active ambassador for turf and is determined to raise further the profile of the association as a body of highly knowledgeable professionals, passionate about their product.

"Members of the TGA are already leaders in the industry when it comes to innovation, quality and service. We want to continue to set the standard for turf production in this country," he said.

"I would like to see the TGA Standards for Cultivated Turf being used universally in any specification for turf."

His two year stint as Chairman comes at a time

of unprecedented challenges for the turf industry. The recession is having a major impact on the income of turf growers, some of whose businesses are underpinned in large measure by the property market. The highly specialist sportsturf market is less affected. Other pressing issues facing turf growers today include the reduction in the numbers of pesticides, and water restrictions.

Tim praised the work of the TGA Council, Chief Executive, Tim Mudge, and the Association's former Chairmen for the substantial progress made in promoting the benefits of turf and addressing matters affecting turf production.

"The TGA has worked hard to raise the awareness of the benefits of turf to the Water Industry and Local Authorities. The message is getting through that turf is the unsung hero of the landscape."



New TGA Chairman Tim Fell (right) presents outgoing Chairman Robert Adcock with a gift marking the end of his two year term.