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INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe



Wiedenmann UK's Sales Team Host Interactive Business Sessions in Germany

Wiedenmann UK's sales team has hosted around 50 dealer staff in two days of interactive business sessions at their worldwide HQ at Rammingen, near Stuttgart, Germany.

"We were able to cover so much; from a very informative factory tour to quite detailed sales sessions where we updated dealers with news of sales aids, literature, pricing and product specifications," said David Rae, Wiedenmann UK's Managing Director.

The party got a first look at many new machines including Terra Spikes, seeders, sorel rollers, salt spreaders and snow blades.

Wiedenmann now has its widest ever range of aerators, maintenance systems, sweeper collectors, material collection systems, mowers, blowers, snow and dirt machines and artificial turf maintenance equipment.

"Such sessions are a great opportunity for everyone," continued David.

"They create strong bonds between the dealer network and the manufacturer.

"The dealers can see first hand how we're looking to the future and pushing technical boundaries," he said, "and we benefit from the dealers' enthusiasm and feedback"



In New Territory

SISIS has appointed Mark Mitchell asTerritory Manager for Bedfordshire/ Cambridgeshire/Essex/ Hertfordshire/ Norfolk/ Suffolk

Mark started in the turf industry in 1978 so has a wealth of experience and will be well know to many customers.

Mark lives with his partner Elaine and 4 daughters. His hobbies include ice hockey, which, until recently he played, but now gives encouragement from the side lines.

Mark can be contacted on 07970 642549 or email on: mark.sisis@btinternet.com

JOHN DEERE EXTENDS PATRON AGREEMENT WITH LADIES EUROPEAN TOUR

John Deere and the Ladies European Tour (LET) have extended their original patron agreement for two more years, during which Deere will enjoy the designation as the Tour's 'Official Supplier of Golf Course Machinery.'

"John Deere is very pleased to announce that we have added two more years to what has already been a fruitful relationship with the Ladies European Tour," said Nicole Chase, Director of Sales and Marketing for golf products in Europe. "John Deere is proud of its longstanding relationship with the US PGA Tour and is confident its relationship with the LET will continue to grow."

Through this agreement, LET tournaments will be supported by John Deere equipment and irrigation products.

Deere officials will also continue to work closely with the LET's agronomists, with the goal of helping to produce better quality playing surfaces.

Appointment

Campey has strengthened its links with Sports grounds, golf clubs and local authorities in Ireland following the appointment of new Product Specialist, Brian O'Shaughnessy.

Brian, 46, who is based in north County Dublin, joins the company from IAM Groundcare. Prior to that, his background is in grass cutting machinery maintenance in both the domestic and commercial marketsBrian O'Shaughnessy can be contacted by phone on 00 353 87 927 4521, or by email at: brian@campeyturfcare.com



Separatorsplus and Waste-Away

Highspeed Lubricants Ltd created the Course Care brand in 1989 as a division of the company and the name is now established in the turf maintenance field.

Since a management buyout in 2001, the company has expanded its product range and services under the leadership of joint Managing Directors', Andy Vincent and David Mears and is also now fully licensed as a Waste Transfer Station.

Recently two new divisions have been formed: Separatorsplus and Waste-Away. It was felt that as lubricants only now form part of the portfolio, the company name did not truly reflect all activities.

It was decided to emphasise the now diverse product and services range and so Highspeed Lubricants Ltd recently became Highspeed Group Ltd.



Ransomes Spider is the Answer

Royal Belfast has taken a pioneering approach to managing its steep banks and slopes with the introduction of a Ransomes Spider II remote controlled mower from local Ransomes Jacobsen dealer Broderick (Northern Ireland)

With the introduction of more rigorous Health and Safety standards, Course Manager Jim Eager, had to find alternatives for mowing the steep banks that frame the lawn in front of the clubhouse.

Previously these were maintained with hover mowers, but this practice is now forbidden under tighter HSE rules.

"From the clubhouse members have an unspoilt view across the lawn to the Lough and the distant Antrim hills beyond.

When we were unable to

maintain the banks to the normal high standards we were under pressure to find an immediate solution," he said.

"I spoke to Broderick's and they quickly provided a demonstration of the Spider for the Greens Committee and my greenkeeping team.

It was immediately obvious that this was the ideal solution and with the committee's backing, we placed the order."

Princes Golf Club

Troon Golf has added Princes Golf Club as the newest member to its portfolio of managed courses.

The newly lengthened Championship course will also host final Open Qualifying in 2011 when the Open returns to neighboring venue Royal St. Georges.

"Princes Golf Club is one of the most traditional and esteemed golf clubs in England whose impressive history is hard to surpass. We are thrilled to be working with such an established name in golf and look forward to forging strong partnerships with the team there." commented Bruce Glasco, Troon Golf's Managing Director, Europe, Middle East & Africa.

Troon Golf is the world's largest golf management company, overseeing operations at properties located in 31 states and 26 countries.



Indian Summer

A glamorous Bollywood siren, a major premium whisky brand and an international golfing initiative came together in India last week, when details were revealed of India's largest-ever golf event.

The announcement, which comes hard on the heels of recent PowerPlay GolfR launch events in New Zealand and Canada, signals another step in the global expansion of golf's new 'two flag' format.

Indian model and actress Neha Dhupia joined PowerPlay co-creator Peter McEvoy OBE at the media launch of the Signature Club Golf Championship 2009 in Mumbai, India.

The event, which covered 20 cities in 2008, will expand in 2009 to cover 30 cities across India, and will be played to PowerPlay GolfR rules throughout.