



## NEW APPOINTMENT

Ransomes Jacobsen has appointed Steve Barnfather to the newly created role of Trade Sales Manager with responsibility for all non-exclusive dealer activities.

He will be primarily responsible for the development of Ransomes Jacobsen's non-exclusive dealer network across the UK focussing on Iseki compact tractors and mowers, E-Z-GO utility vehicles, Ryan turf maintenance equipment and the smaller Ransomes pedestrian mower range.

His dealers currently include Cherry's Country Hardware, Devon Garden Machinery, Grasshopper Horticultural, JE Lawrence & Sons, Lodgeway Tractors and Sharnford Horticultural together with the newly appointed Fentons of Bourne and DJ Scott Garden Machinery. Ransomes Jacobsen plans to appoint a further 20 non-exclusive dealers over the next 12 months, all of whom will fall under Steve's remit.

During his career in the industry he was the ground care general manager at the Hexham branch of Carrs Billington; he has worked in the hire sector with SGM Hire and Swan Plant and in a sales role with Landforce Woodchippers.

Steve lives in Morpeth, Northumberland with his wife Lesley. He has three grown-up children and is a long-suffering supporter of Newcastle United Football Club.

## Soil Treatment Success

Cheshunt Park Golf Club has taken delivery of its first batch of Ultra-Soil Penetrator and Ultra-Soil Retain.

This two-part liquid soil treatment has the ability to reduce the amount of water and fertiliser used on turf and other plants by up to 80%!

During trials the results have shown that the soil quality is substantially improved in a short space of time by decompacting and aerating the soil with these natural, non-chemical

products. Compacted soils and sparse patches have shown great improvement. Water logged clay soils can also be drained with one spray application.

David Renouf, of Broxbourne Borough Council commented,

"We are focussed on delivering the best possible performance for our golfers at Cheshunt, while being very aware of our budgetary responsibilities and environmental issues. The

Ultra-Soil product range offers the opportunity for us to achieve these objectives.

When these totally environmentally friendly products have been applied to the trial areas on the greens at Cheshunt Park, we have seen a vast improvement in grass cover and drainage performance."

For more information contact, Andy Church, Ultra-Soil on 07835 066439 or head office on 01992 822553, email [info@ultra-soil.com](mailto:info@ultra-soil.com)

## Uncertain Future of Sherfield Oaks Golf Club

The future of Crown Golf-operated course, Sherfield Oaks Golf Club, is uncertain after the Club's landlord, Luddington Investments Ltd was placed into administration late last year and KPMG appointed as the administrators.

As the Golf Club's operator, Crown Golf is not directly affected by the landlord's demise and business continues as normal at the Club. Crown Golf is currently considering the option to purchase the 89-year lease, and is continuing to discuss the matter with Luddington's administrators.

Crown Golf is Europe's largest golf course owner/operator, with 30 UK golf properties and 52 golf courses in its portfolio.



## Philip Joins ETSL

Philip Armitage has joined The European Turfgrass Specialists Ltd as a turfgrass agronomist.

He is responsible for delivering technical support and advice to clients based throughout the UK and mainland Europe. Prior to his current position, he worked for the STRI as a turfgrass agronomist for five years. He further developed his skill set, by building an extensive knowledge base and experience as an Irrigation Manager for GlenFarrow for three years coupled with ten years experience maintaining and growing in golf courses in the USA – Pinehurst Golf Resort, the UK –Belfry Golf Courses and Sweden – Dyne Kiliens Golf Klubb.

Philip graduated from The University of Central Lancashire in Preston, England with a degree in Turfgrass Science.

In order to contact Philip Armitage, please use the following: Email: [info@euroturfgrass.co.uk](mailto:info@euroturfgrass.co.uk) or Tel: +44 (0) 8442 259614

## Thriller Drillers



Wellhead Drilling is a drilling company which specialises in site investigations and ground testing for foundation design.

Recently the company discovered an inherent problem at some golf clubs due to water logging on the greens, bunkers and fairways. Wellhead can rectify this problem simply, quickly and permanently.

Using hole changing equipment, the turf is removed at each position, then a series of 75mm diameter boreholes are drilled through

the clay into a permeable strata which allows the water to drain away. The machine is capable of drilling to a depth of 20metres ) The boreholes are then backfilled with 10mm washed gravel then (root zone) before the turf is replaced, leaving no outward sign that any work has been carried out. Following this the green, fairways or bunkers can be played on immediately..

For further information contact Edd Stanton on or email [wellheaddrilling@googlemail.com](mailto:wellheaddrilling@googlemail.com)

## FESTIVAL SOLUTION



A Verti-Drain 7626 is proving its mettle on the Isle of Wight, where Andrew Earley, Contracts Inspector for the Parks and Countryside Division at Isle of Wight Council, is using Charterhouse Turf Machinery's most powerful decompactor to tackle some extreme conditions.

With an extensive brief that covers turf surfaces from sports pitches to parks and ornamental areas, Andrew runs an ongoing programme to tackle compaction and drainage problems.

He explains that the main reason for choosing the Verti-Drain was to treat compaction from the Isle of Wight Festival that takes place on the island in June each year.

"The Festival is held on Seaclose Park in Newport and attracts around 65,000 people a year. This park is very large and has eight full size football pitches on it, making it the ideal venue for the Festival," said Andrew

"But over the three day festival, the pitches get seriously compacted. Last year, I decided that we needed to invest in something that could handle the intense workload after the event better than the smaller Verti-Drain we already had. I needed to get a machine that could cover a larger area in a smaller amount of time, so we did some internet research and came across the Charterhouse Verti-Drain 7626."