

ROYAL CINQUE PORTS STAYS WITH RANSOMES JACOBSEN



The Royal Cinque Ports GC, situated on the narrow stretch of coastline between Deal and Sandwich Bay in Kent, has added further Ransomes Jacobsen turf maintenance equipment to maintain the championship links course.

The club has added four G-Plex III ride-on triplex mowers, two with greens cutting units and two for tees, two Fairway 305s with cabs and an AR250 rotary mower for maintaining the rough, all supplied by local dealer Ernest Doe and Sons Ltd.

Ian Barnard is the Course Manager and a former professional golfer who turned to greenkeeping following a serious injury that curtailed his career.

Commenting on the new equipment he said, "As you would expect from a links course we have a very undulating playing surfaces, both severe and subtle, so we need equipment that delivers a high quality finish, while having the ability to work under these exacting conditions here at Royal Cinque Ports.

The club have opted for a five year operating lease with full maintenance contract, which provides them with a fixed monthly cost and dovetails with their operating strategy.

"This latest package, with its combination of equipment, high service levels from local dealer Ernest Doe & Sons and a finance plan that suits our business plan, is definitely the best package us," Ian Barnard concluded.



Etesia UK on the Move

Etesia UK is celebrating its 15th year of trading with a move to modern, custom built premises at Shennington near Banbury, Oxfordshire. The company required a larger warehouse and in-house training areas.

Etesia UK began in 1995 with only one walk- behind and one ride-on machine but have grown rapidly and now offer a wide range of products, that include a variety of walk-behind & ride-on mowers, and a range of brush cutters. The company is also the exclusive UK dealer for the range of Pellenc lithium-ion battery powered chainsaws, polesaws, pruning shears and hedge cutters.

The move has been brought about by a steady rise in business and an increase in customers and machinery sales since the company was formed.

The contact details for Etesia UK are: Greenway House Sugarswell Business Park Shennington Oxon OX15 6HW. Tel: 01295 680120 Fax: 01295 680852



EURO GRASS JOINS TURFGRASS GROWERS ASSOCIATION

The Turfgrass Growers Association has welcomed grass seed breeder, producer and supplier Euro Grass BV as a new affiliate member.

Euro Grass is an international company which is active in turfgrass breeding and production in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. New to the British amenity market, its aim, through the recent appointment of Simon Taylor as UK Sales & Marketing Manager, is to offer a portfolio of amenity grasses that provides high level seed cleanliness and unrivalled cultivar performance for turf production. The company

already has a number of cultivars established on the STRI/BSPB seed listings.

Simon Taylor explained: "Our membership is very important as it enables interaction with grower members and to present Euro Grass and its products on a professional level. We are looking forward to working with the Association and turf growers to tackle some of the challenges which face the industry in current times."

Simon can be contacted on 01522 868946 or by email on simon.taylor@eurograss.com. www.turfgrass.co.uk

Sherriff to be Sole Suppliers

Sherriff Amenity has signed a new extended agreement with De Vere Hotel & Leisure to remain the sole suppliers of chemical, fertiliser and grass seed to their golf courses nationwide.

Mark Pyrah, Sherriff Amenity Director said:

"We are delighted that De Vere have chosen Sherriff Amenity to remain their exclusive suppliers.

"The agreement that has been reached will ensure that De Vere continue to benefit from volume group purchases, a high level of sales support and the latest in new product technology within the amenity arena.

"Sherriff Amenity's industry leading research and development programme allows us to provide our customers with the latest in new technical innovation backed by our unrivalled range of products, selected from regional, national and international manufacturers."

What's your Number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month's lucky number...

Mike Beardall, of Oakfield Media, answers some searching questions



1. What is your position within the company?

Owner and chief coffee-maker.

2. How long have you been in the industry?

As a journalist for 42 years. In the sports surface management sector 15 years.

3. How did you get into it?

From school as a trainee reporter on a local paper. After various newspaper jobs, joined the Daily Mail for 10 years. Entered horticulture in the 80s while running a six-acre smallholding in West Sussex, and later freelanced on *The Water Gardener* and *Turf Management* magazines, followed by editing *The Groundsman* for 11 years.

4. What other jobs have you done?

It's all been journalism and public relations, plus photography – but my family were all farmers so I really feel comfortable when working outdoors. I've done my fair share of cultivating, growing and harvesting over the years.

5. What do you like about your current job?

The opportunity to meet so many people who enjoy their work. Greenkeepers, groundsman and gardeners all share a common passion for perfection and are all very friendly.

6. What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

More science, better machinery and an increase in the recognition for people who produce top-notch sports surfaces and excellent parks and gardens.

7. What do you like to do in your spare time?

Pottering around auctions, adding to the clutter in my garage, gardening and golf – but not often enough.

8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Still working! Unless my lottery ticket comes up and then I'll be on my yacht in the Bahamas.

9. Who do you consider best friends in the industry?

Cannot name them all – but they know who they are.

10. What do you consider to be your lucky number?

18 – the date of my son and grandson's birthday.

11. Pick a number ...31

Mike has picked Lee Penrose of the STRI