



Lewis Blois Joins Scotts

Scotts Professional has appointed Lewis Blois as Technical Area Sales Manager for the East Midlands and East of England. He's no stranger to the turf industry or to Scotts' products, having joined from Sherriff Amenity where he was Amenity Representative for Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

A keen semi-professional footballer with Norwich United, Lewis is looking forward to working with the Scotts Turf & Amenity Team to provide advice and product support for the company's extensive range of fertilizers, control products and grass seeds. Scotts Professional's Business Manager for the UK and Ireland, Richard Walton, said: "I am delighted that Lewis has joined the team.

"His enthusiasm for the industry is abundant and he'll provide superb technical and sales support to our valued customers and distributors."



The dedicated turf management advice website for the UK and Ireland, GreenCast, now provides information on wind speed in easy to use miles per hour, instead of metres per second. Greenkeepers and sprayer operators had highlighted traditional assessments and spray records called for details in MPH, rather than the metric equivalent.

GreenCast Project Manager, Karen Roberts, reports wind speed is a crucial factor in identifying opportunities to spray, as well as assessing drying conditions that will influence irrigation and other turf management operations.

Sign of the Times

As a direct 'sign of the times', JSM Distribution has seen a huge increase in enquiries for the hire of their Sand Storm screening system.

Principally aimed at the renovation of golf course bunkers, the Sand Storm can also handle other materials that may benefit from a screening process. Vibrating screens on the Sand Storm work to remove debris such as leaves, twigs, needles, weeds, stone and clay particles. The screens will also trap silt deposits on their surface, allowing for wash off and removal. The process remixes the sand particles and 'fluffs' it to a like new condition.

Eliminating settling and compaction as well as cleaning away unwelcome contamination the Sand Storm can dramatically improve the playing characteristics of the bunker and reduce the need for major sand replacement or renovation programmes where bunker contamination is a headache.

Sales Manager, David Timms said, "It is not surprising in the current financial squeeze that many organisations are considering hire rather than the purchase of capital equipment. However, the huge interest in the Sand Storm indicates that this cost concern doesn't affect just machinery but all materials and practices. A lot more clubs are now becoming interested in the renovation results they can achieve recycling their existing material, rather than replacing. In the past we have treated hire in a rather ad hoc fashion, but as a result of the upturn in enquiries this summer we are now organising ourselves to be able to hire the units on a national basis'.

The Sand Storm is available from JSM Distribution and hire rates start from £350 (+ vat) per week, plus delivery.. Lo-Call 0845 026 0064.



What's your number?

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

Shona Garner comes under the spotlight

Name: Shona Garner

Company: Shona Garner Coaching Services Ltd

Position: Director

How long have you been in the industry?

7 years

How did you get into it?

In the latter years of my career I'd often hankered after trying my hand at starting out on my own, doing what I love – so seven years ago – took the plunge!

What other jobs have you done?

Bit of a mixed bag really! Major career choices were teaching, which I did for 17 years. Then I moved into the pharmaceutical industry. But I've also picked carnations in Jersey; done voluntary work on a wild-life reserve in Namibia and sung semi-professionally in a band!

What do you like about your current job?

I love seeing people grow! Have an endless fascination for psychology; what makes us tick; what makes some humans more "successful" or fulfilled or happy than others – and get a huge buzz from seeing those managers I work with on workshops or 1-1 develop, grow their potential and make a difference!

What changes have you seen in the industry?

Every industry faces change – it's the only constant! And how people deal with it is what makes the difference between organisations which thrive and those which flounder.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love walking, yoga and my step class! Great way to burn off frustration and stress! And, sad to say – I love reading psychology books or books about management!

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Watching sunsets in some warm sunny clime, with an on-line business I can run from anywhere and more volunteer work.

Who do you consider as best friends in the industry?

Sami Collins and Rachael Duffy. They have great enthusiasm, positivity and energy! I love being around people who make you feel better!

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

Mmmm! Don't have one. I think we create our own luck!

Shona has picked no. 13, Carol Borthwick of Elmwood College