



JOHN QUINTON PROMOTION

John Quinton, Ransomes Jacobsen's former Regional Sales Manager for the southwest and northwest of England and Wales, has been promoted to the position of Sales Manager, UK and Ireland.

Reporting to Sales Director, Rupert Price, he will be responsible for business development, equipment sales and dealer support throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

John, a graduate of Harper Adams University College, in Shropshire, where he gained a HND in agricultural engineering, joined Ransomes Jacobsen last year from Hayter.

Before coming to the UK, John farmed in his native, Zimbabwe, and he currently lives in Monmouth with his wife, Victoria, and their two daughters, Sophie and Emma. He will be relocating to Suffolk in the near future.

Commenting on the appointment Rupert said, "John has only been with business for a short while, but in that time has impressed everyone with his drive and determination. His rounded experience of the turf industry will certainly be an added strength together with his undoubted management skills that are a requisite for this demanding post."



Masons Kings of Sale, Service and Support

John Deere dealership Masons Kings has been appointed to take on the sale, service and support of John Deere's full line of professional turf and homeowner equipment ranges in Cornwall, previously handled by Cornwall Farmers Ltd.

Brand new premises have been opened at Winnards Perch, St Columb, in the centre of Cornwall, trading under the new name Masons Kings. All the sales, parts and service staff from

the Cornwall Farmers turf equipment division, previously based at Roche, have been taken on by the new dealership. The new Masons Kings business name now also includes the dealership's main branch at Chudleigh in, and the Kings branch at Dulverton in Somerset.

Masons has been a machinery dealership for 36 years, a John Deere agricultural dealer for over 26, and first established its John Deere professional turf division in 2007.

New Website for Turfgrass Growers Association

The Turfgrass Growers Association has a new website: www.turfgrass.co.uk

The design features a comprehensive knowledge base with a range of helpful fact sheets relating to turf health and maintenance as well as details of TGA specifications and standards.

Visitors can also find information about TGA events, including the 2011 Turf Show, read the latest news articles, find out more about membership, source products and services from affiliate members or locate their nearest TGA grower.





Ice Ice Buggy

Staff at the Eden Project in Cornwall, have been using a Kubota B2230 compact tractor to power an Olympia 250 ice machine used to clean and prepare the ice for skate sessions.

Since Eden's seasonal ice rink first opened five years ago, the organisation had used a golf buggy to pull its ice machine. Unfortunately, both machines were written off during a major flood which caused the ice rink to close for a month last November.

After consultations between the ice rink staff and John Ryan,

the Transport Manager at the Eden Project, it was decided that a faster, more powerful and efficient replacement was needed and the Olympia 250 was chosen.

The new tractor was delivered last December and was fitted with special tyres featuring special ice-studs as a precaution to ensure that it wouldn't skid.

It has since been used to help create an expert surface between every skate session which takes around 20 minutes.

As a result, Eden's ice rink was able to cater for approximately 23 skate sessions every week.



TRAIN THE TRAINER

Toro distributor Lely UK has further strengthened its operator training programme with the launch of a new Train the Trainer scheme, developed in partnership with The Belfry.

For large resorts with a hectic schedule and higher staff turnover, regularly sending greenkeepers and groundsman for off-site manufacturer training can be a real drain on time, budgets and staff resources.

The Belfry's Director of Golf Courses and Grounds, Kenny

Mackay, certainly found this to be the case.

Kenny put his situation to Lely's training division, leading to the creation of a pilot 'Train the Trainer' scheme. This saw the resort's more experienced operators trained to impart their knowledge to junior colleagues direct and on home turf, instead of having to schedule an on-site course led by the Lely training team and/or attending a session at the company's St Neots National Training Centre.

What's your number?

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

Name: Adrian Handbury.

Company: Intelligent Watering.

Position: Owner.

How long have you been in the industry?

Since 1993 (with two years off for good behaviour!)



How did you get into it?

I was offered the job of Irrigation Manager at the London Golf Club.

What other jobs have you done?

Shelf-stacker, Farm Worker, Farm Manager, Machinery Demonstrator (John Deere), Area Service Manager (John Deere), Marketing Director.

What do you like about your current job?

It is a cliché, but the variety. Through the irrigation industry I have worked on TV sets, national football and cricket stadia and, of course, fantastic golf courses on three continents.

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

Although technology has progressed, what is good to see is that the people in the industry haven't. The majority are friendly and eager to learn. One area that has improved for the better is the appreciation of the environment.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I cook (Finalist in 2010 Britain's Best Dish), and I am reshaping the garden. Also I am looking at doing another degree later this year.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Hopefully still married, healthy and managing to keep my two daughters out of my wallet. And still in business!

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

I don't think that I can single out any single names as there are too many – especially among the irrigation contractors that I have been lucky enough to work with, and also those with whom I worked at the LGC.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

13 – it is my birthday, and the date that I met my wife.

Pick a number - 13.

Adrian has picked David Cole from JSM