



NEW RECRUIT FOR CHARTERHOUSE

Dougie Archibald, has joined Charterhouse Turf Machinery as Northern Area Territory Manager.

Dougie, 37, who is from Dunfermline, in Fife, brings a wealth of experience with him as he initially was a groundsman working at Murrayfield. He then moved on to being a product demonstrator, and latterly an area sales representative for a well respected John Deere dealership in Scotland.

In announcing the appointment, General Manager at CTM, Nick Darking, explained, "When the vacancy occurred we went about setting the criteria for the ideal candidate, and there was Dougie. Not only does he have hands on experience, he also comes with a solid sales background. We're delighted to have him join the team and expand our position in the North."

Any spare time Dougie has is spent playing golf, watching football or tinkering with classic cars.

AFT See Heworth GC into Centenary Year



A combination of AFT Trenchers and Sandbender successfully combat surface water at Heworth Golf Club.

In 2012 the Heworth Golf Club celebrates its Centenary year. The course has matured and is always immaculately presented by Head Greenkeeper, Colin Pringle and his team.

Colin runs a team of five including himself and Harry, the young apprentice, combining college and greenkeeping experience.

"We maintain an 18 hole course which is constructed on very heavy clay soil. Our biggest issue has always been drainage and we installed a complete main drainage system using an AFT 45 trencher, 12 years ago." Despite much of the country suffering from drought, this is has not been a problem in Tyne and Wear, the home county of the club. "We have found that if anything we have had excessive levels of rainfall this year and because of that we have invested in the AFT Sandbender to give even more structure to keeping the course free of surface water," explained Colin

The AFT Sandbender has revolutionised the way sand slits are installed on sport surfaces. The unique blade design and oscillating movement installs drainage slits with well consolidated sand. In this instance the Sandbender has been used to successfully divert surface water on the greens to the existing lateral drains.

Colin is delighted with the results so far and is confident that the course will be at its best for 2012, when the club is hosting the English Golf Union Seniors County Finals.

GI INDUSTRY UPDATE

Please email your news and press releases to the editor, Scott MacCallum, scott@bigga.co.uk

John Holt Retires after 30 years with Rigby Taylor



After 30 years with Rigby Taylor and the past 10 as Commercial Director, John Holt has retired.

John joined the company, as a rep in 1979 and in the early 1990's became Sales Manager.

While Commercial Director he played a significant part in product development, culminating in many new fertilizers, formulated with traditional greenkeeping in mind.

John's lifelong interest in golf came as a result of his parents, who were steward and stewardess at Blackburn Golf Club. He spent many hours watching the professional repair clubs, which gave

him his interest in club making.

For many years, while working as a greenkeeper, John was a category one golfer and this interest in all aspects of the game led him to become a member of the British Golf Collectors and The James Braid Golfing Society. His present collection of golf artifacts includes approximately 800 golf clubs.

As a member of Clitheroe Golf Club since 1975 John has spent many years as Chairman of Green.

He would like to thank all the greenkeepers and colleagues who have supported him over the years.

Abbeydale is Where it's ATT



Abbeydale Golf Club in Sheffield has been a long time advocate of ATT's turf maintenance equipment, and five years ago were one of the first clubs to trial the TMSystem.

Previously, the club had used dethatching cassettes, but the TMSystem offered a first opportunity to perform more maintenance tasks with a single power unit.

"We have two John Deere greens triples, one of which is kept for mowing and the other used with the TMSystem," says Head Greenkeeper, Warwick Manning.

"I was immediately impressed with the build quality of the system and the range of cassettes available."

The Ultragroover is the most frequently used attachment used on a regular basis to take grain out of the meadow grasses on the greens.

"We have reduced thatch to a manageable level, so all that is needed is surface management of the sward, and the Ultragroover does an excellent job."

Vibratory rollers maintain green speeds and also help to work topdressings in, while the sarel rollers spike the surface, ensuring that dressings penetrate for greatest effect.

The vibration brush is also used after top dressing, while the scarifier cassette can be employed as and when necessary.



Buggy Solutions

Wyevale East Nurseries in Swanley, Kent, has taken delivery of their second S1 sit-on 2 wheel drive electric vehicle from Electric Powered Solutions.

Nursery Director, Richard McKenna, first saw the vehicle at the Four Oaks trade show in 2010 and immediately recognised its potential for moving stock around their 10 acre site.

Depending on the motor size the buggy can load up to 500kg and w a trailer carrying up to 1,000kg.

What's your number?

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

Name: Ian Marshall
Company:
Crocodile Golf Products
Position:
Managing Director



How long have you been in the industry?
5 years, since August 2006

How did you get into it?

As an established manufacturer of rotary blades for domestic lawn mowing machines, we acquired plant and machinery from a failed engineering company that manufactured cylinder mower blades and bottom blades for a number of original equipment lawn mower manufacturers engaged in the turfcare industry, we quickly identified the demand for replacement parts and launched Crocodile Golf Products in 2009.

What other jobs have you done?

Following a thorough apprenticeship in the foundry industry, managed a number of engineering companies in the automotive, presswork, steelwork and construction industry and manufactured a range of hand-tool and agricultural tools in Thailand, Ghana and Nigeria.

What do you like about your current job?

Easily the people! Having worked in a variety of different industries the people in the turfcare industry are head and shoulders the nicest and most accommodating people I have ever worked with. The care and attention showed by groundsmen and greenkeepers world-wide is a much understated commodity!

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

We have only seen growth. In spite of this recession and the obvious cut backs in spending, the demand for our range of quality replacement parts continues to exceed our expectations.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Would it be too obvious to say play golf and spend time with the family? But you do have to get the balance right!

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

In a box! Seriously, I would like to see us establish a global centre of excellence for wear resistant cutting tools providing a comprehensive service to the international turfcare industry.

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

Without doubt, the greenkeepers.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

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