

GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe



End of an Era

It was the end of an era recently when the last G-Plex III ride-on greens mower rolled off the Ransomes Jacobsen production line at the Ipswich manufacturing facility.

This was the 3,536th G-Plex built at Ipswich since production began in the UK, back in 1998. Previously the first incarnation of this ever popular mower, the GP160, was built at the Cushman plant in Lincoln, Nebraska in the USA.

Dom La Bella, Team Leader on the G-Plex production line, who has been involved with every machine that has come down the line in the past 12 years commented:

“To have produced over 3500 units is a great achievement, especially as around 40% are exported around the world with a majority going to the USA. I am very proud of the team that builds them and it’s a sad day to see a

real stalwart of greens mowing disappear.

“Mind you, we have now changed the line to take the new GP400, which is the replacement for the G-Plex and this is a machine that has taken all the best features of the old mower and added new, modern systems to provide better functionality and operator comfort. We’re confident that we’ll be producing just as many over the coming years.”



Dave's a Pop Master

David Fellows, Head Greenkeeper at Cocks Moor Woods GC, in Solihull, won the daily Pop Master quiz on the Ken Bruce Show on Radio 2 on Tuesday December 7.

Quiz nut, Dave, who specialises in music, science and nature and other “weird things”, scored an impressive 30 out of 39, only missing out on two very obscure questions, to win his head to head, before successfully naming three Who songs in 10 seconds to upgrade from an MP3 player to a Digital Radio.

“When I phoned up I told the researcher that I’d met Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Bobby Charlton which is all true but it increased the chances of me being selected and it worked although Ken didn’t ask me about that in the end,” said Dave, who also won the same quiz nine years ago.

Upgrade for Royal Jersey

Thomson Perrett & Lobb golf course architecture practice founded by five times Open Champion Peter Thomson with partners Ross Perrett and Tim Lobb, has been appointed by Royal Jersey Golf Club to carry out an audit of the Channel Island golf course and make recommendations to enhance the playing strategy.

Tim Lobb, TPL principal,

said: "The history and traditions of Royal Jersey GC are of paramount importance to us and are a key consideration as we undertake our work over this famous links course."

Among TPL's objectives at Royal Jersey is the improvement of the bunkers. Design work begins this month with the teamworking closely with the club's Head

Greenkeeper, David Crawford.

David commented: "Thomson Perrett & Lobb are a natural choice for Royal Jersey Golf Club. Not only were they recommended to us and then, subsequently, gave a very detailed proposal, but there were also sentimental reasons attached to our decision.

"It will be the first time in 35 years that an outside team of

architects has studied the Royal Jersey layout.

"One of the key aspects of TPL's work will be to ensure the course is still a fair test of golf, particularly when you consider how advancements in equipment and golf ball technology over the past 10 years have significantly influenced how far all levels of player hit their shots."

BIGGA SUPPORT TEAM BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP WENTWORTH, MAY 26-29

Volunteers are required for the 2011 BIGGA Support Team at this year's BMW PGA Championship at the Wentworth Club on the above dates. All or any one day would be greatly appreciated.

A great chance to see at close hand the extensive work that goes into the preparation for a major European Tour Golf Championship.

No accommodation is provided. For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk Mobile 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.

2011 BIGGA Scottish Conference on March 1st

The 2011 BIGGA Scottish Conference will take place at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Carnegie, Dunfermline on Tuesday 1 March 2011.

Speakers include Jim McKenzie, Course Superintendent, Celtic Manor; Simon Watson, of Syngenta, and Jonathan Harmer, of Farmura. Other speakers include Chris Kennedy/Jack McMillan, The Wentworth Club, Clive Nottingham, Hunters Grinders and finally Chris Haspell, Castle Stuart Golf Links. Tickets cost £35, which includes tea/coffee on arrival, tea/coffee and pastry at the mid morning break and buffet lunch.

Full details and booking forms will be available and posted to members in Scotland and forms can be obtained by contacting Peter J.Boyd, Regional Administrator. Tel 0141 616 3440 or email: pj.boyd@btinternet.com

Month 1

Month 2



ELECTRIC GATORS ARE TRIED AND TRUSTED

One of the National Trust’s flagship properties, Cliveden House in Buckinghamshire – once the family home of the Astors and later more infamously associated with the Profumo affair – has a newly expanded fleet of five John Deere TE electric Gator utility vehicles, supplied by dealer Golf & Turf Equipment of Wokingham in Berkshire.

Use of electric vehicles is now particularly advocated across the Trust, because of their environmental advantages in reducing both noise and fuel consumption. The TE Gators are used every day by Cliveden House Head Gardener Andrew Mudge and his garden and estate maintenance teams, covering 80 acres of amenity grass and borders, as well as the catering department for moving supplies around the public outlets on site.

“Since we bought our first electric Gator three years ago, we’ve found them to be very reliable machines, and there’s only been a problem with one battery terminal in all that time,” says Andrew Mudge. “

We now have three road going models in all in the fleet, which has effectively replaced our previous 4x4 vehicles, and on average we only need to recharge the vehicles once or twice a week.

“Once the staff got used to driving a Gator instead of a 4x4, they loved it,” adds Andrew.

“It’s the first choice now for most jobs transporting materials such as compost, small tools and equipment. You can easily load up a lawnmower too, using the tipping load bed, and it will easily pull our woodchipper along the roads and main pathways.”

Links Superintendent Leaves Trump Course

Paul O’Connor, appointed last year as Links Superintendent at the controversial Donald Trump golf course currently under construction, near Aberdeen, has left his job.

Reports in local media suggest that Paul, who was previously at Carnoustie Links, was dismissed for refusing to be part of a “campaign of intimidation” against people

who had refused to sell their land to facilitate the project.

According to the press reports Paul refused to follow orders to build a huge mound of earth behind the home of one of the local residents.

It is understood an employment tribunal is to meet.

South East Region Conference

This year the South East Regional Conference was hosted by the Sussex Section at Plumpton College, East Sussex.

Section Chairman, Rob Hudson, introduced the excellent speakers who covered a varied range of subjects on what proved an interesting and informative day, with some wide ranging and valid points being made during question time at the end of the day’s proceedings.

Speakers on the day were David Blackmur, Head of Horticulture, at Plumpton College; Jack McMillan MBE who gave us a fascinating insight into the recent changes on the West Course at Wentworth; Charles Henderson who introduced the STRI programme on organic matter management and Martin Ward, of Symbio, on extending early and late season growth.

After a substantial lunch Simon Barnaby, from Scotts, spoke on turf maintenance and disease control, followed by Kerran Daly MG who highlighted the attention to detail to the finer points that make the difference on a well presented golf course.

After question time, the Chairman thanked all the Speakers for their presentations. He also thanked members of the Trade for their support of events in the Region and Sections throughout the year, and the team at Plumpton College for looking after us so well on the day.

Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator.

Month 3

Month 4

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Seven members of the Club Managers Association of Europe (CMAE) have joined an elite band of individuals who have gained the Certified Club Managers (CCM) qualification.

The Club Managers passed the seven hour examination, which focuses on 10 key club management disciplines, including financial, leadership, facility and food and beverage management, to join just 15 CMAE members to achieve the qualification.

They are: David Cook CCM, Burhill Golf Club, Surrey; Tristan Hall CCM, Aldwickbury Park/Redbourn Golf Clubs, Hertfordshire; Andy Campbell CCM, Ransomes Jacobsen Regional Manager Scotland and Ireland; Jim Callaghan CCM, Bothwell Castle Golf Club, Glasgow; Pdraig Flattery CCM, Athenry Golf Club, Galway; Christopher May CCM, Emirates/Dubai Creek Golf Clubs, Dubai, UAE; Mark Anderson CCM, Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, The Lansdowne Club, London.

The seven became the latest Club Managers to pass the CCM examination, a qualification recognised as the global industry benchmark. The CCM is open to suitably experienced managers who aim to become the best in their business and wish to develop their careers.

“Congratulations to those who achieved the highest recognition available in their profession,” said Jerry Kilby, CMAE Chief Executive.

“They are now one of 15 CMAE members who have achieved the qualification since its European launch in 2007, and join many of their colleagues in the USA and Canada, where the qualification has been established for many years.”



Plugging a Hole in the Market

Jeremy Parkman, former greenkeeper and inventor of “Bunker Plug,” has been appointed Technical Sales Executive at MJ Abbott, providing a direct link between golf courses and the ground breaking product.

“At this time of year, bunker maintenance is unquestionably one of the biggest headaches for Course Managers and Greens Staff and is often one of the most complained about areas of any course. Bunker Plug is an extremely efficient and very cost effective solution to the problem of flooding. Simple and efficient, quick and easy to fit with a host of other advantages, Bunker Plug is liked by Greens Staff because it eliminates pumping and associated problems, while improving playability,” said Jeremy, who was a greenkeeper at Dale Hill GC, in Kent, until recently.

With new attachments for surface drains and other problem areas on the course being launched at Harrogate Week 2011, Bunker Plug is proving more and more popular on courses around the U.K. and with plans to launch in Europe and the U.S.A., the future looks bright.

MJ Abbott, Sole Distributors of Bunker Plug, say the innovative product deserves its place on any course.

Rebrand for Limagrain

Limagrain UK has re-branded its professional seeds portfolio as ‘LG’ (Limagrain Genetics), reflecting the global nature of its parent company’s business.

Replacing the former Advanta, Nickerson and Sharpes ranges, the LG brand now encompasses cereals, maize, oilseed rape, peas and beans, vining peas, sugar beet, forage, root and leaf varieties, together with environmental and conservation crops.

Limagrain UK is the local agricultural and amenity seeds operating company of Group Limagrain, an international co-operative group specialising in agricultural and horticultural seeds, plus cereal products.

Group Limagrain employs more than 6000 people: over 1200 in research, has subsidiaries in 38 countries, sells in over 100 countries and has an annual turnover exceeding €1.35 billion. It is owned by its 3700 farmer members.

The company has a heritage of seedsmanship, combining more than 24 names such as Sharpes, and Sinclair McGill.

Formed in 2005, Limagrain UK embarked on a five-year, £3 million investment programme which has modernised the company’s systems and production facilities, together with its breeding and technology systems.

Month 5

Month 6

Asian Turf Seminar

Registration is now open for the March 14 to 16 Sustainable Turfgrass Management in Asia 2011 conference. Visit www.asianturfseminar.com for more details or download the PDF registration form here.

The fee for the three-day conference is 8,000 THB (about \$265), including three lunches, two dinners, and the Asian Turfgrass Field Day. The educational program has been approved for 1.0 education points by GCSAA. Topics this year for the classroom and field day seminars include weed control, grass selection and management in Asia, and practical advice on improving turfgrass playing conditions. Hear from grass scientists such as Dr. Don Loch from Australia, Dr. Jim Brosnan from the University of Tennessee, Dr. Micah Woods of the Asian Turfgrass Center, Philip Russell from The R&A, along with a session of presentations from Thai superintendents.

This conference is presented by the Thai GCSA and Asian Turfgrass Center for the Thailand Golf Association, with support from The R&A.

www.asianturfseminar.com



Teeing Off for Health and Safety

Golf Course operators and employees are the latest from the local business community in County Durham to have benefited from a free health and safety awareness raising seminar.

The one day, golf themed event took place at Chester-le-Street Golf Club. It was organised to help golf course employers and employees comply with their legal responsibilities relating to health and safety at work and help reduce accident and ill-health rates.

Organised by Durham County Council's Safety and Occupational Health Team, the day concentrated on safety issues such as lone working and risk assessment, as well as practical demonstrations including safe use of green keeping vehicles and machinery, safe use of pesticides, safe use of mobile machinery such as grass cutters and administering of First Aid. As well as council officers, demonstrations were delivered by representatives from the HSE, St John's Ambulance, Jon Allbutt Associates and Toro.

Shown above, Jon Allbutt participating in an outdoor workshop on vehicle safety which covered topics such as stability on slopes, vehicle safety features and using the right equipment for the job.

DENNIS MOWERS FOCUS ON CRICKET GROUNDSMEN

Following on from a successful series of seminars in 2010, Dennis Mowers is now focusing its attention on the specific needs of Cricket groundsmen. Hosted by Uxbridge Cricket Club, in conjunction with Dennis and cricketworld.com, the specialist seminar will take place on Thursday, February 10 (9.30am registration).

The seminar will combine expert practical tips and information followed by an open forum.

Among the impressive line up of speakers is Angus Fraser, former England and Middlesex fast bowler, now Managing Director of Cricket at Middlesex County Cricket Club; Host Groundsman Vic Demain, Stuart Kerrison, Head Groundsman at Essex County Cricket Club and Paul Taylor, Deputy Head Groundsman at Northamptonshire County Cricket Club.

Seeding and fertiliser application will be addressed by Craig Spooner of Limagrain, who will offer tips and advice on how to get the best looking and performing sward.

To register contact Roger Moore at Dennis on 01332 824777.

Month 7

Month 8



Uk & Ireland Golf Market Shrinks

A new golf industry survey has revealed a 4% decrease in the number of players in the UK and Ireland over the last year.

The survey reveals Europe's golf market as a whole has experienced significant growth since the 1980s and the number of golfers has more than tripled in the last 25 years, with golf course supply doubling in the same period.

However, across Europe, while the number of registered players grew by 5% annually until 2005, KPMG's research suggests that since then, demand growth has slowed down in the second half of the decade to 1-2% per year, and the current global economic pressures affecting many European countries have taken their toll, with nine countries suffering a decrease in participation over the past 12 months.

The report also recommends the need for more playable courses, six and nine hole developments, which will comfortably sit alongside championship-length courses to encourage new entrants to the game and offer affordable, accessible family-friendly services.

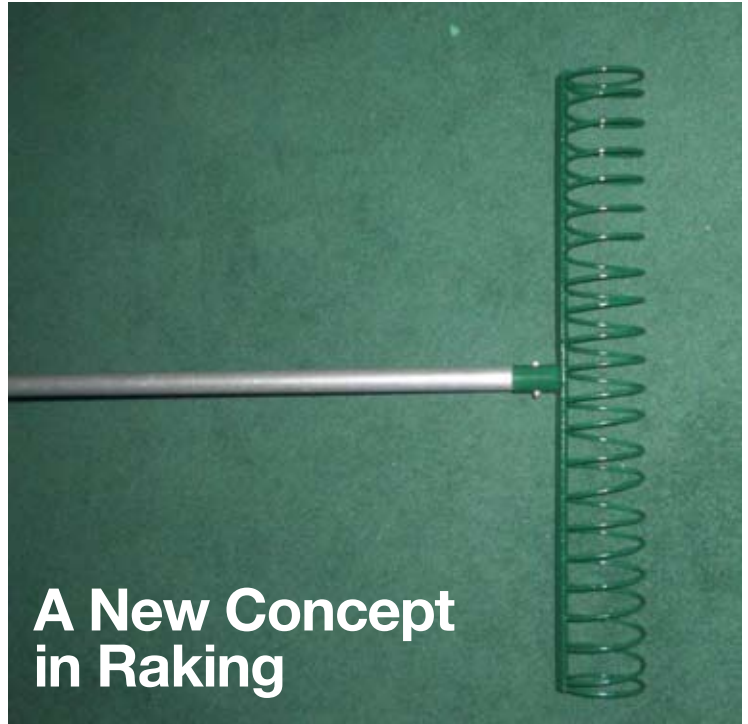
Turkey is highlighted as one of Europe's success stories where a 'Junior Golf League' initiative has proved so popular over the past three years that more than 3,000 additional juniors have been registered.

The country now boasts a growing golf population, 51% of which are juniors.

Other highlights from the survey include:

- From 2000 – 2010, the number of golfers in England and Wales decreased (-63,800 and -14,500 respectively).
- In absolute terms, the leading countries in golf participation growth were Germany (+254,000 = 74% growth), the Netherlands (+204,000 = 146% growth) and Spain (+187,000 = 124% growth).

Download the survey at www.golfbusinesscommunity.com



A New Concept in Raking

The Sandglider rake was conceived by Terry MacKay after his many frustrations with the standard of rakes on his frequent visits to bunkers around the world. Rakes were often broken, bent, missing teeth and generally pretty awful. Being a design engineer and former owner of a precision engineering company, Terry decided to design a rake which would address all the problems he had encountered. Almost five years later, SilverTree Products Limited is ready to launch Sandglider onto the market.

"There are many advantages to the rake; its stainless steel construction means years of useful life while retaining a pleasing appearance after exposure to all types of weather," said Terry.

"It is easy to use and can be

pushed or pulled to equal effect. Dry sand is effortless to work and the surface finish superior to a conventional rake. Heavy wet sand is always a problem for a flimsy rake but Sandglider copes," he explained.

A final redesign of the rake head has virtually eliminated any build-up of sand in the coil and in any event a tap on the ground clears the build-up immediately. The surface finish on wet sand is superior to that of a conventional tined rake. Having no teeth means Sandglider will not damage bunker membranes.

Sandglider will be priced much the same as any good quality rake available from reputable outlets; under £20 but with a longer lifespan.

For further info contact Terry MacKay on tdm@silvertree.co.im (Tel. +44 (0) 1624 852183)

When it comes to nutrition, Sierrablen delivers, month after month.

Scotts understands that every penny of your budget has to deliver right now.

Month 9

One application of Sierrablen controlled-release fertilizer delivers premium quality, on-demand nutrition for up to nine months*. Its proven Poly-S and PACE resin coated technology helps turf managers across the world save time and money producing strong, healthy turf. For more information, speak to your Scotts Technical Advisor or visit www.scottspromotional.co.uk

For more information, contact Scotts Professional on 01473 201106 email prof.sales@scotts.com www.scottspromotional.co.uk

*Dependent on chosen longevity.



Crashing Pilot Hits Bunker

Barely an hour after he crawled out of a damaged plane on a Corona golf course, pilot Richard Hammerschlag said his otherwise safe emergency landing fell victim to a hidden sand trap, reported US newspaper, The Press-Enterprise.

"I was trying to avoid the green but I couldn't see the trap coming up (as I rolled) up an incline. It snuck up on me," said the 63-year-old.

The plane landed on the undulating sixth fairway, which crests just before the green -- and the sand trap.

When Richard turned to avoid the green, the little two-seater literally fell into the trap.

The emergency landing avoided the two-story homes that border both sides of the fairway. The damage to the golf course was minimal, a club spokesman said.

"He was the most courteous crash pilot: He managed to avoid the green altogether," said General Manager, Mike Kim.

"We sustained a little damage to the sand trap, but nothing that can't be repaired."



JCB WINS ORDER TO SUPPLY BRITISH ARMY

JCB has been awarded one of the largest British Army machine orders in its 65-year history.

The order for 236 machines will be delivered by the end of this month.

The contract is for 138 JCB 4CX backhoe loaders and 98 JCB 436eHT wheel loading shovels. The backhoe

loaders are made at JCB's World HQ, Rocester, and the wheeled loading shovels at JCB Earthmovers, Cheadle.

The machines will be predominantly commercial with minor enhancements such as NATO green livery, personal weapons stowage inside the cab, convoy lighting and increased wading ability.

Contact+ On Target for Effective Disease Control

The bio-inspired Syngenta Contact+ fungicide active for turf, fludioxonil, will offer a novel action that effectively explodes targeted disease spores.

Syngenta Research Biochemist, Dr Andy Corran, says that new fungicide mechanisms of action are incredibly rare and extremely exciting, with the opportunity to develop new disease control strategies.

"Originally inspired by the naturally occurring antifungal compound of some soil bacteria, fludioxonil works in an entirely different way to the strobilurin and triazole fungicides -- which opens up new opportunities," he told greenkeepers and agronomists during a turf disease briefing at the Syngenta Jealott's Hill

International Research Centre, in Berkshire.

Andy explained that, when fludioxonil locks onto targeted disease spores, it upsets the osmotic balance within the cells and effectively tricks the pathogen into absorbing water. The result is that the spore rapidly swells until it - quite literally - explodes. This happens so quickly there is no time for the spore to develop mycelial growth into the leaf, thus preventing damage to the surface.

He also highlighted that fludioxonil only binds to a specific protein of targeted turf disease spores, so beneficial soil microbes that have different protein structures will not be affected.

Syngenta Technical Manager, Dr Simon Watson, added that



fludioxonil not only targets disease pathogens on the leaf surface, but has the same effect on Fusarium disease spores in the thatch layer and the soil surface.

"The disease threat is ever present in the thatch layer, living on decaying material and roots and waiting for the right conditions to flare up," he warned.

"The additional thatch and soil activity of fludioxonil, compared to standard contact fungicides, explains why it's described as contact+.

"Fludioxonil will change the way we think about disease control, by reducing disease spore numbers and lowering the risk of infection," added Simon.