

A Viking Invasion



Danish greenkeeper, Jacob Aakjaer, recently contacted Malcolm Peake, of Temple GC, with a request to visit the course and meet Martin Gunn, Course Manager.

Jacob wanted to bring a group to exchange ideas and experiences, and it was decided to broaden the aspirations of the trip.

Malcolm met the group, and briefed them on the different characteristics of the courses and clubs they would be visiting.

The first port of call was Swinley Forest GC, a stunning Colt heathland course, which Colt himself called his "least bad course."

Course Manager, Lawson Bingham, gave a fascinating guided tour of the course, describing the management

and the architecture. He also described the heather restoration programme and the principles behind the felling of birch, firs and rhododendrons, which allows more circulation of air and light.

The next day the Vikings arrived at Temple, where Martin and Malcolm, a Past Chairman of Green, gave a short description of the ethos of the course management, before Martin invited the visitors to give a short talk on their own courses.

The group visited the greenkeeping compound, and discussed the extensive collection of machinery required on a modern course, before discussing composting and compost brewing, which Temple has

been working on for nearly a year.

After lunch, there was a tour of the course before being joined by Keith Adderley Secretary, and Michael Barratt, an advisor to The R&A Golf Course Committee, during which a lively debate and exchange of ideas ensued.

The following day saw the group visiting Tandridge GC where they were entertained by Course Manager, Neil Baker and in the afternoon they visited Woking GC, designed by Tom Dunn, where they met course architect, Tom Mackenzie.

Everyone who took part viewed the trip as a worthwhile educational experience, and showed the passion of the greenkeeping profession at its very best.



Top Award for David

Loch Lomond Course Superintendent, David Cole, has won the international category in the prestigious GCSAA Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards for 2010.

David received his award at a special ceremony held in Orlando, Florida during the annual Golf Industry Show.

Altogether 20 Superintendents were recognised at the ceremony and David, who has been a member of the GCSAA for 12 years, was the only recipient from outside the USA.

"It's a huge honour to receive this prestigious international award from the GCSAA," said David.

"I am immensely proud to be the recipient of the award but want to share it with members of staff at Loch Lomond who have worked tirelessly to develop and implement the club's Environmental Plan.

"Loch Lomond's plan includes strategies to minimise water usage, waste and energy consumption, to reduce carbon emissions and protect and enhance biodiversity and the quality of the landscape."

The club is a certified Audubon Co-operative Sanctuary and is GEO registered.

Loch Lomond Golf Club was recently acquired by its Members.

POLARIS LAUNCH NEW MODEL

Polaris has launched new models and features in the Sportsman and Ranger ATV ranges.

Styling on the classic Sportsman chassis has been updated and new transmission introduced.

All the upgrades are seen on the Sportsman 500 HO and Sportsman 800. The Polaris Sportsman 400 HO, a value-for-money machine is crammed with new features, and

includes 19% more suspension travel, 25% more ground clearance and a massive increase in towing and rack capacity.

There is full instrumentation and the 400 returns to a full size chassis.

The Sportsman Premium line-up, from the 550 to the 850 EPS, all feature weight reduction, new STX seat vinyl, improved EBS and splash protection.

Counterfeit Product Warning

Advanced Turf Technology has recently become aware of an inferior imitation chassis purporting to be for use with their TMSystem™.

The cassette-based turf maintenance system is for use with most mainstream triple greens mowers and the imitation chassis attempts to replicate an old ATT chassis and is not made with the precision engineering and attention to detail, as the original.

Purchasers have inadvertently bought these imitations believing them

to be genuine ATT chassis and have experienced problems.

The imitations are easy to spot as the top bar is not black and does not bear the TMSystem™ logo.

Also the adjuster top cap doesn't have the ATT logo and standard of engineering, materials and manufacture are inferior.

The imitation products do not carry a guarantee or after sales service and may be dangerous in use.

If anyone has concern or suspicion

that they may have been sold an imitation, they should contact ATT who would also suggest that they return the product to the supplier and seek a full refund.

ATT is taking steps to stop any more imitations being manufactured and to protect the intellectual property rights, the company's reputation and, most importantly, its customers.

ATT products are exclusively marketed in the UK and the rest of Europe by The Grass Group.



Fine Turf's First PhD

The UK's first PhD looking specifically at environment-related stress in fine turf, has been announced by Syngenta and Harper Adams University College, in association with STRI. Harry Mbah, who has recently completed his MSc at the University of Nottingham, will begin his three-year study this spring.

Dr Ruth Mann, Head of Turf Protection at STRI, believes the underlying impacts of environmental induced stress may be having a profound effect on turf plant health, along with its ability to utilise water and nutrients resources to maintain quality.

"An in-depth study into environment-related stress symptoms, and the associated physiological and biochemical changes within turf plants, will provide us with the real opportunity to evaluate options to mitigate the effects.

"The creation and funding of a turf-specific PhD study is an exciting and important development to focus turf plant physiology knowledge on the commercially important fescue, bent and ryegrass species used in sports turf management," said Ruth.

Dr Simon Watson, of Syngenta, said: "Harry's scientific research will enable us to understand exactly what is happening, to quantify the benefit and to help provide the advice and practical solutions for turf managers to get the best possible results, particularly with Heritage Maxx and Primo Maxx applications."

Harry's research will be based at Harper Adams University College, along with work at the STRI and within the industry through Syngenta links.





SAPCA Event

Each year SAPCA holds a series of Sports Facility Construction Exhibition and Seminar events.

In 2011 there will be three events at the following venues:

- Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility, Motherwell, Tuesday 12 April
 - Aston Villa FC, Birmingham: Tuesday 7 June
 - Twickenham Stadium, London: Tuesday 29 November
- Each is a special one-day event that provides delegates with three main sources of information and Exhibition, Seminar programme and Advice Centre.

Attendance at the events, including any of the seminars, is free. For the convenience of delegates, food and refreshments are available to purchase on a cash basis.

Delegate registration can be completed on-line at www.sapca.org.uk or by telephone on 024 7641 6316.

JCB Recruitment Drive for 80 Engineers

JCB has launched a recruitment drive for up to 80 engineers in the UK.

The vacancies are across all the company's sites in Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Wales and arise as JCB takes advantage of a return to growth in global markets.

JCB Chief Executive Alan Blake said: "JCB's success over the past 65 years has been built on having the very best engineering talent.

This year has started very

strongly and all the signs at this stage are that growth will continue throughout 2011.

"We need to respond to that growth and strengthen our excellent team of engineers with new talent as demand for our machines increases and as we develop a range of exciting new products for the future."

The vacancies include mechanical, electronic and electrical design engineers, development engineers, research

and development engineers, engine design and development engineers, technicians, apprentice engineers, undergraduate engineers and graduate engineers.

Pictured left-to-right are JCB CEO Alan Blake, The Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt. Hon. George Osborne MP and HE Services Chairman Hugh Edeleanu, whose company has placed a £14 million order for JCB machines.

WEATHER FORECASTS STRAIGHT TO YOUR RADAR

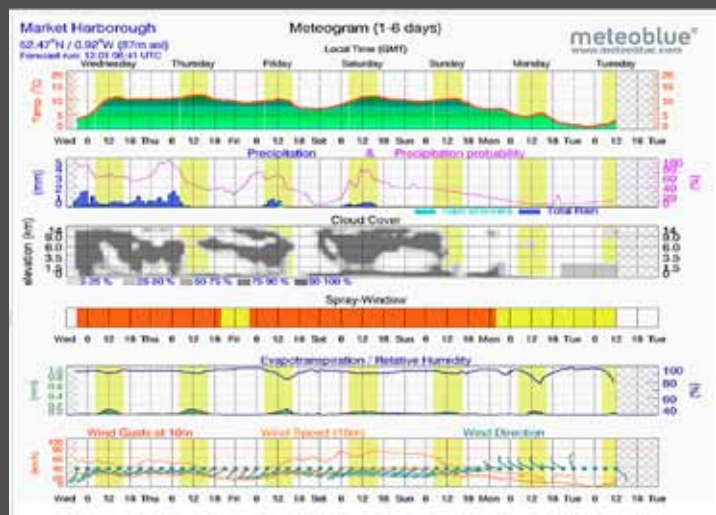
Headland Amenity has developed Weathercheck, a weather forecasting tool to pinpoint a specific location such as a golf club or racecourse.

Turf Managers will be able to access vital, personalised information on temperature, wind speed and direction and predicted rainfall. Forecast, which breaks down into three hour segments (and graphically illustrates rainfall intensity and timing), provides an accurate overview.

The RainNow option produces a 25km radius 'rain radar map' with the chosen facility at the centre. RainNow gives past rainfall over the last two hours and projected rainfall looking ahead for 90 minutes.

Spraying conditions over a seven day period can be accurately ascertained giving anticipated rainfall, wind strength, precipitation, air temperature and evapotranspiration.

For further info contact the company on 01233 597834 or weathercheck@headlandamenity.com





Bluebell Forest

Center Parcs is adhering to its biodiversity policy by choosing nearly 40,000 native Bluebells over an invasive Spanish rival species.

Supplied and grown by specialist Norfolk nursery British Wild Flower Plants, the Bluebells have been propagated from seed collected from existing plants at Sherwood Forest Center Parcs where the Bluebells will be planted and other areas throughout the UK.

Linda Laxton, BWFPs owner and MD says that the seeds were sown 18 months ago into 13,000 pots and have taken two winters to grow.

“The Spanish Bluebell is a completely different species compared with our native plant. It’s very vigorous and very aggressive,” she explained.

“Because the flowers are larger than British Bluebells the Spanish species were sold by garden centres and are now in danger of taking over. If they are grown in a private garden near woodland there’s a strong possibility that they will interbreed.”

Darren Bowsher, Ground Services Manager at Sherwood Forest Center Parcs, said that there was never any question about which species would be chosen.

The native bluebell plants (approx 40,000) will be planted as plug plants, at Center Parcs Sherwood Forest this spring.

For further information visit www.wildflowers.co.uk or Tel: 01603 715792



RJ Territory Expands to Include Asia Pacific Region

Ransomes Jacobsen, has expanded its management territory within the Jacobsen group with the inclusion of the Asia Pacific region and too accommodate David Withers, Managing Director, left, has announced several management changes at senior level.

Alan Prickett, far right, the former Sales Director, has been appointed Managing Director, Asia Pacific, and will be relocating to Singapore in the near future.

The role of Sales Director will be taken by Rupert Price, second left, who is promoted from his former role of UK and Ireland Sales Manager while Jason King, second right, has been promoted to Customer Care Director.

Commenting on the appointments, David said:

“I’m absolutely delighted to announce these latest appointments, which refresh the senior leadership team here in Ipswich and provide the opportunity for dynamic and enthusiastic talent to blossom within the business. For example, Jason joined Ransomes as a 16-year old apprentice, gaining excellent technical skills and a wide range of experience across all levels of the business.

“Similarly, Rupert, who joined us on our graduate intake programme back in the late 1990s, has shown great aptitude in many differing sales roles and last year was mainly responsible for our significant increase in market share as a result of the innovative new strategies he introduced in the UK.

“Alan Prickett will do a great job for us out in the APAC territory from his base in Singapore, where he will build on the successes of the team out there, as we aggressively pursue and exploit the burgeoning opportunities across that region,” said David.

JCB ACADEMY OFFICIALLY OPENED BY ROYAL COUPLE

The £22 million JCB Academy has been opened by Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.

The Royal couple visited the facility in Rocester where they met staff, students and supporters who have contributed to the success of The Academy.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by JCB Chairman Sir Anthony Bamford and JCB Academy Principal Jim Wade was given an insight into the hi-tech resources available to the 170 Year 10 and Sixth Form students. During the visit he was presented with a memory stick which students had designed and manufactured and engraved with the initials ‘HRH’.





NEW ENHANCE R 'PRIME' JOINS RANGE

Vitax Amenity launched Enhance R Prime, a zero phosphate formulation which swells the ranks of their Enhance R range of fertilisers, winner of the IOG's "Best New and Innovative Product" award in the Fertiliser and Pesticides category.

Specifically developed for Turf Managers who require a zero phosphate product Enhance R Prime 5+0+10+4Fe+2MgO+TE shares all the benefits of its fellow formulations, 'Enhance R Spring and Summer' and 'Enhance R Autumn and Winter', being a 4-in-one combo of conventional fertiliser, slow release organic fertiliser, Amino-Sorb R and a natural bacterium.

Commercial Director for Vitax, Daniel Wilkinson says that the expansion of the Enhance R range is indicative of company policy and future goals: "The last year has seen us expanding all divisions of the business. We developed the Briteliner Arrow transfer wheel linemarkers for Vitax Supaturf, embarked on a new joint venture with Vitax Grower and Unitrade International to develop trade in Turkey and the Middle East, and have expanded our Retail division with new home and garden products and new additions to our famous Nippon range."

For further info visit:
www.vitax.co.uk

New Fleet for Rochford Hundred Golf Club



The machinery fleet at Rochford Hundred Golf Club in Essex is now almost all John Deere, with new arrivals for 2011 including a 4520 compact tractor, a 400CX front loader and an Aercore 800 pedestrian aerator.

These have joined 11 other John Deere machines supplied by dealer P. Tuckwell Ltd of Arleigh, near Colchester, including greens, tees and surrounds and fairway mowers, several Gator utility vehicles and another compact tractor.

"We particularly like the quality of cut we get with John Deere mowers," said Course Manager, Dave Rand.

"I first saw the 7400 TerrainCut rotary mower on a greenkeepers feedback trip to Germany, and just loved the look of it, so I ordered one as soon as it became available and I believe we had the first unit delivered in the UK.

"The oldest triplex is now used with a Greentech cassette system and another is mainly used on the tees, but we can change heads between the two newer mowers as required for use on both the greens and tees.

"Reliable dealer back-up and parts service is crucial, too," added Dave.

"John Deere is an established company that has

proved over time that it can deliver on its promises, and the dealer is always prepared to help us out with extra loan machines when necessary.

"We're fortunate in that there has been a big investment by the club over the last 6 to 12 months to improve our greenkeeping facilities and equipment, including general refurbishment of the shed area and the installation of a new waste water system, as well as improvements to the listed clubhouse, including new changing rooms. We're also looking at a new John Deere irrigation system for commission in 2012."

Ground Penetrating Radar Survey at Stonehenge

The Geophysics Team at English Heritage has just completed a state-of-the-art survey of the ground surrounding Stonehenge.

This is the first large scale Ground Penetrating Radar survey at Stonehenge and has resulted in highly accurate 3D mapping of the fine detail of objects down to a depth of two metres.

To ensure there could be no possible damage to this world heritage site Multi Channel Radar equipment with the GPS unit on top was towed by a 4x4 JCB Utility Terrain

Vehicle hired by English Heritage from specialist UTV vehicle dealers SMH Quads.

Dr Neil Linford, English Heritage's GPR specialist, said:

"The GPR data set greatly enhances our knowledge of the site, previously gained through a combination of excavation, aerial photography and other geophysical surveys.

"Effectively we've been able to create 3D images, 'time slices', if you like, through the ground that allow us to be able to see what is hidden beneath the surface."