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**Sisis** used BTME to launch the Supa-Rotorake, a versatile, heavy-duty scarifier. Independently powered, the Supa-Rotorake has a range of interchangeable reels for all-year-round use. The thatch removal, thatch control, wire and brush reels rotate at high speed in the opposite direction to that of a conventional cylinder mower. The blades, therefore, cut upwards, continuously taking fibre away from the surface. This operating principle also holds the machine to the ground, maintaining a regular working depth. Tel: 01625 503030.

**Dax Products** has launched a crystalline tree and weedkiller that breaks down into a nitrogenous nutrient in the soil once it has killed the plants to which it has been applied. Root-Out is designed for scrubland and brambles, and for killing trees and

their root system. It is not harmful to animals. Tel: 0602 609996.

The first new **Echo** product to be introduced into the UK since **Allen Power Equipment** took over the franchise last year is the model HC2410 40in Hedgecutter. This single sided double reciprocating machine is powered by a Kioritz 23.6cc engine, featuring electronic ignition and diaphragm carburettor. Other features are a new commercial duty air filtration system, see-through fuel tank and a vibration reduction system. It weighs 12.6 lbs (5.7kg) and costs £408.47 plus VAT. Tel: 01235 813936.

**Service Chemicals plc** has relaunched Turfex Traditional, the concentrated wetting and penetrating agent. It is the same formula tried and tested by greenkeepers over the last eight years and is claimed to be the

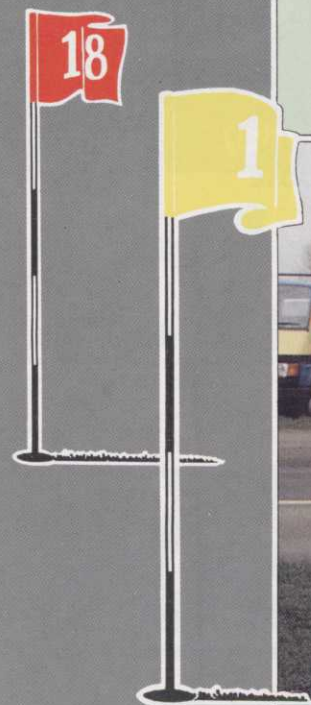


**Ultra Plant** has launched a new high lift trailer, the HL40. The trailer cuts down on shovelling and double handling of materials and the scissor action design means sand and other materials can be directed straight into difficult locations. Managing director Kevin Gates tells us: "The trailer can drop from a height of over 6ft direct into bunkers, topdressers, drainage hoppers and skips. Jobs that normally take two or three men can now be done by one and the ingenious floating axle design prevents damage to bunker edges and other delicate surfaces. And, of course, it can also tip as a standard trailer." Tel: 08687 47582.

only product of its type fully evaluated in independent tests by the STRI. A free 12-page colour booklet explaining the management of dry patch and related problems and how to use wetting agents effectively is now available from

Service Chemicals plc at Lanchester Way, Royal Oak Industrial Estate, Daventry, Northants NN11 5PH. It is called The Turfex Guide to Dry Patch and Compaction. For further information about Turfex Traditional call distributors **Amenity Technology** on 01734 510033.

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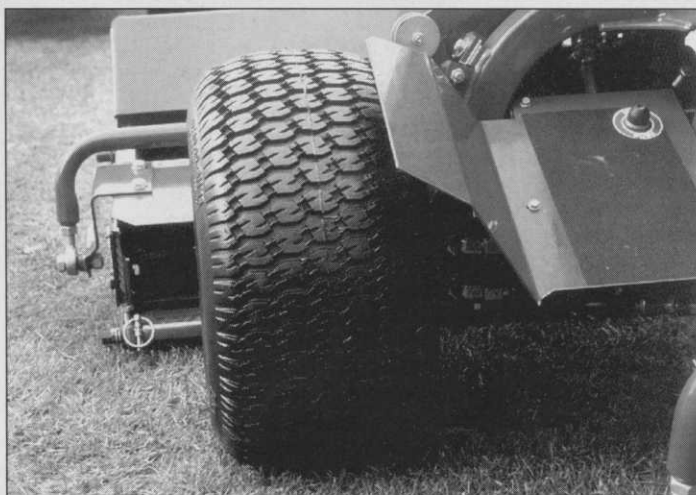
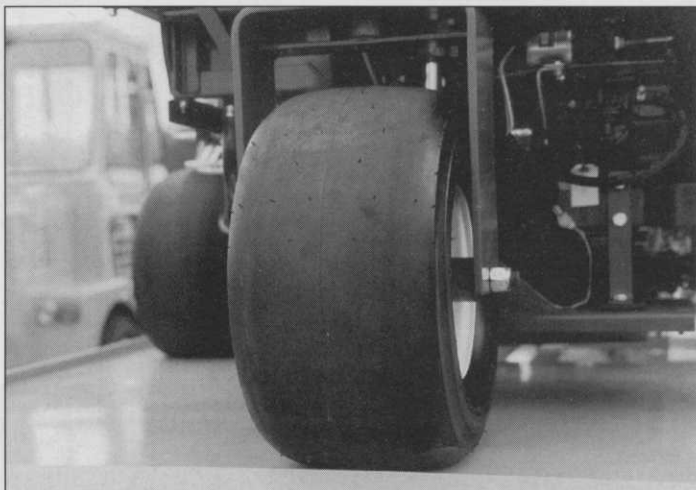
The greatest asset to the greenkeeper is the vast range of machinery now available to assist him in his work. One of the most vital parts of such modern machinery is its contact with the turf, namely the tyres.

Beautifully kept and manicured turf, be it on municipal or championship golf courses, can be ruined by one cut if the tyre application is incorrect. The footprint, or indentation, made by the load-bearing tyre is of great importance to the greenkeeper. Selection of the correct tread pattern, width and profile of the tyre can mean the difference between a level fairway and unacceptable ruts.

Turf tyres on modern machinery are themselves developed by very modern methods; computers are used to simulate varying ground conditions and the impact tread designs make in these conditions. By using such methods the patterns and the profile can be altered to reduce footprint, but allow enough tread for the traction needed, with a design that will not clog and create slip.

A change in terrain could warrant a change in tyre pattern; when working on banks and inclines grip is usually the foremost consideration, both in the aspect of safety for the operator and reduced turf marking by slipping. To overcome this manufacturers and dealers try to offer a wide variation in sizes of tractive tyres to replace standard turf block tread. Often these optional tyres are purchased on wheels as complete units giving the customer a choice of applications with just a simple wheel change, allowing his machine to be operational under most conditions.

Tyre manufacturers are ever aware of the change in customers' needs and market forces, and, although they are unable to supply every individual requirement, they aim to produce a tyre to suit most applications. Over the past few years higher ply ratings have been introduced to assist in carrying heavier equipment and harder compounds to resist thorn penetration, reducing the downtime of machines.



Top: the Dico slick flotation tyre. Above: the Dico turf tyre

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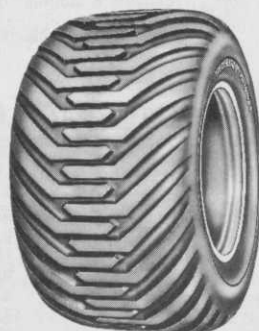
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Toro distributor Lely UK has reduced the price of its Groundsmaster 223-D rotary mower. At the new price of £11,605, this two-wheel-drive unit now costs £1,925 less, while there is a £1,769 saving on the four-wheel-drive model, which now costs £13,350. The model pictured features a 62in Toro Guardian Recycler deck.

ATV quad bikes are becoming more popular with greenkeepers – and thieves. One area which has suffered a series of thefts of Kawasaki machines recently is Shropshire and a £1,000 reward has been offered for the recovery of two green Kawasaki ATV quad bikes, one fitted with a white Logic 125-litre sprayer tank. Tel: 0952 641949.

# Let greenkeepers take charge – call

Greenkeepers are the best people to take charge of a golf club, according to Alan Mitchell, secretary of BIGGA's South Coast section. He has been promoted from course manager to manager/secretary of The Hampshire Golf Club, Andover. "I think greekeepers should aspire to more than head greenkeeper," he said. "The best person to put in charge of a golf course is someone who has come through greenkeeping

because they understand the club's main asset."

Alan has been involved with the club, which opened in September '93, since its construction. It has 18 holes plus a 9-hole par 3 course and a driving range. It opened as a pay-and-play but is moving towards a private members club.

Alan's assistant, Jeff Drake, has been promoted to head greenkeeper.

## Hayter appoints new agent

Hayter Ltd has appointed Rogers Engineers Ltd, suppliers of Hayter domestic mowers for 30 years, as agents for its Professional range of machinery.

The family firm will cover Northants, Bedfordshire and parts of Cambridge from its head office in Gt Barford, Bedfordshire. Open days and demonstrations are now being organised. Tel: 01234 870201. Hayter has also appointed Bredy Agricentre Ltd

of Dorset as agents for the Professional range of mowers.

## King's is sold

Essex-based horticultural merchant Kings Horticulture Ltd has been bought by Cereal Industries Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Associated British Foods plc. Kings Horticulture will continue trading under its present name from its Earls Colne site and all of the staff have been retained.

## Breakwell expands

ET Breakwell is expanding into Northamptonshire. And the Shirley-based Ransomes and Massey Ferguson dealer has taken on two new managers to cope with the expansion.

Former Ransomes area sales manager Mark Radford has been appointed key account manager and Graham Robinson has come on board as area sales manager for the new area and Warwickshire.

Peter Cooper will continue to cover West Midlands, Herefordshire and Worcestershire while Alan Prickett will look after Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Paul Breakwell, son of MD Len, has been appointed to the board as sales director.

The new area will receive thrice weekly spares deliveries and Paul Hudson, based in Banbury, will cover it with his mobile service facility.

In addition to Ransomes and Massey Ferguson, the new sales team will also be talking about two new product ranges it represents – from Richard Long and Wiedenmann.

## Heriot & Bardot

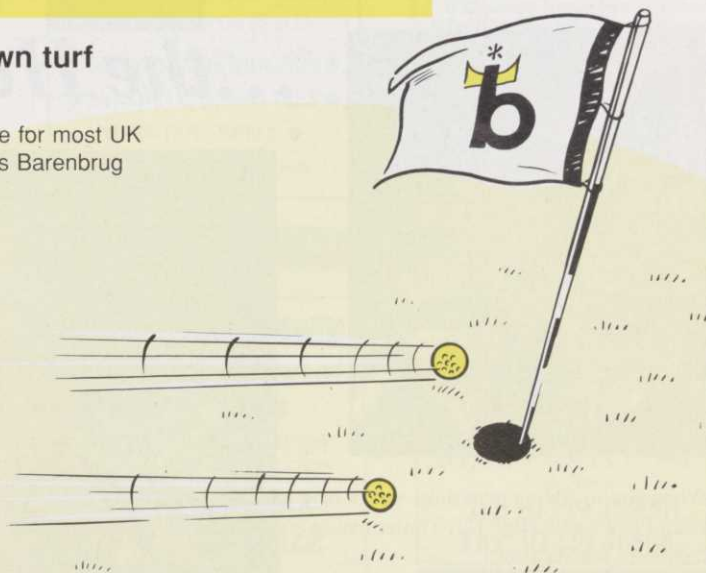
Favourite bentgrasses for fine, close grown turf outscore the usual.

Although 'Highland' browntop bent is generally acceptable for most UK situations, for very fine turf such as golf and bowling greens Barenbrug advises finer and denser cultivars like Heriot and Bardot.

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■ Newspaper and golf course owner Eddy Shah will be the guest speaker at the conference dinner of the British Institute of Golf Course Architects being held at Wentworth on April 20. The dinner precedes the 1995 Conference which is entitled 'Golf Course Design in the Modern Age'. Speakers at this event on April 21 include Dave Thomas, Dr Alastair Cochran, George Shiels and David Piggins. The delegate cost is £125. Tel: 0883 712072.

■ Following the success of the first Grounds and Greens two-day seminar at Newmarket Race Course, another one is being organised for June. The speakers this time round include George Brown (Turnberry), Derek Ganning (The Belfry), Anthony Davies (Prestbury), Stuart Stenhouse (Monarch's Course, Gleneagles), Jeff Perris (STRI) and John Souter (Gti). The topics on June 20 will relate to general groundsmanship while the following day will concentrate on greenkeeping. Attendance is by invitation and places are limited so anyone wishing to attend should phone Lynn Hamilton at Sisis Equipment on 01625 503030.

## Ransomes kit out slow moving Chinese course

A new 27-hole golf course being built in southern China has ordered £200,000 worth of Ransomes turf equipment. Items already in place include a Commander 3500 fairway mower, two Motor 180s for tees and surrounds, a Turftrak 420 with rotary mowing deck, three and four-wheel Cushman Turf-Trucksters with topdressers and Ryan aeraton and turf-cutting equipment. Machinery still to be delivered includes four Greensplex 1600 greens mowers with nine and 11 blade knife units, additional Cushman Turf-Trucksters and attachments, two further Motor 180s, Ryan pedestrian aerators and a Supreme Mowing Golf Leader cylinder grinder. Known as the Long Island Golf and Country Club, the new course is located at Chang An in Dong Guan Province, approximately one hour by ferry from Hong Kong. It is owned by Bout Holdings, a joint venture estab-

lished by Chang An Development and Malaysian developer Madusalat Berhad. This company is also the construction contractor for the course, which is to a woodland/links design produced by JMP Design.

Encompassing 384 acres of former woodland, orange grove and lakes, the complex will include a 27-hole golf course, hotel, residential housing and sports facility. Eighteen of the holes will be floodlit for night golf.

Senior superintendent Marty Alexander tells us that the first nine holes are expected to be ready for play in November with the final completion planned for June next year. "The construction period is longer than might be expected in other parts of the world, but we have to contend with an extended rainy season from May to September and cool winter months from January into March," he explained.

China now has 80 courses in

play, under construction or being planned.

■ A special conservation scheme for golf courses has been set up in Victoria, Australia. It is an adaptation of the Land for Wildlife scheme administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. So far seven clubs have been recognised by the department as having significant habitat values for native flora and fauna, and for their valuable contributions to the conservation of local plants and wildlife. Each course is provided with a sign acknowledging its efforts and given information and useful contacts. "The aim is to give golf clubs an excellent opportunity to receive recognition and advice for their contribution to the conservation of Victoria's flora and fauna and to increase the awareness and enjoyment of club members and other course users," said a department spokesperson.

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# Buyers' Guide

The most cost-effective way of reaching readers of Greenkeeper International. Simply ring Bill Lynch on 091 413 7218, Carol Dutton or Louise Lunn on 0347 838581 and ask about an alphabetical category listing: the cost starts from the equivalent of under £25 per month.

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Judges' decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff.

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★ **Eagle-eyed David Hill, first assistant at Garforth Golf Club in Leeds, was the winner of our February competition. David scoops a crisp £50 note, just for spending a few moments scouring these pages. It could be YOU this time – get searching now!**

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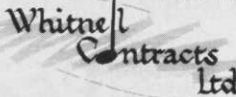
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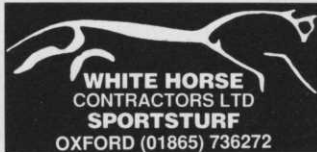
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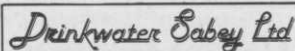
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