

**The Mentmore team with Mark Ellis in the front row, centre**



is all the more tangible.

"The 9th is 616 yards and the water washed all the way down taking the soil with it. We had that on several fairways which we have now remedied. We built them up, originally seeded them, then turfed them and we had to do it again and again," recalled Mark.

"When we used to get rain our 360 was up to its windows with water and you couldn't wade across it with a spike to release the water," he added.

"We've come in on a Monday after rain on the weekend and had to scrape back all the silt which had blown or washed out. We've had to do the same on the Tuesday and the same on the Wednesday. You just keep going and going."

Pip is working closely with Mark on the amendments to the course.

"In the original design there was no fairway bunkering so we are working on putting more in but we are restricted by budget. We can't run before we can walk," he explained.

"With a bigger subscription income coming in – at the time of writing almost 900 debentures had been sold – we will have more money to invest and I want it invested in our biggest asset – the golf courses. I have to fight my corner and promote Mark's position to the Directors if we need a new greens mower etc."

Mark has laid out a five year plan for the course and at the top of the list is to get rid of the rye grass tufts which shoot up around the greens and the approaches.

"Obviously any areas which are closely mowed are not too bad because they are mowed out but around the actual collars of the greens they are more predominant and they do affect the roll of the ball – we have to weed kill or trim them out.

"It is a laborious task so my main plan is to overseed all around the affected areas using short stem rye grass so it will blend in. We'll just keep dressing them out and cutting out the collars so there will be two widths and it will take the tufts away from the greens – we'll go outside the greenside bunkers. They will be scarified then we will overseed with a neat penncross because a lot of the approaches are penncross anyway.

The greenkeeping teams – they are broken into six on the Roseberry and five on the Rothschild under teams leaders – are working on constructing new

"The tiger tees were originally constructed at ground level and we are raising them by about a metre to a metre and a half – at the moment the water just can't get away."

It is all part of an on-going improvement to the course which is overlooked by Mentmore Towers, home to the British Natural Law party and is just a few miles from Chequers, the Prime Minister's country retreat.

As Pip Elson explained there is much work to be done with regard to fairway bunkering while all 120 of the existing bunkers over the two courses were built by the current greenkeeping staff.

"Since March we have come on in leaps and bounds and with the commitment the team has shown, if we can keep going and get

some decent grass coverage around the greens we will see even more improvement," said Mark.

Mentmore is particularly proud of its greens, which stimped at 10 for a pro-am held at the club in October.

"In March we hammered the greens. We double scarified them, double verticut them to a millimetre, then hollow cored, overseeded and dressed it all out. It took ages for them to recover and it wasn't until Easter that they started to recover but it paid off.

"The greens are fantastic and we are always complimented on them," said Mark, just as he had to assist one of his staff who had uncovered another minor problem to overcome. Terraspiking the greens it was impossible to know where the root zone finished and the clay began and several of the tines were broken.

"I really do have a good team. I've got a file full of ideas which have come from them about improving the course while one of the team leaders, Gavin Sowden, saved us quite a bit of money the other day just through his irrigation knowledge and was able to pump water from our main lake into a reservoir without us having to dig a trench."

Since taking over as Head Greenkeeper Mark has injected some of his own enthusiasm into his team and it is paying dividends.

"I just love greenkeeping. I could be doing other jobs but I do this for the love of it and I love being connected with BIGGA," said Mark, who is a regular on the Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open.

"The clubhouse here is run like a five star hotel and the course has the potential to be in the same class. When I left Woburn I didn't want to do myself down and move to a lesser club and I feel I have achieved that."

## The face looks familiar...

Now there many be some of you out there who look at Mark Ellis and say, "Now that face is familiar."

Any you would be right – particularly if you were a fan of one of the best British-made films of the last 20 years – because Mark was an extra on *Quadrophenia*. Not only that, he appeared in the film on his scooter with Toyah Willcox riding pillion.

"I was on the front cover of *Time Magazine*," recalls Mark from those heady days.

A music fanatic he was also part of *The Jam's* entourage travelling around Europe with them and is a friend of Paul Weller, meeting him again only recently at one of his concerts in the Royal Albert Hall.

"Those were the days. I've even been interviewed by Garry Bushell of *The Sun*," he said.

## FACT FILE

### Original Fairway and Approaches Seed Mix

- 40% Poa Pratensis (Baron)
- 20% Chewings Fescue (Frida)
- 30% Creeping Fescue (Boreal)
- 10% Agrostis Tenuis (Highland)

### Mentmore Greenkeeping Staff

- Mark Ellis, Head Greenkeeper;
- Eamon Slattery, Deputy Head Greenkeeper;
- Mark Whittle, Team Leader;
- Gavin Sowden, Team Leader and Irrigation;
- Sean O'Connell, Bill Lewis; Russell Howson; John Frampton; Mechanic;
- Lee Rance; Lee Stegles, Gardener;
- Michael Dunleavy, YTS; Naomi Janes, YTS; Danny James, YTS; Danny Gilbert

### Equipment Inventory

- Two John Deere 2243 greens mowers
- Two Ransomes GT Classic greens mowers
- 2 Ransomes Auto Certes Pedestrian green mowers
- One Ransomes 180D
- Two John Deere 2653A
- One Ransomes 300
- Three John Deere bunker rakes
- One Honda TRX300 ATV
- One Yamaha ATV
- Two Honda 6522 compact tractors
- One Kubota B700 compact tractor
- One John Deere 1070 tractor
- One Ford 334 tractor
- One Zeta 5245 with front loader
- One Jacobsen Turf Truck with attachments
- One Hardi Sprayer
- One Top Dress Unit
- One Tipper Top Box
- Two Ransomes leaf blowers
- One Stihl knapsack leaf blower
- Two Allen Flymos
- Two Flymo GT
- One Victa Rotary Mower
- One Ariens 911 Rotary Mower
- One Kubota KH101 strimmer
- One Komatsu GTHC strimmer
- One Lawnflite brushcutter
- One IBA vacuum cleaner
- One Stihl chain saw
- One Echo lawn edger
- One compact roller
- One Turfco turf cutter
- One Sisis Multi Slit
- One Sisis Rotorake
- One Weidenman Terraspikes
- One Sisis snowplough
- One Charterhouse Moleplough
- One Groundsman 800 Roller mower
- One Wessex leaf sweeper
- One Multi Core TM1000
- One Charterhouse Top Dresser
- One Grader Bar
- One landscaper
- One Charterhouse Dragmat
- One DW Tomlin Rotorake
- One Gravel Cart
- One Farmach back box
- One Warwick trailer
- One Huxley trailer
- Two Logic trailers
- One Sisis overseeder
- One Gandy dropseeder
- One Charterhouse Discseeder
- Two Scotts fertiliser spreaders
- One fertiliser hopper
- One Ransomes golf leader cylinder grinder
- Two copper Pegler knapsack sprayers
- One walkover sprayer

# NEW PRODUCTS

■ A highly-effective alternative to brushing or switching fine turf to remove moisture prior to mowing has been developed by Ransomes.

The Air Groomer is a patented design available as an option on the Ransomes Greens Super 55 walk-behind greensmower. The device comprises a full width, height-adjustable nozzle mounted on brackets ahead of the grass-box, an air delivery tube and a radial fan belt driven from the cutting cylinder layshaft. The fan produces an airflow in excess of 200 cu ft/min (5.6cu m/min) and the air delivery tube incorporates a flexible section to allow for nozzle height adjustment.

In action, the high volume curtain of air delivered by the nozzle displaces early morning dew and irrigation water droplets from the blades of grass, blowing them down into the soil to present a dry turf surface to the mower's cutting unit. The result is a clean, precise finish without the time consuming brushing or switching normally needed prior to mowing damp turf in order to give an effective cut and prevent the drooping of clumps of wet, cut grass.

By using the Air Groomer in conjunction with the Greens Super 55 mower, greenkeepers and groundstaff are able to save time and effort and avoid any risk of damage to the turf caused by physical pre-treatments on wet grass.

Both quiet in operation and simple to use and maintain, the Ransomes Air Groomer is available as a factory or dealer-fitted option on the Ransomes Greens Super 55 greens mower.

■ Tonick Watering announce the addition of the new WinWater PC based irrigation controller to its fast growing range of products. It allows total control of any irrigation system from a PC and allows full flexibility for changing the program as required.

WinWater, running in Windows, is very simple to use and requires little or no computer skills to operate it. A boon to greenkeepers, changing from time-consuming, conventional, fiddly controllers to the new "on-screen" set-up is straightforward and quick; familiarisation takes only a short time and setting up an irrigation programme is carried out by simply



The new Amazone Stone Burier has a 'screen' of bars which catch stones and trash, dropping them to the ground where they are covered by the topsoil which passes through the screen

■ Amazone Ground Care, combination seeder specialists in the amenity field, has introduced an entirely new range of grass seeders for golf course and general amenity work. The machines consist of Rotary or Reciprocating Harrow or Stone Burying modules based around the Amazone seeder unit which is carried on a cage type roller: as such, the system suits all applications in amenity grass establishment.

The seeder unit itself uses a force feed seed distribution system that gives a controlled broadcasting effect, with application rates infinitely adjustable from 0 – 600kg/ha. Seed is sown across the entire width of the machine with chute delivery to the seedbed.

A new calibration system enables the operator to precisely adjust the seed rate to the required quantity of seeds per square metre. The calibration device enables seed to be collected for measurement via the outlet chute, after which they can be returned to the seed hopper.

The units are available in five working widths: 1.10, 1.30, 1.50., 2.00 and 2.5 metres with power requirements from 20 to 50hp depending on size and configuration.

With the reciprocating harrow/seeder combination the machine has a pto powered harrow element. This works ahead of the seeder to create a well cultivated, level seedbed into

"pointing and clicking" with the computer mouse. Most older controllers can be upgraded to the new Windows based system usually without the need to change existing decoders or wiring.

which seed is sown and covered by a following tined harrow.

The reciprocating harrow, as with earlier models, arranges the seedbed into layers of small clods which are crushed around the seed, a fine layer of tilled soil in which roots quickly germinate, and an under-layer of coarser material to provide drainage and space for deep root growth. The machine can be used for both direct seeding into ploughed or cultivated land and also for patching up worn areas such as goal mouths and reinstated areas of parks, etc.

The combination with a Rotary Harrow is a "one pass" combination capable of sowing seed into a wide range of soil type without primary cultivation. The pto powered rotary harrow is attached to brackets at the front of the machine with cultivation depth controlled by the cage roller. This ensures constant working depth.

The rotary harrow will work through vegetation and other debris and has the advantage that it does not bring stones to the surface. It also ensures a good levelling effect.

The third configuration for the seeder combines a stone burier with the seeder.

The price of the new Stone Burier is £5,500. Prices for the other equipment will be according to size and type of combination.

For further information: Tel: 01579 351155.

Costing considerably less than other computer based controllers, WinWater is fully compatible with current decoders from TORO, Primetime, Robydome and Wraith-train and with all Tonick Watering

replacement decoders. Full support is provided by Tonick Watering.

For further information: Tel: 01903 262393.

■ The Little John Scarifier consists of a hydrostatic drive unit with fully floating scarifier head that also takes interchangeable options including verticut, moss remover, sorrel roller and brush reels. The possibility for extending the unit's applications is considerable.

In field trials the hydraulic system gave a smooth, constant drive to the floating scarifying head, while the transmission system enabled the operator to match ground speed to prevailing conditions. The standard of finish the machine produces is of a very high quality and all debris is collected in one pass.

From an operational point of view, the 65cm width of the head provides a fast working speed thus reducing time spent on the turf to a minimum. Considerable attention has been paid to strength, low ground pressure and simplicity of use. The unique handlebar design incorporates a lifting system that enables the operator to easily manoeuvre Little John without scuffing or damaging the turf.

The unit can be used in either forward or reverse mode, so is ideal for towing dragmats and brushes. Power is provided by an 8hp Honda engine and there is a choice of smooth profile tyres for ultra-fine work, or turf savers for those occasions when extra traction may be needed.

A large polypropylene grass collector is fitted as standard Little John was developed and built here in the United Kingdom and is supported by a team of turf care specialists. It represents a highly cost effective and versatile piece of equipment that covers a broad spectrum of turf, from very coarse to the ultra-fine modern mixes.

Little John joins the RTS range of turf care equipment including, the Big Willy (pedestrian) and Hercules (tractor mounted) aerators; plus sorrel rollers; drag mats; brushes and rakes.

For further information: Tel: 01844 274127.

■ The new Soil Reliever Junior allows Greenkeepers and Groundsmen to carry out heavy duty deep tine aeration on

greens and sports turf with suitable compact tractors.

Extremely quick, the Junior can solid tine to 12" depth and hollow core to 10", leaving a clean surface finish across the 48" working width.

As with the larger 60" and 80" Soil Relievers, the Junior has two separate crankshafts, each half being driven from the centre. This reduces torque and vibration, allows the machine to turn faster and increase tine speed, so that turf disturbance is minimised. The Junior's frame design adds leverage and places more weight at the tine heads. Together with the fast crankshaft turn, this gives a bigger and faster "hammer action", resulting in deeper soil penetration.

Huxleys say that customers with suitable small tractors, capable of handling the Junior's 1100 lb weight, will find that they can achieve similar operating speed and depth of penetration to that of the larger Soil Reliever Models 60 and 80. This may avoid the

expense of purchasing a new larger tractor.

The Soil Reliever Junior costs £12,500 plus VAT, and is offered with optional hydraulic top link (for depth control from the operator's seat) and a wide variety of solid and hollow tines.

For further information: Tel: 01506 856968.

Miracle Professional (formerly ICI/Zeneca Professional Products) has launched "Invigorator", the latest addition to its "Longlife" range of amenity turf fertilisers. "Invigorator" is a true compound mini-granular feed and general turf conditioner with an analysis of 408 (+4% Fe + 2% Mg + 7.5% S + Seaweed Extract). The Iron and Magnesium help to give Rapid greening and hardening of the turf, while



the sulphur helps in controlling soil pH.

For use on all amenity turf, the application rate of 35g per sq.m provides a bag coverage of 710 sq.m.

The recommended user price is £14.95 per 25Kg bag and is available from all Miracle Professional Main distributors.

For further information: Tel: The Miracle Professional Technical Advice Centre on 0990 301010.

SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd has introduced two new reels for use with their range of Rotorakes:

The Verticutting Reel - Reel comprising close pitched, straight, triangular blades for light scarification during the growing season. Regular use removes thatch as it accumulates.

The Combined Reel - Thatch removal blades are pitched 20mm (3/4in) apart and interspersed with brushes. This reel removes thatch efficiently with

the added benefit of a brushed finish and improved collection of debris. Used prior to mowing, it raises the grasses for a better cut.

A brand new spraying concept from Weed Free (Bracknell) promises to revolutionise customer service.

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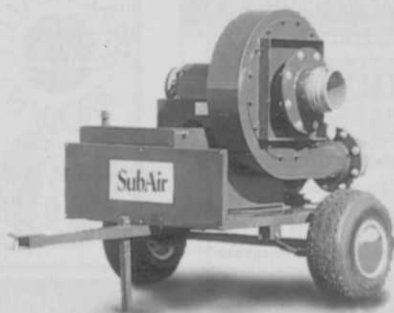
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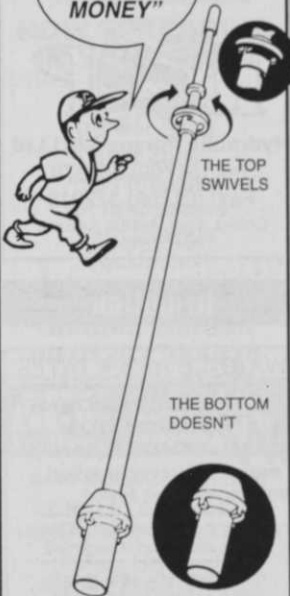
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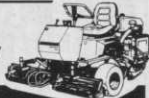
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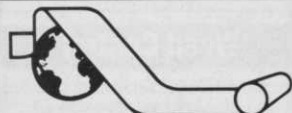
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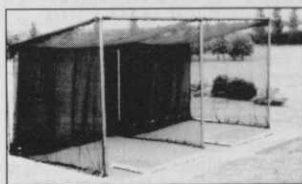
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Ransomes 5 unit Sports cutter from £2,995

Jacobsen Turfcut diesel, 50 or 60 inch flail: £5,950

**CONTACT**

**CHRIS BRYDEN**  
**01777 704275**

**EVENINGS: 0115 920 9401**

### Used Machinery

### B. SKEEN (Horticultural Machinery) LTD

Sales & Service Centre, Bentley Avenue, Cowpen Industrial Estate, Billingham, Cleveland TS23 4BU

**We have the following second hand equipment surplus to requirements:**

1 Jacobsen Greensking MkIV Power Unit Petrol, not power steering, recent new engine fitted .....£1600

1 Jacobsen Greensking MkIV Power Unit Diesel, not power steering, in good condition .....£3500

1 Hayter Beaver Model TM708, 7 unit hydraulic mower in good condition .....£3500

1 Allman Sprayer Model 320 18ft boom tractor mounted .....£450

2 Allett Shavers, reconditioned .....£750 each

1 Ransomes Multi Mower .....£750

1 Hayter Condor Hydro Power Unit with 3 bladed verge mower .....£950

Tel: 01642 370160 Fax: 01642 370570

### Trees

### TREES FOR SALE

**Nursery seconds**  
**£3.00 each**

**Nursery First from**  
**£4.00 each**

**Tel: 01925 821002**

### Wanted

### HIPER GOLF

WANTED

John Deere Turf Equipment  
Verti-Drains, Verti-Seeds, Pedestrians  
Ryan: GA24, GA30, Sod Cutter,  
Renovaire, Mataway, Overseeder  
Turfco: Mete-R-Matic

**ANY CONDITION CONSIDERED**

Tel: Int. Code: +34 52 81 23 35

Fax: Int. Code: +34 52 81 78 73

(SPAIN)

**Ex-demo Beaver T93,**  
**3WD Triplex Greens**  
**Mower, 9 Blades**  
**107 hours only: £8250**

**Ex-demo Allett**  
**Conqueror, petrol**  
**Triple Mower, 4 Blade**  
**Units: £4250**

**Drake & Fletcher Ltd**  
**Tel: 01233 625044**  
**01233 637973**

### Surplus Equipment

### B. SKEEN (Horticultural Machinery) LTD

Sales & Service Centre, Bentley Avenue, Cowpen Industrial Estate, Billingham, Cleveland TS23 4BU

**We have the following new equipment surplus to requirements:**

1 Jacobsen Ram Lift Gang Mower with Blitzer Units .....£9750

1 Jacobsen Tri-King 1672D with 5 or 10 bladed reels .....£9500 (5 blade or 10 blade)

1 Set Jacobsen Trailed Gang Mower framework 5 Unit .....£1500

1 Royer Shredder Model 112 .....£2300

1 Royer Powerscreen Mod 30 .....£3250

1 Ransomes Wayfarer 6HP diesel with Rotacutter .....£1500

1 Ransomes Wayfarer 30" Reel Cutter 7HP petrol .....£1400

1 Ransomes Cab for Motor 213D Mower NB: Rollover and Protection Bar required when fitting cab .....£500

1 Ransomes Gang Mower Mk II Sportscutter Unit on pneumatic wheels .....£900

1 Cushman Long Box Assembly complete with tailgate release .....£350

1 Cushman Carrier Set Fits Short Box only £200

1 Cushman Cyclone Spreader .....£200

1 Allen National 68 Triple Diesel .....£4000

1 Ferris Hydraulic 36" Rear Discharge .....£2275

1 Saxon Triple 76" 5 Blade .....£4200

1 Massey 1210 Hydro Tractor .....£8000

Tel: 01642 370160 Fax: 01642 370570

### Demonstration Equipment

### B. SKEEN (Horticultural Machinery) LTD

Sales & Service Centre, Bentley Avenue, Cowpen Industrial Estate, Billingham, Cleveland TS23 4BU

**We have the following demonstration equipment surplus to requirements:**

1 BLEC Pro Seed .....£3150

1 Iseki TA530 with cab .....£11600

1 Jacobsen LF128 4 wheel drive with 7 bladed reels .....£19000

1 Lloyds Elite Motor Triple .....£12600

Tel: 01642 370160 Fax: 01642 370570

### MACHINERY FOR SALE

### RYAN GA 30

Approximately four years old  
New engine October 1996  
Many spare parts and tines  
Excellent condition

**£6,000**

Tel/Fax: 01922 417567

Mobile: 0973 478516

### G E Adamson Grass Machinery

Ryan Greensaire 24 hollow corer ..... £3250

Ransomes Super 51 Certes ..... £1150

Ransomes 180D diesel triple-fixed or floating heads ..... £2950

Ransomes TM80 slitter – new 7" blades or spoons ..... £875

Sisis A04/S slitter c/w rear rollers ..... £950

Sisis FTA/4 line aerator – hollow tines ..... £875

Cushman topdresser ..... (choice) £975

Tel/Fax: 01995 640180

### Mower Spares

## DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFER



Real savings with Ransomes Real Parts on Chains.

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DEALER FOR DETAILS**

## Job Shop

49 year old greenkeeper looking for a position as Assistant Greenkeeper/ Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

12 years experience as a Greenkeeper/Mechanic and 10 years as a Head Greenkeeper at a parkland course. Training as a D32 and D33 Greenkeeper Assessor

Box No JS 55/96, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF

Enthusiastic 23 year old male, with six months golf course work experience and good in-depth knowledge of golf course construction and maintenance, seeks full-time position as assistant/trainee greenkeeper.

Qualifications include City & Guilds Parts 1 and 2 Motor Mechanics, First Diploma in Horticulture, NCH in Greenkeeping & Sport-ground Management.

I am hard working, honest, trustworthy, reliable and will make a good addition to any greenkeeping staff.

Box No JS 56/96, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York YO6 2NF

## RECRUITMENT



**Golf Club Grafing Oberelkofen**

requires a

## GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be suitably qualified and experienced.

Start time 1 March 1997

Golf Club Grafing is located in Germany, State of Bavaria, 40 km south-east of the capital Munich

Applications and CV to:

Postfach 100 112, D-85592 Baldham, Germany

# RECRUITMENT



## BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

is looking to appoint a

### REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR (Part-time)

The successful candidate will cover the South West and South Wales Region with responsibilities for Devon & Cornwall, South Coast, South Wales & South West Sections.

Applicants should possess sound administration and communication skills whilst greenkeeping connection and computer literacy would be an advantage. In addition to serving the needs of the Regional Board, a positive contribution to promoting the Association and welfare of greenkeepers will be required.

The post holder will be expected to display initiative and enthusiasm in the promotion and administration of the Region's trade show "Westurf", also in the drive to introduce new members. Regular contact with Section Secretaries, greenkeepers and golf clubs will be an essential element of the post.

It is envisaged that the average working week will be 27.5 hours and the post will be home based within the Region.

A job description and further details are available from the Executive Director, BIGGA,  
Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. Telephone 01347 838581 Fax: 01347 838864



**Golf Club  
Entfelden  
Switzerland**

require

### FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER/MECHANIC

The successful applicant must be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and mechanics, also he or she must be familiar with a variety of welding equipment. A good salary is offered and accommodation is provided.

Please apply in writing with CV and references to:

Steve Elms, Postfach 121, 5036 Oberentfelden, Switzerland

Closing date: 10 January 1997



### Dun Laoghaire Golf Club

Situated in the Dublin suburbs about six miles from the city centre, Dun Laoghaire Golf Club is a parkland course, established in 1909 and designed by the renowned English architect Harry Colt. Applications are invited for the position of:

### GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

from persons of proven ability with appropriate qualifications and experience in all aspects of course maintenance and development.

Extensive experience of all modern machinery and irrigation systems is required together with the ability to organise work programmes, set budgets, direct and motivate staff as well as creating long-term course development plans.

A good knowledge of horticulture would be an advantage as the Club would wish to present the Course in a manner that is both a golfing challenge and is visually attractive.

The successful candidate will report directly to the Secretary Manager and an attractive remuneration package will be offered.

Applicants should forward a detailed Curriculum Vitae in confidence before 16 December 1996 to:

**The Secretary Manager**  
Dun Laoghaire Golf Club, Eglinton Park, Tivoli Road,  
Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin



Require a

### TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Essex/North London

as part of their ongoing planned expansion. Relative experience within the fine turf industry would be an advantage. Salary negotiable with benefits including company car and contributory pension.

Apply initially in writing including full CV and current salary to:

Mr A W Hardie, Gem Professional, Brookside Lane,  
Oswaldtwistle, Accrington, Lancs BB5 3NY