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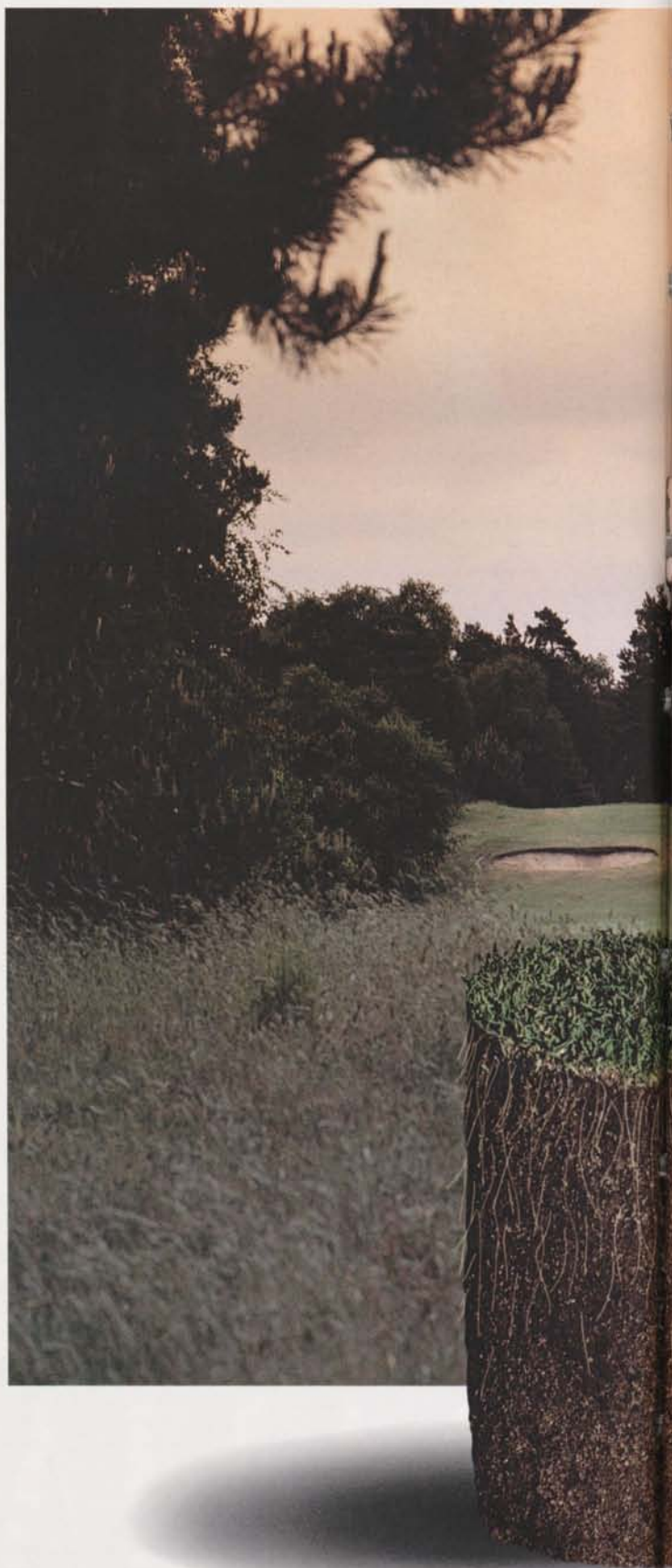
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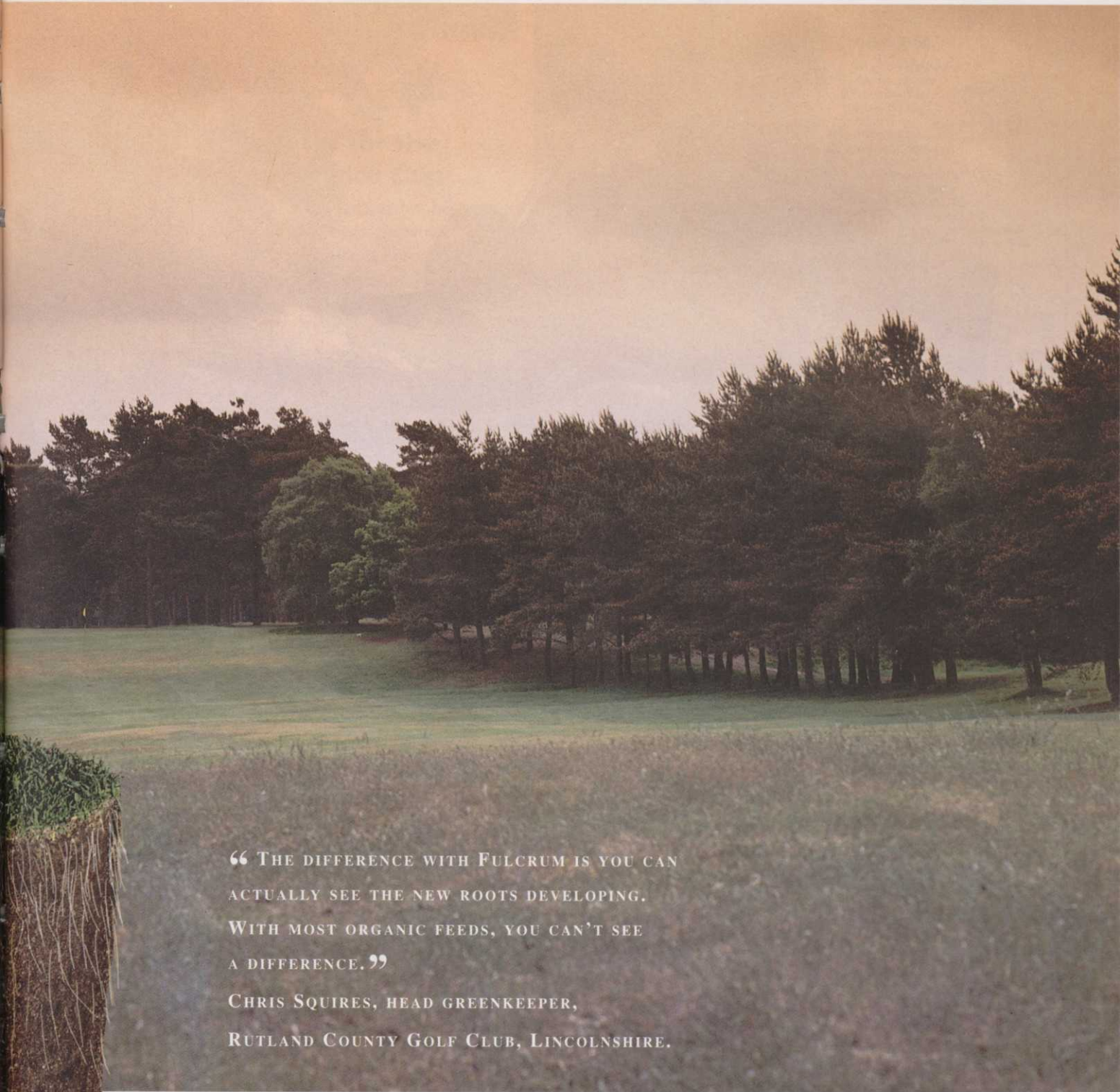
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SEPTEMBER 1997

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...to laptops and bytes! RiteFeed is BIGGA's latest Golden Key sponsor and the people behind the company reveal the bizarre methods they used when they first set up.....**Pages 13-14**

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The ride-on triple greens mower is possibly the most used piece of equipment on the golf course. Hugh Tilley talks with greenkeepers who use them every day.....**Pages 17-21**

Wet, but certainly not a washout

The BIGGA National Tournament, in association with Miracle Professional, was possibly an even greater test for participants this year – thanks to rain, rain and more rain.... **Pages 22-24**

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Cover

Valderrama, venue for this month's Ryder Cup, plus the winner of BIGGA's National Tournament Picture by Scott MacCallum

WIN £50 CASH IN OUR BUYER'S GUIDE COMPETITION: TURN TO PAGE 53

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Use the post-paid Reader Reply Card facing Page 6 for further information on the products and services advertised in this issue. Just state the companies' Ad Ref numbers, post the card to us and we'll arrange for further information to be sent to you direct.



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Golf by the hour hailed as 'major breakthrough'

A new idea could change the shape of golf and help to bring the sport to areas where space has previously denied the opportunity for courses to be built.

Golf Courts have been hailed as a major breakthrough for the sport on a number of fronts, not only because a golf court can provide a full round of golf on just 6-15 acres, but also because it provides the opportunity to play the game by the hour. And with the prospect of floodlit golf, Golf Courts looks set to revolutionise the game.

The concept of the Golf Court

stems from its development in 1988 when Systems Designer, Farrel Bradbury, suffered a stroke and was advised to take up golf. Soon hooked on the game, he converted six acres of land into an 18 hole course comprising par three and par four holes.

Having spent eight years fine tuning his idea, Bradbury's system of a stepped fairway using four greens, and eight tee positions means that with no more than 15 acres, or a tenth of the normal size of a golf course, a full round of golf can be played.

Interest is now intense in Golf Courts around the world with developers of urban land keen to have the court installed.

The Golf Court is booked on an hourly basis with three matches on the court at any one time. Every club in the bag is brought into use and whether the court is in the grounds of a hotel, a private home or is part of a mix of leisure facilities, it is ideal for those who want to fit more golf into their week and is certain to provide the answer to many personal and corporate dreams.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Emma Duggleby, who worked for the Association during the winter of '92 - '93 and in the



early part of this year on a temporary contract, has returned to Aldwark Manor on a full time basis as an Administrative Assistant.

A top amateur golfer, Emma (25) won the British Ladies' Championship in 1994 and has represented England for the last three years and Great Britain and Ireland on several occasions, including in South Africa when she played on a GB&I team which won a "Test Series" 2-0.

This year she won the Northern Foursomes and the Keighley Trophy and was runner-up in both the English Strokeplay and Yorkshire Championships.

She was made an Honorary Member of Malton and Norton Golf Club while her boyfriend, Neil Clarkson, is an assistant professional at Sand Moor Golf Club.

Away from the golf course she is also a keen netball player and represents Broughton, Swinton and Amotherby.

"I'm delighted to be back at BIGGA and thoroughly enjoy working at Aldwark Manor," said Emma.

■ Former US Vice President Dan Quayle will speak at the GCSAA Conference and Show in Anaheim, California next February.

Quayle, an avid golfer who was a 1997 US Senior Open entrant, will speak on the issues of commitment to family, personal value structure and his career as an elected official.



The King's Course features the world's first floating fairway

Bumper package for US courses

Eight golf courses in the Myrtle Beach area of South Carolina, USA, will soon be groomed almost exclusively by Ransomes, Cushman and Ryan turf maintenance equipment. Owned and operated by the Myrtle Beach National Company, the eight courses are part of one of the top golfing resort regions in the United States.

The extensive package of new equipment includes 20 Greens Super 55 walk-behind greens mowers; 13 Ransomes fairway 305 fiveplex mowers;

12 Ransomes Fairway 250 fiveplex mowers; 12 Greensplex 160 riding greens mowers; 12 Ransomes T-Plex 185 tee and surrounds mowers; nine Cushman Groom Master bunker groomers and seven 700 Series rider rotary mowers

One of the newest Myrtle Beach courses, The King's Course was designed by Arnold Palmer. The course derives its name from The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews' crowning of Palmer as "The King of Golf" in 1995

during his final appearance at The British Open. The course features the world's first floating fairway.

Clay Brittain Jnr, Chairman of the Myrtle Beach National Company, said, "We realised we were spending too much time and money on the repairs of equipment we had kept for too many years. This caused a lot of downtime. When we decided to bring our equipment up to date, Ransomes came to us with an exceptional package of equipment."

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Adrian Porter
Head Greenkeeper
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There are some things which really get to you

Have any of you seen Room 101 on BBC 2 on Friday nights? It's where celebrities get the opportunity to send their dislikes or petty hates into the room for all eternity. Recently I know Eric Cantona and caravans began their periods of exile.

It got me thinking about what I would send into Room 101 and I found it was quite therapeutic.

I've come up with just a few of the things which I think I'd be better off without and a couple which I know have hit the mark with some of you.

Lorries which pull out to overtake other lorries when you know it'll take them ten minutes to complete the manoeuvre; People who push in front in queues when you're only 90% sure you were there first so can't say anything about it and paying for something and finding it doesn't work or is not what you ordered.

Professionally, and I don't mean this as a slight to people who are only doing their job and many of them do it in a very pleasant way, it's people who phone up and ask, "Did you receive the press release we sent you?" What they really mean is, "I know you must have got it because I posted it to you a couple of days ago. Are you going to use it?"

The answer is one to which I can never say a definitive "yes" or "no" because I never know how much room I'll have for such things yet we both have to go through the ritual of asking and answering the questions.

They always seem to call at a time when I'm particularly busy.

I know Stefan Antolik, of Cooden Beach, would send Goretex water-

proofs into Room 101. He thinks they are the biggest scourge he has faced as a greenkeeper as they allow people to stay dry in conditions that do no end of damage to the golf course. After a few days of torrential rain at the National Tournament I can see why. Another occupant I know of would be caddie carts, both manual and electric, which tear up the course. I had a call from a member who suffers badly from caddie car damage but felt he was powerless to do anything about it.

Write in and let me know of anything which you would send into Room 101. It may be you are not alone in your thoughts and if there are a great many of you with the same candidate we can campaign to improve matters.

Can I say thank you to the BBC, Hatrick Productions and Nick Hancock for the use of their idea.

■ This month is The Ryder Cup and can I, on behalf of us all, wish Seve's team well. Success at the top level certainly increases interest at the grass roots and that can only be good for golf and for all of us who earn our living from it.



Scott MacCallum
Editor

As I see it...

BY PAT MURPHY
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

In recent months people could be forgiven for thinking I've been auditioning for Dustin Hoffman's role in the sequel to "The Rainman". You will recall that two of the Hayter Regional Finals I attended had to be reduced to nine holes because of torrential rain. They did well even to get any holes played at all.

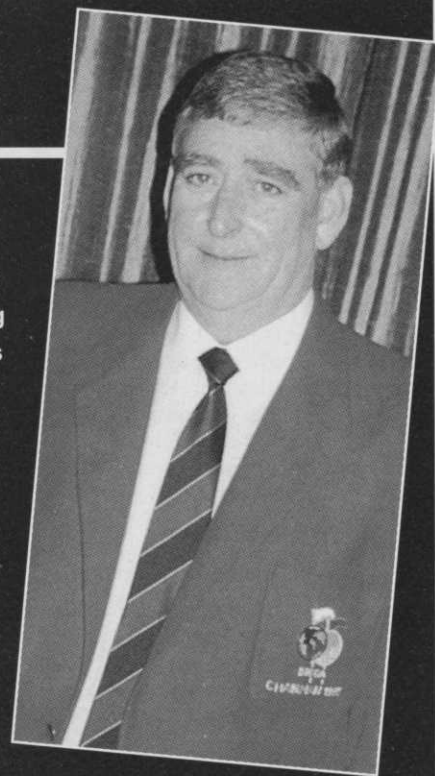
Now I go to Cooden Beach for the National Tournament in association with Miracle Professional and after two reasonable days the final round is a complete washout – an inch of rain fell in half an hour. The event had to be cut back to 36 holes. That was bad enough but that was the day I'd decided to play the course! I must be jinxed.

Despite that the tournament was greatly enjoyed by those who attended and Stefan Antolik, his team, the Secretary and all the other clubhouse staff must be congratulated and thanked for making it such a success. For me it was a chance to meet up with so many old friends while I always enjoy meeting up with Derek Farrington the South East Regional Administrator.

While it is not quite so hectic with BIGGA business at the moment – the Executive Director is on holiday so my phone isn't quite so busy – I've a lot on at my golf club. As I write I'm preparing for the Bradford Team Championship and the Yorkshire Boys with barely a day without some event on at the club. Fortunately the course has been good all year and my team have been doing a great job while I've been away.

And next month I'll be on my travels again as I first head to Saltex, where I've been asked to judge the stands, then on to Ireland for a meeting. I break the journey on the way back to attend the Cumbria Cup, where I understand Viscount Whitelaw will be making an appearance, and then I head to the Berkshire College of Agriculture where I shall be turning the first sod on the new Golf Greenkeeping Academy.

Talking of turning sods, I'm looking for someone to donate an edging iron and turf lifter for when I perform the same task for our new Headquarters. Can anyone help?





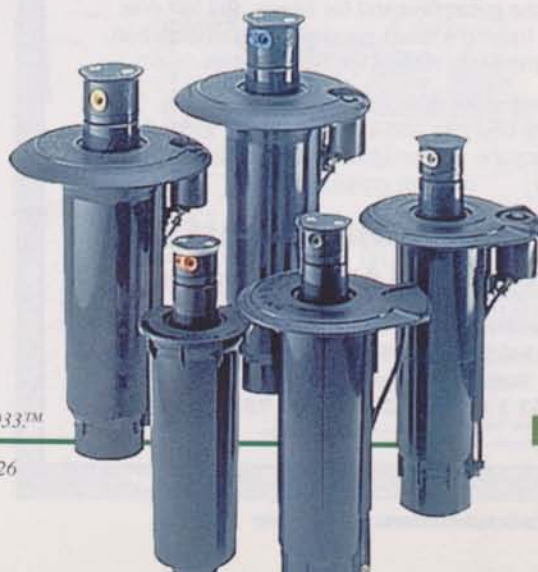
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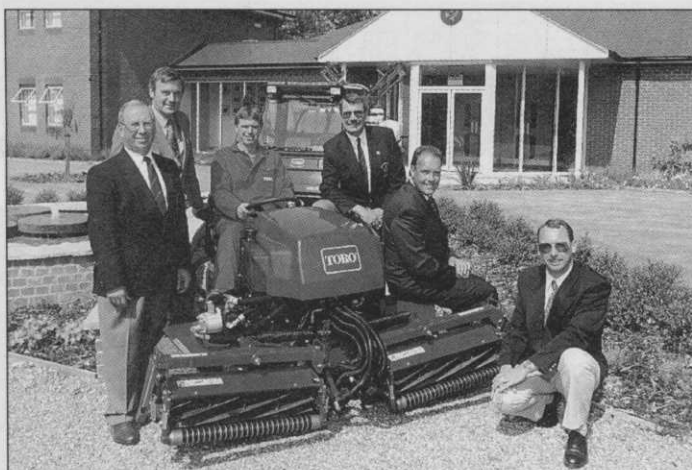
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Woodhall Spa Head Greenkeeper David Hornsey, seated, with, from left, Paul Baxter, EGU Secretary; Graham Dale, Lely Managing Director; Peter Wisbey, Course Manager at Woodhall Spa; Bob Buckingham, The Toro Company European Sales Manager and David Cole, Lely National Sales Manager

Toro kit selected by English Golf Union

The English Golf Union has chosen Toro to supply golf course turf maintenance equipment and irrigation systems for its two courses at the National Golf Centre in Woodhall Spa, Lincs.

In a five-year agreement signed between the EGU and The Toro Company and distributors Lely UK, Toro is supplying £350,000-worth of new equipment in two phases this year and next.

The EGU's Courses Manager at Woodhall Spa, Peter Wisbey, who joined The National Golf Centre in December after working 10 years in Portugal, where he was Technical Director at both Quinta da Lago and Pinheiros Altos, said that Toro won the contract after a competitive tender.

"Toro was chosen because their's was the only package where every single machine in our specification was either the best in the field or at least equal to the best of the others," he said.

"The Toro machines not only met our needs, they offered more than we were looking for."

The agreement was sealed at a special signing ceremony at the EGU's national headquarters attended by Peter Wisbey and EGU Secretary Paul Baxter. Toro were represented by Lely Managing Director, Graham Dale, and National Sales Manager, David Cole, as well as Bob Buckingham, The Toro Company's European Sales Manager.

David Cole said: "Everyone at Toro and Lely UK is delighted that we have won this valuable contract against stiff opposition from our major competitors, and to be involved with such a prestigious name and organisation as the English Golf Union."

Speaking at the signing ceremony Bob Buckingham said: "This is an important deal for us. We believe that our success was helped by the fact we could supply both machinery and irrigation equipment from the one company."

The new Toro fleet delivered under phase one of the agreement consists of a Workman utility vehicle, Reelmaster 6500-D fairway mower and a Groundsmaster 3000-D with both rotary and flail cutting units. All three machines are fitted with deluxe Mauser safety cabs with air conditioning and heating. There are also three Greensmaster 3200-D ride-on greensmowers, as well as two 1600 and four 1000 walk-behinds, plus a Reelmaster 2300-D.

These and a further delivery under phase two of the agreement next spring will be used to maintain both the National Golf Centre's existing championship or Hotchkin Course and the new The Bracken Course which is scheduled to open next June.

It is all part of the major initiatives being undertaken at Woodhall Spa by the EGU on behalf of its 700,000 members from 1,800 clubs which will also see the opening later this year of a unique 11-acre training and coaching academy where facilities include a 20-bay covered driving range and short game practice area complete with putting greens, target greens and a range of practice bunkers.

Both 18-hole courses have Toro irrigation on greens, tees and approaches. This may be extended in the future to encompass the Hotchkin Course fairways.