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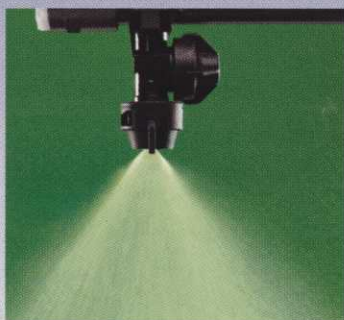
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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of  
the British & International Golf  
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## April 1998

Your next issue of  
Greenkeeper International  
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## Reader Reply Card

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## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the  
future for greenkeeper, golf club and  
game. Individuals and companies  
can join the Golden  
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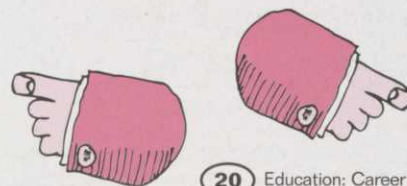
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## Big is beautiful!

One thing which has been really pleasing has been to see how many new members have been listed by Sections in the Around the Green notes recently. Now there are always new members around this time of year but it would appear that this year there does seem to be more than usual.

Of course this is only of lasting benefit to the Association as a whole if those existing members haven't, or don't, become lapsed and the overall membership figure continues to rise.

Everything that happens within BIGGA is for the ultimate benefit of the member, whether directly or indirectly, and the more members we have the easier it is to persuade companies to become involved with the Association.

It is because BIGGA's membership has grown so quickly - at roughly 6500 it is arguably the largest member's Association within the golf industry - that it is as successful as it is... and it is successful. Think of BTME, think of the extensive education programme, think of the long list of member's benefits, think of this magazine.

A figure of 6500 isn't at all bad, an educated estimate says that there are around 13,000 greenkeepers in the country, and there are professional Associations up and down the length of the country which would give their eye teeth for 50% take up by those eligible to join.

However, wouldn't it be great if we could get much closer to saturation coverage and to do that it is a case of shouting loudly about how so much better it is to be a member than not.

I'm a member of two professional bodies, the British Association of Communicators in Business and the Association of Golf Writers, and proud to be so, but I can tell you that neither of them offer nearly as many benefits as BIGGA. That's because neither of them have the numbers and therefore the muscle to persuade companies to give special deals.

However, I must admit that I'm not exactly sure of the benefits either of them do offer. I know that I get reduced AA membership and a legal Helpline with one while I get access to every golf tournament in Europe, with the other. I'm sure there are others that I don't know about.

It might well be the same for many of you with BIGGA. I'll bet there are many things available of which you are unaware. For instance do you know that you can have a proportion of training course fees paid for you if you are having to pay them yourself or that free legal representation can be arranged for you in certain employment related issues. The small print in each case is minimal so there isn't always a catch and there have been quite a few satisfied customers so far.

They have learned the benefits of being a BIGGA member and these are also available for every other member or potential member in the country.

Let's keep growing!

Editor: Scott MacCallum

# Greenkeeper

## INTERNATIONAL

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**23** Cover feature: Gleneagles...  
Courtesy of Brian Morgan Tel: 0141 221 6236

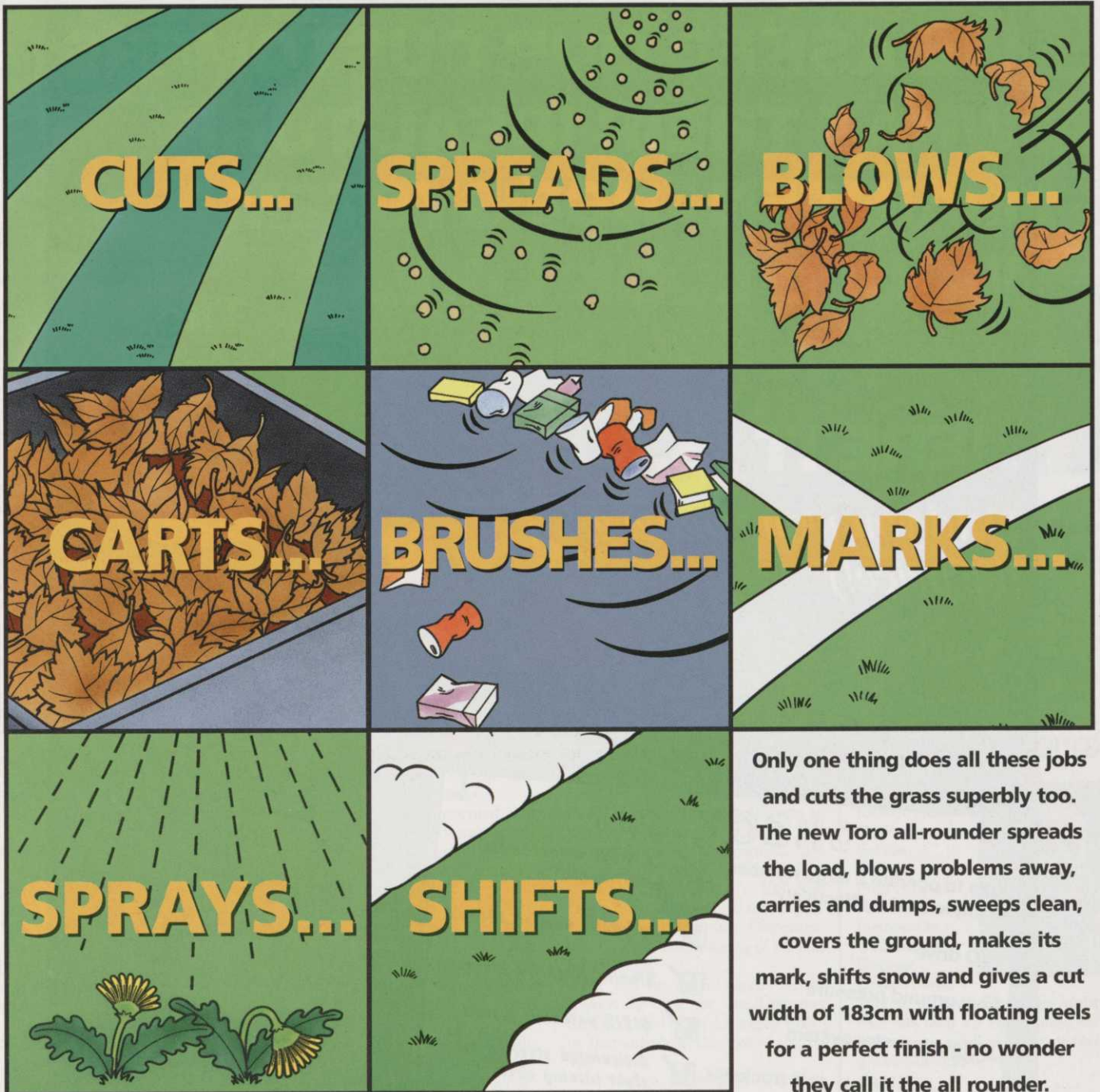
**48** The protection racket



**52** The Rain Bird has landed



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AD  
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61

# WE ASKED OUR CUSTOMERS WHAT THEIR IDEAL TURF MAINTENANCE SYSTEM WOULD LOOK LIKE.

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the price!)*

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**NEW**  
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# Anchors away as divots get heave-ho

Ever since golfers started using iron clubs on turf fairways there has been the problem of divots, their replacement and regrowth.

Birds soon learnt to exploit this new food source as worms, grubs and insects sought refuge under replaced turf.

It is not only birds which disturb divots as machinery, golfers' spikes and drying winds which desiccate the turf all contribute to rooting failure.

Attempts were made to fabricate divot anchors 50 years ago but were prone to failure as the anticipated moulded anchor was intended to be made of clay, seed and fertiliser, designed to eventually break down and improve the soil.

This never got off the ground let alone into it.

Many bio-degradable materials have been investigated in the development of the divot anchor and varying methods of manufacture, such as moulding, pressing and laser cutting have been attempted.

Fairway	Number anchored	No. disturbed by machines/	birds
1st	313	5	11
15th	168	Nil	Nil
18th	188	3	5

Most methods and materials gave unwieldy and unacceptable anchors in terms of practical usage on fairways.

The material chosen to fabricate the anchor is an impact styrene, which though non bio-degradable, has a number of advantages as it is malleable yet tough but breaks readily by the impact of a clubhead.

Moulding an anchor with this plastic allowed the designer to use the minimal amount of material that works efficiently.

Field trials under normal conditions and fairway management were held at South Herts Golf Club, Totteridge, during the period November to March.

In the STRI trial pairs of reasonably adjacent divots were identified and marked. One divot of the pair was then anchored.

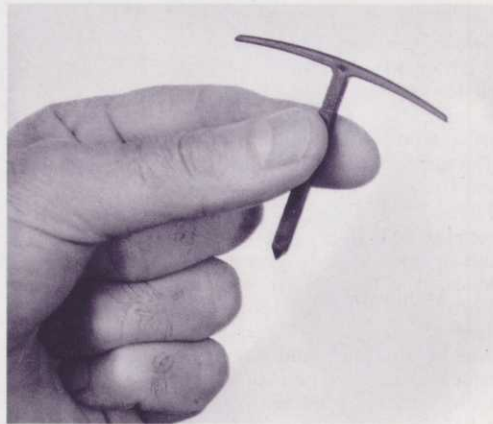
Final assessments were given after a period of at least one month when re-rooting of the divots was evaluated visually and scored with appropriate scale methods, the results showed that already over a third of the unanchored divots had been displaced and would therefore not root.

Of those divots which had been anchored 14% had been dislodged, primarily by the aeration work as vertidrainage had taken place on the fairways during the trial.

The STRI commented that significant improvement was brought about by the use of anchors in terms of divot retention and recovery.

An informal trial was also conducted when all divots were routinely anchored on three fairways. Only substantial divots with rooting potential were anchored. Thin divots, scuffs and fragmented turf was excluded.

All the anchored divots in the trials, identified by coloured aerosol markings had grown in and were undetectable by mid April when grass



Not a pick axe for pixies, but a divot anchor!

growth was under way.

Course machinery such as Sweepers, mowers, slitters, scarifiers and overseeders had no major adverse effect on anchored divots. Vertidrainers will, however, pull out an anchored divot.

General thinking now is that the golfers themselves should anchor their own turf. Members are always demanding that more attention is paid to the welfare of their course.

Encouraging members to anchor their own divots gives the players an input in preserving their club's fairways and can be instrumental in better course care generally.

The Manufacturers of "Tuff Tie" Divot Anchors have now made available a "Locker Room Dispenser" which gives a supply source of anchors for members.

The text on which advises on the reasons for their use, the Dispenser can be located in the Changing Room or alternatively in the area of the 1st Tee.

For further information Tel: 0181 275 0018

## Martin procures new job

Johnsons Seeds has appointed Martin Swinnerton as Procurement Group Manager. Based at the company's headquarters in Boston, Lincolnshire, Martin will be responsible for contracting seed crops, systems stock control and purchasing for Johnsons' entire seed range.



Martin is no stranger to Johnsons. After studying agriculture at Reaseheath College, he joined the company as a trainee 12 years ago. Immediately prior to his new appointment, Martin was Sales Administration Manager.

Martin and his team will be dealing with the entire supply and production chain, from securing deliveries and packaging, to liaising with suppliers throughout Europe, United States, Canada and New Zealand.

## Ken's On Course

Ken Barbour, formerly Golf Courses and Estate Manger at East Sussex National, has formed On Course, Golf Course Consultants.



Trained at Penn State University Ken has over 25 years practical experience in all aspects of turf-grass Management.

He is now offering a full consultancy service to golf clubs throughout Europe.

He can be contacted on Tel/fax: +44 (0) 1825 732031.

## I'm sorry, could you spray that again?

In a move supported by BIGGA, the suppliers of Blazon Spray Pattern Indicator are offering Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers the opportunity of an expenses paid trip to next year's Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Convention in Florida, USA. Included in the trip will be the registration costs for the Pre-Conference Seminars, Educational Programme and entrance to the trade exhibition. In addition, the winning

greenkeeper's club will receive a brand new Hardi AMK 300 Tractor Mounted Sprayer. All Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers have to do is order one outer or more of Blazon Spray Pattern Indicator before June 30 complete a Blazon Claim Voucher and their name will go into the national draw. At the end of the campaign, the first name drawn by Gordon Child, BIGGA Chairman, will be invited, together with a representative of the club, to

receive the prizes at this year's Saltex. Details are being mailed to every golf club and additional leaflets will be available from Farmura and Blazon Distributor representatives. This initiative is part of the joint BIGGA/Blazon 'Spray Watch' campaign introduced last year to increase awareness of spraying issues, as they affect safety, and the need for a responsible approach to the practice of spray application within a golf course environment.

I use **RiteFeed** because



It suits my course  
Alastair Tough, Muckhart GC

Ad Ref 212

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club.

Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



**Name:** Spencer Haines

**Club:** Wokefield Park GC, Near Reading

**Position:** Deputy Head/First Assistant

**Age:** 26

**1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?**

Nine years.

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**

Bringing into play a new golf course (An education in itself)

**3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?**

Cutting aprons

**4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?**

Picking stones from bunkers

**5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?**

Bricklayer

**6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**

Lindsay Anderson, Course Manager, Bridgemoor Park GC, for his constant encouragement.

**7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?**

Improvements to Greenkeepers' facilities and storage areas.

**8. What are your hobbies?**

Cricket, golf and fishing.

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**

Up to date information and good reading.

**10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?**

Hopefully retired and living off my lottery winnings!

# A sharp solution from Multi-Core

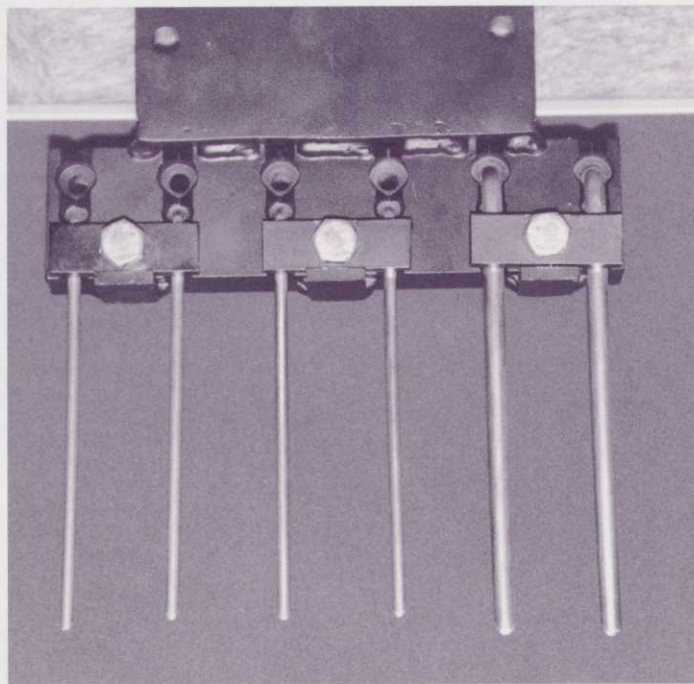
Two new super-thin needle tines have been added to the range suitable for use with Multi-Core's MC 10 and MC 15 tractor-mounted turf aerators.

Developed in conjunction with John Coleman, Course Manager at Abbeydale GC, in Sheffield, the specialist solid tines are designed for use on fine turf areas which reduce regular aeration without interrupting normal sports or leisure activities.

Measuring 5mm and 8mm in diameter, the two new tines are capable of aerating at depths of up to 125mm (5in) with virtually no surface marking. This has been achieved through a combination of the thin tine design and the working action of the Multi-core aerator which keeps the tines vertical as they enter and leave the ground, irrespective of the tractor's forward movement.

"The new tines will appeal to Course Managers, Greenkeepers and Groundsmen who wish to aerate regularly during the growing season without causing any disruption to play," says Multi-Core's Ian Waddington.

"In receptive ground, it should be possible to go straight in with the 5mm needle tines. Tougher conditions may require initial treatment with the 8mm version."



Mounted in special holders, the tines come in sets of six which are spaced 40mm apart across the width of the machine. There are 24 tines on the Multi-Core MC 10 aerator and 36 tines on the MC 20 aerator, which have maximum workrates of 4,050 sq m (1 acre)

per hour and 6,075 sq m (1.5 acres) per hour respectively. If the tractor is driven at a suitable forward speed to produce a square tine pattern (40mm x 40mm), the aerator will create 625 holes per sq metre.

For further information Tel: 01937 843281

## Grass at risk from high temperatures

With temperatures in mid-February 10° above the average for the time of year combining with an unseasonably warm January and early February, growers are being warned to monitor their grassland with care by Geoff Taylor, Technical Officer at Johnsons Seeds.

"Temperatures of 16-17°C are being reached and the climate at the moment is more like April than February, and this could have very serious implications for grassland production in 1998," said Geoff.

"There are many factors that are affected, from nitrogen uptake to diseases, pests and weed infestation. None can be looked at in isolation and the scenario could be described as a cascade effect, all triggered by the recent above average temperatures."

One of the primary concerns for anyone who has applied fertiliser is that temperatures suddenly fall. There are two side effects of this.

"Negative environmental impact is a very real threat as rain could occur, leading to leaching. Alternatively, the ground tempera-

ture may drop, meaning the plant is no longer able to utilise the nitrogen and it is a wasted application and costly mistake," explained Geoff.

Changes in plant physiology, which is greatly affected by temperature, could also make the grass vulnerable, should a cold snap occur. The cell division and expansion that takes place under favourable conditions means that recuperative potential is severely curtailed, should temperatures fall to freezing, the larger cells will freeze causing irreparable damage to the individual grass stems.

"Equally, rapid growth, without regular mowing could mean that, when cutting does take place, the plant loses a large proportion of its nutrients which are stored in the stem base. The outcome of this is that the plant finds it hard to recover following cutting, again leading to susceptibility. A regular mowing regime is essential and should take climatic conditions into account."

If the sward is left damaged and vulnerable following rapid growth

and then sub optimal weather, disease outbreaks pose a significant threat, particularly fusarium, red thread and pythium, all of which should be checked for.

"Leatherjackets, and other pests look like being a potential problem this March, so again, regular testing and monitoring is essential, with an option of chemical control.

"The grass is also highly susceptible to weed infestation. This is especially crucial to look out for as many weeds and annual weed grasses are more aggressive than the perennial varieties sold in grass mixtures and, in a very short space of time, could have a very negative effect on sward performance," said Geoff.

"With forecasts indicating that temperatures will soon return to normal for the time of year, there are many factors to consider for any grower wanting to make use of early grass growth, but minimising long-term damage to the sward," he concluded.

# Walton Heath plays host to Gentlemen

Bearing in mind the weather that we have had throughout February I suppose that we could have considered ourselves unlucky to have had such a downpour in the couple of days leading up to the Annual Gentlemen's Dinner at Walton Heath. However I'd like to look on the bright side and that that on the day we were fortunate only to be hampered by a couple of hours of drizzle.

The one casualty of the weather was the Sisis Putting Competition as the putting green was flooded.

Coincidentally Sisis were also the "victims" at the National Tournament at Cooden Beach when rain caused the abandonment of the third day competition which they sponsored. Is it Sisis or Stefan Antolik who is the bringer of rain?

While the putting green may have been flooded the rest of the course was in tip-top condition and Clive Osgood and his staff had really done us proud.

The magnificent half-way house was provided by Bill Oliver, of Twose Turf and Spray Ltd and Johnny Beck, lately of Scotts/Miracle. All who know Johnny are saddened by his news and sincerely hope that he will be seen again shortly in the trade and once again providing half-way houses in the "Egon Ronay" class.

The evening banquet was



Brian Ling, Walton Heath Captain presents Ray Day with his prize

attended by Walton Heath Club Captain, Brian Ling, Chairman of Green, John Woods, and Secretary Nick Lomas while BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child made the long journey to be with us.

The prizes were presented by Brian Ling and the entertainment came from comedian Alan Wallace.

#### Results:

Cat 1: 1. Raymond Day, 2.

Jim Russell 3. Simon Haynes.

Cat 2: 1. Steve Jones 2. Paul

Weston 3. John Winters

Cat 3: 1. Tony Bremner.

Visitors and Guests 1. Chris

Allen 2. Mark Harvey.

Greenkeepers Playing with

Club Officials 1. Jon Selwood

and Graham Winckless. Best Gross. 1. Ian Semple. Rigby Taylor Short Holes 7th. Huw Morgan. 11th, Chris Reed, 17th Graham Winckless.

I'd like to thank the sponsors who helped to make the day possible: Amenity Technology Products Ltd; CJ Collins Construction Ltd; Geo Brown Implements Ltd; CMW Ltd; E & S Sportsground Construction Ltd; GEM Professional Ltd; Grass Roots Trading Co Ltd; Rigby Taylor Ltd; RiteFeed Ltd; Rolawn Turf Growers Ltd; RPK Turfcare Supplies Ltd; Sisis Ltd; Twose Turf and Spray Ltd and Vitax Ltd.

Derek Farrington

# New man for Merrist Wood

Merrist Wood College has brought David Rhodes to its expanding team in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. David, who for the last five years has been Lecturer in Turf Science at Myerscough College, near Preston, has taken up the position of Senior Lecturer in Turf Agronomy at Merrist Wood.

"The turf section will continue to co-operate with all industrial governing bodies and with employers in particular, as it strives to meet the requirements of those within the sector," said David.

Merrist Wood was the first college of further education in the country to build its own 18-hole championship length golf course, which opened in September 1997. Designed by David Williams, the course occupies 240 acres of the College's estate and offers a first class resource for the training of greenkeeping and turf personnel.

David, who has also written and published a handbook on the construction and maintenance of artificial turf, started his new role at Merrist Wood at the beginning of March.



## Joining forces...

Kings Horticulture and Willmot Pertwee which have been trading as separate companies for the past two and a half years are, in the interests of improved business management and to avoid customer confusion, now operating under the same name - Willmot Pertwee Amenity.

Based in Colchester Willmot Pertwee Amenity has, through recent improvements, a new up to date Chemical Fertiliser storage unit while amenity products are stored and distributed from the Marden depot in Kent and the Oxford depot.

The company has also become the first agrochemical distributor in the world to attain Accredited Certificate of ISO 14001, the environmental management standard.

## Hi-Tec answer to irrigation problem

The need to control irrigation systems as an integral part of golf course management, and the need to optimise water usage is becoming one of the key tasks facing Course Managers. Over the last few years the UK and Ireland has seen the installation of some extensive irrigation systems to greens, tees and fairways. The number of sprinklers, and the necessary complexity of the irrigation programmes, makes PC based control an essential feature for a successful operation.

SitePro uses full graphic depiction of the actual course on which it is installed these graphics show the position of the pipework,

cables and sprinklers. Operation of individual sprinklers is activated by simply clicking on the sprinkler marked on the screen. This is only the beginning; full utilisation of the system features, flow management, weather station communication to calculate site evapotranspiration rates and a range of course management reporting functions. SitePro represents the pinnacle of irrigation system control technology and all that is required to run the system is a basic understanding of Windows 95, and a knowledge of a turf irrigation practices.

For further information Tel: 01425 476261

## South East Seminar

The South East Regional Seminar sponsored by Ransomes and Grass Roots Trading Company is to be held at Hadlow College, Tonbridge, Kent, on Tuesday May 19, takes a golf course from conception to play.

In the morning Howard Swan, talks on the architect's role, Andy Cole on that of the agronomist and Chris Collins, the constructor.

After lunch Joe Paulin, of The London Club, speaks on administration; Robert Brewer, of St Mellion Golf and Country Club, on managing a new course and Keith Backhouse, of Hadlow College and some of his students, on getting the best qualifications to tackle the job.

Further information can be obtained from South East Regional Administrator, Derek Farrington, Tel: 01903 260956

**THE FACTS**  
~  
**NOT THE HYPE**

LEE SHAW  
COURSE MANAGER  
ANSTY  
GOLF CLUB

"OUR GREENS  
HAVE CONTINUED  
TO BE FREE OF DRY  
PATCH.  
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PLEASED WITH THE  
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## Watermation complete MBO

Watermation has been acquired by its management team, led by Chief Executive Ray Lewis, in a deal worth £1.6 million.

Funding for the transaction was led and arranged by the Thames Valley office of investment capital group 3i which provided £1,367,000 equity and senior debt facilities. The management team was advised by Kevin Cook of BDO Stoy Hayward and Franco Bosi of Penningtons Solicitors.

Established in 1970, Aldershot-based Watermation designs, manufactures, distributes, installs and maintains irrigation systems for sporting facilities. The Watermation product range comprises a mixture of the company's own manufactured sprinklers and control systems and Watermation badged products bought in from other suppliers.

Operating within a market valued at £20 million pa, Watermation has a 22% market share. At present the company employs 62 people and has a turnover of £5 million. Potential sales are expected to grow due to the increasing popularity of outdoor leisure activities, together with increased spend on sports pitches/courses.

# Saxon not stumped by tree problems

When ground has been roughly cleared by flails and chainsaws there is always the need to go over it again to clear tree stumps left proud of the ground before further preparation can be put in hand.

Saxon Horticultural have produced the 8.5 h. p. Briggs and Stratton engine drives the pedestrian controlled commercial Bearcat stump grinder, whittling stubborn stumps below ground level in minutes thanks to a durable four tip cutting head with hardened carbide teeth.

The compact 23" wide Bearcat Stump Grinder can work in tight spaces and the grinding head will safely operate within inches of building foundations, pavements and other fixed objects.

The single wheel brake allows the operator to pivot the cutting head across the surface of the stump while the machine holds a fixed position and a screen covered aperture provides a clear view of the cutting action.

For further information Tel: 01488 684545



## Pattisson's fantastic summer PROMOTIONS

Tel: 01494 79 46 46

Fax: 01494 79 47 47

### 1. Pattisson's 'Aqua Pack'

Hydrotine - £145

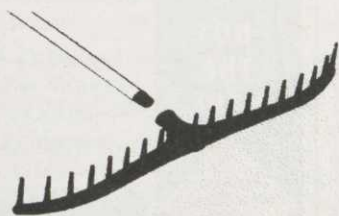
Set of replacement tines - £20

Tricoflex 3/4" 50m hose - £68

2 Snap fast hose tails - £5.90

TOTAL VALUE -  
£238.90

Promotional  
price - £160!!!



2. Pattisson's are selling their Bunker Rake with black screw in head and white fibre glass handle

for just £5.95.

