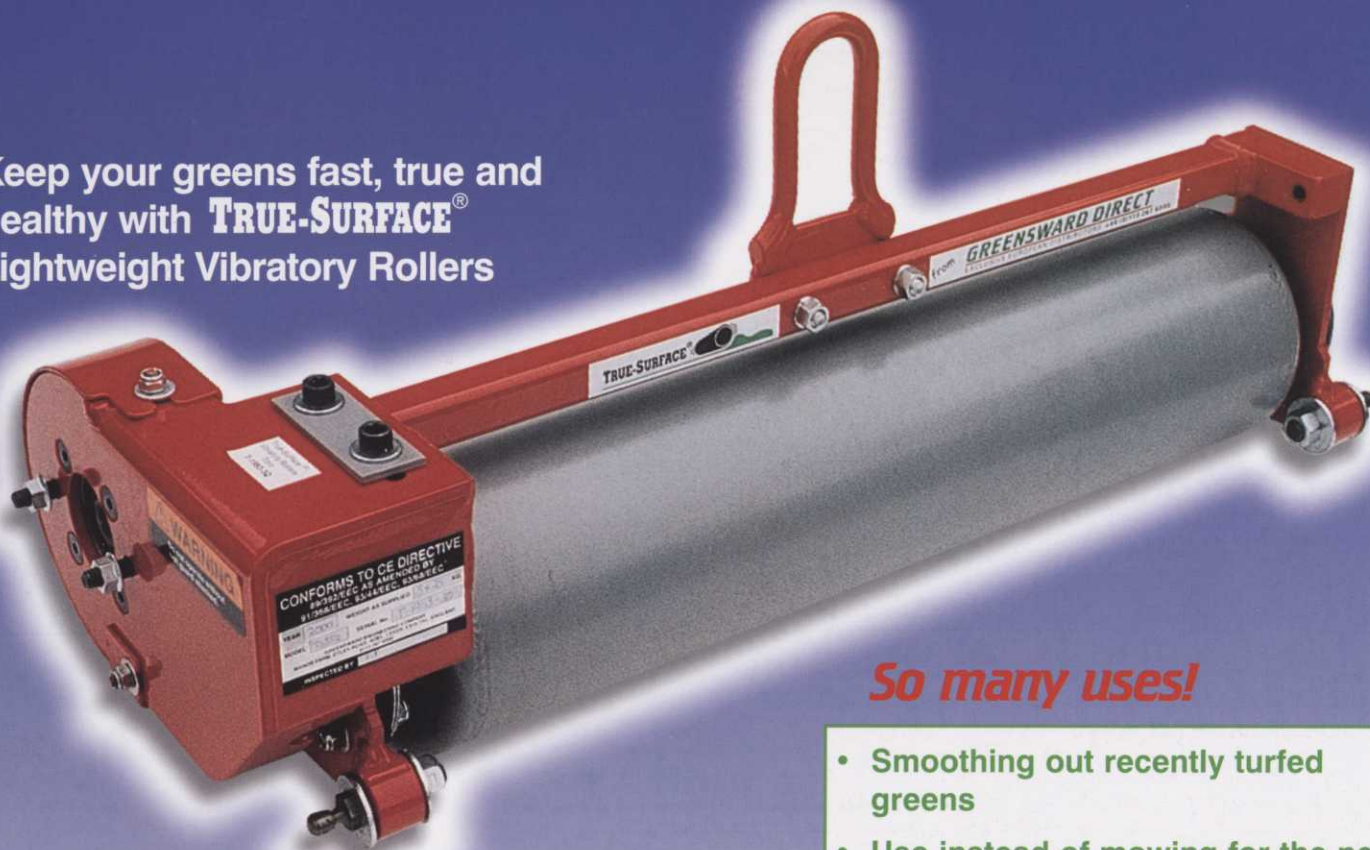


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May 2000

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by June 4, 2000

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Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

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It's not golf!

As I write the Hansie Cronje affair is in its infancy and we await the flood of revelations those in cricket tell us to expect over the next few weeks.

The inquiry is still to be undertaken and it may well be that the former South African Captain will be proven innocent of many of the supposed crimes with which he is being mentioned but one this is certain, cricket's reputation has been soiled and the well worn cliché about things "not being cricket" now has a completely new meaning.

To my mind it merely reaffirms golf's place at the pinnacle of sport when it comes to its participants, whether they be club golfers of Major winners, doing the right thing. I know Sandy McDivot last month wrote wittily on the subject of bending rules and retold some apocryphal tales of cheating but there is no doubt the Royal and Ancient game is devoid of much of sport's sleaze.

In recent months football, rugby union, athletics, boxing and even Formula One racing have had their reputations dragged through the mud and linked to doping, fights in tunnels, eye gouging, ear biting, illegal pieces of electronics, you name it. If some people feel they can get an advantage by fair means or foul they've gone for it.

But outside of some very rare and isolated incidents, each of which has been dealt with speedily and effectively by some of the most draconian powers in any sport, golf has remained unsullied.

It is remarkable because golf affords more opportunities than most sports to gain an illegal upper hand. We all police ourselves when we are out on the course and do so to the best of our ability. Sure there are times when the rules of the game can often come up and bite us on our rear end but 99.999% of the time it is done purely out of ignorance and not deviousness.

The rules are complicated and have trapped many of the top names and scholars of the rules. Who will forget Craig Stadler using a towel to protect his trousers as he played from beneath a bush and being disqualified for building a stance? That's a prime example. Others have lost the chance to pick up cheques for using a different compression golf ball or taking a drop from the wrong place or even finding a child's cut down club in their golf bag. These aren't examples of golfers breaching a rule to get one up on someone but merely people inadvertently finding themselves on the wrong side of them. In every case, no matter how costly the error or trivial the breach the player accepts the decision without quibble... even on many occasions bringing it to the attention of the officials themselves.

We should be proud of golf's high standards and the sport should be held up as an example to every other sport out there.

From now we should be hearing the call of "It's not golf" when unsportsmanlike behaviour on or off the sports field is being discussed.

Editor:
Scott MacCallum

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

Features

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The members of Ross-on-Wye Golf Club, in Herefordshire, decided they needed to be prepared for the challenges that lay ahead and that they should approach the running of the club in a more business-like manner. Scott MacCallum found out more...

28 Pulling Power

It is difficult to determine exactly when the compact tractor first appeared on the greenkeeping scene. Roland Taylor investigates...

33 American Beauty

In 1998, three Englishmen, Philip Armitage, Ben Allen and Neil Atkinson, and one Swede, Patrik Benneryd, enrolled in the Ohio State University International Agricultural Intern Program. Read about their experiences of working in the US turfgrass industry, where they were all fortunate to be placed at Pinehurst Resort & Country Club, North Carolina...

47 Dressing for Dinner

Noel MacKenzie BSc (Hons), MBPR, examines the subject of topdressing

55 Map it Out

Bill Farnham, Course Manager at London Beach Golf Club, gives some advice on charting your golf course

61 Wonderful Westurf

Westurf paid its second visit to Exeter, and the indoor exhibition centre of Westpoint... and a good thing that it did, because the weather outside was just the type which had made the South West and South Wales Region decide to go under cover in the first place. Scott MacCallum found that it didn't dampen spirits, though...



33 American Beauty

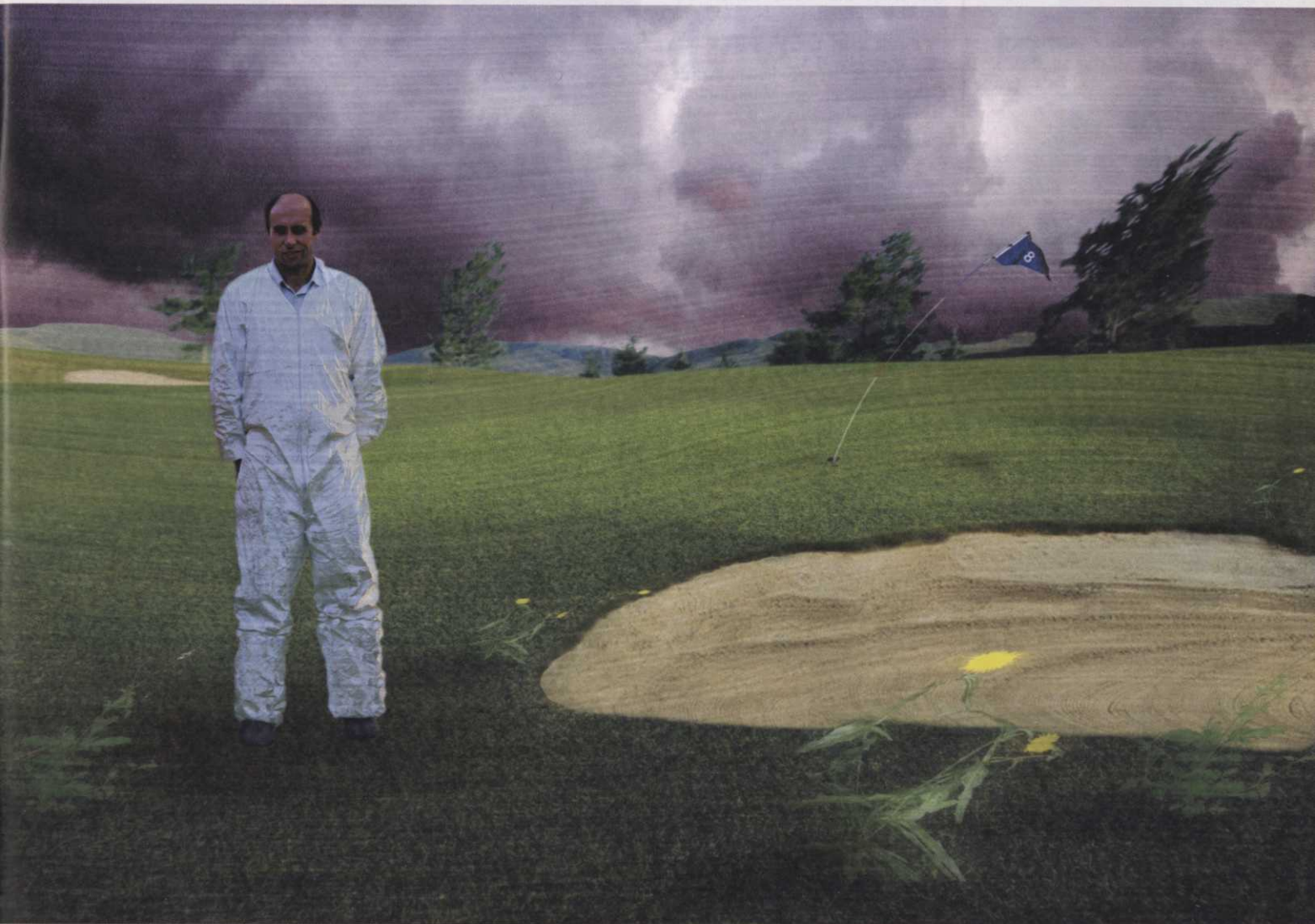


28 Pulling Power



47 Dressing for Dinner





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New faces at BIGGA



New Regional Administrator

Les Emery has joined the Association as the part-time Regional Administrator for the Midland Region in succession to Peter Larter.

Les, who is based in Leicester, has been involved in golf for the past 10 years as Club Manager at Swinley Forest Golf Club in Ascot, Berkshire, and more recently in a similar position at Western Gailes, in Irvine, Ayrshire.

A keen golfer he is also an enthusiastic spectator of a wide range of sports while he lists his other interests as travelling, meeting people and dining out with his wife and friends.



Another new face

Janine Knowles has joined the Association as part-time receptionist and will already be a familiar voice to many regular callers to BIGGA HOUSE. Janine, who lives locally to Aldwark Manor, generally works afternoons but also covers the mornings if required.

BTME winners

The five winners selected from those members who completed the BTME 2000 questionnaire who each win an item of BIGGA logoed Slazenger clothing are as follows:- R. Butler, of Wilton Golf Club, Cleveland; Peter Fletcher, of St Austell, Cornwall; Richard Whyman, of Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club; Richard Gamble, of Aldwark Manor, York, and R.W. Price, Grange Park Golf Centre, Scunthorpe.

Bursary winners visit GCSAA show

As a result of the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme, three students, two from the UK and one from the USA, visited the GCSAA Conference in New Orleans last February as part of their further educational development.

Matt Cock, 21, a student at Writtle College together with Mark Tupling, 20, from Askham Bryan, both studying Golf Course Management and Todd Gilmour, 22, from Arkansas University of Agronomy studying Turf Science were the recipients of a £5,000 bursary award provided by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products.

"The students for the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Awards are selected using a dual interview process. Firstly, tutors from BIGGA-accredited colleges in the UK interview a range of students from their respective colleges to determine their suitability. The details of the most deserving student are then forwarded to Gleneagles and they are invited for an extensive interview and tour of the golf facilities. The successful candidates are then awarded a place on the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme," said Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turfgrass Management at Gleneagles.

A similar selection process is undertaken in the USA, with a telephone interview determining the successful candidates. They then team up with the UK's most promising, young greenkeepers, helping to create the first stages of a worldwide golf course maintenance network.



Pictured at the GCSAA show (from L-R): Bruce Reekie, David McInroy, Scott Fenwick, Matt Cock, Jimmy Kidd, Harold Pinto, Todd Gilmour, and Mark Tupling

"We are delighted to be partners with Gleneagles in this innovative award scheme. Our bursary makes it possible for these young people to gain experiences that would otherwise be denied them and it can only benefit their progression in their chosen career," said Harold Pinto,

Managing Director of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products-International.

After visiting the conference in New Orleans, the students flew on to Memphis where they spent four days training at a specialist turf nutrition company.

A progressive future for turf at TGA AGM

Turf buyers and installers nationwide can look forward to a continuous rise in the standard of cultivated turf thanks to the ever-closer links being forged between individual members of the Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA).

That was the message delivered by the TGA's chief executive, David Clarke, at the association's annual general meeting, held in Cambridge.

Attended by TGA members and TGA affiliate companies supplying equipment and services to the turfgrass industry, the AGM was the most formal part of a social weekend which brought together leading UK turf growers, enabling them to share ideas, information and technical advances in a non-competitive atmosphere.

"The TGA is constantly seeking to improve the standards of its members through unity and the sharing of knowledge, for the benefit of customers," said David.

He stressed that membership of the TGA is not an automatic entitlement for turf growers.

"All applicants must be seconded by an existing member prior to receiving a site visit from a member of the TGA's council.



"The visit is necessary to ensure that production methods, turf types, quality control systems, complaints procedures and traceability all meet the standards expected of a quality turf grass grower."

The TGA encourages the active involvement of members. The most

recent example of this can be seen in the formulation of the TGA's "Way Forward" strategy for the year 2000, for which Council canvassed the ideas and opinions of all members.

There was universal agreement that improvement of members' standards remains a key role for the Association.

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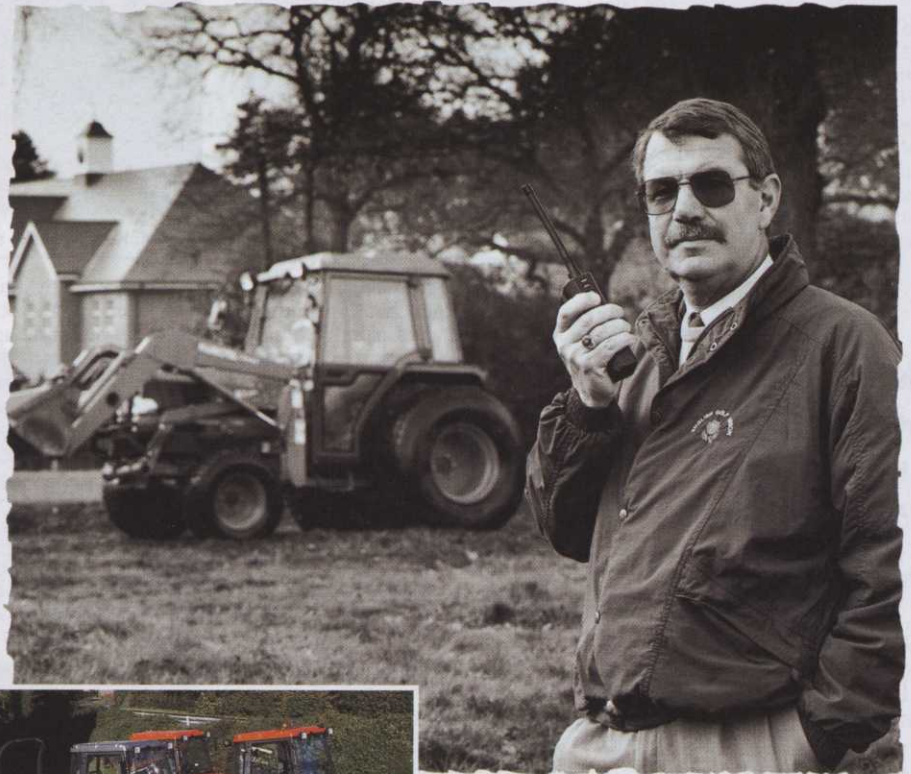
“I bought my first Kubota tractor more than fifteen years ago, and I've relied on Kubota ever since – in Britain and overseas. But I'm particularly pleased with the new Kubota Grandel L4200s we're using at Woodhall Spa.

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– Peter Wisbey, Courses Manager,
The National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa



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Profile

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: Stuart Kennedy

Club: Overstone Park G&CC

Position: Deputy Head GK

Age: 27

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

Ten years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

National Intermediate Diploma in Turfculture

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

Training all our our young green-keeping and landscaping team

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Stone picking bunkers

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

Armed forces

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

My Course Manager, Phillip Helmin and Andrew Murray, retired Head Greenkeeper at Brora GC

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

Provide more training and education to help produce better golf courses

8. What are your hobbies?

Golf and working on my garden

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Magazine and education. Plus I make good use out of my courtesy card

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

Course Manager of a large establishment - 36 holes and above

Wentwood Hills beckons Gary

A former Head Greenkeeper at Wentworth has been appointed by The Celtic Manor Resort to ensure unbeatable conditions for this summer's Wales Open.

Gary Connell will be applying his extensive experience to the upkeep of the 7,403 yard, par 72 Wentwood Hills venue for the biggest prize money tournament ever held in Wales.

Careful cultivation of the course for the next three months will culminate in intensive daily preparation during the PGA European Tour event from June 8-11. Around 50 greenkeepers will be out at 5am each day, stripe cutting the course and raking bunkers, with work resuming at close of play until 10pm.

As Assistant Course Manager for The Celtic Manor Resort's entire golf operation, 34 year old Gary's responsibilities will also extend to the resort's other two championship courses, Roman Road and Coldra Woods.

"The next few months will be something of a baptism of fire, but I'm looking forward to the challenge of helping in an inaugural major competition," he said.

Born in golfing country in Troon, Ayrshire, Gary began his career when



Jim McKenzie (left) and Gary Connell

the former Youth Training Scheme placed him with the local Kilmarnock (Barassie) club at the age of 16 before heading south in 1987 for a decade-long spell at Wentworth, progressing to Head Greenkeeper of the club's Edinburgh course.

After a six month break travelling in New Zealand and Australia - during which he worked on the NZ Open

course at Rennera in Auckland he returned to Scotland as Assistant Course Manager at the Roxburgh club on the Scottish borders.

"Wentwood Hills is the longest course and has the biggest staff I've been in charge of," said Gary.

"It's in fantastic condition and I'm very much looking forward to working on it."

Rolawn expands with more distribution depots

Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd has started a five year expansion programme by opening three new turf distribution depots.

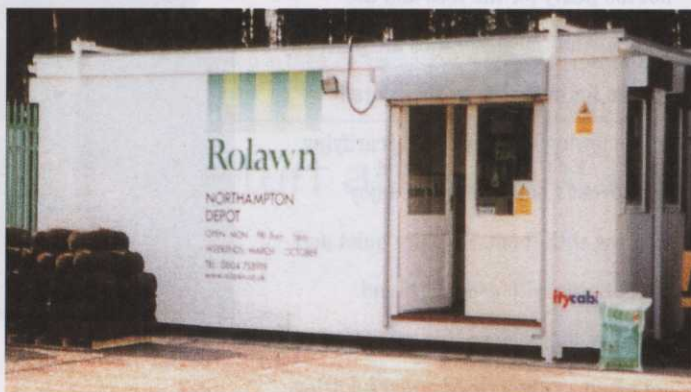
This increases the number of Rolawn Turf Depots (situated throughout the UK mainland) from 15 to 18.

The new Northampton depot situated on the Country Gardens Garden Centre site, HarlestonE Road, Harlestone Heath, Northampton opened its doors for trade at the beginning of March.

The new Newcastle South depot situated at Dobbies Garden World, Durham Road, Birtley, County Durham also opened in March.

The new Crawley depot situated on the Country Gardens Garden Centre site at Handross, East Sussex opened last month.

Rolawn's network of depots have



fresh turf and turf establishment fertiliser available daily on a no minimum order basis, enabling customers to buy as much as they require, from just one square metre to many thousands.

"We are very optimistic about the future of our business and this initial phase is an important step in our expansion programme."

stated Terry Ryan, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director.

Mastering a new Golf Degree in Edinburgh

The School of Landscape Architecture at Edinburgh College of Art/Heriot-Watt University has launched a masters degree in Golf Course Architecture.

The School has an international reputation for landscape architecture education and this prestigious new course will contribute to its profile, affirming Scotland's place at the centre of good design for golf.

"There is already evidence of strong market demand for a postgraduate course in Golf Course Architecture. A study commissioned in 1997 identi-

fied potential world-wide demand and primary markets in Norway, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, the People's Republic of China, South-East Asia, South America and the USA," said Professor Catharine Ward Thompson, Head of School.

The MSc course in Golf Course Architecture, the first of its kind, has been developed in conjunction with the European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA) and is fully endorsed by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. The aim is to provide an education and qualifi-

cation which sets the benchmark for professional recognition in the field world-wide.

The course will include modules on habitat creation, soil science and course management and will focus on examples of best, and worst, practice from around the world.

The emphasis will be on how to design attractive and challenging courses in harmony with existing landscape processes; an ecological and sustainable approach that reflects the traditional origins of golf course design.

Restructuring of Sales at Textron

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products-International has announced, with immediate effect, a restructuring of its Sales Department to reflect the different market sectors in which the company now operates.

Two new divisions have been created; one focusing solely on the Turf Care products and the other dedicated to vehicles and cleaning under the title of Specialty Products.

David Withers, (pictured right) as International Sales Manager, heads up the Turf Care division with responsibility for all golf and municipal sales throughout the UK, Europe and Middle East.

The Specialty Products division, which encompasses the recently introduced street cleaning operation together with golf cars and utility and light industrial vehi-

cles, is the responsibility of Nigel Irvine.

"The rationale behind this restructuring is that we are now selling into a number of different market sectors, especially with the introduction of our pedestrian sweeper and the recent acquisition of the assets of street cleaning manufacturer, Pathfinder. This new structure reflects the balance of resources required to achieve our sales objectives in both the Turf Care and Specialty Products sectors, now and into the future," said Peter Bell, recently appointed Sales Director at Textron.

"It ensures that we have a focus on the key market sectors, with a sales team in place dedicated to support the demands of each market, that will enable us to grow our business in line with our stated objectives," he added.



Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship

Readers of 'Greenkeeper International' will be aware that the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship this year will be held at the St Annes Old Links and Fairhaven Golf Clubs following the successful staging of the Championship last year at Carden Park Hotel, Golf Resort and Spa.

BIGGA would like to point out that the decision to move the Championship from Carden Park was taken for commercial reasons and in no way reflects on the Course Manager and greenkeeping staff at Carden Park where presentation of the courses there for the 1999 Championship was outstanding when atrocious weather conditions could well have prevented the staging of the event.

Neil Thomas

Dealer support day a resounding success

Amazone Groundcare's most recent Dealer Support Day was held at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell, and attracted dealers from across the country. On show were the full range of Amazone products which dealers had the chance to see in action and even to try for themselves.

The college's NVQ Greenkeeping students also had the opportunity to find out more about the professional turf care products offered by Amazone.

Amazone's Managing Director, Joe Weston, said, "It was a great opportunity to showcase a full range of Amazone products in the superb surroundings of the college".

Wayne Roberts, Lecturer in Greenkeeping at Moreton Morrell, commented "This was an ideal occasion to strengthen the link between industry and education and allow students to interact with industry."



Above: Wayne Roberts (left) and Joe Weston at Moreton Morrell.

Chas heads South with Weidenmann

Wiedenmann UK has appointed Chas Ayres as its Southern Regional Area Manager to cover the south of the country and as far north as Birmingham. Chas has been involved in the trade for several years was formerly with Lodgeway Tractors and more recently with Richard Long. Wiedenmann are the Paisley based importer of the Terra Spike and a range of other products and is the company is currently planning to open a southern service depot.

New nine-hole course opens at Oatridge College

Oatridge College's new nine hole pay and play golf course opens to the public this month.

Designed by Steve Marnoch to PSD specifications the course was funded by the Sports Council, the R&A and private donation and was built as part of the College's commitment to greenkeeper training.

"We have always wanted a golf course and we had land available to the solution was obvious," said Steven Miller, Senior Tutor in Greenkeeping.

"This new facility will be a great asset for greenkeeper training in the future," he added.

Andrew Forrest was appointed Head Greenkeeper in Spring '99 and has been responsible for the mowing and shaping of the fairways as well as working alongside the contractors in the course's development.

"Since my appointment I have seen a big transformation in the course. From being empty fields to a golf course - it was hard to imagine," said Andrew.

<http://www.golfbusinessnews.com>

This site is for the many thousands of people who work in the golf business and the several thousand others who would like to do so.

It aims to supply a wide range of useful information both quickly and accurately in a format which is easy to use. The publishers are independent of all specialist groups.

The site is launched with a well-organised news section containing the latest stories as they happen and a large ready-made searchable "archive" of some of the most important stories which have broken over the past year or so.

There is also an electronic version of The Golf Owners Operators and Developers Directory which has the

details of golfing organisations and associations and a suppliers guide which contains nearly 5,000 entries and is equivalent to more than 150 pages of conventional text. New departments will follow rapidly in the coming weeks.

To contact the site editor, please address e-mails to gbc@golfbusinesslinks.net

Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband



Memory of Alan Edward Cutler

Alan Cutler, of Egbaston Golf Club, in Birmingham was killed in a tragic accident on the golf course last month.

He is survived by his ex-wife Susan, two daughters, Jayne and Tracy and two grandchildren, Joe and Reece.

Susan read out the following poem she had written to commemorate Alan's life at his funeral and the members of the Midland Section expressed a wish that it be published in the magazine to enable those who were unable to attend the funeral to share its sentiments.

Memory of Alan Edward Cutler

Alan a man, that was never all bad,
Was taken by his job, that was really sad,
He loved his job, in every way,
Seeing the wildlife, every day,
Seeing the beauty, that was put on earth,
Then to be killed, by the green turf,
His family at a funeral, the day of his death,
A phone call we had, it took our breath,
A Grandad of two, and a third to be,
His daughter's wedding this year, he will not see.

Fishing he loved, Golfing he done,
Being in health, he had so much fun,
Careful with money for his future, in old age,
His family hurt, but not in rage,
Don't put off today, and do tomorrow,
Live your life full, don't be left in sorrow,
We've gathered today, to lay Alan to rest,
A Greenkeeper he was, and was the best,
I hope some good, will come out of this,
A Father and Grandad, we shall sadly miss,
So tragic that his life, had to end,
Goodbye my love, Goodbye my friend.

Kawasaki's mule packs a kick!

Kawasaki's Mule utility vehicle is becoming an established sight on golf courses and driving ranges up and down the country and now one of the Japanese manufacturer's dealers has reinforced the point by landing the company's top dealer award for the first time.

European Golf Machinery from Bucklesham, Ipswich, topped the sales figures for the Mule utility range of vehicles achieving a higher volume of sales than any other dealer throughout the national network.

Sales and Marketing Manager for European Golf Machinery, David Ball, confirmed that the emergence of the driving range and the increasing popularity of golf generally were behind the trend and he saw no reason why it should change in the foreseeable future.

"Although we sell the Mules into various areas like local authorities and agriculture, 75% of our utility vehicle business goes to the golf driving ranges and golf courses which just goes to show how popular the game is becoming," he said.

European Golf Machinery, which produces everything from golf balls to the clubhouse for the driving range, was one of the first companies to use ATVs on the ranges for golf ball collection.

"The next obvious development was the utility vehicle because not only is it ideally suited to ball collection, it has so many other uses on and around the range and the golf course and Kawasaki's Mule is the perfect vehicle for the purpose. It's versatile, causes no damage and requires minimal maintenance," added Mr Ball.

Massive upgrade for Moatlands

Moatlands Golf Club, near Royal Tunbridge Wells has upgraded its golf course maintenance equipment following a £195,000 contract with Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products.

The range of equipment, supplied through local dealer Ernest Doe and Sons, from the Jacobsen, Ransomes and Cushman brands encompasses pedestrian greens mowers, ride on tees and fairway mowers, ride on rotary mowers for rough and semi-rough, a utility vehicle and bunker rakes.

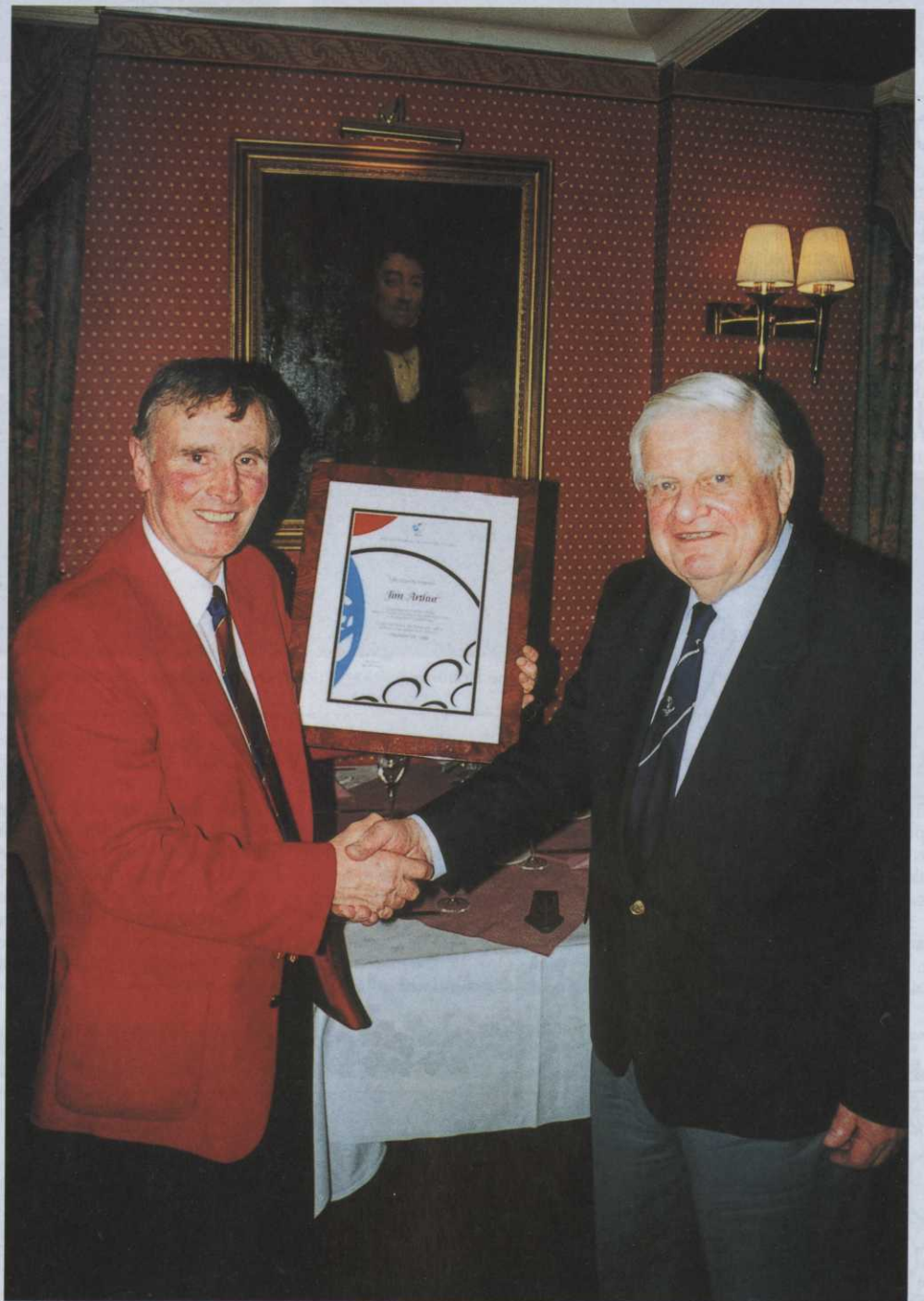
Keith Wiley, General Manager and Secretary at Moatlands comments,

"We were in the position that the majority of our course machinery was just about reaching the end of its natural working life and we were going to have to replace it, no matter what. The problem for us was; how much to replace and at what cost?"

Through the Association of Golf Club Secretaries I learnt of a package that had been put together for Sittingbourne Golf Club by Ernest Doe & Sons who are our local dealer. Their representative, Vic Maynard from the Dartford dealership, in conjunction with Textron, put together a

series of proposals for me. From these we found that it made economic sense to go the whole hog and change all the machinery, rather than do it in a piecemeal way.

"Also the extended warranty agreements on the new equipment have enabled us to make substantial savings on servicing and maintenance. The result is an excellent package, supported by New Holland Finance, that has proved to be a smooth and efficient one-stop method of upgrading our equipment to the very highest standards."



Jim Arthur was presented with the certificate to commemorate his Honorary Membership by BIGGA Chairman, Elliott Small, at a dinner in Exeter on the eve of Westurf.