

FOREIGN SECRETARY VISITS RANSOMES SIMS & JEFFERIES

RANSOMES Sims & Jefferies' managing director Mr Eric McCoy took the opportunity of a visit by Foreign Secretary Mr Douglas Hurd to thank the Government for the support given to companies exporting abroad.

Ipswich-based Ransomes is a world leader in the grass machinery market and last year continued its overseas expansion with the acquisition of the Cushman Group in North America.

"The Foreign Office works very hard to assist exports into other countries, although they do not get much credit for this," said Mr McCoy. "There is good Government support for foreign trade."

In 1989, the Ransomes Group succeeded in increasing domestic and overseas sales by 37%.

Mr Hurd, who was visiting Ransomes for a reception organised by the Ipswich Conservative Association, said in-



Foreign Secretary Mr Douglas Hurd with Ipswich MP Mr Michael Irvine, centre, and Mr Eric McCoy, managing director of Ransomes Sims and Jefferies, right, during a visit to the grass machinery manufacturers' factory in Suffolk.

dustry in the region was well placed to exploit opportunities presented by the 1992 European single market.

Channel 4 News recorded

Mr Hurd's visit to Ransomes to include in a profile of the Foreign Secretary which is expected to be broadcast in the near future.

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ACADEMY FOR GOLFING BEGINNERS

A golfing academy area is to be established at Hellidon Lakes Golf Club, on the Northamptonshire/Warwickshire border, to instruct beginners on the rules and etiquette of golf as well as the swing.

The 35-acre practice area, recently granted planning permission by Daventry District Council, will allow new golfers to learn the basics of the sport - including correct manners - without disturbing more experienced players out on the main course.

The three-hole nursery course is based on similar schemes at golf clubs on the Continent, and is part of the Hellidon Lakes policy of welcoming and encouraging complete beginners in addition to skilled, low-handicap golfers.

Hellidon Lakes golf director David Snell compared learning to play golf with learning to drive a car. "You need to know the rules of the road," he said. "New golfers need to learn not simply how to hold a club and hit a ball but also to assemble knowledge on the etiquette and traditions of going around a golf course."

"Some people find it intimidating playing golf to begin with because they are afraid they may be doing the wrong thing. On our academy area we can help new members to enjoy their game by allaying their fears and preparing them for the 18-hole course."

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Lord Derby stands down from PGA European tour Presidency

THE PGA European Tour has been rocked by the announcement that its President, the Rt Hon The Earl of Derby MC, has resigned.

The decision follows in the wake of the recent meeting to decide the venue for the 1993 Ryder Cup in which the Earl's casting vote was used to secure the decision in favour of the Belfry.

There had been a lot of tension prior to the meeting with the pro-Belfry faction being opposed by a strong lobby for Spain, backed by the not inconsiderable weight of such stars as Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal.

More fuel was added to the fire when the recently appointed Britain and Europe Ryder Cup captain, Bernard Gallacher, threw his hat into the ring in favour of the Spanish claim. The Press was full of the controversy but the outcome of the meeting held behind closed doors was a 4:3 vote in favour of the status quo.

PGA Chairman Neil Coles received the Earl's letter of resignation which was dated June 1st. Both the Earl's letter and Neil Coles' reply are published below. The move is bound to fuel speculation as to the amount of in-fighting which may have taken place within the PGA prior to the meeting.

Dear Neil,

I found myself in a very difficult position at the last Ryder Cup Meeting. I felt on all that had been said and on all known facts that I had no alternative but to make the decision I did.

However, as your President I realised that I had placed myself in direct opposition to the policies and aspirations of the Tour. Immediately after the meeting therefore, I unreservedly placed my resignation in your hands. I was very sorry to do this as I have thoroughly enjoyed my association with you and been proud to have been your President.

I also propose to resign as Chairman of the Ryder Cup Committee, as I appreciate that I can no longer be thought of as impartial.

For the sake of the Ryder Cup I do hope that you will

quickly find somebody acceptable to both sides to take my place.

Yours
Lord Derby

And the reply...

Dear Lord Derby,
THANK you for your letter of June 1 confirming your resignation which, in the circumstances, the Tour accepts.

We respect your decision but obviously remain disappointed that no effective alternative solution was considered at the Ryder Cup meeting.

We have been privileged to have had you as our President from the very outset of the Tour's European ideals and will remain very sorry that events have turned out this way. We do thank you for all your past support.

Yours very sincerely,
Neil Coles

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ISEKI CLEANS UP AT CASTLE HOWARD

WHEN your stately home has over 200,000 visitors a year and such diverse areas of ground as woodland, lakes, a walled garden and an arboretum covering just under 100 acres and very rare species of plants, trees and shrubs from all over the world, keeping it all neat and tidy is no small undertaking.

Such is the task allotted to Brian Deighton, Grounds Supervisor at magnificent Castle Howard in North Yorkshire, who has recently taken delivery of two Iseki Tractors.

The two new units, a 33 horsepower TA 530 with its unique shuttle gearbox and a 22 horsepower TU 320 have a large part to play in Castle Howard's Groundcare operations, and adaptability to a lot of different tasks. This was one of Mr Deighton's main criteria for choosing Iseki.

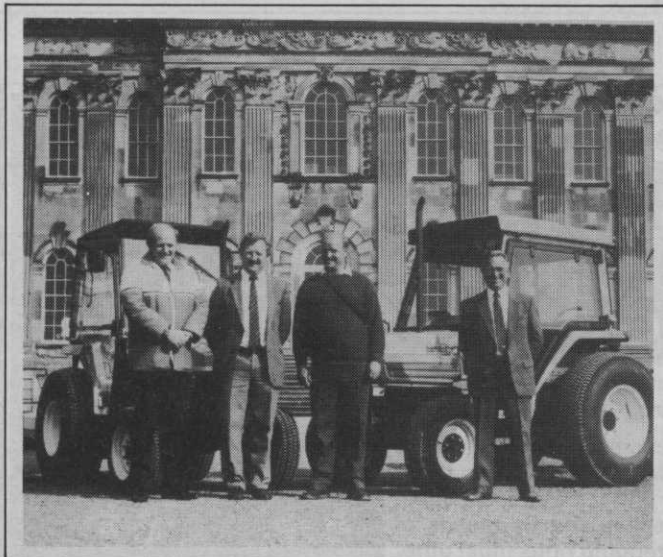
The two tractors purchased from Iseki dealer F.G. Adamson and Son have been allotted many different tasks, for the TA 530 this includes loading com-

post and moving top soil around the estate and in their thriving plant centre as well as tidying up after the visitors using a trailed sweeper collector.

Whilst the smaller TU 320 is fitted with Iseki's stylish safety cab and has both a rotary mower for scrub cutting around the woodland areas, and a Huxley 3 gang cylinder mower for more manicured areas of lawn around Castle Howard.

In addition the newly stocked lakes and banks will be cut using Iseki's adaptable Hedgecutter which acts as both flail mower and hedgetrimmer, another adaptable machine for the estate environment.

Castle Howard is certainly one of North Yorkshire's biggest tourist attractions and a thriving estate. The estate enterprises also host many conferences and events in its magnificent grounds. With these latest additions to their fleet, Castle Howard's grounds could not be in better hands, dedicated grounds staff and adaptable tractors from Iseki will see to that.



Castle Howard in North Yorkshire has recently taken delivery of two Iseki Tractors. Brian Deighton, Grounds Supervisor, collects the keys from Iseki dealer, John Adamson and Iseki's Territory Manager, Tony Snaith.

CAR COMPANY SIGNS UP TOUR PROFESSIONALS

A major car leasing company is making a welcome return to sponsorship on the WPG European Tour with a deal to supply cars to six top women professionals.

Cowie Interleasing (Midlands) first sponsored professionals on the Tour in 1985 when they supplied cars to

girls in the Baume Mercier team.

Now they have agreed to do the same for England's Caroline Griffiths, Claire Waite and Sarah Duhigh, Ireland's Maureen Garner, American Meredith Marshall and Australia's Anne Jones.

Mr Joe Flanagan, the Tour's Executive Director, said: "The use of a car is vital to a touring professional and will make life a great deal easier for these girls.

FLYING DIVOTS

ALL-TICKET WALKER CUP

THE 1991 Walker Cup match, which will be played in Ireland for the first time, will also be the first match of the series on this side of the Atlantic to be all-ticket.

When the British and Irish amateurs face the Americans at Portmarnock on September 5-6 next year, the daily attendance will be limited to 12,000 spectators.

The tickets, priced £10 per day for adults and £5 for juveniles, will be distributed mainly through the Golfing Union of Ireland and 80 per cent of the allocation will go to Irish Golf Clubs.

SHAW BET HANDICAP

WHEN golf-crazy Dave Shaw tried to gain a handicap he was stymied. When he attempted to join a golf club in his home town of Harrogate, Yorkshire, he was out of bounds. They were all full and refused to accept him.

So in his desperation 42-year-old Dave splashed out £650 on a 420-mile round trip to Islay in the Western Isles of Scotland and returned with his prize.

Dave, an aerial photographer, hired a four-seater Cessna and flew north with his clubs to join the Machrie Golf Club which has no waiting list and where the combined joining fee and annual subscription adds up to £100.

Dave took with him golfing pal John Warner, an 11-handicap member of Harrogate, to mark his card and after three rounds achieved a 16 handicap.

McEVROY STEPS DOWN

PETER McEvoy, arguably Britain's greatest ever amateur, has decided not to compete in any more major events this year and may even consider retiring from competitive golf.

The 37-year-old, who played a key role in Great Britain and Ireland winning the Walker Cup in Atlanta last August, competed in the recent international against France and that may prove to be his swansong.

This shock move comes as McEvoy is struggling to find the time to compete at the top of the amateur game with his sports marketing company flourishing. He also wants to spend more time with his family.

BUSH'S NEW WEAPON

US President George Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle have shown an interest in a new, apparently devastating, weapon by ordering two of them. The lethal device apparently fires straight, long and true, if you ask Jack Nicklaus, Ray Floyd or Jumbo Ozaki, who all used one at this year's US Masters.

The new Bridgestone J's handground metal woods with graphite shafts have become the hottest golfing property in America since Augusta's last craze, Jack Nicklaus' big-headed putter in '87. President Bush and Vice President Quayle have placed their orders through the Congressional Golf Club in the hope of beating the rush.

CHARITY CHALLENGE

A celebrity challenge match featuring double Masters' champion Nick Faldo raised nearly £20,000 for two Hertfordshire-based charities.

Over 550 spectators attended the fun matchplay event at East Herts Golf Club, Ware, to watch Faldo and comedian Jimmy Tarbuck lose 2 and 1 to Walker Cup star Peter McEvoy and Ted Dexter, chairman of the England cricket selectors. The money raised will be split between the St Albans Church Urban fund and the East Herts McMillan hospice, which is based in Welwyn Garden City, Faldo's home town.

PGA official David Wright refereed the match, Faldo played off plus four handicap, McEvoy plus two, Dexter three and Tarbuck six.

ROSEMARY'S RECORD

WHEN Rosemary Reed (Willesley Park) beat Jennifer Perkins of the host club 5 and 4 at Rothley Park to win the Leicestershire county championship for the sixth time, she created a record.

Mrs Reed has now won at least one county title in each of the past five decades. She won the Lincolnshire championship three years in a row from 1959 before her marriage, while her previous successes in the Leicestershire event came in 1967 and '68, in 1978, '81 and '83.

Next year Mrs Reed, who is in her mid-fifties, will have been playing county golf for 40 years.