

Employees acquire stake in PBI Gordon

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — PBI-Gordon Corp. has formed the PBI-Gordon Corp. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), which recently acquired a significant ownership interest in the company.

The move was announced by W.E. Mealman, PBI's chairman & CEO and Richard Martin, PBI's president & COO.

Mealman stated that in recent months, they had evaluated various options to help

plan for ownership succession. "Our goals for ownership succession were that the Company structure remain essentially the same as it is today, and that the employees of PBI share in the future success of the Company. We feel that the ESOP best meets these goals." Martin explained that an ESOP is a federally qualified employee benefit program designed to give employees ownership in the Company where they work.

Toro Co. to sponsor GCSAA Golf Championship

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and The Toro Co. have signed a long-term agreement enabling Toro to be the association's exclusive partner for the annual GCSAA Golf Championship.

"GCSAA is very excited about this new partnership with Toro," said GCSAA President Joseph Baidy. "Toro's outstanding commitment to the industry and our association is very much appreciated by the GCSAA membership." Toro's involvement in the mem-

bers-only tournament will be realized through complementary receptions, continental breakfasts, a Victory Banquet, new and different tee prizes, and a hole-in-one contest, explained John Szafranski, vice president and general manager of The Toro Co.'s commercial product division.

"We are committed to the golf course management industry and are pleased to show our support by co-hosting a first-class golf championship," he said.

In addition, remaining funds donated by Toro — i.e., those not

applied to the expense of hosting the event — will be given as a contribution to the GCSAA's Scholarship & Research Foundation.

Toro's involvement will begin with the 1995 GCSAA Golf Championship, the association's 45th, scheduled for Feb. 20-21, in Monterey, Calif. Five area courses will play host to the tourney: The Bayonet at Ford Ord Golf Course, The Golf Club at Quail Lodge, Old Del Monte Golf Course, Poppy Hills Golf Course, and Rancho Canada Golf Club, West Course.

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Turf Producers International

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when members gather in Omaha, Neb., for the 1995 summer convention.

Also elected to a one-year term was Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Thorson of Todd Valley Farms, Inc. in Mead, Neb. Thorson and Todd Valley will serve as host farm for next year's Nebraska meeting.

Joining the TPI Board as three-year trustees are Chris Hope, Manderley Sod, North Grower, Ohio; David Doguet, Crenshaw & Doguet Turfgrass, Inc., Austin, Texas; and Bryan Wood, owner of Tip Top Turf, Milton Keynes, England.

TPI will next conduct its association business at its Midwinter Conference, scheduled for Feb. 8-10, 1995, at the Hilton Hotel in Walt Disney World, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Scotts in Europe

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marketplace," says Kenneth W. Holbrook, senior vice president for Scotts. "Although Scotts has enjoyed a long and positive relationship with our German partner, the acquisition of Sierra has given Scotts a company-owned business base and organization throughout Europe, and in more than 50 countries worldwide. This enables Scotts to serve the marketplace under our own brand name."

Headquartered here, The Scotts Company now sells in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, continental Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand, and several Latin American countries.

For more information on the change, contact David J. Slaybaugh, The Scotts Company, 513-644-0011.