

The Latest From Lely

Lely Beaver's two new hydraulic gang mowers are light and versatile for operation in almost any conditions.

The Lely Beaver TM380 combines the simplicity of tow-behind gang mowers with the all-weather performance of hydraulic drive. The pto-driven hydraulic system includes filtration and overload protection, with automatic cut-off for all units when raised. Six-blade cylinders are fitted as standard, with full width rear rollers and skids, which are adjustable for cutting height.

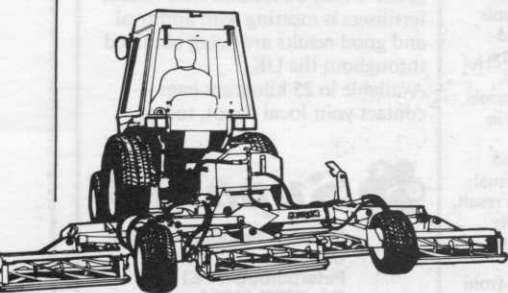
The working width is 84in, height of cut is from $\frac{1}{2}$ in to $2\frac{3}{8}$ in and the transport width is 76in. Options include external service spool valves, four-blade or eight-blade cylinders and floating cutterheads.

The drive system to the Lely Beaver TM508 hydraulic gang mower incorporates overload protection and full-flow filtration. There is independent cut-off for the wing units when raised and the three centre units have a master cut-off valve, giving a choice of cutting widths.

Six-blade cylinders are standard, with full width rear rollers and skids, also adjustable. Full articulation allows each cutterhead to follow undulations.

The working width of the TM508 is 142in. It has the same height of cut options as the TM380, while its transport width is 91in. Extras include external service spool valves, four-blade or eight-blade cylinders and floating cutterheads.

Full details of both models can be obtained from Lely Iseki Tractors, Station Road, St Neots, Cambridgeshire.



Fuel For Thought

Another source of power at King's Norton Golf Club.



King's Norton Golf Club in Worcestershire has achieved savings on fuel costs for its mowers by switching from petrol to propane.

With 250 acres of grass to maintain, course manager Peter Bailey decided to convert his six biggest mowers to propane last March. As he keeps accurate fuel records, he was able to calculate the exact benefits of the changeover.

"When we switched to propane, the cost of two-star petrol was 36.5p per litre. We had been buying a total of 11,000 litres each year, of which 8,000 litres, costing £2,920, went on the six mowers - 8,000 litres of propane cost £1,288, a big saving, even taking into account the cost of converting the machines plus the tank rental."

The mower conversions were carried out by Turfgoods, which operates in conjunction with propane supplier Flogas. "Turfgoods took just a day to convert each mower, with a mechanic working in our workshop," Peter added.

A one tonne storage tank, equipped with a hand pump, was installed by Flogas. This is topped up when necessary.

Peter was advised that he would probably use more pro-

pane than petrol. So far, he has not found this to be the case - perhaps because the mowers are kept in tip-top condition.

"The performance of the mowers following the conversion has been excellent with no loss of power. In fact, they now seem much smoother, which may be due to the fact that propane is lead free."

As propane is an unvaporised fuel, it cannot be introduced into the engine, so there is less wear and tear. This means that spark plug and oil filter life are increased and oil can be used up to 400 per cent more.

"I am also impressed by the environmental benefits of propane. There are practically no fumes, filling the mowers' tanks is easier and cleaner and if a leak did occur, the grass would not be damaged, as with petrol." Peter also pointed out that pilfering was impossible.

For further information, contact Glynn Harby at Flogas. Tel: 053021 352/416.

● *At the time of going to Press, petrol prices were falling. Peter Bailey's story was told prior to this trend, therefore the examples quoted should only be treated as such. Ed.*