Golf course and estates manager, Simon Marsh, is the man responsible, along with head greenkeeper Mark Drake, for the maintenance and grooming of Pennyhill Park Hotel and Country Club. This stately English Country Manor House, nestling on the Surrey-Berkshire border is something of a haven of calm from the bustle of central London just 27 miles away.

As a hotel it is in a category not dissimilar to Claridge’s or The Ritz, catering for the wealthy few who can and do enjoy the pursuit of excellence. The owners must have realised that golf was ‘taking off and guests play on a progressively developing little nine-hole course, fish for trout in a three acre lake, ride horses, play tennis, shoot at clay pigeons and generally bask in the wealth laden atmosphere that pervades Pennyhill’s every pore.

Wonderful, you might say, and to stay here is indeed a wonderful though staggeringly expensive experience. What is equally impressive is that Simon and Mark, together with a crew of five, not only look after the extensive estates and the golf course, but cater also to the demands of between 350-400 members, who pay over £600 a year (I said it was expensive!) to play over a 32 SSS layout that measures just 2,022 yards with five par threes and four par fours. With an estimated 35,000 rounds played every year (actually 70,000 if one assumes that players zip round twice), there is little chance of closing a hole or two down whilst essential work is carried out or additions are installed, thus when the need for two new bunkers was mooted the use of sophisticated earth moving equipment was demanded.

A call to Melroe Europe, the makers of Bobcat Skid-Steer loaders, was timed to neatly fit with plans to demonstrate the features of their revolutionary new Bobcat 753, and the

**AGRIPOWER LTD**
SPORTSTURF
SPORTSFIELD CONSTRUCTION IN GRASS OR SYNTHETICS
DRAINAGE - SANDBANDING
VERTIDRAIN HIRE
STONE, PICKING
CULTIVATIONS
MACHINERY HIRE

Head Office: 02406 6776
Midlands/North: 0543 250010

---

**THE BELLE 7250 SKID STEER LOADER**

**IT LEAVES ITS COMPETITORS STANDING.**

There's no such thing as a tight corner for the Belle 7250 skid steer loader. This superb little mover is only available from Brown & Tawse distributors and it quite simply leaves its competitors standing.

With a lower operating height, shorter length and a maximum drive speed of 11 km/hour, the Belle 7250 not only gets you there quicker, it also gets the job done better.

Whatever your site requirement, turn to Brown & Tawse
‘Within an hour the excavations were done; with scarcely a mark to show where the Bobcat had performed such wizardry’

stage was set. First, contours of the new bunkers were white-lined directly onto the grass, no doubt designed by tour player Roger Davis, who is a member and uses the course regularly. Next the Bobcat 753 was brought out to excavate the soil to exactly the right depth and contours, doing what only a Bobcat can do: stand on its head, turn on a sixpence and perform such miracles that you soon realise the wheel has been re-invented!

Within an hour the excavations were done; with scarcely a mark to show where the Bobcat had performed such wizardry, 40 tons of sand was expertly installed the following day and the bunkers were complete - start to finish - in 24 hours. Left a month to bed-down, they are now in play and quite properly frustrate all who land in them!

Simon has never prepared a course for The Open, and his nifty little nine will not be found in a list of any top 100 courses. But credit must be given that, like thousands of other greenkeepers up and down the country, he works hard under less than ideal conditions to create a course that one scribe described as a masochist's delight.

Of the course itself, it is another that claims no architect. Built just ten years ago, it has impossibly sloping greens, is on one of the highest points in Surrey — with resultant drying winds a constant negative factor — and has only about 1" of topsoil in some places. It has no automatic irrigation yet it drains well whilst consuming vast quantities of wetting agent. When Simon first came to Pennyhill there were rubber tee mats everywhere, these now replaced in entirety by 800+ sq. yard grass tees that seem to be surviving the constant onslaught.

The place has its share of visiting stars too, with tour players often staying at Pennyhill when Wentworth is a tournament venue, using the course for essential target practice. The course record - 30 — is held by Severiano Ballesteros, which proves it's no walk-over! With plans to add another nine holes, the future of Pennyhill seems set fair, as do the careers of these likeable young BIGGA greenkeepers, not to mention the other star of the show, the Bobcat 753 Skid-Steer loader.

Bobcat 753 in action at Pennyhill Park

Golf Course Ground and Irrigation Works. General Landscaping. It’s all Bobcat Territory.

Real mechanical manpower with exceptional workload versatility is what Bobcat compact construction equipment offers. Skid steer loaders, excavators and trenchers. Comprehensive range of easy to fit attachments provide economic working solutions to general landscaping works — excavating, grading, backhoeing, trenching, digging, post holing, tree transplanting, raking. And more.

Bobcat. Technically and mechanically superior.

Contact for further information: Bobcat — Melroe Europe, 8-12 Coventry Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 0JT. Tel: 0455-251725. Fax: 0455-637574. Tx: 34330. Bobcat Parts and Services Support from a National Dealer Network.