How to extend the battery life of your electric mower

I have read your article on the new Ransomes E-Plex triple greens mower in the September issue with interest mainly because it is powered electrically. Although this is a very obvious statement, I am a sales engineer for a very known lawn mower grinding machine manufacturer, and we, as a company, vigorously promote the single blade grinding method of sharpening cylinders, or as it is more commonly known 'relief angle grinding'.

With the launch of the Ransomes E-Plex machine, we feel it would be an opportunity to tell prospective buyers of the mower about some very distinct advantages of 'relief angle grinding' as this will give much longer battery life on the E-Plex mower and as a result will extend the life of the batteries and obtain more 'charges' than 350 as stated in the article. Allow me to explain in a little more detail the advantages of this method of grinding cylinders with a relief angle.

1. There is less friction between cylinder and bottom blade.
2. Longer blade life - both reels and bedknives can last up to 2-3 times longer.
3. Motors, gears, transmissions, and all other moving parts last longer due to less friction
4. Adjustments, reels to bedknives (or vice-versa), due to less wear, are less frequent.
5. Dry summers and the lack of moisture in the grass to lubricate the cutting action leads to rapid wear of the blades. Relief grinding of the cutting cylinder is the cure to this and other associated overheating problems.
6. The cleaner cutting action means that mowing can take place in very wet conditions without tearing, ribbing or skidding of heavily set (tight) mowing machines.

So greenkeepers, if you are seriously contemplating purchasing one of the above machines or any other make and wish to keep your costs down even further, consider the above method of grinding.

Peter Barrow
Southern UK sales engineer, Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd, Portsmouth

Teenager with taste

I have recently come into possession of some old issues of your magazine. This is a fantastic publication and I just cannot put it down. Can I subscribe or is there any way for me to purchase it regularly?

I will be 17 in February and I want to become a greenkeeper.

Alan O'Connor
Enniscorthy, Co Wexford, Eire
Editor's note: The subscription rate for non-BIGGA members is £34 per year, £44 if you live outside the UK.

A great time

To the executive director,
Just a short letter to thank you and the BIGGA team for running the Open support team and the National Tournament so well. It was a great two weeks for me, which would not have been possible without the hard work that went into setting up these events and running them so professionally.

John Wells
course manager, Brocket Hall Golf Club, Welwyn, Hertfordshire

Greenkeeper is bound for Portugal

Callander Golf Club's W Myles has won a golfing holiday for two to Portugal in the Ocmis Irrigation survey prize draw. Ian Semple of Old Fold Manor GC won the second prize of two tickets to the Toyota World Match Play Championship. Twenty other head greenkeepers who completed the Ocmis survey will receive bottles of Somerset Royal Brandy.

WIN A BIGGA BLAZER OR £50 IN CASH!

CLUES ACROSS
1 Term given to the situation where a ball is accidentally deflected or stopped by an outside agency (Rule 19-1) (5, 2, 3, 5)
2 Period in which a series of events is completed, eg plant growth, engine operation etc. (5)
3 Motors, gears, transmissions and all other moving parts last longer due to less friction
4 Provide with tools, clubs etc (5)
5 Surname of the only British amateur to win the Open Championship twice in 1892 and 1897 (6)
6 Provide with tools, clubs etc (5)
7 Explain why a Flymo is at its greatest height of cut (2, 5, 7)
8 Name of the only British amateur to win the Open Championship twice in 1892 and 1897
9 Name of the only British amateur to win the Open Championship twice in 1892 and 1897
10 Alternative name for a newt (3)
11 Blunt nosed short eared rodents (5)
12 ... Fieids, C.C., Illinois, venue of the USPGA Championship in 1925 (7)
13 Relief angle grinding (7)
14 What a golfer may ask of an opponent's stroke played out of turn (6)
15 Name of the only British amateur to win the Open Championship twice in 1892 and 1897
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25 Name of the only British amateur to win the Open Championship twice in 1892 and 1897
26 Name of the only British amateur to win the Open Championship twice in 1892 and 1897
27 Name of the only British amateur to win the Open Championship twice in 1892 and 1897

CLUES DOWN
1 Term given to the situation where a ball is accidentally deflected or stopped by an outside agency (Rule 19-1) (5, 2, 3, 5)
2 To sharpen mower blades using grinding paste (4-3)
3 Surname of the only British amateur to win the Open Championship twice in 1892 and 1897
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Solve the crossword puzzle and you could win either a BIGGA blazer (worth £87.95) or £50 in cash! Send entries to: Crossword Competition, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York Y06 2NF.

Closing date: October 30, 1994. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win the prize. Photocopy your entry or if you don't want to cut up your magazine. Last month's solution:

If I'm the winner, please send me: £50 cash or BIGGA blazer, size...