Launceston Chooses Massey

Graeme Gallimore, Course Manager at Launceston Golf Club, in Cornwall has selected an MF 1540A compact tractor as being the ideal power unit for the club’s demanding course maintenance requirements.

“Our ageing loader tractor had seen better days and the time had come to pension it off and give its loading duties to another tractor,” he explained.

“We decided to fit a front-end loader to an existing model and buy a new tractor of around 40hp that could work comfortably on all parts of our hilly course in all weathers.”

As the incoming power unit was to be used on tasks such as deep tine aeration, mole drainage, top dressing, trailer work and spraying, Graeme and his greenkeeping team wanted a versatile tractor that was able also to satisfy a number of key points.

“It had to have good stability, a high power-to-weight ratio, decent rear lift capacity and be fitted with wide flotation tyres so it could work effectively without compacting our clay-loam greens,” explained Graeme.

Tracmaster Goes to Oxford

Oxford University Parks have purchased two Tracmaster BCS Commander Flail Mowers through Bicester-based dealer, Turney Groundforce.

The University Parks consist of about 70 acres of parkland on the west bank of the River Cherwell. Walter Sawyer, Park Superintendent, and his 34-strong team are responsible for this park on South Parks Road, as well as the grounds of 21 colleges across Oxford.

“We needed to replace our Saxon flail mowers so we contacted our local dealer, Turney Groundforce, who recommended BCS from Tracmaster,” said Walter.

“We opted for the BCS Commander with the 80cm flail mower as the best machine for the job.”

The BCS Commander is a professional grass management system designed for those who need adaptable machines. It is capable of operating a number of implements including a flail mower, scythe, rotary mower, hay rake and mini baler. There is also a bank version of the machine for use on slopes up to 40 degrees.
The Manor House Golf, at Castle Combe, has purchased a fleet of 46 electric E-Z-GO RXV golf cars from local distributor, TH White.

Charlie Gaisford, the Club’s Course Equipment Maintenance Technician, was instrumental in the decision making process together with Estates Manager, Paul Bishop.

“We were operating a mixed fleet of petrol and electric golf cars supplied by another of the major manufacturers,” said Charlie.

“When it came time to change we had a good look at what was on offer across the industry. We undertook some detailed evaluation of the major brands and the operating costs of petrol versus electric.

“I particularly like the durability of the RXV; its robust and well put together. The onboard chargers kept the cost of installing the additional charging points in our covered buggy park to a sensible level. The automatic battery fill system not only ensures that the batteries are maintained easily, but that they are topped up to the correct level and not over-filled.

“TH White’s loaned us a demonstration vehicle for a week on two separate occasions so that the management and members could evaluate them extensively. The members have really taken to them and particularly like the regenerative braking system, which combined with the automatic parking brake, provide excellent downhill control and safety.

“The major attraction of these buggies is that they are very cost-effective to run and generate significant revenue for the club. Almost as important, they are certainly a hit with members and visitors.”

Tormential rain has highlighted compaction and drainage problems on golf courses throughout the UK, sending Terrain Aeration from Hampshire to Birmingham and Hertfordshire to Eastern Scotland.

At Copt Heath and Basingstoke golf course, Terrain Aeration treated all 18 greens with the Airforce Scamper terrafill machine, relieving compaction panning by injecting compressed air. Terrain got to Kirkcaldy GC and treated nine of Head Greenkeeper Mike Ewan’s traditional greens while the weather held.

David Green remembers rock hard ground conditions.

Terrain Drains Fore Golf