James de Havilland takes a closer look at the intricacies of current machinery

The anatomy of...

British hand mowers

Hand mower choice may be wider than you think

The ‘big three’, John Deere, Ransomes Jacobsen and Toro, may be the key names associated with golf course mowing equipment, but these companies do not have it all their own way when it comes to fine turf care.

Cricket wickets, lawn tennis and bowls, for example, are areas where smaller independent British mower makers Allett, Dennis and Lloyds continue to do extremely well.

But this is not to suggest British pedestrian mower makers do not have models suitable for ‘hand mowing’ golf greens and tees. And to suggest that Ransomes hand mowers, such as the highly regarded Super Cortes, will never compete with in-house siblings Jacobsen for some golf course duties would be misleading too. But it is fair to say the key US makers, with US made models, have fine tuned their pedestrian models specifically for the golf market.

British designed and built pedestrian mowers do of course retain a strong following. The ability of these machines to deliver a good, consistent finish. What many in the golf sector may not have also appreciated is how British made mowers have evolved. Lloyds may well still make a Paladin model but to suggest it is the same mower as the ones on sale in the 1960s is wide of the mark. Allett and Dennis have made huge development changes too; current models have vastly improved ergonomics, vibration damping and ease of set up.

Here we take a brief overview of Allett, Dennis and Lloyds and the models that these companies suggest are well suited to producing a cut to meet the most exacting of standards to include greens mowing.

Key FT510 specification details:

- Cutting width: 510mm (20”)
- Cylinder: 5 or 9 blade
- Height of cut: 2,25mm
- Cut performance: up to 200 cuts/m dependent upon the number of blades
- Dimensions (LxWxH): 1,300 x 750 x 970mm
- Weight (approx): 110kg
- Engine: Honda GX160

Dennis FT510

The established Dennis FT510 is an interchangeable cassette mower. This can be fitted with a choice of 11 different heads to include a scarifier, verticutter, brush, spiker and slitter. A choice of 5 or 9 blade cutter cassettes can also be fitted. Dennis claim the cassettes can be changed in 15 seconds, in practice this enabling one machine to carry out a range of duties. The FT510 is a popular mower on municipal golf courses.

Dennis FT510 models can be fitted with up to 11 different cassette types.

Dennis Razor Ultra 560

The Dennis Razor Ultra 560 has been purpose developed to meet the demands of golf greens and tees, cricket pitches and bowling greens. It features a 560mm (22”) cutting width with an 11 bladed cutting cylinder, ultra short wheelbase for undulating surfaces, tungsten tipped groomer, click height adjusters and stub free transport wheels. Claimed to offer excellent balance and good manoeuvrability, the mower has a compact handle design and simple controls with durable acrylic guards.

Key Razor Ultra 560 specification details:

- Cutting width: 560mm (22”)
- Cylinder: 11 blade
- Height of cut: 1,6 – 15mm
- Cut performance: 200 cuts/m
- Dimensions (LxWxH): 910 x 823 x 1135mm
- Weight (approx): 140kg
- Engine: Honda GX120

For many, it is the versatile Dennis FT510 ‘cassette’ model that is the most recognisable Dennis model. The company does of course offer a far wider model choice, including its increasingly popular Razor models to include the Razor Ultra 560. Fitted with a loop handle more familiar to many in the golf sector, the Razor Ultra is designed to suit greens and other fine turf mowing. Dennis has recently invested in new production facilities.

Dennis Mowers, Ashbourne Road, Kirk Langley, Derbyshire
D6G 4N
www.dennisuk.com

All electric power: the Allett ELMow is due for release this autumn. Battery powered, the ELMow shows how British mower manufacturers are continuing to develop their machines.

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Allett Mowers by Turfmech Machinery Ltd, Hangar 5, New Road, Ilfracombe, Devon EX34 8RJ
www.allett.co.uk

Allett Mowers was acquired by Turfmech Machinery in 2007 with production moving to the company’s Stafford factory. During the past three years, Turfmech has retained the basic Allett mower design but developed production to make the mowers both easier to build and maintain. The key models that target the golf sector include the Tournament and Shaver, although the new ELMOW model, due for launch this autumn, is an interesting development. Based on the Tournament, the ELMOW should boast low noise and running costs.

Allett Shaver 20 and 24

Allett Shaver mowers have no groomer fitted but have space to accommodate a static brush. The front roller can be moved rearwards so it is closer to the rear roller on the Shaver - there’s no groomer in the way- to better handle undulating turf and contours. The Shaver targets those who mow their greens regularly using a single-triplemower fitted with a groomer and use a hand mower solely ahead of competitions whereas close strip final finish and appearance is paramount.

Allett Tournament 20 and 24

Allett Tournament models have an integral groomer that can be raised out of work when not required. This model is otherwise the same as its non-Groomer Shaver alternative. Turfmech has made a number of detail changes to these models since taking over production, these ranging from improved roller bearings, improved vibration and noise control and the introduction of a quick height micro system that allows adjustment without tools.

Key Paladin TG specification details:

- Cutting width: 533mm (21”) & 610mm (24”)
- Cylinder: 11 blade
- Height of cut: 1-25mm
- Cut performance: up to 225 cuts/m
- Weight (appro): 82 to 88kg
- Engine: Honda GX120

Paladin Dual

The Lloyds Paladin Dual is developed from the Lloyds Paladin TG without the groomer being fitted. The front grooved roller can be located closely back to the cutting cylinder thus ensuring the shortest roller distance to follow the tight contours of the golf greens.

Key Paladin Dual specification details:

- Cutting width: 533mm (21”) & 610mm (24”)
- Cylinder: 5.9 or 11 blade
- Height of cut: 1-25mm
- Cut performance: up to 225 cuts/m dependent upon the number of blades
- Weight (appro): 76 to 80kg
- Engine: Honda GX120

Paladin TG

The Lloyds Paladin TG has a groomer fitted closely between the cutting cylinder and the grooved front roller. The groomer aids healthy growth by removing the lateral grasses and other debris to aid the playability of the surface. The groomer can be engaged or disengaged via a simple clutch arrangement. All Paladin TG models are offered with a quick height adjustment so the cutting cylinder can be moved quickly and easily for maintenance.

Key Paladin TG specification details:

- Cutting width: 533mm (21”) & 610mm (24”)
- Cylinder: 11 blade
- Height of cut: 1-25mm
- Cut performance: up to 225 cuts/m
- Weight (appro): 82 to 88kg
- Engine: Honda GX120

Transitional to the commercial models, the allett Tournament 22 and 24 feature a groomer as standard.