A Quick Guide to...
Making the Most of Machinery

Stuart Hall, of John O’Gaunt GC and the IGCEMA, offers advice on making the most of your machinery.

We all understand the importance of looking after machinery and the reasons why, but sometimes with all the pressures from all around us we sometimes forget the basics.

1. Operator Training
   Probably the most important part of the workplace safety, ensuring all operators young and old, experienced or not, have regular reviews in machinery operation and safe practices.

2. Pre and post operation checks
   With the constant pressure of an ever increasing workload sometimes pre start checks get overlooked, not only does this risk operator safety it also reduces machine performance and increases the possibility of expensive machinery damage.

3. Storage
   Safe and secure storage is a must, not only for safety getting on and of machinery but with the global economic downturn expensive machinery becomes even more susceptible to thieves, simply marking machinery with some sort of identification to your club is enough to deter the opportunistic thief, while chaining together the smaller, easy picking items like chainsaws and strimmers can put them off too.

4. Scheduled maintenance
   Routine maintenance through the cutting season can be neglected due to busy periods, staff shortages and cost, but cutting corners on routine maintenance can lead to serious and expensive issues with machinery, in the short term it may save money but in the long term can lead to catastrophic failures and large repair costs.

5. Equipment replacement plan
   A rolling replacement plan is easy to set up, not only does it help forecast replacement costs over a five or ten year period, run side by side with machinery maintenance costs can be a useful tool in managing your golf club’s machinery purchases.

6. A good work place attitude
   Everyone wants to work in a positive and happy environment. No one wants to work at a place where everyone is bickering and just putting in their time just to get paid. If you work in a company that is happy and has the necessary equipment and materials to make a job easier to do, then staff can do their job more proficiently and correctly.

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