Competitors from 28 countries including Great Britain recently took part in the 23rd World Foresters’ Championship in Austria, to decide the supreme chainsaw champion. Competitors had to complete five demanding disciplines: felling, limbing, combination cutting, precision cutting and fast chain replacement. The results speak for themselves: the gold medal that goes with the world championship title and four of the five gold medals in the individual disciplines and two silver medals went to contestants using STIHL chainsaws.

With 1,558 points, six points ahead of his nearest rival, John van Kampen with his STIHL 046 retained the world championship title he has held since 1996. This Dutch logging contractor went home with the gold medal that goes with the world championship title, another gold in precision felling and a silver in chain replacement.

STIHL 046 76.5cc
5.6 Horsepower.
Price from £590 ex.VAT.
Flying visit!

Members at Easingwold Golf Club, not far from BIGGA's Headquarters at Aldwark Manor, York, had an unexpected hazard to contend with recently when a glider touched down on their practice ground.

The pilot had been taking part in the Northern Gilding Championship and was returning home when a storm forced him into making an unscheduled stop on the nearest area of flat land.

Remarkably, after some of the golfers had signed papers to verify where the glider had landed, it transpired that the pilot had travelled the furthest in his category and has won a prize.

When help arrived the glider took off again leaving only a 30 metre skid mark on the grass.

Minimum wage information

The UK's first national minimum wage has been set at £3.60 per hour before deductions and will be introduced from April of next year.

The figure was agreed by Parliament following a study by the Low Pay Commission whose recommendations included:

- Exemption from the NMW for 16-17 year-olds, and all those on formal apprenticeships.
- A development rate of £0.20 per hour in 1999 rising to £3.20 in June 2000.
- Exemption from the NMW for 16-17 year-olds, and all those on foundation apprenticeships.
- Earnings that may count towards the NMW include pay for standard apprenticeships, and tips paid through the payroll - but exclude most benefits and premium payments.

The development rate will be phased in over two stages and will initially apply to all 21 year-olds as well as those aged 16-20. An initial rate of £3 will be introduced in April 1999 rising to £3.20 in June 2000.

The Low Pay Commission will review the position of 21 year-olds again in 1999 following implementation of the £3 rate and provide a further report on whether, in the light of experience, it reconfirms its advice that 21 year-olds could safely be covered by the main rate.

Luck of the Irish for Sisis

Sisis has extending its Sisis Direct initiative to include Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The SISIS Area Representative for Northern Ireland is Ian Mackay and for the Republic of Ireland Ewen Wilson, both of whom will be calling on customers old and new, very soon. SISIS look forward to developing an even closer relationship with their Irish customers who will now be able to enjoy all the benefits of buying direct from the manufacturer.
Spalding launches new brushcutter

Spalding has introduced a new 4-stroke technology to both the professional amenity management and agricultural markets.

The brushcutter features a state of the art, fuel efficient 31cc 4-stroke Honda engine which reduces both exhaust emissions and noise therefore improving operator comfort.

The engine crankshaft is carefully balanced to cut down vibration levels to a minimum increasing operator comfort and safety.

A larger 26mm diameter transmission shaft is fitted to cope with increased work loads and a larger 1 litre fuel tank is fitted to reduce the time needed for refuelling stops.

The brushcutter has all the standard features of the existing range such as electronic ignition, anti-vibration system, diaphragm carburettor system to ensure fuel reaches the engine in all working positions. Supplied with strimmer harness and interchangeable strimmer or brushcutter heads, it can be ordered under product number 6823 and is priced at £423.00.

For further information Tel: 01522 500600.

Trojan trailer gallops ahead

The Trojan Trailer Greenkeepers' Caddy is a galvanised trailer which combines everything that is needed for carrying around the tools of the greenkeeper's trade.

At 42 inches wide and 48 inches long, the rubber lined low load body and tailgate allows nearly all pedestrian greens mowers with transport wheels each access and manoeuvrability. The load lock bar secures mowers from rolling about.

The bolt on tool carrier is designed to accommodate all manner of ground care equipment safely and in secure compartments. Strimmers, rakes, flags, hole cutters etc are housed in one compartment while the other provides room for a wheely bin.

For further information Tel: 01749 850349.

Date set for South West and South Wales Regional Seminar

The South West and South Wales Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 25 is this year's regional seminar being sponsored by Supaturf and Roffey.

The Seminar will be centred around Frank Newberry who will be talking and giving a workshop on "Making the Committee Work for You" Other speakers will include Ian McMillan, of Hankley Common, who will describe the work that went into winning both the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the BIGGA Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc, Regular Greenkeeper International contributor Tony Rees, who will talk about Health and Safety and Risk Assessments and Dave Philips, of Moomersteeg, who will talk on Seed Selection and its Implications. Supaturf and Roffey's will also have speakers.

The cost of the day is £15 for members and £22 for non-members inclusive of lunch. Applications forms can be obtained from Paula Humphries.

See us at Saltex 98 on Stand Q6
Ever notice how more fans always follow one foursome?

Some pairings just naturally draw more attention than others. Maybe that’s why the buzz around the world is about the new Textron Turf Care And Specialty Products team. Ransomes, Jacobsen, Cushman, Ryan — four great names, each built upon legendary performance, together as one foursome. The unbeatable team.

Easy to do business with. First in innovation. Dependable quality. And, the experience and know-how to get the job done. It’s good for the industry. It’s good for the game. It’s even better for you.

To make the most of your turf maintenance investment, follow the leader. For product information call 0500 026208.
In motor racing, Britain's Nigel Mansell was always the ultimate perfectionist. Now, as the owner of Woodbury Park Golf and Country Club, he is applying the self-same principles...
addition of turf-grooming fitments like verticutters, scientifically designed rollers, scraper rollers and guide wheels have all been introduced in recent years to make the grass cutter's task a more pleasurable one, and easier into the bargain.

Productivity has not been overlooked either, with many greenkeepers finding that wider cutting blades have not only increased their efficiency but produce a cleanliness of cut that is unsurpassed. Trends in walk-behind machines have moved toward weight and weight distribution, the trend for slightly heavier machines meeting the demand for speedier and smoother greens without adding stress to the sward, while weight evenly distributed forward of the power unit removes any influence the operator might exert, while giving superior tracking. Fully floating heads are another recent innovation, being easier to use and removing the weight variable of a fully loaded grass box. Maneuverability in rough, trimming around immovable obstacles and long grass cutting is another factor that comes to the fore, thus the zero-turn machine has found an enthusiastic audience following the recent spell of unseasonably wet weather, which has tested the mettle of all grass cutters. As such galloping growth continues, those who put their trust in heavy-duty zero turn radius machines have had the last laugh.

Manufacturers today, acutely aware of labor costs and depreciation, are building many unseen and unsung benefits into their machinery which at first appear to be only a small part of the equation. If price is your main consideration, perhaps you should spare a moment to consider the inclusion today of many more sealed units, while preventative maintenance routines, the life blood of every working machine, have been made easier, in turn preventing premature failure, increasing the life of the unit and avoiding unnecessary down time. Operating comfort also is considered paramount, so noise levels are reduced by efficient dampening, controls fall more easily to hand, while access to engines and other components has become simplicity itself.

Woodbury Park boasts an impressive shedful of Ransomes equipment

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Ad Ref 542
Satisfied customers:

"Every forward thinking golf club should have a Juno in their workshop, a truly excellent machine", Mr Mark Jones, Head Greenkeeper, Preston Golf Club.

"Hunter's relief grinding is far superior to anything I have ever seen, each blade cuts true, the savings are substantial and the cost is minimal". Mr Roger Shaw, Course Manager, Ramside Hall Golf & Country Club, County Durham.

"Our sole plates/bottom blades are now lasting between 2-3 times longer than when we were spin grinding". Mr Philip Baldock, Head Greenkeeper, The Royal Portrush Golf Club, County Antrim, (now Course Manager, Ganton Golf Club, North Yorkshire).

"It is the best piece of machinery this course has ever invested in, a fine machine that I would recommend to anyone". Mr John Bashford, Head Greenkeeper of the Green Hotel Golf Course, The Kinross Estate.

"A quality machine that gives a superb finish to our cylinders, and saves money". Mr Derek Green, Head Greenkeeper, Royal Liverpool Golf Club.

Facts

Cut service costs!
Improve cutting standards!
Reduce wasted downtime!

- Both machines will grind both cylinder AND bottom blade!
- Both have water coolant – no heat, no dust!
- Both guaranteed to grind cylinders parallel!
- Both will accurately 'relief' grind!
- Both will 'in-situ' grind!

In Frame Jupiter 42" capacity cylinder and bottom blade grinding machine. Totally automated and water cooled as standard. A truly precision 'grinder' built to last, used and preferred by professionals.

In Frame Juno 36" capacity cylinder and bottom blade grinding machine. Accurate relief/grounding of all cylinders, full in-situ capability, water cooled to suppress heat and dust. Cost effective, simple and fast!
Marcus Hamon was selected for BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open at Birkdale. It provided him with enough memories to last a lifetime.

A week to remember

8th May 1998
The 8th of May arrives, along with my letter of acceptance. I am over the moon and can’t quite believe this is happening. The 14th of July can’t come quick enough.

Tuesday 14th July
Eventually 14th of July arrives, the alarm goes off at 7.00am. I am set for a long day ahead. I have breakfast and set off for the Airport, my flight leaves at 10.20am - I’m now getting excited.

Arrive at Manchester Airport at 12noon and catch the 1.05pm train to Southport. Arrive at 2.30pm and find the hotel straight away at approximately 3pm. Check in and get unpacked. It starts to rain, but can’t wait and I set off back to the station for Hillside, the stop for Birkdale. Get to the Course at 4pm and start to savour the atmosphere - it’s absolutely brilliant and it’s only Tuesday. Have a good look around, a links course, not dissimilar to my own, at least my experience will be of benefit. Set off back to the hotel, get showered, changed and go down for dinner, meet some of the other guys who have arrived early.

Wednesday 15th July
Back down to the Course it’s official practice day and I follow Faldo, Els and young Justin Rose, it’s only 13 months ago that Justin was playing my course at I’Ancresse in Guernsey in the Hampshire Championship. He looks a great talent for the future. (If only I had put that bet on!)

Wednesday Night
Briefing at hotel where we were issued with all the gear, shirts, jackets and waterproofs. I volunteer for divotting in the evening - first chance to walk the course and I want to make the most of every minute. I was surprised that divotting included removal of all divots previously replaced and filling with a sand/soil/seeds mixture to present the course and playing surface to best effect. As the fairways were cut in the evening if divots had dried out or the birds had turned them over before the morning the players could have been left with a poor lie.

Thursday 16th July
Drawn a match at 10.35am Loren Roberts, Greg Chalmers and Santiago

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Luna Loren Roberts is absolutely brilliant and talks all the way round while knocking it around in 66.

Coming off the 18th he gives me his glove - What a way to start.

**Friday 17th July**

Early start raking bunkers. We set off at 5.30am. The weather is terrible it is pouring down with rain, but spirits are high the thought of going out with Tom Lehman, Mark James and Ernie Els keep me going. The weather is expected to clear. The R&A started to get concerned about green flooding, but Chris Whittle, Head Greenkeeper, knows his Course and the preparation he has put in. He was right, the wetting agent and hollow tining worked, no squeegees were needed, although they were distributed to susceptible greens as a precaution.

Tee off times arrives, on the tee absolutely soaked through but forecast is still for an improvement. Halfway round the rain stops, the suns out and waterproofs are off - what a way to finish.

**Saturday 18th July**

I welcome the lie in. Bus leaves at 8am and my match isn't until 1lam. Chance to do some shopping - must keep the wife happy. Arrive on the 1st tee and the atmosphere is electric - pity the golf isn't. Go out with American Mark Brooks and young Spanish Amateur Sergio Garcia. The wind spoilt it. Very windy; never mind Sunday will be better.

Sat by the 18th and watched the few last matches and the play off come through. A perfect end to a brilliant week. The course had stood up well to the intensive play and ravages of both the weather and number of spectators all over the Course.

**Sunday 19th July**

Arrive at Course and check matches, can't believe it is Tiger Woods, just when I thought it couldn't get any better.

The morning drags, eventually 1.30pm arrives and I make my way to the 1st tee, still can't believe my luck. 2pm and off we go, Tiger, nine minders, three Police, dozens of cameramen, buggies and myself.

Tiger does not get off to a great start and three putts the 1st, but birdies the 2nd. The round goes on and is nothing special until we get to the 15th which he birdies. He is now only two shots behind. He pars 16, but chips in at 17 for birdie and also birdies the 18th. The atmosphere walking down the 18th with the World No.1 is electric and when he rolled the putt in it was deafening - it made the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end.

Tiger's caddie, Fluff, gave me the ball which I will treasure for the rest of my life.

Sat by the 18th and watched the few last matches and the play off come through. A perfect end to a brilliant week. The course had stood up well to the intensive play and ravages of both the weather and number of spectators all over the Course.

**Sunday night after dinner and a couple of beers still can't get to sleep, head is still up in the clouds. Can't believe this has happened to me. Coming from a small Island like Guernsey to Birkdale and The Open was a dream come true and to walk the fairways with the world's best golfers is something I will treasure for the rest of my life.**

My thanks to everyone at BIGGA for an absolutely brilliant week.

Many thanks also go to my employer the States Works Department who are the contractors for maintaining the L'Ancresse Golf Course in Guernsey.
The BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition in Association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône Poulenc Amenity

This Competition is progressing well with Bob Taylor from STRI and Dr Keith Duff from English Nature reaching the final stages of judging. The Regional Winners and the National Winner will be informed as soon as possible. His Royal Highness the Duke of York has agreed to open the Ashkam Bryan Golden Jubilee Conference on Golf and the Environment on Wednesday, October 21, 1998, and, in addition, His Royal Highness has kindly agreed to present the prizes for this Competition.

TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition
Following a meeting of the judges, in York, six finalists were selected for the National Final which will take place on Monday October 26, alongside the Student of the Year Competition. The six judges, Jimmy Nielsen, Barry Heaney, Bill Lawson, Paddy McCarron, Eric James and Gordon Child had a very difficult job selecting six finalists as the standards, this year, were extremely high. The six finalists are John Quin, from Elmwood College Golf Course; Andy Campbell, from Carden Park Golf Resort, Hotel and Spa; John Coleman, from Abbeydale Golf Club; Peter Wisbey, from the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa; Allan McDougall, from Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, and Richard Whyman, from Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club. Congratulations to all six candidates and thank you to all those who took part or nominated candidates, helping to make the Competition a success.

Managing Effectively
This two-day course enables delegates to understand and practise the basics of managing their staff. Subjects include management style, team building, communications and motivation.

Cost £570 + VAT including lunch on both days.

No, this is not a BIGGA course but a nationally advertised course available this Autumn. However, BIGGA does run a course that covers similar topics and includes accommodation, for a mere £30 + VAT. Moreover, BIGGA offers a wide range of courses designed to meet the needs of all greenkeepers, all at low prices. This does not mean that we reduce the quality of training, we subsidise the costs of local courses from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund to make the Courses as widely available as possible. As I wrote in last month's magazine, use them or lose them.

Vocational Qualifications
New vocational qualifications for golf greenkeepers were introduced in September 1997. This meant that the old qualifications in the Level 2 NVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) award number 0326-02 and the Level 3 NVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Sportsturf) award number 0326-03, would be phased out. City and Guilds have stated that the last date of certification for the old Level 2 award will be 31 May 1999 and that the last date of certification for the old Level 3 award will be 31 May 2000.

For candidates in Scotland, the Scottish Qualifications Authority have stated that the last date of certification for the old Level 2 award will be 30 October 1999 and that the last date of certification for the old Level 3 award will be 30 October 2000. Therefore any candidate registered on the old awards should ensure that they provide evidence of competence for all units of the awards before the cut-off dates. The new qualifications are not affected by this ruling. Further information may be obtained from BIGGA HQ, or from the Greenkeepers Training Committee.