What about mulching leaves?

A dedicated mulching deck can be used to deal with autumn leaf fall. Getting the technique to work is not difficult, but a few basic points need to be followed to get best results. The following tips relate to Toro Guardian Recycler decks, but the basics will apply to other designs.

Quick tips for a better leaf mulch

• The drier conditions, the better the mulch.
• Concentrate on mulching the leaves. Avoid trying to cut grass at the same time. This is of particular importance when working in damp conditions. Wet grass mixed with mulched leaves will be more likely to produce a ‘matt’ of material that will not be as readily hidden in the sward.
• When mulching a mat of wet leaves, it may be necessary to adjust the deck height and mowing speed to draw the material into the blades. If the results remain poor, wait until conditions improve.
• Keep the deck full. When mulching light patches of leaves, speed up to keep the deck working.
• Keep the deck underside clean and wash off at the end of each mowing session. If the deck starts to leave clumps, a kit may also include a ‘ramps’ against which ‘stalled’ clippings can be acted upon by the top of the blade.

Regardless of design, the aim is much the same – to leave the resultant finish as free of surface clippings as possible and to speed the decomposition of those clippings. A more aggressive mulching action helps decomposition, but good containment and the ability to force clippings back into the sward is also important.

Mowing technique will also play its part; the sward to clipping ratio is particularly important. To achieve the correct ratio, the sward length in any single pass should be about a third of the grass at the same time. This is of particular importance when working in damp conditions. Wet grass mixed with mulched leaves will be more likely to produce a ‘matt’ of material that will not be as readily hidden in the sward.

How a mulching deck should work

A ‘proper’ rotary mulcher works by both re-chopping the grass to produce small clippings and to then blow them back down and into the sward. The simple act of blocking the outlet of a ‘conventional’ rotary mower will not do this. This is why ‘convertible’ deck mulcher kits will typically incorporate some form of restriction around the blade or blades to restrict the flow of clippings. A kit may also include a change of blade type or even include ‘ramps’ against which ‘stalled’ clippings can be acted upon by the top of the blade.

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It is perhaps worth taking a side step when looking at mulching and to consider the whole technique as an ally as opposed to an alternative to conventional cutting. Rotary mowers, particularly for ride-on commercial machines, have evolved from units designed to essential knock grass down to machines capable of producing a good finish. Mulching is a further development in rotary mower design.

Those who are strong advocates of mulching suggest we all need to rethink how mowing is carried out. It is the well-understood that relatively high levels of summer rain are required to keep any sward lush and green. Come late June and many areas will see non-irrigated turf starting to dry or even brown. It is here where a switch in early June from conventional cut to collect mowing to mulching can have a place. The returned clippings will help retain moisture and also return nutrients to the sward. As long as the regime allows the sward to be maintained to a moisture loss resistant inch or so, this and regular mulch mowing can keep the grass greener for longer.

There is also the issue of not needing to remove clippings. Clipping disposal is a hot topic at present, so it may be that mulch mowing starts to become recognised as an alternative in regimes that currently call for cut and collect mowing. The secret is to keep an open mind and give mulch mowing a chance.

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Many wounded ex-servicemen would make superb greenkeepers, and the On-Course Foundation is helping to put them in touch with golf clubs, and will assist in finding them employment within the golf industry.

Scott MacCallum met one who more than deserves a chance...

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Jobs for the boys

Many wounded ex-servicemen would make superb greenkeepers, and the On-Course Foundation is helping to put them in touch with golf clubs, and will assist in finding them employment within the golf industry. Scott MacCallum met one who more than deserves a chance...

It has been an all too common item on our news bulletins over the last few years when we are told of another casualty from Afghanistan or are shown moving footage of the residents of Wootten Bassett paying tribute to another fallen warrior.

What is not so publicly recorded is the return home of those who are badly wounded while serving.

These include many young men and women who will never be the same again following their experiences in the service of Queen and country. Many have been permanently scarred or lost limbs yet they still have the largest part of their lives stretching ahead of them.

In response to this the On Course Foundation was formed which exists to create employment opportunities for disabled ex-Servicemen and women bound to their wheelchairs. With this progression, On Course provides opportunities for a number of injured service and ex-service personnel to be part of or work in the golf industry.

The charity is receiving wholehearted support from Patron, HRH The Duke of York, combining as it does his passion for the Armed Forces, in which he served during the Falklands’ conflict, and his love for the game of golf.

“I am delighted that we have found a way for the golfing industry as a whole to support our Armed Forces in a very positive way,” said The Duke.

Alex Harrison was in the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, but attached to the Royal Anglian Regiment, when he was posted to the notorious Helmand Province, in Afghanistan, in April, 2007.

He had been there exactly one month when he was shot.

Alex had been part of a group sent to clear compounds in which the Taliban were building tunnels and trenches when his section was ambushed and he was struck by a machine gun round from close range as he passed the door of a small room.

“A bullet hit me through the helmet at the side of my temple and bounced off the bottom of my eye socket, forcing my eye up into my brain giving me brain damage and my eye socket filled with blood,” said Alex, as we sat in his Lincoln home three and a half years on.

Remarkably, it didn’t knock him out and he was able to get back to his section, but not before being struck by a piece of shrapnel in his bottom and breathing in some poisonous gas which burnt his airways.

“I had three injuries, one of them near fatal, but although I was unable to speak as the nerves in my face had been deadened, I was able to draw a picture on the sand to show how the rooms in the compound all linked together,” said Alex, who was just 19 at the time, and who was mentioned in despatches for his bravery.

He eventually succumbed to his injuries and passed out, waking up in a Birmingham hospital where he then spent six days in intensive care, another six weeks on a normal ward, before going home on sick leave.

He also spent six weeks at Headley Court, the renowned Armed Forces rehabilitation centre, where he learned to cope with the loss of an eye and his brain damage – a condition of which you now see no obvious sign.

“I sometimes have difficulty linking sentences together, and with normal things like wiring up a plug, I have to sit there longer than I would have had to before and work it out. But I’ll get there,” he said.

After his rehabilitation he was assigned to the Army Stores but the posting was not the Army Stores but an active outdoor type, he absolutely hated the posting and work out. But I’ll get there,” he said.

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The On Course Foundation has also made it possible for people like Alex and his colleagues, many of whom may have lost limbs but who are still more active and physically able than the majority of the population, to get back on track.

The Founder of On Course, John Simpson who in effect has only one good leg after contracting polio at a young age, has enjoyed a glorius career in the game managing players such as Nick Faldo, Greg Norman and Vijay Singh. John took a party of eight ex and currently serving military personnel (including Alex) to Orlando earlier in the year to experience the delights of playing golf in the sunshine.

The servicemen met up with the American Wounded Warriors and also had the privilege of meeting the Foundation’s other Patron, Arnold Palmer who said, “To see that our beloved game can be used as an integral tool in the rehabilitation of soldiers from around the world fills me with great pride.”

The America trip also allowed the servicemen to develop a love for golf, while at the same time continuing their rehabilitation with a game that requires concentration, balance and patience.

“It has helped with my depth perception having gone from two eyes to one. I’m starting to get used to it now and can work out how far the club head is off the ground. It was really hard to start with though,” explained Alex.

He is currently in discussion with a local course with the aim of securing a work experience placement on the greenkeeping staff, a career that is really exciting to him.

“T’ll love to work in full time greenkeeping. It would suit me down to the ground. I’m used to working outside and the early hours certainly wouldn’t worry me.”

Alex is not unusual...

There are many young men, similarly disciplined and eager, who would also make excellent greenkeepers and “The Poppy Factory’s Employment Scheme is supporting wounded On Course members by proving an assisted platform into work via initial funding. This support will help Alex develop a meaningful career in the golfing industry.

Recruitment Opportunities?

If anyone feels that they could offer employment to one of our brave ex-servicemen please register your interest by emailing info@oncoursefoundation.com or for more information visit the On Course Foundation Website www.oncoursefoundation.com

* The Royal British Legion Poppy Factory is a charity which exists to create employment opportunities for disabled ex-Servicemen and women.
Lean system for lean times

Andy Wight, Pathway Manager for Greenkeeping at Oakland’s College in Hertfordshire, believes that the face of Greenkeeping is still not being pushed forward as a professional industry...

As part of my job I have the pleasure of visiting some of the best run clubs in the country and having worked in one form or another in the industry for more than 30 years I have seen enormous changes in the quality of staff and productivity. The objective of setting up the mower in the most efficient way, i.e. the less clutter the spanner things can be found. In the automotive industry equipment/materials etc. that did not seem to be used were red tagged and removed from the work area into a holding area. It was often found they remained there i.e. they were surplus to needs but were kept “just in case”. Removing junk frees up workspace and storage and can improve workflow rates.

Simplify

This refers to the simplification of a processes, this could go back to fairness mowing, the process can be simplified by adopting a simple mowing system. Also simple things like having the spanner, grease gun etc required for setting the mower in a set place and training staff in the most efficient method of setting up the machine will all increase workflow rates.

Shine

Again if we return to fairness mowing a clean machine will make the machine more efficient. The machine will be easier on the eyes etc easy to spot and put right before a breakdown occurs. However the concept relates to ensuring the workplace as a whole is as clean and tidy as possible. For example the mechanic who has all his tools in order on a wall board instead of jumbled up in an old tool box. This should also relate to the staff area, a clean and tidy staff room will install an ethos that will allow the manager to build and improve on.

Standardise

M processes at work are standardised but managers should be able to make improvements that will save time. i.e. standard paper work, systems and procedures such as setting and greasing mowers i.e. all staff carry out the work in the most efficient manner zero deficiency. It is vital that staff are involved in this process as they often have the best insight into how improvements can be made.

Sustain

This is the most difficult part of the concept and refers to the need to continue the process and apply it to new tasks and ensure staff and manager do not fall back into old habits.

Now the last 2 areas of the system come into play - reducing waste and enhancing flow. These should fall out of the above i.e. if procedures are analysed and broken down savings in materials and labour should be gained. Flow of work should also increase as staff carry out work in the most effective manner and the manager relieves himself of that huge pile of clutter on the desk known a pending paperwork.

Now for a challenge look at one area of your operations e.g. pesticide application and apply the concepts raised so far I bet if you think hard you can make a change or two that could save some time or money.

Now imagine if you carried on with this mindset, what else could you achieve?
Lean system for lean times

Andy Wight, Pathway Manager for Greenkeeping at Oakland’s College in Hertfordshire, believes that the face of Greenkeeping is still not being pushed forward as a professional industry...

As part of my job I have the pleasure of visiting some of the best run clubs in the country and having worked in one form or another in the Sports turf or Greenkeeping industry for more than 30 years I have seen enormous changes in the quality of staff accommodation/workshops and course maintenance.

However during my travels I still see places that do not push forward the face of Greenkeeping as a professional industry. Musing on this I was reminded of some concepts that I have studied from the automotive industry, I thought I might spare these thoughts with the readers.

Lean manufacturing is a principle that comes from the Japanese manufacturing industry. The term was first used by John Kradlík in an article, “Triumph of the Lean Production System.”

The system is known as the 5 Ss and comes from a Japanese based system.

The 5 Ss refer to
1. Sort (Seiri)
2. Simplicity or Set in order (Seiton)
3. Shine (Seiso)
4. Standardize (Shikoku)
5. Sustain (Shitsuke)

This leads to a system know as Lean (a process). The objective of lean manufacturing is to save time and money but at the same time increase productivity and hopefully quality.

• The aspects of this are to
  1. Define customer need
  2. Improve processes to zero deficiency by applying the 5 Ss
  3. Reduce waste
  4. Enhance flow

Streamlining will save money, increase productivity and often lead to a higher quality product at the end of the process. We can look at how this process might be applied in the real world by taking a task like fairway mowing and applying the concept.

To streamline a process we would need to establish customer needs. For an example let us begin with the end user (i.e. the player) and establish the end product that has to be achieved.

You might ask yourself are your customers happy, the answer might well be yes, no one has complained, indeed everyone says the fairways are outstanding (you cross cut them at 12mm and cut them every 2nd day).

The issue here is are you offering a product that is not really sustainable in terms of costs, in addition is the product of a higher quality level than it actually needs to be to perform its role? If this is the case you are giving away both time and money.

The first step in making improvements is to establish the exact customer need (these of course can be different from wishes).

The involvement of all the parties involved i.e. players, the person’s who pay the bills and the staff is vital in establishing the actual need. Block cutting fairways may increase the speed of the task and decrease labour and material input and yet give a playing surface and level of customer satisfaction that is almost equal to that offered before. This is the case then a large financial saving might be made.

Improving a process to zero deficiencies

This means that a task is analysed from every aspect and honed until the minimum input in labour and materials is achieved.

If we carry on with the above example the manager will ensure staff are trained in every aspect of fairway mowing i.e. setting up the mower in the most efficient way, the most efficient routes around the course are worked out and agreed etc then time and money can be saved.

If this process is applied to every task on the course, large overall savings might be made.

Applying the 5 s to the Greenkeeper’s work...

Simplify

This refers to sorting and removing rubbish, clutter from the shed/office. Moving from manual or paper based systems to PC based systems can improve work output, i.e. the less clutter the fewer things can be found. In the automotive industry equipment/materials etc that did not seem to be used were red tagged and removed from the work area into a holding area. It was often found they remained there i.e. they were surplus to needs but were kept “just in case”. Removing junk frees up workspace and storage and can improve workflow rates.

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Now imagine if you carried on with this mindset, what else could you achieve?
BIGGA delegation to USA back on

Meet the 2011 Delegates...

**Chris Haspell**

Chris started helping out at his local Golf Club as an 8 year old, and when he left school he went into groundsmanship full time looking after cricket, bowls, hockey, tennis and rugby pitches full time. In 1989 Chris joined the team at Oakland's Golf and Country Club in Oswestry working with the team to build, grow-in and open an 18 hole championship course. In 1992 he joined Richard Campey as a technician/salesman and in those times we commend the company for investing the money. For his part, he hopes to represent BIGGA and Bernhard to the best of his ability and to offer knowledge on the environmental side of Greenkeeping from his BSc. in Rural Resource Management.

**Andrew Boyce**

Andrew has been involved in Golf Course Development for 20 years, since leaving school and taking an apprenticeship at Bath Golf Club. After leaving college he held positions at Salisbury and South Wilts, Castle Combe and Lansdown Golf Clubs before returning to Bath Golf Club as a Deputy. Andrew became Course Manager in 2002. Earlier this year Andrew decided to set up his own business - Greensward Sport Consultancy - working with golf clubs, sports associations, clubs and schools giving regular advice and guidance to Turf Managers.

**Steve Chappell**

Steve has been working in the turfgrass industry in 1987 when he started as a YTS groundsmain. After a year he took the chance to move into greenkeeping, accepting an assistant’s position at Bath GC, before moving onto a new build course on the outskirts of Bristol. This led to Steve working for David Lloyd Leisure where he worked his way up to overseeing the three clubs owned by the company. In 2003 Steve moved to MI Abbot before accepting the Course Manager’s position at Neath GC. Since moving to Neath Steve has become Section Secretary for the South Wales Bigga and last year was reinstated as a Section Secretary for the South West and South Wales Region. Steve has been involved in various types of courses throughout his career and been involved in the construction of two commercial golf courses - he has been a Course Manager for 17 years.

**Nick Miles**

Nick went to Roehampton College and gained an HND in golf course management. He left college in 1997 and started greening on at Helston Lakes. He then moved to Whitlebury Park in 1998. In 2003 Nick was appointed Course Manager at Market Harborough GC, an 18 hole course established in 1898. Nick is currently the Chairman of the East Midland BIGGA Section. He is also the Deputy Regional Representative on the BIGGA Board of Directors.

**Rob Sandiland**

Rob has been in Greenkeeping for over 12 years, spending the last three as a Deputy Head Greenkeeper. In the near future he hopes to get the chance to move into Head Greenkeeper, so the educational opportunities offered by the trip to Rob are invaluable. For his part, he hopes to represent BIGGA and Bernhard to the best of his ability and to offer knowledge on the environmental side of Greenkeeping from his BSc in Rural Resource Management.

**Jim Brown**

Jim has been the Golf Course and Estates Manager at Gullott Hall, Leeds, for five years during which time, he has led the development of the ex Leeds City Council Municipal 27 hole golf course and Grade 2 listed parkland to an excellent standard and to a rightfully take its place within the De Vere portfolio of golf resorts. Jim is also the De Vere Group Golf Course Manager and National Accounts Manager. He has managed reinstated its sponsorship by the industry’s biggest golf exhibition and education conference. The programme which began in Vancouver 2001, gives 10 Bigga members the opportunity to see the industry’s biggest golf exhibition and education conference. The programme which began in Vancouver 2001, gives 10 Bigga members the opportunity to see the industry’s biggest golf exhibition and education conference. The programme which began in Vancouver 2001, gives 10 Bigga members the opportunity to see the industry’s biggest golf exhibition and education conference. The programme which began in Vancouver 2001, gives 10 Bigga members the opportunity to see the industry’s biggest golf exhibition and education conference. The programme which began in Vancouver 2001, gives 10 Bigga members the opportunity to see the industry’s biggest golf exhibition and education conference. The programme which began in Vancouver 2001, gives 10 Bigga members the opportunity to see the industry’s biggest golf exhibition and education conference. The programme which began in Vancouver 2001, gives 10 Bigga members the opportunity to see the industry’s biggest golf exhibition and education conference. The programme which began in Vancouver 2001, gives 10 Bigga members the opportunity to see the industry’s biggest golf exhibition and education conference. The programme which began in Vancouver 2001, gives 10 Bigga members the opportunity to see the industry’s biggest golf exhibition and education conference. The programme which began in Vancouver 2001, gives 10 Bigga members the opportunity to see the industry’s biggest golf exhibition and education conference.
BIGGA delegation to USA back on

Bernhard and Company has reinstated its sponsorship of the BIGGA Delegates’ Programme to GCSAA’s Golf Industry Show (GIS)

The programme which began in Vancouver 2001, gives 10 BIGGA members the opportunity to see the industry’s biggest golf exhibition and education conference.

Orlando 2011 will mean over 90 BIGGA members will have benefited from this opportunity, courtesy of Bernhard.

Over the week, in addition to the full conference package, the BIGGA members will visit local golf clubs, network with US Superintendents, attend educational seminars and meet the BIGGA Stand during the GIS exhibition.

This year’s BIGGA delegates are:

Andrew Boyce: Jim Brown; Stephen Chappell; Richard Cutler; Chris Hapsell; John Kearnaghan; Nicholas Miles; Graham Pickin; Derek Robin and Rob Sandiland.

The reinstatement was approved by Bernhard and BIGGA staff and Board Members.

Meet the 2011 Delegates...

Chris Hapsell

Chris started helping out at his local Cockett Golf Club as an army cadet and when he left school he went into groundsman full time looking after cricket, bowls, hockey, tennis and rugby pitches full time.

In 1989 Chris joined the team at Oakland’s Golf and Country Club in Chesham where, with the team, he built, grow-in and open an 18 hole championship course. In 1992 he gained his BSc. in Rural Resource Management. After leaving college he held positions at Salisbury and South Wilts, Castle Combe and Laindon Golf Clubs before returning to Bath Golf Club as a Deputy.

In 1995 Chris moved to Denmark to take the position of Course Manager at Palster Golf Club before setting up his own business CK Golf and Tennis, offering coaching, design and maintenance advice to many top clubs in Denmark. Chris then went on to become Greenskeeper Consultant to the Danish Golf Union.

In 2009 he took up the position of Construction Manager at Castle Stuart in June 2006 and where he remains.

“It is a huge commitment by Bernhard and in these difficult times we commend the company for investing the money”

John Pemberton

Jim Brown

Jim has been the Golf Course and Estates Manager at Gullane Hall, Leids, for five years during which time, he has led the development of the ex-Leeds City Council Municipal 27 hole golf course and Grade 2 listed parkland to an excellent standard and to rightfully take it place within the De Vere portfolio of golf resorts.

Jim is also the De Vere Group Golf Course Manager and National Accounts Manager. He has managed various types of golf courses throughout his career and been involved in the construction of two commercial golf courses - he has been a Course Manager for 17 years.

Steve Chappell

Steve has worked in the turfgrass industry as YTH where he started as a YTH groundsman. After a year he took the chance to move into greenskeeping, accepting an assistant’s position at Bath GC, before moving onto a new build course on the outskirts of Bristol. This led to Steve working for David Lloyd Leisure where he worked his way up to overseeing the three clubs owned by the company.

In 2000 Steve moved to MI Ahotts before accepting the Course Manager’s position at Neath GC. Since moving to Neath Steve has become Section Secretary for the BIGGA South Wales Region and last year was reinstated the Delegation.

For his part, he hopes to represent BIGGA and Bernhard to the best of his ability and to offer knowledge on the environmental side of Greenskeeping from his BSc. in Rural Resource Management.

Rob Sandiland

Rob has been in Greenskeeping for over 12 years, spending the last three as a Deputy Head Greenskeeper.

In the near future he is keen to make the step up to Head Greenskeeper, so the educational opportunities offered by the trip to Rob are.

For him, it is a huge commitment by Bernhard and in these difficult times we commend the company for investing the money in the Delegation.

Andrew Boyce

Andrew has been involved in Golf and Sports turf for 20 years, since leaving school and taking an apprenticeship at Bath Golf Club.

After leaving college he held positions at Salisbury and South Wilts, Castle Combe and Laindon Golf Clubs before returning to Bath Golf Club as a Deputy.

Earlier this year Andrew decided to set up his own business, Greenwood Sport Consultancy - working with golf clubs, sports associations, clubs and schools giving regular advice and guidance to Turf Managers.

Chipping Sodbury GC, a parkland-style course on the outskirts of Bristol. Dave has been married for 25 years with two teenage children. His eldest son has followed him into the greenskeeping profession.

For his part, he hopes to represent BIGGA and Bernhard to the best of his ability and to offer knowledge on the environmental side of Greenskeeping from his BSc. in Rural Resource Management.

John Kearnaghan

John is a Head Greenskeeper at Chipping Sodbury GC, a parkland-style course on the outskirts of Bristol.

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Richard Cutler

Richard has been a Greenskeeper for almost 20 years. Starting his career in his own family company, he has worked on traditional links courses at Ayrshire GC and Montrose.

Since 2008, Richard has lived and worked at La Moye Golf Club in Jersey. One of the very few downsides to living there is the lack of networking opportunities available. Chris regards networking with industry peers to be vital for both his golf course and his personal on-going development.

Graham Pickin

Graham left school at 15 to join the Army, starting out at the junior leaders in Canterbury Kent. He eventually served two tours of Northern Ireland and was awarded the OBE medal.

When he left the Army Graham trained as a fencer / blacksmith with British Coal and gained a GCE in engineering. When the mines closed Graham started his own company (Derwentdale Mowers) dealing in all horticultural machinery. This gave Graham the skills to seek employment at a golf course.

For his part, he hopes to represent BIGGA and Bernhard to the best of his ability and to offer knowledge on the environmental side of Greenskeeping from his BSc. in Rural Resource Management.

Nick Miles

Nick went to Roehampton College and gained an HND in golf course management. He left college in 1997 and started greening at Hellfire Lakes.

He then moved to Whitley Park in 1998. In 2003 Nick was appointed Course Manager at Market Harborough GC, an 18 hole course established in 1898. Nick is currently the Chairman of the East Midlands BIGGA Section. Nick is currently the Chairman of the East Midlands BIGGA Section. Nick is currently the Chairman of the East Midlands BIGGA Section.

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Derek Robson

Derek Robson has been Course Manager at The Duke’s St Andrews, Derek completed his apprenticeship at Lochlenan Golf Club before travelling to the US on the Ohio State University programme, working in both Michigan and Florida. He then went on to work in New Zealand and Germany before joining Brian Kennedy at Wentworth for four years, before moving to The Duke’s.

In 2009 Derek was awarded Member of the year at The Old Course Hotel Golf Resort and Spa. He is currently studying the 2-year certificate in turfgrass management online from Penn State University. Derek took over as BIGGA Central Section chairman in October 2010.

Rob Sandiland

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Andrew has been involved in Golf and Sports turf for 20 years, since leaving school and taking an apprenticeship at Bath Golf Club.

After leaving college he held positions at Salisbury and South Wilts, Castle Combe and Laindon Golf Clubs before returning to Bath Golf Club as a Deputy.

Earlier this year Andrew decided to set up his own business, Greenwood Sport Consultancy - working with golf clubs, sports associations, clubs and schools giving regular advice and guidance to Turf Managers.

John Kearnaghan

John is a Head Greenskeeper at Chipping Sodbury GC, a parkland-style course on the outskirts of Bristol.

In 1995 Chris moved to Denmark to take the position of Course Manager at Palster Golf Club before setting up his own business CK Golf and Tennis, offering coaching, design and maintenance advice to many top clubs in Denmark. Chris then went on to become Greenskeeper Consultant to the Danish Golf Union.

In 2009 he took up the position of Construction Manager at Castle Stuart in June 2006 and where he remains.

Richard Cutler

Richard has been a Greenskeeper for almost 20 years. Starting his career in his own family company, he has worked on traditional links courses at Ayrshire GC and Montrose.

Since 2008, Richard has lived and worked at La Moye Golf Club in Jersey. One of the very few downsides to living there is the lack of networking opportunities available. Chris regards networking with industry peers to be vital for both his golf course and his personal on-going development.
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**Stewart Plant Sales Groundcare**

**Location and Size**

Headed up by Richard Green based at their Glasgow headquarters, the business has grown substantially over the past three years.

**Employees and size of premises**

The company provides comprehensive service and parts support with 65 mobile service engineers based at ten depots covering the country from Lancashire to the Shetland Isles.

**Brief History of Company**

Stewart Plant Sales is part of the Scot JCB (Holdings) group, a specialist machinery distribution company with over 50 years experience supplying equipment to the construction, industrial, agriculture and groundcare markets.

**Franchises**

The company supplies compact tractors, tractor powered mowers, blowers, vacuum collectors, renovators and utility vehicles from industry leading manufacturers TYM, Reg舞ster, Trilo, Rota Dairon, Bomford, Stihl, Thwaites and JCB.

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email: sales@westcountrybuildings.com
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New T-Max Tractor slots into the McCormick Four-cylinder Range

The new 92hp McCormick T-Max tractor bridges the price and specification of the lower spec McCormick C-Max and the more generously kitted CX XtraShift, while offering an alternative to the CX Syncro Low Profile package. On farm or turf tyres the 92hp is similar in appearance to the 74hp to 92hp C-Max tractors, but has a newly developed transmission with more gears, a tougher rear axle with planetary speed reduction and more responsive lower link draft control sensing in place of a top link system.

www.argotractors.com

Swing for the Saints

Fertilis Swing, a new fertiliser from British Seed Houses, is proving to be a God-send to the Saints.

Andy Gray, Head Groundsman at League 1 side Southampton FC, tried it for the first time at the start of the season, and has been highly impressed with the results.

www.britishseedhouses.com

MAKE LIGHT WORK OF LEAF CLEARANCE THIS AUTUMN

The Imants RotoBlast from Campey Turf Care Systems, is a tractor-mounted blower designed to move leaves, grass clippings, thatch, litter and other unwanted surface debris from turfed areas, pathways and car parks.

Attached to the 3-point linkage, the RotoBlast is mounted on a wheeled chassis to allow contour following whilst maintaining a constant nozzle height above the ground. The wheels can be inverted to revert to a fully-mounted option if required.

www.campeyturfcare.com

RAPID-ADJUST TECHNOLOGY FROM RAIN BIRD

More than ever before, golf courses need irrigation technology that provides top performance, water efficiency, versatility and value.

Rain Bird’s new Full and Part Circle 751 Golf Rotors, featuring Rapid-Adjust Technology and Memory Arc.

These new rotors offer simple, top-adjustable rotation settings that retain the memory of their part-circle arc setting when shifting between full- and part-circle operations. They are designed to offer quick adjustments for the life of the rotor with just a turn of a screw.

As a result, the rotors allow the user to increase or decrease the watering area with a simple twist of the wrist. However, it’s not necessary to completely replace an existing Rain Bird rotor in order to enjoy the benefits of the new 751 model. Courses with older Rain Bird rotors currently installed can integrate the 751’s Rapid-Adjust Technology.

www.rainbird.eu/golfcourseirrigation

THE X-WAM ARRIVES...

The X-WAM is the widest Trimax roller mower available, offering a huge 10.5 m (34’ 2”) cut width which can then fold up to 2.4m (8’) to be easily transported behind a tractor to different locations. The X-WAM can be bought as a complete unit or as an attachment for those customers who already own a Trimax Pegasus 6.10m (20’) roller mower.

Bob Sievwright, company owner, says “the X-WAM is going to save money by enabling the customer to use one tractor, one mower and one employee to achieve the same productivity as two of each”.

The X-WAM has the potential to cut 33 acres per hour and has the ability to zero turn at the end of each row without having to lift any of the mower decks.

01933 652235
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