The Jacobsen Eclipse 322

the only 100% hydraulic-free greens mower available ... anywhere!

Other ‘hybrids’ still use hydraulic motors for propulsion, so when we say no hydraulics, we mean it. Traction, reel drive and lift/lower operations are all electrically driven using either a small petrol or diesel engine running a 48 volt generator. And now there’s an all-electric version using a battery pack. It’s stealth quiet and ideal for greens close to housing or hotel rooms.

For greener operation on your greens, less maintenance and lower operating costs, it has to be the Jacobsen Eclipse 322.

By the way, did we mention ... no hydraulics.

A golf club without a golf course is what..?
The Jacobsen Eclipse 322

the only 100% hydraulic-free greens mower available ... anywhere!

Other ‘hybrids’ still use hydraulic motors for propulsion, so when we say no hydraulics, we mean it. Traction, reel drive and lift/lower operations are all electrically driven using either a small petrol or diesel engine running a 48 volt generator. And now there’s an all-electric version using a battery pack. It’s stealthy quiet and ideal for greens close to housing or hotel rooms.

For greener operation on your greens, less maintenance and lower operating costs, it has to be the Jacobsen Eclipse 322.

By the way, did we mention ... no hydraulics.
The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.

A look at what’s inside the magazine this month

**FEATURES**

18 The BIGGA National Championship

The BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse will be played over the two majestic courses at The Berkshire. Scott MacCallum chats with Chris Lomas who was Course Manager until two months ago.

24 As time goes by

Jonathan Knowles looks back through the archives to find out more about course management.

28 Opportunity knocks

Eight hopefuls will head to BIGGA HOUSE later this month aiming to become the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year for 2010.

31 Slender speedwell

... The well travelled weed

Dr Terry Mabbett tracks the development of the most stubborn weed in sports turf.

34 The anatomy of...

British hand mowers

James de Havilland takes a look at a British manufacturing success.

**REGULARS**

6 Newsdesk
11 Chairman’s Column
12 GTC
13 L&D
16 Industry Update
17 What’s Your Number?
38 Dealer of the Month – Ted Hopkins Ltd
39 Around the Green
43 Assistant Profile
44 Chief Executive’s Column
47 Diary of Events
48 Membership
51 In the Shed
58 Soapbox – Pete Smith

**Landing at The Berkshire**

Scott MacCallum touches down at the destination of this year’s BIGGA National Championship, taking place on the 4th and 5th of October.
SEPTMBER 2010

FEATURES

18 The BIGGA National Championship

The BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse will be played over the two majestic courses at The Berkshire. Scott MacCallum chats with Chris Lomas who was Course Manager until two months ago.

24 As time goes by

Jonathan Knowles looks back through the archives to find out more about course management.

28 Opportunity knocks

Eight hopefuls will head toBIGGA HOUSE later this month aiming to become the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year for 2010.

31 Slender speedwell

... The well travelled weed

Dr Terry Mabbett tracks the development of the most stubborn weed in sports turf.

34 The anatomy of...

British hand mowers

James de Havilland takes a look at a British manufacturing success.

REGULARS

6 Newsdesk
11 Chairman’s Column
12 GTC
13 L&D
16 Industry Update
17 What’s Your Number?
38 Dealer of the Month – Ted Hopkins Ltd
39 Around the Green
43 Assistant Profile
44 Chief Executive’s Column
47 Diary of Events
48 Membership
51 In the Shed
58 Soapbox – Pete Smith

The official monthly magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.
Turf Science goes Live

Over 100 greenkeepers, turf managers, agronomists and golf club managers attended the first ever Turf Science Live, held at the STRI at the end of July. The event, included an innovative approach of live demonstrations of some of the latest developments in turf agronomy.

Organised by Syngenta, Scotts Professional and STRI, the practical topics covered ranged from surface conversion techniques, demonstrated by Keith Kensett, to establish desirable fine grass species on greens, to management of environmental features around the golf course for increased biodiversity value and application techniques to get spray treatments on target. The new format gave the opportunity for small groups of greenkeepers to engage in active discussion and debate on the merits and potential for different techniques.

Six Stations were set up on the trial fields with another in the STRI laboratory with a huge marquee acting as base and catering centre.

The weather held off but for a small shower and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day which featured several breaks between Station visits and opportunity to network with colleagues.

This year’s Captain at Chippenham, Quentin Grandison, has served on theGreens’Sub Committee for four years and it was his idea to run the Sealey’s Revenge - a fun competition, allowing me to set up the course just the way I wanted it!

After several meetings when some of my more extreme ideas were discounted, we came up with a final plan. The surprise for me was that Q insisted I play in the competition and present the prizes. That would give our members the opportunity to ‘abuse’ me face to face rather than through the committee.

The course was set up with:
- Pins on steep slopes with greens rolled up to ten times (we managed to get several up to 18-19 on the stimp meter). Some were so severe I had to put in a winter hole cup as it was the only way to get the ball in the hole.
- We placed huge logs on the 2nd green for players to putt around.
- We also installed two large Blue tarps in the 18th bunker to make two ponds, complete with yellow plastic ducks. The members entered into spirit of the day by feeding them bread. The course was incredibly tough and I was threatened and my parentage questioned. I asked for refuge in the ladies’ locker room but was informed that I would lose an important part of my anatomy.
- We placed huge logs on the 2nd green for players to putt around.
- Tee markers were placed behind trees, bunkers and on steep slopes with greens rolled up to ten times (we managed to get several up to 18-19 on the stimp meter). Some were so severe I had to put in a winter hole cup as it was the only way to get the ball in the hole.

The downside is that they want me to do it again next year so I’ll need to invent alternative way of ruining their game. Chris Sealey

IF YOU WANT THE BEST GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR COURSE CHOOSE TACIT
THERE IS NO OTHER BETTER
Turf Science goes live

Over 100 greenkeepers, turf managers, agronomists and golf club managers attended the first ever Turf Science Live, held at the STRI at the end of July. The event included an innovative approach of live demonstrations of some of the latest developments in turf agronomy.

Organised by Syngenta, Scotts Professional and STRI, the practical topics covered ranged from surface conversion techniques, demonstrated by Keith Kensett, to establish desirable fine grass species on greens, to management of environmental features around the golf course for increased biodiversity value and application techniques to get spray treatments on target. The new format gave the opportunity for small groups of greenkeepers to engage in active discussion and debate on the merits and potential for different techniques.

Six stations were set up on the trial fields with another in the STRI laboratory with a huge marquee acting as base and catering centre.

The weather held off but for a small shower and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day which featured several breaks between station visits and opportunity to network with colleagues.

The GTC is currently looking to approve standards to meet the criteria designed to ensure quality education and training programmes match the standards within the Work Based Diplomas. The GTC is currently looking to have a similar agreement with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

NEW GTC QUALITY ASSURED SCHEME ON THE WAY

The GTC has contacted its entire current network of Approved Training Providers, namely Further Education colleges, inviting them to apply to join a new GTC Quality Assurance Scheme. Following the recent announcement that an agreement has been reached with City & Guilds Land Based Services (formerly NPTC) to offer from 1st September 2010, jointly branded Work Based Diplomas (WBDs), the GTC is now looking to direct golf club employers and greenkeepers to Centres that have met a criteria designed to ensure quality education and training programmes match the standards within the Work Based Diplomas.

Hatcher at Headland

Headland has boosted its technical sales force with the addition of Darren Hatcher, who takes responsibility for serving current customers and developing new business in Hampshire, Dorset and West Sussex.

Following 10 years in greenkeeping, and the post of Course Manager at Ayrshire Golf Club in Hampshire, Darren and his wife took a year out to travel the world, before joining Headland’s distributors, Sherriff Amenity for six years on the area’s covering crew. Darren, who is familiar with Headland products and wanted to focus exclusively on them, explained. “I also wanted to become more knowledgeable technically and Headland’s are one of the most agronomically advanced companies around.”

Headland’s Sales Director Andy Russell says that Darren’s greenkeeping and on-the-road experience make him the ideal candidate for the job.

This year’s Captain at Chippenham, Quentin Grandison, has served on the Greens’ Sub Committee for four years and it was his idea to run the Sealey’s Revenge – a fun competition, allowing me to set up the course just the way I wanted it! After several meetings when some of my more extreme ideas were discounted, we came up with a final plan. The surprise for me was that Q insisted I play in the competition and present the prizes. That would give our members the opportunity to ‘abuse’ me face to face rather than through the committee.

The course was set up with:

- Pins on steep slopes with greens rolled up to ten times (we managed to get several up to 18-19 on the stimp meter). Some were so severe I had to put in a winter hole cup as it was the only way to get the ball in the hole.
- We placed huge logs on the 2nd green for players to putt around.
- We placed behind trees, bunkers and wanted to focus exclusively on them,” he explained. “I also wanted to become more knowledgeable technically and Headland’s are one of the most agronomically advanced companies around.”
- Holes cut on collars so they had to putt off the green to get to the hole.
- The 12 hole (Par 3) is near our shed so there’s always machinery parked which annoys the ladies, so we parked a Cushman right in front of the green, complete with an Indian mannequin in the back dressed in a high-vis jacket, helmet and ear defenders!
- Tee markers were placed behind trees (particularly for the Captain as he is left handed), tee markers moved forward to allow for small groups of greenkeepers to engage in active discussion and debate on the merits and potential for different techniques.
- The 12 hole (Par 3) is near our shed so there’s always machinery parked which annoys the ladies, so we parked a Cushman right in front of the green, complete with an Indian mannequin in the back dressed in a high-vis jacket, helmet and ear defenders!
- We also installed two large Blue tarps in the 18th bunker to make two ponds, complete with yellow plastic ducks.

A very good score under the circumstances. Most importantly we designated the competition as a charity day for Help for Heroes. Twelve soldiers back from Afghanistan played, and stayed for prize giving to thank the Club for our support. We raised £1,000 on the day for a very worthy cause with support from the local press.

The downside is that they want me to do it again next year so I’ll need to invent alternative way of ruining their game. Chris Sealey
Open House in Ipswich

GI NEWSDESK

Eclipse 322 hybrid greens mower.

First Budding lawnmower of 1832 a display of ancient and modern mowers are manufactured and to see how modern commercial be factory tours at regular intervals witness the Ransomes Jacobsen sector with the opportunity to facility in Ipswich on Wednesday September 22.

The aim of the Open House is to provide end users from the golf sector with the opportunity to witness the Ransomes Jacobsen operation at first hand. There will be factory tours at regular intervals to see how modern commercial mowers are manufactured and a display of ancient and modern grass cutting machinery from the first Budding lawnmower of 1832 through to the latest Jacobsen Eclipse 322 hybrid greens mower.

Three Peaks

A dedicated group of friends from the golf industry conquered the gruelling Three Peaks Challenge to raise tens of thousands of pounds for the charity Help for Heroes. The team of 11, from all corners of the industry, climbed the UK’s three highest peaks - Snowdon, Ben Nevis and Scarf Pike – in a time of 22 hours 45 minutes and have so far raised £27,111.35 for Help for Heroes, to support the Battle Back initiative, a TSI service organisation which uses Adaptive Adventure Training and Sports Rehabilitation to help seriously wounded service personnel gain confidence and return to an active life.

The group was made up of Colin Mayes, Jim Conlan, Tristan Hall and Andy Owen (Bathill Golf & Leisure), Kevin Hart (Club Car), Andrew Brown (Toro), Daniel Hodgson (De Vere), Simon Thorpe (Expressions Partnership), John Weir (Cornerstone Golf), Chris Lomas and Course Designer, Jennifer Grounds.

They kicked off the challenge at 3am on Saturday, July 24, climbing the UK’s highest peak Ben Nevis in Scotland, with words of encouragement from Lee Westwood, a Hero for Heroes Ambassador, ringing in their ears.

Ben Nevis was conquered in four hours, before the team headed to Scarf Pike in the Lake District, scaling that in three hours 25 minutes.

A four-hour drive to North Wales gave the team a chance for a quick rest before tackling Snowdon, which was climbed in four hours 30 minutes, finishing the challenge at 2.40am on Sunday, July 25.

Colin Mayes said: “It was an extremely tough challenge both physically and mentally, but the group pulled together and helped each other through.

‘To finish the challenge in just less than 23 hours was a great achievement, and raising so much money for such a great cause was an even bigger accomplishment, and one that the whole team is proud of.’

Kevin Hart added: “We spent a total of 11 hours 55 minutes climbing the three mountains British Military Fitness (BMF), who coordinated the Three Peaks Challenge, in which nine teams participated, adds 10 hours to your climbing time for transportation.

‘So our official time was 21 hours 55 minutes, resulting in second place, a fantastic effort for a group of golfers.

‘The main aim of the Challenge was to raise as much money for Help for Heroes Battle Back Golf as possible.

The sum raised currently stands at £27,500 and the team is still working to exceed £30,000 by the time we present a cheque to Battle Back Golf in early September.

‘The golf industry has been magnificent in offering so much financial support to this very worthy cause and the whole team would like to thank everyone who has been kind enough to sponsor them.’

Donations can still be made by visiting: www.bmghocharity.com/V2/

Steve takes a Bow

All good things must come to an end. Just recently we have learned that a well known face in our industry believes that now is the time to down tools and say goodbye to a role that he has loved for over 37 years. Steve Hasell has decided to call time, and enjoy life a little more. It all started from a background in farming for Steve, that, and an HND in Agricultural engineering. Steve wanted to move back to his home county to get married. This is especially rewarding for Steve, when he sees many faces at Harragreave, and the fact so many of them have done so well Steve would like to thank everyone for making his 37 years feel so special and wishes everyone the very best during their own careers.

Adam Mathews, South West Section, BIGGA
Golf course owners, managers, greenskeeping staff and fine turf professionals from across the UK are invited to an Open House event at Ransomes, Jacobsen’s European head office and manufacturing facility in Ipswich on Wednesday September 22.

The aim of the Open House is to provide an opportunity for those involved with the golf industry to meet and network with other industry professionals. The event will feature a range of activities including a tented village, a trade exhibition, and a chance to meet and network with other industry professionals.

All professionals from the golf sector and those involved in the maintenance of fine turf are welcome to attend. The event will take place on Saturday, July 24, with the challenge starting at 2.40am on Sunday, July 25.

Steve has had a fantastic career. It all started from a background in agriculture, and he has worked in a variety of roles within the industry. Steve says that he is proud to have played a role in the development of fine turf in the UK.

The main aim of the Open House is to raise money for Help for Heroes. The sum raised currently stands at £27,500, and the team is still working to exceed £30,000 by the time we present the cheque to Battle Back Golf in early September.

“The golf industry has been magnificently offering so much financial support to this very worthy cause and the whole team would like to thank everyone who has been kind enough to sponsor them.”

Donations can still be made by texting: www.bmgh.co.uk or www.bmgh.co.uk/2/4lyCaldmuayg
GI NEWSDESK

Sports Turf Student Prizes for the Four Degrees

Mylenasquoch College held their presentation of awards ceremonies over two days in July. The ceremonies saw many students presented with outstanding achievement awards, rewarding their efforts over the duration of the course. This year saw eight Sports turf students given awards as the top students on their courses. Paul Cook, from Woking, won the Martyn Jones Award First Prize for his work on the RSC (Hortaj) in Sportsturf and Golf Course Management Degree. For the FdSc Sportsturf Degree; David Golding, from Southport, won the Ernest Jones Award First Prize; Robert Clare, from Clitheroe, won the Ransomes Jacobsen Turfmech Cup, and Peter Leach, from Bicester, won the Barenberg Turf Award for the FdSc Sportsturf Degree Online.

At Further Education Level, Neil Kellington, from Lewes, Ummberia, and Gary McCleskey, from Liverpool, won the Rufford Veterinary Medicine Prize respectively for the National Diploma in Sportsturf, Stephen McGrath, from Lancaster, won the IOG Cup, while Mark Willis, from Blackpool, won the Top Drees Cup and Ransomes Jacobsen Turf Machinery Practical Award.

The group picture shows the Four Degree students (from left to right), Peter Leach, Paul Cook, Robert Clare and David Golding.

Thanks, Scotts

The Golf Management Commissions for the South West and South Wales Regions have taken place over the summer months and the support of the Scotts Companies, who have sponsored these events for many years, was provided by the BIGGA South West and South Wales Region.

Along with individual prizes for the members of the first, second and third placed teams, the running team in each section received an Accross 2000 Spreader from the Scotts Company. This year the South West Section event was held at Hartgrove Golf Club and was won by the Ogilvy Golf Club with 86 points, in second place was Sidmouth GC with 85 points and third place was Cleckheaton GC with 82 points. The South Wales Section event was held at Merthyr GC and was won on count back by the home club team with 86 points, runners up were Llanrwst GC with 90 points and second was Haverton GC with 92 points. A three point game was held at Basingstoke GC and was won by the home club team with 49 points and second was Toftwood GC with 57 points. The South Wales Section event was held at Llanrwst GC and was won on count back by the home club team with 86 points, runners up were Llanrwst GC with 89 points and second was Haverton GC with 92 points. The South Wales Section event was held at Basingstoke GC and was won by the home club team with 49 points and second was Toftwood GC with 57 points. The South Wales Section event was held at Llanrwst GC and was won on count back by the home club team with 86 points, runners up were Llanrwst GC with 89 points and second was Haverton GC with 92 points. The South Wales Section event was held at Basingstoke GC and was won by the home club team with 49 points and second was Toftwood GC with 57 points. The South Wales Section event was held at Llanrwst GC and was won on count back by the home club team with 86 points, runners up were Llanrwst GC with 89 points and second was Haverton GC with 92 points.

TURFMech GETS HITCHED

Turfmech Machinery has acquired the design, manufacturing and marketing rights to the reliable and popular boutique line of kits developed originally by Scottish company, iPitchPower Ltd, for fitting to Toro Turf Machinery Practical Degree.

Turfmech’s Managing Director, Austin Jarrett, explained that the agreement encompassed the entire stock, trade, brands and intellectual property rights formerly owned by iPitchPower Ltd and its founder and owner, Stuart Machin.

Turfmech plans to sell boxed kits world-wide via its website and its sales team as well as through John Deere and Toro dealers.

My personal thanks

Much has already been written about the recent Open Championship and recognition rightly given to BIGGA volunteers and staff who worked so hard – both on the course and behind the scenes. It was my first time at St Andrews and what a memorable experience. I am pleased to add my personal thanks to everyone on the Team which once again helped BIGGA achieve its profile.

Great life in greenkeeping

My favorite moment was introducing Cecil George’s Lifetime Achievement Award during Friday lunchtime in the BIGGA marquee. It was fantastic that so many of Cecil’s old friends as well as so many of our younger people took time out to be there. It was a powerful combination of ‘old-guard’ and ‘young-guns’ - all with a single purpose - to introduce Cecil’s great life in greenkeeping. I don’t know Cecil very well so I brought in two who did – Elliott Small and Walter Woods.

In a witty aside, Cecil upon being informed that it was Walter who would be making the presentation was heard to mutter “Och, it’ll be Walter again”. Walter informed that it was Walter who did – Elliott Small and Walter Woods. I closed the presentation ceremony with my favorite moment. It was my first time to BYGGA’s assistance to promote the GEO and the R & A via their websites - www.golfenvironement.org/ certification www.bestcourseforgolf.org/ club/register.html

We all need to do more than just enjoy the experience at a big championship. My plea is to take the opportunity to understand the business of golf courses as well as to support the businesses that make our golf courses. This can empower us.

This year’s Major, The Open Championship, was won by Adam Scott. The greenkeeper behind Adam Scott is in my mind. I have often thought about the people who work behind the scenes. It was my first time to a STEER Group and it was fantastic that so many...