Beetle mania

Last month the Forestry Commission (FC) sent out a press release begging the public to help find populations of the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) (Anoplophora glabripennis) and its close cousin the citrus longhorned beetle (CLB) (Anoplophora citrata). Several outbreaks of CLB having arrived on infested Acer trees (maple), probably imported from plant nurseries in the Netherlands and originally sourced from China, have thankfully been eradicated over the last few years. ALB was found in spring 2012 at Paddock Wood in Kent (Greenkeeper International July 2012), having arrived in wooden crates from China, and was responsible for the precautionary felling of virtually all trees across eight hectares.

Hopefully this single ALB outbreak has also been eradicated since FC and FERA have said virtually nothing on the subject since autumn 2012. However, they are clearly concerned that more beetles could arrive in the country.

Martin Ward, the UK Government’s Chief Plant Health Officer, said “Government plant health services cannot do this work alone, and we need the public to act as our eyes and ears in gardens, fields, woodlands and workplaces to help us spot threats quickly before they become a serious problem.”

Fat chance, according to a recent Woodland Trust survey 80 per cent of the UK population can’t even identify a swathe of 18 contiguous adjoining areas of Canada (Ontario and Quebec). If a beetle hasn’t ever gotten into the UK it will destroy our native common ash (Fraxinus excelsior) before even Chalara fraxinea (chalaras ash dieback) has a chance to.

The United States has another Agrilus beetle this time a native species called the brown birch borer (Agrilus arundinum) which as the common name suggests attacks birch trees.

Native European species of bird has absolutely no resistance to this insect pest which will wipe out our native silver birch (Betula pendula) and downy birch (Betula pubescens) if it ever becomes established in the British Isles.

Now there is a British, native ambrosia beetle called oak pole hole borer. Having been given a new lease of life in oak trees flattened by the 1987 Hurricane, the beetle has graduated over the years from a relatively rare insect of British oak woodland into a huge pest problem for the oak timber trade.

This beetle will make a mess of your club’s new designer racehorse box kitchen before it has even been made.

Dr Terry Moblell

Blogging at Percy Wood

This month’s featured blog comes from Simon Oliver, Course Manager at Percy Wood Golf Club in Northumberland. We’ve had a great response to this so far with greenkeepers really enjoying blogging as a superb tool for communicating with members and visitors alike and helping to remove some of the myths surrounding the greenskeeping profession.

Keep your blogs coming to steve.cattle@bigpa.co.uk

Simon explained: "Our blog gives members a detailed update to date diary of what’s going on around the course, allowing the team to carry out efficient maintenance work seamlessly and alert our membership to important information. Feedback has been fantastic showing that clear and concise communication is a must for any greenskeeper."

"There has been unanimous appreciation for all the time put aside to keep everyone informed, resulting in greater respect for myself and the team. Since our blog began committee meetings have been hailed in time at most questions have already been answered."

"It is important to any greenkeeper thinking about creating a blog to build up your social network connections first, this will allow you to spread your blog further than you could. Also to remember your blog can enhance your CV, so make sure it showcases your ability."

See for yourself at http://percywoodgolf.blogspot.co.uk

NORRIE WHYTOCK TROPHY TRIUMPH FOR THE WEST

The Scottish region’s annual Norrie Whytock tournament sponsored by Bayer CropScience was held at Auchterarder Golf Club on 15 August. A strong field assembled to compete for the honour of winning this prestigious title for their respective sections.

Although the weather forecast prior to the day was pretty dismal, the competitors were provided with warm and breezy conditions with a few light showers along the way. Indeed the weather was a distinct improvement on last year’s event that was plagued by heavy showers with play eventually stopping at the 15th following thunder and lightning.

As expected the course was in fabulous condition and praised very highly by all players. Our sincere congratulations to Archie Dunn and his team for providing an excellent playing venue for this competition. The fairways were immaculate, the rough fair and the greens true and firm, what more could the players want!

There were some excellent individual scores returned on the day with 2 players reaching the 36 point mark and a further 3 scoring 35 points. Indeed 2 players returned 3 over par gross scores of 72, Phil Butler (Murrayfield) had to go along with his 35 points.

Reigning champions the North Section could not replicate the form from the previous 2 years and failed to collect the prize this year. In the end only 2 points separated the winners and runners up with Ayrshire putting up a valiant effort of 96 points - Iain Barr the main contributor.

However, the honours were reserved for the West Section with an excellent total of 98 points. Dougie McIntosh from Carthin Braes led the team with 35 points and grossed the other 3 over par score. He was ably assisted by Alnmair Read (Williamwood) with 31 points and our former Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd who posted a great score of 32 points.

Former Regional Chairman Stuart Taylor (Glasgow) made up the team on the day and knows he would not want me to mention his points tally! Andy Street, Scottish Chairman, thanked all competitors for taking part and their continued support of the association.

The chairman thanked Bayer CropScience for their sponsorship and Auchterarder Golf Club for hosting the event and providing the courtesy of the course and use of the excellent clubhouse facilities.

Our partnership with the competition sponsors, Bayer CropScience is essential to the success of the Norrie Whytock competition. Dave Deacon, National Accounts Manager was on hand to present the prizes and to thank all for attending.

Winning team captain, Dougie McIntosh, concluded the proceedings by accepting the Norrie Whytock Trophy and passed on his thanks to all concerned with running the event, to Bayer, to Auchterarder Golf Club and especially Archie Dunn and his team for presenting an excellent golf course for the competition.

John Young

GOLF DAY SUCCESS AT BRISTOL AND CLIFTON

The inaugural H Curtis and Sons, Brno and Baronssea golf day was recently held at the superbly presented Bristol and Clifton Golf Club - huge credit to Matt Hawker and his team for producing such a fantastic golf course.

The competition was played as a Texas Scramble with 8 teams of 4 taking part. It presented a showcase for the massive strides Curtis & Sons have taken in the short time they have been in the groundscare industry. Roco had an impressive display of tractors and utility vehicles for golf courses on show. It was also an opportunity to present the new Baronssea 315 Greens Triple which played for the first time at HTMI.

Andrew Curtis, Managing Director of Curtis’s, said he was delighted with the day and the support it received from the greenkeepers in the area and was looking forward to building on its success next year. Pictured are the winning team of Matt Curtis, Craig Fudge, James Letch and George Sidney.
As before, this section will highlight the many benefits BIGGA membership gives you, but will feature you, the members. We want to hear your stories and experiences – so whether you’ve found a new job through BIGGA, got help through our Legal Helpline or Lifestyle Counselling, worked at a high-profile tournament or even won a golf competition we want to hear from you!

SUPPORT AUTUMN EVENTS IN YOUR SECTION

This month we’re urging BIGGA members to support events in their area. We’ve got the Regional Conferences coming up - more details on this page – but members across the UK are busy organising all manner of educational and golfing events for your benefit.

General Manager Tracey Maddison said: “Many of the members give up their own time to plan, organise and deliver excellent educational events so you can imagine how dispiriting it is when only a few people turn up. We’re very aware that everyone is busy but it’s vital that they are supported, and if you don’t attend you really are missing out.”

There are many ways to keep up to date on what’s going on – the Events page on the BIGGA website, our Facebook and Twitter pages plus Section Facebook, Twitter and web pages. There’s also a monthly round-up of Events in each region in Around the Green – so there’s no excuse not to be fully briefed on what’s happening. For example, September alone features BIGGA Seminars at SALTEX (4 September), an East of England v GCMA match (12 September), the North Wales Autumn Tournament (18 September), the Northern Section Autumn Tournament (19 September), the Essex Section Golf Day (24 September), the Scotland North Section Autumn outing (24 September), the Essex Autumn Trophy & Blind Pairs (25 September) and the Sheffield Section Autumn Competition (25 September)… this is just a quick example of what’s happening, so get out there and get involved!
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**BIGGA REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

**BIGGA Midland Regional Conference** – Wednesday 6 November at Forest Hill Golf & Country Club, Botcheston, Leicester LE9 9FH. £15 members, £25 non-members, further details soon!

**BIGGA South West & South Wales Regional Conference** – Thursday 7 November at the Phoenix Golf Club, Binsworth, Rotherham S60 5PA. £10 members, £20 non-members, further details soon!

**BIGGA Northern Regional Conference** – Thursday 7 November at the Phoenix Golf Club, Binsworth, Rotherham S60 5PA. £10 members, £20 non-members, further details soon!

**British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association**
NEW SCOTTISH CENTRE GIVEN FULL APPROVAL

Lever Training Ltd, based in Fife, have received full approved centre status from the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) to deliver and certificate awards within the areas of Horticulture and Sports turf across the landbased sector.

Wayne Roberts, Managing Director at Lever Training Ltd, said: “The landbased sector plays an important part in the UK economy, supporting many different areas including the soft fruit industry, production horticulture, woodlands and forestry and leisure and sporting activities.

Being able to provide sustainable long term employment and business development across the country is important to success. It is therefore vital that employers have ready access to training that directly supports employers and candidates in the workplace and fully considers the seasonality of the learning opportunities that modern organisations can provide.

Wayne added: “The number of requests that we receive lends us to believe there is an ever increasing demand from the sector for specialist workbased delivery, carried out completely in the workplace and we are excited to be now meeting and supporting this demand.”

For more information on the range of courses being offered, Lever Training can be contacted at Learning@levertraining.com or by contacting Jackie Carstairs, Learning Manager on 01592 780709/719.

SLIC MOVE BY PROVIDER PROVIDER

SLIC Training are offering a 16 week ‘taster’ course in Land Based Engineering free of charge. If you are based in Coventry, Warwickshire and Leicestershire and service your own Land Based Equipment they have a fantastic offer for you.

They are the largest Horticultural training provider in the UK and currently work with a range of national landscaping and grounds maintenance contractors. They have received Government funding to engage with companies in Coventry, Warwickshire and Leicestershire and service your own Land Based Equipment they have a fantastic offer for you.

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The EDGIT PRO™ is the easy solution to a time-consuming problem. Forget spending countless man-hours edging the same bunkers, pathways, flowerbeds and kerbs. The EDGIT has been created to dramatically reduce labour: it is the all-purpose answer to the predicament of creating perfect edges with a string trimmer.

Contact Details

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L&D Executive

Rachael@bigga.co.uk
L&D Manager

www.bigga.org.uk
Application form at www.bigga.org.uk
Do you have what it takes? Download an application form at www.bigga.org.uk by clicking on Education.
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They are the largest Horticultural training provider in the UK and currently work with a number of national landscaping and grounds maintenance contractors. They have received Government funding to engage with companies in Coventry, Warwickshire and Leicestershire to offer a ‘master’ course in Land Based Engineering mechanics. We can offer this to your eligible, existing staff, over the age of 19 years old – COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE.

The course is made up of a number of units taken from a Level 2 Diploma in Work-based, Land-based Engineering. Operations for which the learner would receive accreditation. This is a fantastic opportunity to get some 1:1:1 training, for specialist work-based delivery, carried out completely in the workplace and we are excited to be now meeting and supporting this demand. *

For more information on the range of courses being offered, Lever Training can be contacted at Lever/training.co.uk or by contacting Jackie Carstairs, Learning Manager on 01592 786709/719.

AND FINALLY...

A reminder that the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year final is on 17 September at BIGGA HQ. Good luck to all eight candidates who were listed in last month’s Greenkeeper international. Next month’s issue will feature coverage of the final plus an interview with the eventual winner.

Edging	with your trimmer	as fast as you can walk

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Stihl Strimmers also available

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**INDUSTRY UPDATE**

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

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**EX GREENKEEPER JOINS BAYER**

Bayer CropScience has appointed turfgrass protection specialist, Dr Colin Mumford as their new Technical Support Manager. He brings a wealth of experience and replaces Dorin Pop who has moved elsewhere within Bayer.

Colin has been involved in the sports turf industry for nearly 25 years. With hands-on, course management experience, Colin was previously Head Greenkeeper at North Weald Golf Club in Essex, before returning to full-time education where he gained a BSc (Hons) in Landscaping and Amenity Management from Writtle College, as well as an MSc in Sports Surface Technology and an Engineering Doctorate (EngD) from Cranfield University.

Since completing his studies Colin has worked in New Zealand as the Technical Officer for the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute, which exposed him to a variety of artificial and natural turf sports surfaces. Colin returned to the UK and spent two years as Technical Manager for an artificial sports surfaces specialist, where his role was to develop the company’s products and services, as well as advising clients on the construction, maintenance, and redevelopment of artificial sports surfaces.

Colin has become a respected authority within the industry and has presented at national and international conferences. He has had several papers published and has also written numerous articles for trade journals.

He said: “This is a very exciting opportunity for me at Bayer CropScience. It offers me the opportunity to leverage all the skills and knowledge I have accumulated in the sports turf industry, and I’m looking forward to supporting turf managers in developing effective and practicable solutions in crop protection.”

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**BARONESS MOWER IS WELSH WIZARD**

The Head Greenkeeper of Llandinno Wells Golf Club has given his full backing to baroness after purchasing one of the company’s Grovers Mowers.

Head Greenkeeper Eric Read is pictured with Terry Harrison of Terry Harrison Machinery after they delivered a new Baroness 315 Greens Mowers.

Eric said: “After trialling several brands of Greens Triplex Mowers the Baroness Mower was an easy choice. Many outstanding features came to the fore, such as the excellent traction on our bumpy course, its agile manoeuvrability and exceptional quality of cut, with minimal impact on the greens. I see it as the only machine which achieves such a high quality finish.”

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**BIGGA SEMINAR AT SALTEX**

Michael Fance, Senior Technical Area Sales Manager for Everris, will be co-presenting with Dr Simon Watson from Syngenta as part of the BIGGA seminar programme on Wednesday 4th September. Their session will be an integrated approach to disease management on golf greens, takes place at 1pm in the grandstand. One BIGGA CPD point is available to CPD-registered greenkeepers who attend.

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**Greenkeeper Training - Europe**

Greenkeeper Training - Europe (GT-E) is pleased to announce they have been successful in a joint European Union (EU) project bid.

The project, which will commence in October, has eight partners, and is scheduled to be completed in two years. David Golding, GT-E’s Standards Director, explained that the project’s main aim is to develop, test and introduce a Quality Assured Scheme for greenkeeper training which involves the following countries, colleges and organisations:

- * Kao College, Finland
- * Benesov College, Czech Republic
- * Czech Greenkeepers Association
- * Kalmar College, Lithasania
- * Lumia Vocational Training Centre, Estonia
- * Elkhound College, Scotland
- * Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association

* Greenkeeper Training - Europe

David, pictured below, added: “Several partners in the project have experience in developing, delivering and monitoring greenkeeper education and training over many years. Their knowledge and experience will prove invaluable to assist golf developing countries looking to establish a quality structure of greenkeeper education and training, best suited to their country using the Standards of GT-E.”

David believes even more countries will benefit from the project as GT-E is always looking to advise and give guidance to countries with little or no formal structure in greenkeeper training.

Greenkeepers will be at the very heart of the project, supported by the various colleges. There will be a real emphasis on engaging golf club employers as they benefit from investing in greenkeeper training by having better maintained and managed golf courses.

The GT-E, which is based at Aldwark near York, is currently funded through a special R&I project and is currently working with the European Golf Association and its 43 member Federations and Unions to establish core funding to assist with the administration and management of the GT-E.

Drought conditions are something that not all greenkeepers may have experience of after our recent wet summers. Alex Hawkes, Regional Technical Manager for Headland Amenity, explains the challenges that he and his greens crew had to face.

The 210-acre course is located on the South Downs chalk belt that runs through the area. The site is at a high elevation and extremely exposed to the sun and wind from all directions. The greens and tees are also constructed from very coarse sand providing little in the way of moisture or nutrient retention.

“Essentially, our winter advantage was our summer Achilles heel” says Alex. “Even though recent summers had not been the driest, the rate at which the tees and greens dried out, demanded a rethink. Myself and my deputy made a ‘hit list’ of the worst affected areas and we started out on a monthly wetting agent plan to blanket sprayed the greens with Headland Tricure AD supplementing with the Tricure Tablets to protect turf during periods of stress. We always did this prior to areas becoming Hydrophobic (water repelling), to avoid trying to catch up on areas that were already showing signs of Deep Patch. This worked very well but there were still odd areas needing a great deal of labour intensive hand watering. So having found success with Tricure AD Liquid and Tablets, we decided to try the Granular form at the three month rate. Each April we would treat all the areas that we knew would be the first to dry out, as a proactive method of avoiding the turf stress that comes with Dry Patch.

“The results were superb and a huge headache was relieved. More than simply controlling the dry patch, we found that once the weather broke and natural rainfall came, the reduced turf stress resulted in less Anthracnose (which in my first year had been a huge problem in the latter part of summer). We repeated this method at the beginning of each season and found ourselves using less water to keep the greens alive. This was especially pertinent as we had to draw water at high cost from the mains once the lakes dried out. The Granular Tricure AD, in particular, making the best use of any rainfall, our irrigation water and even drawing down dew.

“This is all definitely relevant at the present time as we find ourselves in the first really hot, dry period for some six or seven years. Utilising a high performance wetting agent to maximise water efficiency and prevent Dry Patch is essential in such conditions. The key now is to maintain regular liquid applications and not to wait until your turf has reached its permanent wilting point and cannot be brought back.

Acting quickly when required by spot treating with Tricure pellets will maximise your opportunities to get water into the root zone and keep it there. It will also reduce the stress associated with turf diseases such as Anthracnose.”

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**HEADLAND’S TRICURE BANISHES TURF STRESS AND DRY PATCH TO GREAT EFFECT**

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**Greenkeeper Training - Europe**

**Drought conditions are something that not all greenkeepers may have experience of after our recent wet summers. Alex Hawkes, Regional Technical Manager for Headland Amenity, is a former Course Manager and has first-hand knowledge of tackling this challenging problem. Knowledge that has become invaluable.**

During his six years at Sixth Winchester Golf Club keeping moisture in the greens was probably the biggest challenge that he and his greenkeepers had to face.

The 210-acre course is located on the South Downs chalk belt that runs through the area. The site is at a high elevation and extremely exposed to the sun and to wind from all directions. The greens and tees are also constructed from very coarse sand providing little in the way of moisture or nutrient retention.

“Essentially, our winter advantage was our summer Achilles heel” says Alex. “Even though recent summers had not been the driest, the rate at which the tees and greens dried out, demanded a rethink. Myself and my deputy made a ‘hit list’ of the worst affected areas and we started out on a monthly wetting agent plan to blanket spay the greens with Headland Tricure AD Liquid and Tablets, we explained that the project’s main aim is to develop, test and introduce a Quality Assured Scheme for greenkeeper training which involves the following countries, colleges and organisations:

- Kao College, Finland
- Benesse College, Czech Republic
- Cech Greenkeepers Association
- Kalmia College, Lithuania
- Lusia Vocational Training Centre, Estonia
- Elmhurst College, Scotland
- Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association

Greenkeeper Training - Europe

David, pictured below, added: “Several partners in the project have experience in developing, delivering and monitoring greenkeeper education and training and over many years. Their knowledge and experience will prove invaluable to assist golf developing countries looking to establish a quality structure of greenkeeper education and training, best suited to their country using the Standards of GT-E.”

David believes even more countries will benefit from the project as GT-E is always looking to advise and give guidance to countries with little or no formal structure in greenkeeper training.

Greenkeepers will be at the very heart of the project, supported by the various colleges. There will be a real emphasis on engaging golf club employers as they benefit from investing in greenkeeper training by having better maintained and managed golf courses.

The GT-E, which is based at Aldwark near York, is currently funded through a special R&A project and is currently working with the European Golf Association and its 43 member Federations and Unions to establish core funding to assist with the administration and management of the GT-E.
NEW PRODUCTS

The latest products on show at SALTEX

WESSEX AND SNOWEX AT SALTEX

Buffalo HUNTING AT SALTEX

GI

Atlet Mowers launched their latest Buffalo 345 all-purpose pedestrian cylinder mower at SALTEX. Featured on the great all-rounders in the Atlet line-up, the robust new mowers have large diameter cutting cylinders which give them the ability to cut longer grass, even in wet conditions. The new Buffalo 345 sees a range of improvements to a machine developed primarily as a grounds maintenance mower. The engine is now centrally mounted on the chassis, giving the user a better view of the cutting area. There is a larger diameter front roller to give straighter lines and increased cutting pressure. One handed fitting and removal of the grass box has been made possible by adapting the handle and grass box hop in place of arms. This new grass box has also been extended to the rest of the Buffalo range. In prospective of forward speed, the Buffalo has a fixed clip rate and anyone hunting for a cylinder mower that will cut long and wild grass will find that the 250mm diameter 8 blade cutting cylinder is designed to cope well in these conditions. The hydraulically operated cutting height is made easy with a single point adjustment from the cylinder and the handle.

KUBOTA JOIN FORCES WITH BROWNS AND LISTER WILDER

Kubota teamed up with two of its dealer partners at SALTEX 2013 to demonstrate its market leading range of tractor and groundcare solutions. The company joined forces with George Brown’s and Lister Wilder on stand D20, giving visitors the opportunity to see Kubota’s extensive range of solutions for the groundcare sector, including some of the latest introductions and innovations for 2013. New solutions for 2013 that featured on the stand included Kubota’s recently launched RTV400Ci utility vehicle and the M6060 wide range tractor. Kubota also displayed a member of their popular compact tractors and ride-on mower solutions at the show.

GroundsCare Products, sole UK importers of Turf Teq and ZipLevel products, ran live demonstrations of these unique landscape maintenance and survey products. The Turf Teq range consists of:
- Edge/Trencher
- Power Broom
- Rough-cut Mower
- Surface Preparation Rake
- Snow Plough

...all powered by the hydrostatically-driven Turf Teq walk behind tractor with a 33hp Honda engine. New for this year is the revolutionary ZipLevel high precision survey level for landscapers, civil engineers and the construction industry. Easier to carry, set up and use than a laser or automatic level, the ZipLevel does not need line of sight, and reads out results on a digital display; no math needed.

VAST ARRAY OF PRODUCTS FROM CHARTERHOUSE

SALTEX is always a good opportunity to update yourself on what products are available - and there was no better stand to do that than Charterhouse Turf Machinery. The company has a vast array of equipment to nurture natural surfaces and groom synthetic ones. With end of season maintenance in mind turf managers’ attention will turn to aeration, scarifying, top dressing and recovering of grassed areas or regravitating synthetic ones.

On stand was the recently launched Redesem Verti Drain. 1817, part of the new high-speed 17 series that feature lighter weight machines. Suitable for use with a tractor or from as little as 4tph, the 1817 weighs in at just 720kg but offers a productive 1.76m working width together with a depth of up to 150mm (6in). Alongside were examples from Charterhouse’s extensive range of oversenders, from pedestrian split units to high capacity disc senders, and the company’s Turf treadformer line.

Continuing the theme of lighter units, the new Redesem Verti-Turf 1200 for synthetic turf maintenance is a physically smaller machine that will be of particular use in more confined spaces. It is still a high work-rate machine; it provides a productive 1.2m working width (21”) or 380mm (15”). Model 600 is ideally suited to cleaning large areas such as car parks or multiple tennis courts. Model 400 is more manoeuvrable and easier to use in restricted areas such as domestic patios. Both are supplied with a 9m hose and lance so they can be used as a traditional, static washer or if required.

GI

BROADWOOD International displayed selected Wessex ProLine mowers and SnowEx winter salt, grit and brine spreaders on stand N04. When only the best will do the Wessex ProLine RMX-560 and RMX-680 roller mowers have proved to be highly popular with councils, contractors and sports complexes. Wide-area mowing offers cost-efficiency and the triple deck complexes.

Whilst the country is bathed in sunshine and enjoying a heatwave it seems hardly the time to be thinking about winter maintenance for snow and ice. Planning ahead however pays dividends and it’s worth looking at the wide range of the SnowEx spreaders that were on show at SALTEX, from the 2300 litre capacity V-Maxx SP-9300 to the 5000 litre V-Maxx SP-10600. The Bulk-Pro and Mini-Pro utility spreaders are ideal for councils, contractors, farmers and estates with the facility to mount them on commercial vehicles, 4x4’s, UTV’s, ATVs, tractors and fork-lifts.

The use of brine solutions for winter maintenance is an increasingly popular practice and the SnowEx VSH liquid de-icers are increasingly popular practice and the SnowEx VSH liquid de-icers are

Toro LAUNCHES PREMA AT SALTEX

Two mowers, the first for the amenity and landscape sector, and another for golf, headlined the Toro exhibit on the Lely – Precision Agriculture stand. The new programme for quality pre-owned Toro turf machinery.

Pride of place on Stand No A05 was the LT3340 heavy-duty triple mower. Designed for high-productivity grass-cutting on jobs from parks and roadside verges to schools and caravan sites, this machine also gives a great finish. Optional all-weather cab and high levels of comfort keep operators working longer. While easy access service areas help reduce running costs and increase profit margins.

Next up was the new Toro Reelmaster 3550-D. Weighing in at just 908kg, Toro claim it’s the lightest fairway mower on the market, and have dubbed it the lightweight fairway champion. It floats effortlessly over contours without leaving any unwelcome impressions on the turf.

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WESSEX AND SNOWEX AT SALTEX

New solutions for 2013 that featured on the stand included the revolutionary ZipLevel high precision survey level for landscapers, civil engineers and the construction industry. Easier to carry, set up and use than a laser or automatic level, the ZipLevel does not need line of sight, and reads out results on a digital display: no math required. Also on display was the Rotowash walk-behind, flat surface pressure washer. Now available in two sizes, the machine offers working widths of 530mm (21”) or 380mm (15”). Model 600 is ideally suited to cleaning large areas such as car parks or multiple tennis courts. Model 4000 is more manoeuvrable and easier to use in restricted areas such as domestic patios. Both are supplied with a 9m hose and lance so they can be used as a traditional, static washer if required.

Broadwood International displayed selected Wessex ProLine mowers and SnowEx winter salt, grit and brine spreaders on stand N04. When only the best will do the Wessex ProLine RMX-560 and RMX-680 roller mowers have proved to be highly popular with councils, contractors and sports complexes. Wide-area mowing offers cost-efficiency and the triple deck mower leaves a finish equal to a cylinder mower on fine turf, at a fraction of the cost. New this year is the Wessex FRX professional cylinder mower on fine turf, at a fraction of the cost. New this year is the Wessex FRX professional cylinder mower on fine turf, at a fraction of the cost. New this year is the Wessex FRX professional cylinder mower on fine turf, at a fraction of the cost.

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New solutions for 2013 that featured on the stand included Kubota’s recently launched RTV400Ci utility vehicle and the M6060 wild range tractor. Kubota also displayed a member of its popular compact tractors and ride-on mower solutions at the show.

BUFFALO HUNTING AT SALTEX

Atlet Mowers launched their latest Buffalo 345 all-purpose petrol twin cylinder mower at SALTEX. Known as the great all-rounders in the Atlet line-up, the robust twin-blades have large diameter cutting cylinders which give them the ability to cut longer grass, even in wet conditions. The new Buffalo 345 sees a range of improvements as a machine developed primarily as a spotmower and contractor. The engine is now centrally mounted on the chassis, giving the user a better view of the cutting area. There is a larger diameter front roller to give straighter lines and less pressure. One handed lifting and removal of the grass box has been made possible by adding a handle and grass box hop in place of arms. This new grass box hop also has been made possible to the rest of the Buffalo range.

The new Buffalo 345 has a fixed clip rate and anyone hunting for a cylinder mower that will cut long and weet grass will find that the 25mm diameter 6 blade cutting cylinder is designed to cope well in those conditions. The new design centre of gravity is placed centrally with a single point adjustment for the cylinder and the deck height.
THE WORLD’S FIRST UTV WITH POWER TAKE OFF

Leading off-road vehicle manufacturer Polaris has announced the BRUTUS range, the world’s first purpose-built side-by-side utility vehicle with front-end Power Take Off.

Based on the Polaris RANGER, BRUTUS comprises three models – BRUTUS HD, BRUTUS HD PTO and BRUTUS HD PTO. The line was built to be the most versatile, most capable and most comfortable side-by-side utility vehicles ever created, enabling users to complete more tasks without spending more time and energy. The new BRUTUS models are specifically engineered for individuals and businesses that seek durable all-round task vehicles.

The ability to operate several front-end attachments provides users with new levels of versatility, and ultimately, a cost-effective and more productive work solution.

The Pro-Tachi™ attachment system, standard on the BRUTUS HD and BRUTUS HD PTO, delivers the capability to change from one attachment to the next quickly and easily. Creating levels of productivity never seen before in its class, a revolutionary, front-end PTO system on the BRUTUS HD PTO draws power directly from the vehicle’s engine. The high efficiency, mechanical PTO maximizes power to a line of purpose-built, out-front commercial attachments. Featured in the complete line of attachments are three PTO powered attachments – angle broom, finishing mower and snow blower – and three hydraulically-powered attachments – snow blade, pallet forks and materials bucket – allowing users to sweep, mow, blow, plow and scoop with just one machine.

“The introduction of the BRUTUS product family is part of our commitment to offer customers innovative and relevant vehicles that best suit their needs.” David Longers, Polaris Vice President, Off-Road Vehicles (ORV) and ORV Engineering said. “Throughout our 60 years of engineering experience, strategic alliances with other industry leaders and our incredible network of dealers, we are able to provide the commercial market with the most productive, reliable and versatile vehicles.”

The BRUTUS models offer a 24-horsepower diesel engine with hydrotomatic transmission which delivers all the torque and power needed to get the job done. An innovative treadle pedal allows travel in forward or reverse without shifting gears, providing an ideal setup for commercial applications. BRUTUS vehicles provide a class-leading six inches of suspension travel, which combined with On Demand True All-Wheel Drive, allows for safe and comfortable transportation of passengers and cargo over virtually any terrain.

BRUTUS models are the first side-by-side utility vehicles that use a multi-link coil over De Dion rear suspension to deliver superior ride-quality. The rear suspension supports a 566.9kg (1,250lb) cargo capacity and minimizes suspension sag when fully loaded.

NEW FROM RJ

Ransomes Jacobsen returned to SALTEX with a host of new products for both the municipal and golf sectors. The Ipswich-based manufacturer launched the Ransomes Spider Mini II, a smaller version of the unique remote-controlled mower for mowing steep banks.

From the helix brand comes the all-new TJX 8800 and 8100 comprising of models rated at 80 PS and 100 PS respectively. These powerful and versatile workhorses are suitable for landscape and groundcare contractors, farmers and local authorities, where a range of implements can be used for a host of tasks.

Also making debuts at SALTEX were the Turco Wildspink 1550 top dresser and the Turco TriWave 40. The 1550 is the most advanced addition to Turco’s Wildspink family, offering unprecedented control and precision. It has more capacity, is easier to load, has programmable presets, rate calculation and can tackle a wider range of applications. The new TriWave 40 trailed overseeder can be towed behind a utility vehicle, quad bike, bunkers rake or tractor, providing added versatility and is the easiest to operate of any overseeder on the market.

The Smithco Spray Star 2000 was another SALTEX debutant; this dedicated spray vehicle features an ultra low-profile 757 litre (200 gallon) capacity tank, hydrotomatic drive and a liquid-cooled diesel engine.

Globally Turf Equipment (GTE) – the UK branch of the world’s largest independent seller and exporter of pre-owned golf course equipment – offers a supercar experience as a prize at SALTEX.

“Serving golf facilities in more than 80 countries worldwide, GTE offers owners, operators, and golf course superintendents substantial cost savings with fiscally-prudent alternatives to brand-new machines. GTE prides itself on its reputation for high-quality, low-hour, off-leasing equipment.”

GTE recently established an overseas partnership with County Mowers as part of long-term plans to offer late model lease return mowers and equipment to UK golf courses.

“At GTE we work closely with of course, operators, superintendents and others at SALTEX,” says Jim Sartain, President, GTE. “As we now warehouse and service products in the UK, it’s easier than ever for European courses to take advantage of our exceptional value propositions.”

In addition to receiving the latest company information, visitors to GTE’s stand (L35) were invited to enter a prize draw. One lucky person will win the opportunity to drive a luxury supercar (Lamborghini Huracan or Ferrari 458 Speciale or Aston Martin) for two hours around a famous track like Silverstone, Goodwood or Thruxton.

If you were unable to stop by the GTE stand you may still enter by sending an email with full course, company name, address and telephone number to kasey@GlobalTurfEquipment.com before Sunday September 13th.

As part of its partnership with County Mowers, GTE specialists in stocking and servicing pre-owned, professional turf machinery and equipment for golf and turf facilities in the U.K. Services include sales, maintenance and repair of machines, accessories and machine parts.

An inventory of fairway mowers, rough mowers, rough dressers and spreaders, trim mowers, turf scarifiers, turf spayers, turf vacuums and blowers, utility vehicles and more is available.

EXCLUSIVE DJ TURFCARE MACHINES HIT WINDSOR

DJ TURFCARE showed their exclusive range of fine turf, golf and sportsturf machinery on stand K35 at IGQ SALTEX.

The PLUGGER PL855 Pro HD aerator features hydrotomatic drive and uses both solid and hollow tines. It is highly manoeuvrable and is ideal for large areas of fine grass maintenance in more difficult areas, being easy to transport and handle. It is particularly useful for large areas of fine turf, and cricket and bowling clubs have found the PLUGGER invaluable in re-turfing compacted squares.

The second-generation ATOM EDGERS, both professional and domestic, with new Mitsubishi engines – were also on show. They are tougher, easier-to-use and have improved controls. The Atom Professional Edger Pro 580 is aimed at local authorities for kerb use and the Atom 450 Deluxe is designed for gardeners with large areas of lawns to edge. Also on the stand was the updated ATOM BUNKER EDGER – new celebrating its seventh year as a leading product for the golf industry from the DJ golf and groundcare range. It has a powerful easily-maintained Mitsubishi two-stroke engine.

The BUSHRANGER EDGER (seen for the first time at IGQ SALTEX two years ago) made another appearance. Aimed primarily at local authorities and those looking after large landscaped areas, the Bushranger Edger is ideal for producing razor sharp edges, especially up close to raised paving because of the drop-down wheel.

TMY DEBUTS AT SALTEX WITH LELY

A new addition to the leading turf machinery distributor’s portfolio, Lely UK has exhibited TMY tractors at IGQ SALTEX for the first time. On stand A21, as part of its Lely - Partners in Turfcare exhibit, which also includes Toro, and Bob outdoor maintenance equipment, Lely displayed a number of TMY tractors.

“TMY tractors are fast becoming the tractor of choice for golf clubs, sports stadiums, local authorities and landscape contractors,” says Jeff Anguige, turf products national sales manager at Lely UK. “There’s a wide range of models from 23hp to 100hp to cater for all needs, and we showed off the 23hp, 35hp, 43hp and 100hp units at SALTEX.”

All TMY tractors benefit from a reliable and powerful four-cylinder diesel engine that maximises fuel efficiency. Dual-air filter elements protect and extend engine life, and a heavy-duty, four-wheel-drive front axle offers greater traction where needed.

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