NEW JACOBSEN PRODUCTS ON SHOW

E-Z-GO/CUSHMAN

For many visitors to BTME this will be the first opportunity to see E-Z-GO’s refreshed TXT 48 volt golf car on Stand M12. New styling has updated the model’s classic look while retaining its proven performance to offer a better golfing experience, increased fleet durability and easier maintenance.

The new TXT’s updated styling follows modern automotive design cues, giving the vehicle a sleek, contemporary appearance. Many new features increase the TXT’s durability and make cleaning and maintenance easier.

The vehicle’s front cowl and body panels are crafted from durable automotive-quality materials, an optional front bumper withstands repeated 5mph impacts and the steel-reinforced rear bumper is the strongest in the industry.

ISEKI

For over 80 years, the Iseki brand has been synonymous with superior quality and reliability. As a global leader in the design and manufacture of mowers and tractors ranging from sub-compact to utility models they offer the best choice for commercial and private users alike, and you can see them on Stand M10.

The compact Iseki TG5470 IQ features an advanced transmission system with electro-hydraulic forward and reverse selection. Programmed to provide a selection of clutch engagement patterns, it selects the most suitable pattern depending on gear position and displays this visually on the instrument panel. It will be displayed with a Ransomes Mounted Hydraulic 5 mower attached.

JACOBSEN AR 722T

Taking centre stage on Stand M11 will be the new Jacobsen AR 722T wide area contour rotary mower. Featuring seven 56cm wide cutting decks, it is ideal for maintaining intermediate golf roughs, green and tee surrounds and sports and recreation fields.

Designed to boost productivity with class-leading power, exceptional contour following and cutting width flexibility, the AR 722T features a rugged and reliable 65.2hp Kubota turbo-charged diesel engine delivering unmatched power. This allows the mower to maintain performance and blade tip speed in the most challenging terrain without slowing down. The cutting width is an impressive 3.15 metres.
Wiedenmann UK says versatility is still trending as the top requisite for machinery purchases so their stand at BTME – C58 will feature some of their most efficient and best multitasking machines. The recently introduced all new Core Recycler is an effective dual machine which saves considerable time, labour and top dressing costs. It collects all cores from the surface after aeration and then using a series of adjustable sieves recycles soils, sand and organic matter back to the surface.

Best-selling aerator, the Terra Spike GX18 HD, at 1.8m wide comes fully recommended for work on the flat and undulating surfaces. The HD in the name stands for Heavy Duty so although the machine is ultimately designed for greens and fine turf areas, it is equally ready to cope when the going gets tough and can be used on fairways which aren’t built on rocky sub soils.

Wiedenmann’s Mega Twister is a year-round favourite used as frequently on natural surfaces as artificial. With a blow strength of 390m³ per minute, its 230° swivel action gives the operator infinite control to adjust it all ways. Leaves and debris can be blown continuously in one direction with no requirement for the operator to leave the cab, back up or turn the unit round. The blow out nozzle can be set vertically, so that the air stream can be adjusted to the prevailing conditions or undulations, guiding leaves and debris accurately and quickly.

Of course in snowfall it can become the perfect snowblower, clearing car parks and pedestrian areas.

Finally, the Terra Clean 160 is a sweeper/collector like no other designed for artificial surface use. Extremely eco-friendly, uniquely it combines both a sieved separation system with a dust cyclone extraction system to filter and remove miniscule deposits.

Trimax Mowing Systems has been making world-class mowers for over 30 years, so when the R&D prototype was made available on the company’s stand at IOG SALTEX in September, the industry knew that the world release would be just around the corner.

The currently unnamed product is 30 years of innovation and customer insight combined into one versatile machine. This is made evident by the fact that the company broke all the rules in publicly inviting operators and managers onto its stand to give feedback on the new prototype.

The prototype has been refined using these customer insights and further testing, and the new machine will make its world debut at BTME.

“Great ideas aren’t exclusively locked away in the minds of a few engineers and designers; innovation is in all of us. Together we’re a very powerful force,” Karl Stevenson said. “For this project, we had a strategic plan to engage users and managers on all levels to ensure that this new product meets their needs on every level. A combination of Trimax technical expertise and user engagement will be behind this product’s success.”

Trimax has already received pre-orders for the machine, one placed five months prior to its availability. This has far exceeded the company’s expectations and suggests that it could provide a breakthrough in grounds maintenance for a lot of customers.

If you can’t wait to see the new mower when Trimax reveals it on Stand B59 at BTME, you can start to see the reveal on its facebook page at www.facebook.com/trimaxmowingsystems
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New Barenbrug video about revolutionary product

Leading grass seed producer Barenbrug returns to BTME in January when it will be presenting a brand new video about its revolutionary product RPR or Regenerating Perennial Ryegrass.

It is available as BAR 7 RPR for use on winter sports surfaces such as football and rugby pitches while EXTREME RPR is designed for use on tees, barrows and wallaways on golf courses.

appearing in the video, which highlights the development and success of RPR, is Roy Rigby, grounds manager at Manchester City and his three colleagues, Lee Alexander, Lee Metcalfe and Steve Malone who look after respectively the Etihad Stadium, Carrington and Platt Lane training grounds.

Manchester City helped with the development of ISMED RPR which is now used exclusively at all three venues, where it has won praise for the quality of the playing surface and its ability to recover from heavy wear with some of the training facilities being used seven days a week.

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The secret of RPR is its creeping growth habit made possible through the production of elongated tillers. These growth shoots emerging from the nodes at the base of each plant. They creep horizontally just below the surface and are capable of developing roots at the internodes creating entirely new grass plants. This creeping growth habit results in fast establishment, excellent wear tolerance and unparalleled recovery capability.

Barenbrug research & development manager, Turf & Amenity, Dr David Greenhalgh said: “As a company research and development is at the very heart of what we do and the cultivar Barmy II, which we branded as RPR, is just the latest example.

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SUPREME OFFERING FROM GERMINAL SEEDS GB

Germinal Seeds GB is launching Supreme Trees, a new mixture for golf courses, at BTME on stand A65.

The mixture includes a new variety of paspalum, Supreme, which is shade tolerant and exceptionally hardwearing. Supreme paspalum, developed in Germany and exclusive to Germinal Seeds GB, is likely to receive a popular addition to its wide ranging quality offer.

Show visitors can also learn about the exciting option available to help grounds-keepers perfect ‘Your A20’. They can now choose to include Galion creeping perennial ryegrass, a hardwearing variety with exceptional recovery due to its ascending growth habit and an inherent resistance to insects such as nematodes.

Its qualities will be on display in a putting competition on the stand using Galion seeded turf.

Richard Brown, Amenity Sales Manager at Germinal Seeds GB, said: “Our standard A20 Perennial Ryegrass is a great mixture, but we understand every sports facility is different. With our comprehensive portfolio of exclusive top quality perennial ryegrass cultivars and unrivalled service we offer the unique opportunity for grounds managers to market their personal version of A20.”

He will join his experienced team of technical sales representatives on the stand to give grounds-keepers advice to long term and new customers.

Richard’s expertise will also be to the fore when he runs a demonstration on Wildflower Mixtures for the Golf Course at 2.30pm as part of Continue to Learn sessions on the stand. He will provide tips on choosing the correct mixture, ground preparation, sowing and ongoing maintenance.

INNOVATION FROM HEADLAND AMENITY AT HARROGATE

Headland Amenity brings its range of innovative turf nutrition, health and management products to BTME 2014 at Harrogate, including some new formulations on Stand C30.

The impressive on stand demonstration will show the efficiency of water infiltration and stress suppression. The Speed-Brush is a towable grooming machine with an inherent resistance to insects such as nematodes.

Headland will introduce C-Complex 5-2-10 to enrich the soil, encourage microflora and provide consistent release through the cool season periods. Its unique granule characteristics ensure a fast breakdown for rapid response.

C-Complex 5-2-10 is a mineral-organic-micronutrient granulated fertiliser and soil conditioner formulated with cold extracted seaweed meal, humic acid, sterols rich cow manure and part-organic potassium. This homogeneous combination helps to stimulate soil microbial activity whilst enhancing root development and stress suppression.

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Headland’s Speed-Brush is a multi-use soil surfactant designed to prevent and control hydrophobic soil conditions while maintaining optimum soil-water management. Unique soil treatment capabilities make TriCure AD™ the most effective multi-use surfactant available for treatment on the widest range of soil types and turf applications. It works by attaching to both soil and organic particles, enhancing the surface tension of water before attracting a thin film of water close to the particle surfaces.
Winter is a crucial time for golf clubs. Weather conditions make turf maintenance more difficult, but course performance and playability is still important to golfers, especially if they are thinking about their membership.

With that in mind, it is necessary for Course Managers to produce ever higher standards during the winter, especially with their greens. This isn’t easy without growth!

The creep towards winter brings a drop in temperatures and shorter days. The resultant decline in turf growth and recovery severely limits the possibilities for surface preparation.

Wetter weather commonly creates soils that remain saturated for months to weaken the turf. Pest and disease activity at this time can create additional problems of scarring and damage. Golfers still want to play during the winter, and this causes further decline. At the time of year when turf growth slows down, the pressures mount and they can cause a significant deterioration in the quality of the turf surface. So, what can be done to guard against winter decline?

Well, you are no strangers to meeting the challenge of increasing levels of expectation and overcoming difficult situations. The general aim is to strengthen the turf through autumn, protect it from damage during winter, then revitalise in spring for quick recovery. This sounds simple, but there are a large number of factors that you need to get right to succeed. Getting turf through the winter requires good cultural practice combined with the proper use of supporting technologies.

A winter’s toil

Henry Bechelet, Technical Sales Manager at Everris, advises how to address winter dormancy on your course as golfers continue to demand high standards as the temperature plunges.
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### A sporting chance

Above all else, give your turf a chance by creating a healthy, growing environment. Maximising light penetration and creating airflow is essential, so surrounding tree and understory vegetation management is vital. Good drainage is also essential to prevent the soil becoming saturated for long periods.

Aeration may be necessary to keep the soil oxygenated and help keep roots functioning. Ongoing organic matter management in the upper soil profile will stand you in good stead, especially during the winter.

### Preparing for winter

Autumn is the time when growth tails off. To prepare the turf for winter you need to be proactive, alert and preventative in your approach.

**Key factors for consideration are:**
- Optimise turf health during late summer with appropriate nutrition
- Continue to use Primo Maxx while strong growth is still available to help encourage carbohydrate storage. It is these energy reserves that will help support plant health during the winter
- Moving through the autumn, sustain turf health by using slow release sources of N and K (such as those in Sierraform GT K-Step 6-0-27 +2MgO +TE). This improves stress tolerance, favours root development and reduces the risk of disease activity
- Allow turf to acclimatise to the oncoming winter. Don’t force too much top growth or push too hard oncoming winter. Don’t force too much top growth or push too hard
- Prevent disease outbreaks with ongoing cultural management (dew removal, iron, phosphite)
- Apply slow release N and K (as found in K-Step 6-0-27 +2MgO +TE) if growth opportunities are available
- Use iron products to help harden the stand
- If you are mowing, USE SHARP BLADES
- Prevent disease outbreaks with the use of supporting technologies will get you through. We can help initiate early spring growth, especially in colder conditions when soil P might not be available
- Light grooming and brushing helps create an upright leaf to stimulate early season photosynthesis

Keep your height of cut raised for as long as possible for the same reason.

Spring always seems a long time coming but the pressure to create summer surfaces as early as possible is always present.

You still need to work hard to prevent deterioration, but you also want to set conditions in place for a quick recovery when conditions allow.

Winter drainage and tree removal work will pay dividends when trying to hasten spring recovery.

Keep your height of cut raised for as long as possible for the same reason. Manage play to prevent deterioration and set about initiating your early season refinement programme as soon as growth allows.

Communicate to members that the onset of growth is primarily dependent upon soil temperatures, moisture content and day length, to temper their expectations.

So, winter can be a tough time for greenkeepers but there is a great deal that you can do to sustain turf health and maintain playing qualities.

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Winter care

- There is still a great deal you can do in winter to maintain turf health, performance and playability. You are aiming to keep all damage to a minimum.
- Turf will be actively functioning to some degree if conditions are suitable, and you can take advantage of such opportunities. Anything you are able to do to improve the growing environment will greatly assist plant functioning.

Key factors for winter management include:

- Install drainage and improve light and airflow as a matter of priority.
- Minimise damage by managing wear and appraising the need for mechanical treatments.
- Remove dew to optimise any growth opportunities and reduce the risk of disease attack.
- Apply slow release N and K fertilisers such as Greenmaster ProLite or ProLite Cold Start 11-5-5 +8Fe. 
- In spring, well-timed early season fertiliser and topdressing will get you through. We have a range of winter hardy fertilisers, for example, MedallionTL and Instrata, for instance, can be used to control inoculum in the root zone to help reduce the potential for disease attacks, especially if the turf should subsequently become covered in snow.
- Winter is when you reap the rewards of your preparation work, but you still need to keep actively managing the ongoing situation. There will be opportunities to generate recovery but generally you are working hard to prevent any form of deterioration.
- If you can get greens through the winter in good shape, you stand a better chance of quick recovery in the spring.

Spring forward

Spring always seems a long time coming but the pressure to create summer surfaces as early as possible is always present.
- You still need to work hard to prevent deterioration, but you also want to set conditions in place for a quick recovery when conditions allow.
- Winter drainage and turf removal work will pay dividends when trying to hasten spring recovery.
- In spring, well-timed early season renovation and topdressing will help reoxygenate the soil.
- NPK feeds such as Greenmaster ProLite Cold Start 11-5-5 +8Fe can help initiate early spring growth, especially in colder conditions when soil P might not be available.
- Light grooming and brushing helps create an upright leaf to stimulate early season photosynthesis.
- Keep your height of cut raised for as long as possible for the same reason.
- Manage play to prevent deterioration and set about initiating your early season refinement programme as soon as growth allows.
- Communicate to members that the onset of growth is primarily dependent upon soil temperatures, moisture content and day length, to temper their expectations.
- So, winter can be a tough time for greenskeepers but there is a great deal that you can do to sustain turf health and maintain playing quality.

Sound cultural practice coupled with the use of supporting technologies will get you through. Call this type of approach ‘integrated turf management’, or iTurf for short.
In June 2006, The R&A employed the STRI to undertake a project which ran for six years with the purpose of following the impact of a maintenance package aimed at producing firmer, healthier greens at five golf clubs across England; Cold Ashby, Knowle, Leek, The South Buckinghamshire and Wilmslow.

All of the courses involved could be considered to have a ‘parkland’ designation. The programme concluded at the end of 2012.

After six years, all clubs noted improvements in year round putting surface performance and especially winter play. However, they all had to overcome a variety of hurdles to achieve results.

For anyone considering following their path, take heed of the dos and don’ts of working towards a healthier environment.

**Planning**

An initial assessment is essential. This should determine the status of each green, set reasonable objectives and draw up a programme for improvement over a set period. It must include analysis of species composition, drainage, shade and thatch content.

A benchmark needs to be set for these criteria, and for objective performance measurements. Each green needs to be considered separately to identify the specific issues to be addressed, even to a more local level in terms of areas within putting surfaces that are subject to drainage and shade problems.

Means of objectively measuring the playing performance of putting surfaces must be implemented from day one and undertaken on a regular enough basis to pick up trends. Choose a minimum of three (preferably six) indicator greens representative of the whole—best, worst and average, plus the putting green and, if available, a new construction.

**Essential assessments and minimum frequencies are considered to be:**

- Green speed on a weekly basis (up to fortnightly from March to November)
- Volumetric soil moisture content using a Theta Probe on a monthly basis when taking firmness readings (up to fortnightly from March to November)
- Reliability using the R&A Holing Out Test on a weekly basis
- Green speed on a weekly basis
- Firmness and smoothness using the STRI Trueness Meter® at least twice a year
- Organic matter content once a year
- Botanical analysis once a year

In the final article of this two part series, Steve Isaac, Director of Golf Course Management at the R&A, goes through the dos and don’ts of working towards a healthier environment.