The new Mantaia BunkerMaster has received high praise from greenkeepers using it to resolve perennial bunker problems.

Ten years after the launch of the first Mantaia 2 stroke BunkerMaster, the new more powerful 4 stroke model will prove to be a very cost effective solution to any course looking to raise the standard of its bunker preparation.

While bunkers cover only one to two percent of the total area of the golf course they can take up to as much as 25% of the available resources to maintain.

You want to get bunkers back into shape as fast as possible after bad weather, heavy play and during general bunker maintenance, preparing them to the highest standards.

The BunkerMaster’s 25cc engine has the torque to spin the spring times at 200 rpm, yet it is lightweight and offers a low cost solution to fast redistribution of the sand. It lifts and aerates the top 30mm of sand without digging in and it is designed to work away from the operator for maximum control.

All of which means you have a fast and efficient answer to loosening and dressing the sand, ready for final top dressing using a conventional roller.

The light weight of the BunkerMaster also means you can work in tight edges and along banks.

Overall, what is most impressive about the BunkerMaster is the sheer speed of bunker preparation you can achieve, especially after heavy rain.

Removing moss and thatch from awkward banks is another benefit, with sixty spring picks letting you dethatch a 15” (38cm) swathe at a single pass and the minimum of effort.

Lightweight they may be but these little machines have proved themselves to be tough and built to last. The long-life precision worm gear and drive shaft transmission are all enclosed in a robust aluminium casing while the Subaru engine also has its own rugged housing.

A unique centrifugal clutch gives the operator complete control and it is sealed electronic ignition plus a convenient engine cut-off switch on the handle.

At the end of the day, the light weight and compact shape make the BunkerMaster easy to pop into the back of a UTV and all components, including the engine and attachments come with a 1 year professional guarantee against defects in materials and workmanship.

GALLEON IS A TOP REGENERATING PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

A spreading perennial ryegrass exclusive to Germinal Seeds in the UK has been hailed for its divot recovery qualities in research trials.

The regenerative growth qualities of Galleon were demonstrated when it beat two other comparator brands in a trial at Drakestone Hall University.

Galleon was developed as a hardwearing variety of perennial ryegrass with exceptional recovery due to its spreading growth habit. This fine leaved variety also exhibits high resistance to insects and nematode attack due to high endophyte levels.

The highly rated variety, was evaluated in the trial against two recent ryegrass blends marketed heavily for their spreading characteristics – Hyper and Natural Kosi. It was found to repair the divots faster and maintained active growth late into the autumn.

Richard Brown, Amenity Sales Manager of Germinal Seeds GB, said: “We have great faith in Galleon’s qualities and are delighted but not surprised at how well it has done in this research study.”

ETESIA MOWERS STAND THE TEST OF TIME

A range of Etesia mowers, including two new Ducuit RMHB 46cm pedestrian mowers, are helping to maintain the green space areas surrounding and including Durham University - the UK’s third oldest university.

Durham University has a unique estate, which includes 63 listed buildings and also owns and manages the World Heritage Site in partnership with Durham Cathedral. The University’s ownership of the World Heritage site includes Durham Castle, Palace Green, and the surrounding buildings including the historic Cosin’s library.

Barry Shipman has been working in the garden and grounds team at the university for over 40 years and was recently promoted to garden and grounds supervisor. He now has a team of nine gardeners to assist with the upkeep of the facility which is roughly a third of Durham city and also includes the botanical gardens.

When purchasing new equipment, Barry discusses matters with the horticultural officer to see what machines are suitable and could make the life of their operators easier which include noise, vibrations etc.

Barry and his team like to keep the grass short and presentable at all times, which over the last year has been very testing, but as he explains, has been made easier with the range of ride-on and pedestrian mowers he discovered over 15 years ago.

“We have an excellent relationship with our local machinery dealer, Lloyds, who are very knowledgeable and they recommended Etesia to us when we were looking for a mower which we could use in the wet and capable of being able to cut and collect or cut and drop,” explained Barry.

“I like the fact that we can cut, collect or cut and drop using the same machine because it saves us so much time. We order three new machines per year, which simply replace the oldest ones and so the cycle continues.

“The Etesia mowers have really come into their own in the past 12 months because they have been so good at cutting and collecting in the wet weather we’ve experienced. We have mobile grass cutting teams and the new Ducuit models have been popular with them because they are very light for people to lift on off and easy to load and unload,” explained Barry.

“The Ducuit models have been so good we have just ordered another 10,” he added.

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“Very few people are as knowledgeable or as well.um.bered as Barry Shipman”
John Greasley
One of Europe’s leading
golf course constructors

During the summer of 2013, the company started a major restoration project at Fureso Golf Club at Birked in Denmark, rebuilding 11 of the course’s 27 holes. The remaining 16 holes will be reconstructed this summer.

During the autumn and winter of 2013/2014 the company returned to work on the reconstruction of all 18 holes on Les Pins, Hardelot in Northern France. Having completed the first nine holes last year works continued with the rebuilding of greens surrounds, all greenside and fairway bunkers and a number of tees were altered and reshaped to complete the refurbishment of this tree lined links course.

Following the initial bunker works on the La Mece course at Le Touquet work has commenced on a major restoration project. The 11th, 12th and 13th holes have been totally changed with new greens constructed on holes 11 and 13. New tees on holes 12 and 13 have been integrated within the dunes along with re-bunkering to all fairways and recontouring of the 12th green surrounds. A new 15th fairway has been cleared, graded and seeded in preparation for a new 15th hole next year. Three more holes are to be reconstructed this autumn.

The first phase has just been completed of the reconstruction of 38No bunkers over nine holes at Verulam Golf Club, St Albans (home of the Ryder Cup), all lined with our proprietary Hyline liner.

Other bunker reconstruction projects completed this autumn using Hyline were at Witley Park Golf Club in Kent, Blackwell Golf Club, West Midlands, Rockliffe Golf Club in Nottingham. Other works carried out over the year included a new 4th Green at Harlesey Common Golf Club with new tees and fairway bunkering. The 5th hole at Fairhaven Golf Club was completely remodelled with dramatic improvements to the greens surrounds including the formation of inverted bunkering and the transplanting of heather and gorse.

The first phase of bunker reconstruction was completed to the delight of the members at Cuddington Golf Club, Banstead. New 5th and 8th tees have been rebuilt along with ornamental sleeper ditch at Longcliffe Golf Club, Loughborough.

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One of Europe’s leading golf course constructors

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The first phase of bunker reconstruction was completed this autumn using Mylair was at Waverly golf Club in Kent. Blackwell Golf Club, West Midlands, Buckle Golf Club in Nottingham. Other works carried out over the year included a new 4th green at Hanley Common Golf Club with new 18th and fairway bunkering. The 5th hole at Fairhaven Golf Club was completely remodelled with dramatic improvements to the greens surrounds including the formation of inverted bunkering and the transplanting of heather and gorse. The first phase of bunker reconstruction was completed to the delight of the members at Cuddington Golf Club, Basstard. New 5th and 8th tees have been rebuilt along with ornamental sleeper ditch at Longcliffe Golf Club, Loughborough.

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As you will have read in last month’s Greenkeeper International, Donald Steel reported on the GTC’s invitation to No 10 Downing Street with David Croxton, Chair of the Trailblazer Reform Working Group, and Ryan Bezzant, a current apprentice from Ealing Golf Club.

This month, David Goldberg, GTC’s Education Director, gives us an update on the Trailblazer project.

“Back in March, the GTC was awarded Apprenticeship Trailblazer status by the Government, and since then it has been all systems go.

“We have held our inaugural Trailblazer Reform Working Group meeting at Cold Ashby Golf Club with representatives from Employers, the Professional Bodies, Centres (Colleges), Lantra Sector Skills Council, City & Guilds and Business, Innovation and Skills Dept (BIS).

“The next meeting is scheduled for later this month. Workshops have also been held in London, meeting with other Trailblazers.

“I believe the apprenticeship reform will allow the golf sector to develop a quality standard including a high level assessment approach to meet the requirements of golf club employers. Its aim is to develop skilled and knowledgeable apprentices for whom the world could become their oyster.

“As the game of golf continues to grow globally and becomes an Olympic sport in 2024, it is important that golf courses are maintained and managed by highly skilled professionals, and the new apprenticeship will provide for this need.

“We are reviewing and developing the Apprenticeship Standard for a golf greenkeeper. Over the past month, thanks to our colleagues at BIGGA, England Golf and the from the obvious tasks and skills required to become a fully competent golf greenkeeper.

“We had nearly 300 responses from the links posted just on BIGGA and GTC’s websites alone. I would like to thank all of you who participated in the survey for taking the time to do so.

“This feedback from employers, greenkeepers and industry is essential to ensuring we provide a quality Apprenticeship.

“Analysing all the results will take a little time, but please be assured we will take into consideration all points raised. Apart from the obvious tasks and skills already encompassed in the golf greenkeeping qualification, you have also highlighted skills and knowledge you believe a qualified golf greenkeeper should have.

“Here are just some of the key suggestions arising from the survey:

- First aid, fire safety
- Attention to detail at all tasks involved
- Understand and appreciate the living environment
- Effective time management
- Good knowledge of machinery maintenance
- Good communication skills with members, visitors and other members of staff
- Good numeracy and literacy skills
- Computer skills

Apart from reviewing the current skills within the Occupational Standards for a Greenkeeper and Golf Course Supervisor, the working group will also be reviewing other skills they would expect a fully competent greenkeeper to be able to carry out.

David added: “As you will all appreciate, greenkeeping requires a very broad range of skills so it’s impossible to list every single requirement of the job. But rest assured that when we sit down and review the current standards, we will be further building on the skills and knowledge required to make that greenkeeper a great greenkeeper.

“When the apprentices finishes the programme, they will know how, why and when the range of operations are carried out, and you will have a great golf course as a result.”

For further information on Golf Greenkeeping including the Apprenticeship contact:

David Goldberg, GTC Education Director – Email: david@the-gtc.co.uk Tel: 01347 838640 Mobile: 07831 222659
or alternatively please visit;
www.apprenticeships.co.uk
Greenkeepers Training Committee

This month the GTC provides an update on the Trailblazer project.

GTC continues its work as a Trailblazer

Apprenticeships

As you will have read in last month’s Greenkeepers International, Donald Steel reported on the GTC’s invitation to No 10 Downing Street with David Croxton, Chair of the Trailblazer Reform Working Group, and Ryan Bezzant, a current apprentice from Ealing Golf Club.

This month, David Golding, GTC’s Education Director, gives us an update on the progress to date.

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This feedback survey was carried out to determine what you felt were the skills and knowledge required to become a fully competent golf greenkeeper.

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www.apprenticeships.org.uk

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Advertise your recruitment here … and online for one month at www.bigga.org.uk/careers, from £595+vat for an 1/8 advert. Contact Jill Rodham on 01347 833 812

Assistant Greenkeepers

Caversham Heath Golf Club requires 2 Assistant Greenkeepers.

- Applicants must be qualified to NVQ2 or equivalent
- Minimum 2 years golf course experience
- Competitive salary offered dependent on qualifications and experience

Please apply in writing with CV stating current salary to:

Jon Scoures, Caversham Heath Golf Club, Mapledurham, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 7UT

or email: cavershamgreens@cavershamgolf.co.uk

www.the-gtc.co.uk Tel: 01347 838640 Mobile: 07831 222659

Advertise your recruitment here … and online for one month at www.bigga.org.uk/careers, from £595+vat for an 1/8 advert. Contact Jill Rodham on 01347 833 812

Laleham Golf Club – Assistant Greenkeeper

We are currently looking for an experienced and suitably qualified Greenkeeper to join our team. The successful candidate will have a wide range of responsibilities and be passionate about providing the best possible playing surfaces and condition of external areas to ensure we deliver memorable experiences to our members and visitors.

- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- A strong work ethic and ability to demonstrate they can work as part of a team and generate high levels of team spirit.
- Experience/knowledge of effective drainage on clay based courses
- Experience of managing supplies ordering and budgets
- Experience of managing Health and Safety regulations
- A proven track record in delivering 5 Star courses
- Competitive salary and benefits will be offered to the right candidate.

For further information on Golf Greenkeeping including the Apprenticeship contact:

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www.apprenticeships.org.uk
INTRODUCING THE BARONESS LM2400

- Low centre of gravity
- The finest reel and bedknife produced in the industry
- Light weight (less than 1300kg) combined with outstanding cutting power
- Low ground pressure/high traction four-wheel drive

LIGHTWEIGHT FAIRWAY MOWER

Kyoeisha UK Ltd. a subsidiary of Kyoeisha Co. Ltd. of Japan

Our favourite tweets this month...

Ian Reeves @IanReeveo
Great day at the @BINGALtd South Coast comp yesterday. Highcliffe Castle looking spectacular!

Gordon McKie @gord_mckie
Performance management testing with STRI this morning @TheHomeofGolf #smoothlygreens

WoolleyParkGolfClub @Woolleyparkgolf
Nothing like popping up the sprinklers to make it feel like summer #golf #summer

Antony Kirwan @AntzXVI
@BINGALtd massive thanks to the members who helped on our annual maintenance evening #topstars

Matt Plested @plestee
Buckets all set for today’s divot trophy. Let the greenkeepers be the winners!

Andy Clark @Clanky23
Thanks @BINGALtd for another interesting edition of Greenkeeper International. Perfect for a rainy afternoon! #Greenkeeping

HadlowCollegeABC @HadlowABC
Good luck to all the potential Master Greenkeepers taking their exams this week

Lickey Hills golf @LickeyHillsGolf
Spread the word, August 14th is #nationalrepairyourpitchmarkday

greenkeeping @Lancastergc
First seniors open of the year. Course cut, greens cut and rolled. #golf #Greenkeeping
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