

Greens roller on roller coaster in England

By TREVOR LEDGER

SHROPSHIRE, England — A curious dichotomy has appeared here concerning the uncracked riddle of rolling golf greens.

Hinckley, England-based Hardi Ltd. is preparing to withdraw the Greensiron from its product range due, largely, to the poor sales figures realized

by the machine. Greensward Direct of Leeds, England, however, is delighted at how well its distribution of True Surface vibratory rollers is going.

A third example of the apparent roller roller-coaster is to be found at Sisis Inc. who withdrew from the market some time ago due to lack of commercial interest.

Lynn Hilton of Macclesfield, England-based Sisis was clear as to the reasons behind the lack of interest shown by golf courses around the UK. "Rolling causes compaction and compaction is bad for turf," said Hilton.

This is certainly the perceived view among the green committees around the coun-

try; but, as with most things agronomic, this is not such a black-and-white issue.

Stuart Ormondroyd, head of turfgrass agronomy at Bingley, England-based Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) was clear on both the "pros" and the "cons."

"By rolling, you cause compaction, but, if the weight distribution is low then the beneficial



effects, [a polished surface with increased speed], can be gained without causing undue compaction. Climate is also an important factor.

If the [green] surface is moist the compaction will be increased. The climates of Australia and America are largely hotter and drier, the greens' surface will be drier and firmer and more suited to rolling."

The facts would seem to corroborate this statement with Australia and the U.S. being the initial flag-bearers for greens rolling. The exciting golf developments in such countries as Turkey and Greece would, therefore, appear to offer a new market for rollers.

Greensward Direct will no doubt be encouraged by this. Unlike Hardi, it distributes its roller on mainland Europe as well as the United Kingdom. Having sold around 50 machines to date, including customers such as Gleneagles, Carnoustie, Golfplatz Hoisdorf and Dalmahoy Hotel, Greensward's Becky Michel is naturally enthusiastic about the future.

"The rollers are proving very popular with golf courses," said Michel.

The potential increase in market could prove decisive.

According to Stuart Ormondroyd, "There is a market, but a small one. A roller is not on the top of most greenkeepers' priority list. A roller is not an everyday piece of machinery for most courses. It's more of an add on for major competitions. For example, Captain's Day at a regular course or as a final preparation for a professional tournament."

As golf course design continues to evolve, the future of the roller in the greenkeeper's armory hangs in the balance. The age-old considerations of time and cost are likely to have a bearing.

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According to Zeneca, SCIMITAR contains lambda-cyhalothrin, an advanced-generation pyrethroid. It is effective on over 60 turf and ornamental insects, including bluegrass weevil and black turfgrass ateniuss adults, sod webworms, aphids and Japanese beetle adults.

SCIMITAR is available in two different formulations: a capsule suspension and a wettable powder, SCIMITAR WP.