

EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT IN GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

Golf Course Construction, since the turn of the century, has seen numerous changes.

Where once the natural terrain dictated the flow through the course, the bringing into use of land for golf courses where there was no visible layout has forced its creation.

The use of an increasing range of heavy earth moving equipment has now made that possible, turning flat waste or poor farmland into attractive parkland sites where many imitations of the original home of golf can be produced.

Not only imitations, but through the skills of the designer and architect, rolling fairways, elevated tees and greens as well as attractive water course and hewn from the land to produce new courses stamped with their own unique style.

None of this would have been possible without the earth moving equipment, bulldozers, graders, stone rakers, mechanical shovels and diggers at the disposal of the constructor.

The new course at West Hove is a case in point. Because the family owners of the club sold out to Wimpey, it seemed the members would not have a course to play but through the energetic activities of Frank Shannon and Bernard Barker, the chairman of the new course committee, land was bought alongside the old course and plans were passed for a construction.

The new West Hove 18 hole course will open next year, but not before many associated with the club will play a last nostalgic round prior to the tearing up of the fairways.

West Hove's lease from Wimpneys runs out in January next year and a month



New Squier 40 Land Clearer/Beach Cleaner

later the clubhouse should be completed. It will cost around £400,000. Thanks to the marvellous summer, the new course was laid out two months ahead of schedule. It measures 6,200 yards compared with the 6,130 of the old course and the architects are Hawtree and Sons.

Chris Collins, the Burgess Hill-based contractor is to be congratulated on his firm shifting 70,000 cubic metres of chalk between June 1 and the end of last October.

Collins employed about a dozen men and they worked with a will to give West Hove their new 18 holes.

Tree planting and landscaping has still to be completed and that won't take long. Most fairways were seeded and existing grassland was good enough for others.

Trickiest time will be the actual change-over when the earth-movers arrive to eradicate all traces of the old course and the golfers change over to the new. Before that happens there will be more than the odd auld lang syne event. The Sussex PGA, who regard West Hove as their home, have said they will have one or two more meetings there.

The Squier 40 has been developed for automatic, one-man clearance of stones, rocks and trash in the preparation of golf courses, site clearance and general landscaping.

Driven by a 60hp (45kw) tractor equipped with one hydraulic circuit and P.T.O. the Squier 40 takes up about six inches of cultivated soil over a cleaning trace which returns the fine soil to the ground and retains stones, clods, rocks and trash in a one cubic metre hopper. Various sizes of trace are available to determine the size of stones to be retained. Once the hopper is full, the operator can off-load at the side of the site or into a depression simply by operating one hydraulic lever. This tilts the box upwards and backwards to a height of 1.25m. Depth of work is controlled by two pneumatic tyred front wheels. Length of the Squier 40 is 4m, working width 1.5m and weight, unladen, 1800kgs.

The Squier 40 is manufactured by Key Agricultural Ltd, Peterborough and incorporates several components common to their KeyAg Squier range of stone and clod separating equipment. Basic price is around £12,500.

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Raymond L Brown (Construction) Ltd, are based at Ringwood in Hampshire and undertake a variety of contracts involving bulk earthmoving throughout Southern England.

The large plant fleet includes specialised equipment designed to work on extremely soft ground, and all items of plant can be hired or contracted.

Among recent or current contracts is the construction of lakes and hills for a new golf course at Wisley in Surrey, and extension of the golf course at Moors Valley Country Park in Dorset and earthworks and preparation work for an all weather horse racing track at Lingfield Park, Sussex.

In recent years the compact tractor has been a popular answer to many problems on the golf course. These light weight tractors, which normally have 4wd, have revolutionized ideas for greens and fairways maintenance. However, tractors on their own are of little use and so a range of equipment has been designed to suit. One part of this range is made by Lewis Equipment who have spent the last 10 years manufacturing diggers and loaders to suit all makes and sizes of compact tractors. The reason for their popularity has been the design, enabling equipment to be taken off the tractor and replaced with, for example, a mower, in less than 5 minutes.

For larger tractors a 3 point linkage

digger is available, enabling maintenance to be done on ditches of up to 9' deep. This machine is half the weight of most conventional diggers, an advantage on any course.

Manor Excavators also produce a range of quality, British mini excavators for a golf course looking for a highly mobile and efficient digger at low cost.

Twelve models complete the Micron, (below) Gopher and 5 Star ranges.

New in 1989 are the power drive Micron 680 and more powerful Micron 720, plus the 5 Star 4x4 all of which have added a degree of mobility not

previously achieved with this type of machine.

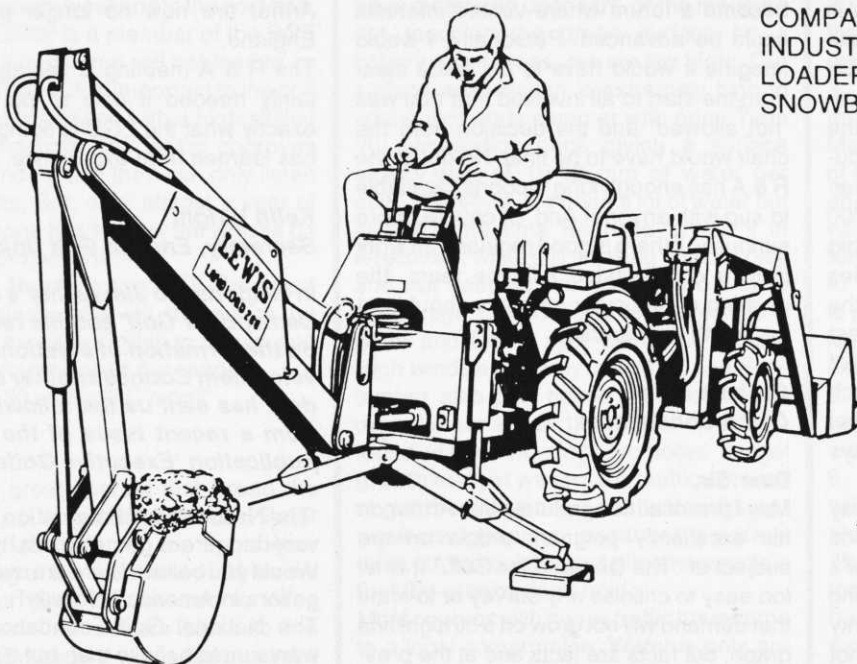
Operation of all excavators in the Manor range is through twin 'joystick' levers which control all boom and dipper functions. Speed and direction on power drive models are governed by separate levers acting on hydrostatic drive motors.

All models are available with either petrol or diesel and an extensive selection of buckets and ancillaries.

Manor mini diggers are ruggedly designed for working in arduous conditions and on any ground. They are ideal for working on tight sites where large machines just cannot be used.



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