

# WINDSOR

Review of the Groundman's Show

**This September event, blessed with three fine Autumn days, was the eighth time the Exhibition has been staged on the Windsor Race Course, its home since Motspur Park and those early days at the Hurlingham Club, fifty years ago.**

Even when the Exhibition moved to the London University sports ground at Motspur Park in 1966, there can have been few who would have predicted such a rapid growth in outdoor leisure that the organisers would be forced to seek an even larger site, settling on the race course at Royal Windsor in 1988.

There will be just one more exhibition at Windsor, then the show is on the road once more, this time in a somewhat contentious move to the East of England Showground at Peterborough, though after the traffic chaos experienced this year some of the opposition must be quelled.

More stands, over 400, plus an expanded demonstration area made this 43rd staging of the Show one of the best and a bouquet must be given to the organisers for sorting out the problems of recent years, particularly a greatly improved access across a footbridge into the NE corner of the Show Ground.

The brickbat goes to the Windsor Police, who, from the experience of previous years, were well aware of the numbers arriving by car and coach from all parts of the country, but appeared to be completely unable to organise a free flow of vehicles into the car parks.

On the second day traffic was queuing on the M4, more than five miles from the race course shortly before 10.00 a.m. The reason was a ten yard stretch of single lane on a mini-roundabout, combined with an entry system which involved turning right

against the flow of through traffic.

There was no obvious traffic control except outside the car park entrances, creating unbelievable chaos at the flyover roundabout as traffic merged with other vehicles not connected with the exhibition.

The Windsor site is difficult and this is known to everyone, hence the forthcoming move to Peterborough. With one more exhibition on the race course it is to be hoped the police will take a long hard look at their routings for next year and if necessary divert through traffic so visitors will not be forced to abandon their journey as many were on the second day.

Although there has been considerable criticism of the IOG's decision to move the Show to Peterborough, bookings in advance tend to show it will be supported by the turfgrass industry at least to the level it has been at Windsor.

Visitors, most of whom arrive by car and coach, will find little evidence of the hold-ups caused by the overloaded roads in the south. The civilised world does not end at Watford as many in the Home Counties believe, and there is the further advantage of attracting visitors from the Midlands and the North who in the past have spent longer on the road than they have at the Exhibition.

Arrangements are already in hand to make use of accommodation in the University at Cambridge. Hotels of a high standard abound around Peterborough, Hun-

tingdon and Stamford and visitors from abroad will still make the journey if the show provides the interests and equipment that has given previous events an international reputation.

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So what was new this year?

The award for the best new product, went to Ciba-Geigy for their Transformer Spraying System. A remarkable achievement as the British



*The Transformer Sprayer is lightweight and very easy to use.*

end of this multi-national company were making their first appearance at the IOG Show since Motspur Park and this year's booking was a last minute decision because clearance for the primary chemical product used with the sprayer was only obtained in August.

Gardoprime A is a powerful forestry herbicide, designed to keep down weeds around the base of young trees without harming the sapling. Most conifers are not affected by the herbicide and it is also safe to use around Ash, Beech, Oak and Sycamore. It is certainly a product greenkeepers should look at if they are attempting to establish a large plantation of trees in areas of rough.

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The product that probably experienced the greatest growth in sales in 1987 was the chain saw. Never has so much timber, had to be sawn up so quickly, in such a short time.

With this renewed interest in the mechanical saw, Husqvarna, part of the Elec-



*The new Husqvarna 42 chain saw. Features a powerful 42cc engine, inertia activated chain break, chain catcher, rear hand guard, and a safety throttle lock. Competitively priced at £245.00 + VAT (13" bar).*

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## Sports and Leisure Exhibition

trolux Group, launched a new lightweight 42cc engined chain saw aimed at the semi-professional, farmer, greenkeeper, ideal for tree pruning or the less major jobs of tree felling.

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The turf growers were in evidence this year with stands by Rolawn, Inturf, Turfland and H. R. Fell. Rolawn and Fell were both offering a guaranteed annual meadow-grass free turf for golf and bowling greens. The fescue/bent composition from H. R. Fell, a South Humberside Company, is grown on sand to complement sand based green constructions.

Rolawn, based at York, but with growing grounds in various parts of the country, were showing two new specialist grades of turf.

"Washed Rolawn", developed for use on all sand constructions and their new greens turf guaranteed poa annua free.

Queens Park Rangers used "Washed Rolawn" when their synthetic pitch was taken up in June. By mid-August it was ready for play.

The poa free turf from Rolawn, shown for the first time at Windsor, is to be launched next spring when adequate stocks are available. It is grown from two new fescue and bent cultivars, with a chemical resistance to allow spraying to remove other grasses and weeds.

The two varieties, *Countess Chewings Fescue* and *Duchess Agrostis Tenuis* have been bred by Queens University, Belfast from a research programme sponsored by British Seed Houses.

BSH have contracted with Rolawn to give them exclu-



SISIS PARCAR

sive rights to produce turf from these two new fine grass varieties.

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SISIS always offer a friendly welcome to their customers and this year was no exception. A number of improvements and alterations have been made to the range, but the additional item that caught the eye was the golf buggy.

Surely this must be a pointer of things to come! It is manufactured in the USA, functional, without frills and sells at a fiver below £3,000. Should you wish to dispense with the over canopy and the windshield and experience golf as the bag carriers do, completely exposed to the elements, then knock off £210!

The new SISIS Hydromain Twin Twenty-Five has been developed to incorporate front and rear hydraulic linkages and power-take-off. The existing range of well proven Hydromain Implementations and attachments can all be satisfactorily operated without modification.

The wheel-driven Hydromain sweeper has satisfied

demand for a unit of this type for a number of years. This new pto driven version, with 50% greater effective hopper capacity will do all the same work and more besides. Even damp materials and tine cores are collected and packed to the back of the hopper to fully occupy the available space more efficiently than ever before . . . and still, emptying is done without the driver leaving his seat.

The trend to more frequent coring of fine turf areas is once again gaining momentum and the number of im-

ported machines, of many types and sizes, for this type of work, is growing. Many greenkeepers and grounds-men have previously been happy to carry out their programme with walk-behind machines, but sometimes there is a need to speed up the process.

The pto driven Varicore has been introduced to give a wider selection of depths and hole spacings. You can select a variety of hole patterns with depth of penetration variable down to 4".

Wheel driven SISIS Top-Dressing machines have been used in the Hydromain System for many years, applying a wide variety of materials. The new pto driven fully-mounted unit, with a new drive mechanism, is even more versatile, in its handling of differing dressings, from pure sand to loam mixtures of various densities.

★ ★ ★

The takeover by F. W. McConnel of Dabro International announced a few days before the start of the Exhibition brings together two companies likely to have consid-



The new McConnel Dabro Interchangeable Ground Support System, consists of an Outfield Slitter, Green Slitter and Corer. All the implements slip easily in and out of the common frame.

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erable impact on the amenity turf market as a joint force.

There are some sound, solid and useful pieces of turf maintenance equipment in the Dabro range and with McConnel's marketing strengths the combined range should sell well.

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Ransomes new TURFTRAK System, exhibited for the first time outside North America, incorporates 2 and 4 wheel drive power units, with a wide range of front mounted attachments. As the TURFTRAK System can be used in many applications, the power units can be used during much of the year.

In addition to a hydraulically operated triple cylinder mower, front mounted attachments also include a choice of rotaries, an aerator, dozer blades and rotary brush which are power angled, as well as power and snow blowers, scoop and bunker blades, amongst others.

Powered by a 16.5 hp Kubota diesel engine the TURFTRAK 2, besides being a good performer on slopes, is also very manoeuvrable. It has a low centre of gravity, an adjustable traction booster for transferring weight from

the attachment and a differential lock for use when the going gets tough.

The hydrostatic drive, controlled by a single foot pedal, together with power steering and individual drive wheel brakes, say Ransomes, make the TURFTRAK 2 very manoeuvrable. Without using the wheel brakes it has an inside turning radius of 35cm (14in).

Although seated comfortably low to the ground, the operator has a good view of the attachments in work and the controls close to hand.

The two-point quick hitch allows the front mounted attachments to be connected to the power units in 3 minutes or less by one person and without the use of tools.

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Fertiliser and agro-chemical company, Lancashire based, Rigby Taylor Ltd. also used the venue of the Windsor Show to announce major changes within the company, merging the separate Rigby Taylor Companies in the South and the Midlands with the headquarters at Bolton.

This will not affect customers as the depots and distribution network will continue to operate under regional management. Board



**Jacobsen's Tri-King 1671D**

*Diesel power and hydraulic reel drive on Jacobsen's new Tri-King 1671D maximizes mowing performance while minimizing maintenance requirements. The liquid-cooled diesel engine operates efficiently in demanding conditions, and offers longer life and greater fuel efficiency than air-cooled gasoline engines.*

changes involve elevation for Jon Ryan and David Morgan together with Richard Elliott who takes the position of National Sales Director. Keith Dickinson, Sales Director in the North is to take an early retirement, after 24 years with the company.

Never has there been such a coming together of companies as was seen this year.

Rigby Taylor and Alginure announced their engagement and Alginure will in future supply exclusively to Rigby Taylor. This will give a seaweed based soil conditioner to the range.

A new range of organic liquid products is also about to be launched under the Mascot label. Three fertilisers are currently available, more are likely to follow.

The first an organic liquid is basically cow manure, though it was emphasized the dung did come from the best attested Friesian herds. It was logical, the best milk producers produced the best by-products!

Liquid Green contains iron to promote a rapid green-up effect, essential for those greenkeepers about to have their courses featured on television.

Mascot Liquid Cocktail is a mixture of cow manure with seaweed said to provide additional food to stimulate bacterial and microbial activity together with a high proportion of essential solids — polysaccharides. *(That was straight off the press hand-out and I am as wise about its meaning as you probably are, though I once grew the finest crop of potatoes you have ever seen by mixing seaweed into the dung heap. Ed.)*

★ ★ ★

Iseki Tractors had the complete range of new tractors on show following their introduction during their greenkeepers' golf tournament final at St. Pierre in August.

The new range Iseki TU Series is additional to their successful TX range and comprises 3 four wheel drive models from 19 horsepower to 27 DIN horsepower, all of them containing new practical features and showing both a dramatic design and, for the first time, a flat floor deck for excellent operator comfort.

The smallest of the range, the 19 horsepower TU 318, utilizes a new Iseki power-



**Ransomes new 16.5hp Kubota diesel engined TURFTRAK 2 power unit pictured at work with a front mounted rotary mower. The TURFTRAK 2 has an adjustable traction booster for transferring weight from the attachment.**

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plant of 1006cc, a 3 cylinder diesel engine, and has a transmission of 6 forward, 2 reverse manual of the option of hydrostatic drive with 3 speed ranges.

Power steering is standard on the new Iseki TU series whilst range and gears on the machine are situated to the right and left hand of the operator, along with PTO engagement and operation of the hydraulic valves.

Iseki have also incorporated splash guards around the footwell to stop water and debris from entering the operator area.

Options include a futuristic design of operator cab.

Moving up the scale is the 22 horsepower TU 320, again with a new Iseki 3 cylinder powerplant of 1170cc and with either a 6 forward 2 reverse manual transmission or 3 speed hydrostatic drive.

As with its smaller brother the TU 320 has a wheelbase of 1.58m and, with the new front axle incorporating four wheel drive, is exceptionally manoeuvrable with a turning circle of 2.5 metres using the wet disc brakes.

The largest machine in the Iseki TU range is the TU 324 with its 1296cc four cylinder diesel engine producing 27 horsepower.

The new Iseki TU range, with its three new models and

hydrostatic and manual transmission variants, are just the first of a number of new tractors from Iseki.

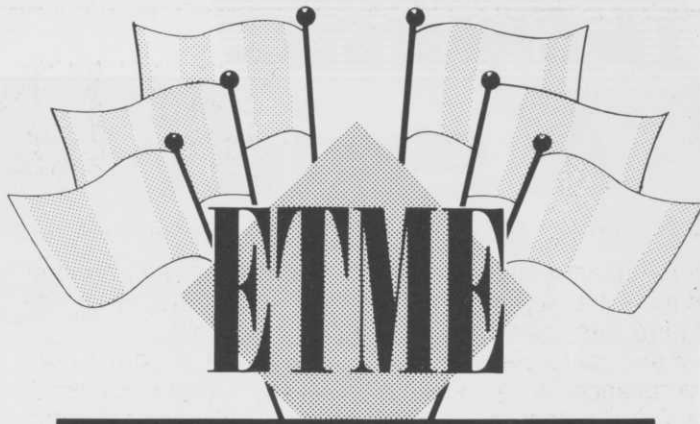
They mark an important step forward for Iseki UK with a number of new and existing features like a flat floor deck, smaller turning circle, better lift capacity and excellent serviceability.

Speaking at the launch of the new Iseki TU series Mr. John Hawkins, Iseki's managing director, commented "Since the formation of Iseki UK two and a half years ago, we have steadily increased our sales of compact tractors with the Iseki TX 2160 series now the best seller in its class. With the addition of the new TU series we have a new tractor that is undoubtedly going to set standards in design and features for the future. There is no doubt in our minds that the TU series is not just a new dimension but the start of a new generation in compact tractor development. It's an exceptionally exciting and adaptable range for Iseki".

Visitors to the stand could also see a video of the St. Pierre Tournament final. Exposure to the camera can be quite traumatic as some competitors discovered when they saw their golf swing.



A stepthru deck of the Iseki TU Tractor gives the driver a much more relaxed place to operate.



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