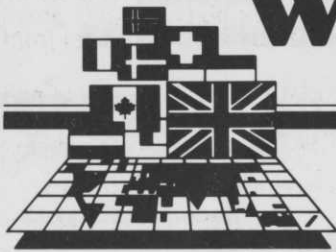


WINDSOR SHOW

Review



For the second year in succession the International Sports and Leisure Trade Exhibition held on Windsor Race Course basked not only in September sunshine, but from an attendance even greater than 1985 and business enquiries described by many exhibitors as fantastic.

One of the fertiliser manufacturers said at the end of the third day as he sprawled exhausted at the rear of his tent "If no one had visited the stand at all today we would still have been highly delighted from the business on the first two days".

The official attendance figure of 33,800, some 500 up on last year's record again included several parties of overseas visitors. Americans, Australians, Japanese and many from the Continent were this year joined by an official party from mainland China. The foreign visitors were interested in the vast amount of new equipment on show, but so were the home buyers from golf courses and local authorities.

So what was new? So much it is difficult to know where to start.

From the greenkeeper's view point perhaps the main attractions were related to the new maintenance equipment, with diesel powered triplex greens machines from both Jacobsens and Ransomes.

Jacobsen now completely divorced from Morrison Industries, with their own UK distribution company at King's Lynn exhibited the Greens King IV in pride of place in the Jacobsen Pavilion. This 16.5hp diesel powered mower has full floating and pivoting reel units that steer through the turns without scuffing or marking. It has a full hydraulic drive with dynamic braking and a variable speed control so the greensman can select the precise ground speed and frequency of cut. Among the variety of attachments is the Turf Groomer which will cut horizontal runners and remove thatch without lowering the cutting height. Play can continue immediately after the Turf Groomer has been put over the green with a significant increase in putting speeds.

Ransomes new hydraulically operated GT triple greens mower. Powered by a horizontal twin cylinder water-cooled diesel engine, a digital readout calibrated in cuts per metre, enables the required cutting ratio to be selected and maintained on all the greens at speeds of up to 8km/h - 5mph.



Radio-controlled Kubota mid-mounted mower. With computerised programming let the greenkeeper cut grass from the comfort of his office?

The Diesel Greens King IV has been on trial since April at Hunstanton G.C. the home course of Chris Smith, Jacobsen's UK Sales Manager. Head Greenkeeper, Jimmy Reed is highly delighted and says his fuel bills have dropped dramatically. He can cut nineteen greens on a gallon of diesel, the machine is quiet, there is less intake of sand and debris into the filters and he is sure the diesel power will cut engine wear.

Ransomes again had one of the most impressive stands at the show, dominated by a massive powered gang mower capable of cutting Windsor Great Park before breakfast and Ascot Racecourse by lunchtime.

However their new diesel, the streamlined GT Triple Greens Machine attracted the attention of Greenkeepers. The 12hp Kubota engine drives two hydraulic pumps - one for hydrostatic transmission drive, the other for the cutting units drive and lift.



Electronics have also been introduced with a digital readout, calibrated in cuts per metre so the required cutting ratio can be selected and set for mowing speeds up to 5mph.

The machine also has a unique system for emptying the grass catcher on the rear (centre) by lifting the front of the machine. A latch is released and the operator's footplate and the steering console is raised giving complete access to the units underneath.

Apart from the new diesels the other main talking points at the show concerned Ransomes' move into turf maintenance equipment with the TMV 20, a market previously dominated by SISIS and Cushman. This three-wheeled dual truck maintenance power unit has hydrostatic drive to the rear wheels, a pto and hydraulic services. Ransomes are not producing attachments but have tied in with Dabro International of Whitchurch Salop. who are providing, slitters, a core tiner, turf scarifiers and drag mats. Due for introduction in early 1987 are a range of top dressers, turf drainers rollers, turf brushes and an all weather cab for the TMV 20.

Competition in turf maintenance equipment will be one of the features of next year not only from a number of economically priced power units from smaller British manufacturers such as Europlume, Mallard and Patisson, but from a new entry into the arena, John Deere, the American based agriculture and heavy duty tractor manufacturers.

A late entry to the exhibition and relegated to a section of the demonstration area they could not have made a more auspicious start - they won the best stand award!



JOHN DEERE LTD, were awarded the 'Gold Award for outstanding design and layout'. Managing Director, Douglas M. Walker (left) receives the certificate from R. J. Corbin, Vice-President of the I.O.G.

Nottingham based Doug Walker, Managing Director of the British end of John Deere announced the firm were now ready to move into the commercial turf care industry after establishing a substantial share of the agriculture business. They already have a range of compact tractors with a mid mounted mower and are ready to launch a mounted triple reel mower.

Beaver, trading as Polymark Beaver Equipment at Littlehampton, broke away from their distributors, Lely Import soon after Iseki left the St. Neots stable. They have now set up their own marketing operation headed by Bill Fisher. Bill in recent years has been with Swards at York, then Lely, moved to Iseki and is now Beaver's UK Sales Manager.

The company has always been a strong exporter and has strong ties with John Deere in the USA, so it was no surprise to see several items of Beaver Equipment attached to machines on the John Deere stand. Both companies were somewhat coy when asked if cooperation might become closer, but this observer's prediction for 1987, is that a John Deere/Beaver assault on the turf maintenance business will be launched within a few months.

Other new equipment seen around included a greenkeeper's runabout from the Cushman camp, marketed by Huxleys and a radio-controlled grass cutter powered by an 18hp diesel from Kubota.

This futuristic mower with a 60 inch cutting width is for use on awkward or dangerous slopes where the driver may feel safer controlling the machine by radio rather than sitting on the seat.

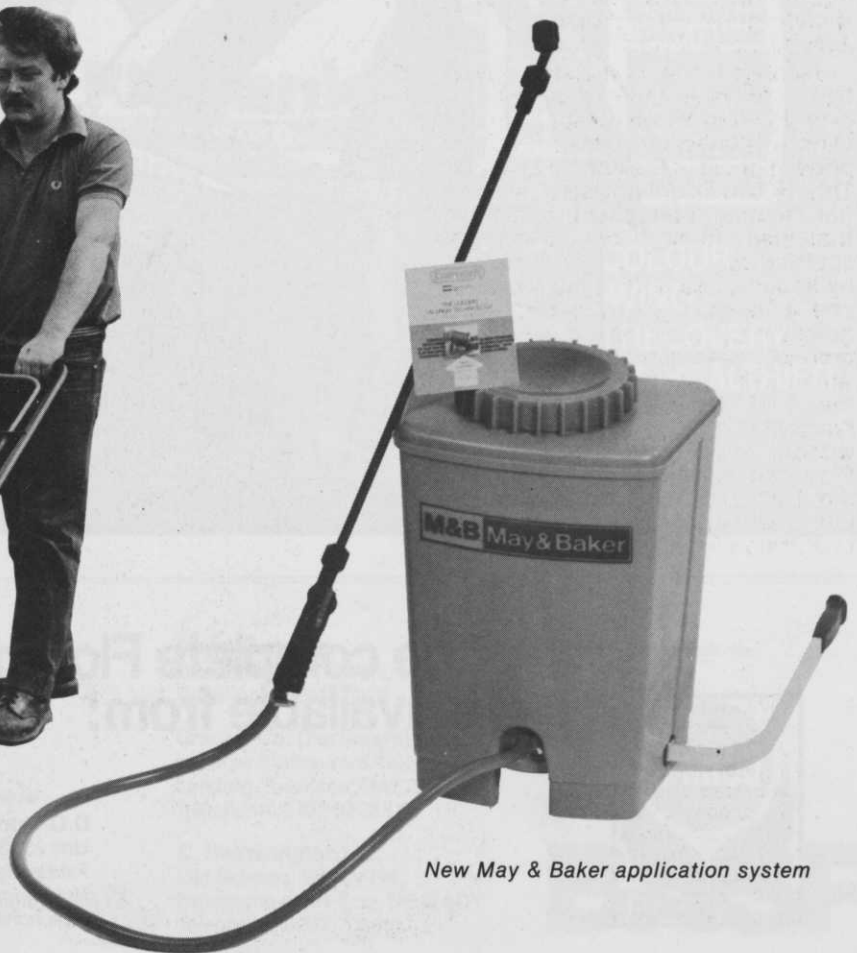
It was suggested that a greenkeeper could drive round the course setting the computerised programme as he followed a prescribed route. At the end of the day when the staff and golfers have left, the machine can be set out on its own to cut all night. Is this to be the future for golf course maintenance? With programmed machines the only addition required would be an electrified security fence around the course and a pack of fierce dogs. The greenkeeper would then be free to take on the Secretary's job!

On the fertiliser, herbicide and fungicide front the dominating producers such as ICI, May & Baker, BASF, Fisons and Rigby Taylor all reported an excellent response to their stands.

ICI have launched two new products, Tornado, a long-lasting worm killer based on carbaryl and Daconil, a new fungicide giving startling results in the treatment of Red Thread, Fusarium, Grey Snow Mould, Take-All Patch, Anthracnose, Brown Patch and Dollar Spot.

Among May & Baker's new products is Crossfire. Containing chlorpyrifos, it is aimed at the control of leather jackets and frit fly. M&B are also launching two application systems and a full support system for power sprayers.

NEW SISIS Mk. 2 AUTO-TURFMAN
Heavy duty, powered aerator for year-round use on fine turf tines.



New May & Baker application system