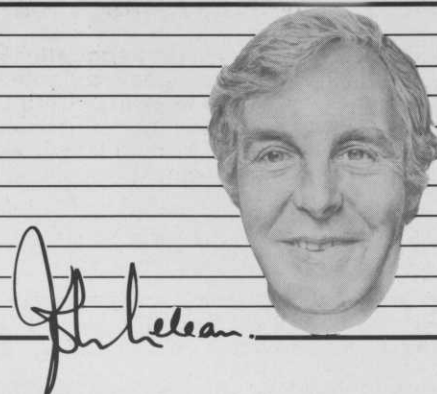


Greenside Comment...



OVER THE FIRST HURDLE

The way is now clear for the three British Golf Greenkeepers' Associations to join together as one corporate body, ending a long period of dissension between the BGGGA, SIGGA and those greenkeepers who formed their own Association under the EIGGA banner after the abortive Worksop AGM in 1982.

Following a series of Sectional Meetings of the BGGGA on the 1st October and the postal voting through the Electoral Reform Society an eighty percent majority voted in favour of an amalgamation with the Scottish Association and those south of the border who broke away and set up EIGGA four years ago.

EIGGA, who also held a postal ballot, recorded a ninety percent majority in favour of amalgamating the three Associations. SIGGA also report a unanimous resolution to join together, following their meeting in Stirling.

Full credit for initiating, what must be a sound and sensible decision, is due to the recognised world authority in golf, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews, who have already offered to finance the setting up of an Association representing all United Kingdom Golf Greenkeepers and to put such an Association on a professional footing.

For too long the Greenkeepers have been the forgotten and neglected ingredient of a multi-million pound industry on both the professional and amateur sides of the game.

Like so many other sports, the popularity of golf has been enhanced in Britain because of two factors. Above all, golf has become a spectator sport through the development of colour television, bringing the skills of the world's finest exponents into the living room. With the drama building to a climax between the contestants has come the beauty of the stage. Surely in no other sport can one enjoy not only the game, but the constantly changing scenery, with its varying shades of greens and browns, complemented by the blues and greys from lakes and streams. It is this stage, the essential factor, where the contribution of the Greenkeeper is now fully recognised.

Because golf is such a unique game, through its handicapping system its popularity for the amateur, who can compete regardless of age or ability has made it not only a spectator sport, but one of enormous growth for the participant.

Golf course development started to expand at the end of the last century as groups of enthusiasts formed clubs to acquire tracts of land regarded as unsuitable for agriculture. The land was cheap, labour plentiful and a new society of wealth was growing through the country's expanding economy. What better place to meet and relax among equals than the local golf club.

Because golf was founded in this manner, with a committee structure managing the majority of clubs, the lot of the greenkeeper has been neglected.

Wages have always been based on agriculture rates, as it was from those ranks the greenkeeper was recruited. His job was seen as an extension of the work of the farm labourer - growing grass and cutting it. If he also showed the ability to play the game well, he was appointed to the position of professional, acting as the maintainer of the course during the working week and a teacher of the game at weekends.

Despite radical changes in almost every aspect of life, the committee structures have remained and unfortunately so have the attitudes for expecting the maximum amount of work for the minimum financial return. Only where golf courses are run on commercial lines has the greenkeeper been recognised and rewarded at his true worth.

In what other industry has the employee been expected to finance his training in his own time?

Throughout the late 1960's and '70's almost all industry in Britain received encouragement and grants for the personal training of employees from the shop floor to the most senior of management, but not the greenkeeper. It is now totally accepted work skills for staff are the responsibility of an employer, but this concept has not been accepted universally by golf clubs.

Many still refuse to allow young trainees the time off to attend college courses to study for the basic City & Guilds Certificate and because numbers are so low it has not been possible to develop these greenkeeper courses nationally in specialist areas, with the result that part of the course includes areas of horticulture, not particularly suited to the greenkeepers' necessary skills.

A classic example of the 'Chicken and Egg' syndrome.

A corporate body of Greenkeepers, backed morally and financially by the R & A must be the basis for change to take place. Until that happened there was no way forward.

Fear has already been expressed in some quarters that a united association of Greenkeepers will lead to a militant trade union attitude. Nothing is further from the truth. It will be a professional association with professional attitudes, obviously with the aim of enhancing the status of its members, but through a greater awareness of the need to improve the playability of the golf course throughout the year. That includes the management of resources incorporating men, money and materials and the knowledge to put those resources to the best possible use.

Attendance at numerous one day seminars organised by sections of the BGGGA, EIGGA and SIGGA during the past twelve months is proof of the overwhelming desire of Greenkeepers to learn as much as possible of the new techniques and for that matter the original skills of agronomy.

Agreement to form a joint association is but the first hurdle. There must now be sensible discussion without acrimony, on the method adopted to make the Association work for the benefit of all the members.

Four members of BGGGA, SIGGA, and EIGGA will be meeting in November to discuss the draft Constitution, consider a venue for the headquarters, appoint a salaried administrator and decide how, or who, will publish a magazine. These issues, the corner stones of a successful Association, did not feature in the agendas of the Steering Committee Meetings. Had they been included it is doubtful if the progress made to date would have been achieved. Whether they should have been items for debate will remain to be seen.

OVER THE FIRST HURDLE — *Continued*

Throughout all the protracted negotiations there has been a strong resistance to what has been seen as outside interference by individuals, who no doubt with the best intentions, wanted to exert some influence on the proceedings. Perhaps their motives could have been interpreted as commercial or self aggrandisement rather than altruistic, but on all counts they were rejected. The Greenkeepers have said from the outset they wanted to conduct their own affairs.

This is a perfectly noble sentiment, but it must not be so completely rigid they will not listen to and take advice on matters of organisation where others may have a better understanding.

The greatest danger now facing this fledgling, hatched by parents from an arranged marriage would be to push it from the nest before it had the strength to take flight.

The R & A suggested the new Association should be fully functional by the beginning of 1987. To insist on such a meagre timescale will be to condemn the entire project to failure, setting back everything so far achieved for a period so long, most of the present membership will never reap the ultimate benefits.

At the various sectional meetings and when Greenkeepers have joined together the topic of conversation has centered on the draft Constitution. It is a sensible and well thought out document, but it still needs honing and in places amending for total acceptance. That must be the first task of the twelve representatives.

The other matters can only be agreed after full, frank and exhaustive discussions and that includes a study of the workings and organisation of similar Associations. There is no point in trying to re-invent the wheel when examples of a streamlined version are already available.

It is in this area that the new Committee must be prepared to listen to advice from without and not reject out of hand, such offerings as interference.

Similarly the person who will ultimately head the new Association need not necessarily be a Greenkeeper by profession. He or she must have the interests of the Association at heart and understand golf, greenkeeping and the needs of the members, but one does not have to be a greenkeeper to meet these objectives. An ability to organise, communicate, influence and project the image of the Greenkeeping profession are the essential attributes.

These are exciting times, the amalgamation has been welcomed from all sections of the golfing world. A united group dedicated to the improvement and growth of golf courses, and themselves, deserves full recognition. We wish them well.

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Next Month

Amalgamation Progress Discussions
Golf Course Drainage
Jacobsen Report Tournament

GOLF GREENKEEPING

and Course Maintenance

*The Official Magazine of the
British Golf Greenkeepers'
Association*

Founded 1912

*The Association is affiliated to the
English and Welsh Golf Unions*

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Printed by: W. Kristall Ltd., Leeds.

Golf Greenkeeping and Course
Maintenance is published by:
Wharfedale Publications
Limited,
P.O. Box 12,
Wetherby,
West Yorkshire LS22 4SR.
Telephone: (0937) 63181.

Published ten times per year.
Copies for non-members are
available on subscription for
£10.00 a year postage paid
(From January 1987 £12.00 a
year). Overseas surface and air
mail rates on application to the
publishers.

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GUY CATCHPOLE Sales and Marketing Director RETIRES

Guy Catchpole, Sales and Marketing Director of the Ipswich based grass and farm machinery manufacturers Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, retired in September after 38 years with the group.

Guy, a long serving Vice-President of the B.G.G.A., joined Ransomes under a special apprenticeship scheme in 1948 after service with the Rifle Brigade. Following an intensive course of training in the factory he joined Ransomes distribution company in Edinburgh where he gained his commercial experience.

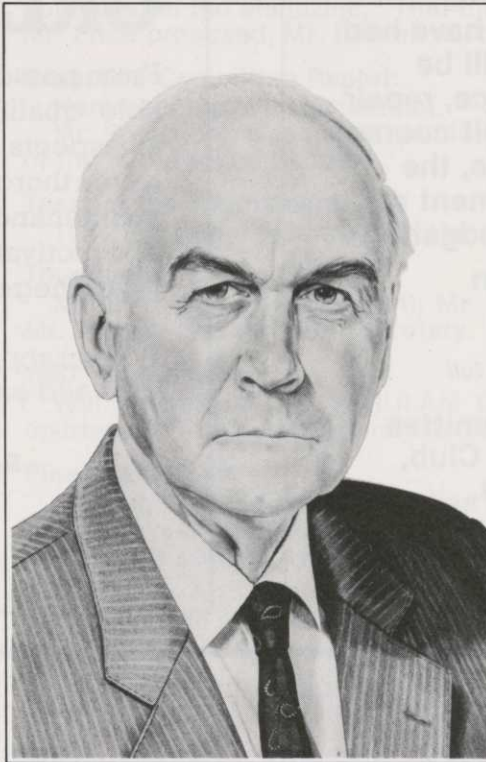
After seven years in Scotland Guy Catchpole moved south to operate in the South East as farm machinery representative.

FOLLOWING IN FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Despite his deep interest in farm machinery he jumped at the opportunity in 1960 to become Lawnmower Sales Manager to begin 26 years of his association with greenkeepers. He was following the family tradition as his father, Stanley Catchpole, had been Ransomes lawnmower representative in the South East.

The first major move by the company to become a world leader in mechanised grass machinery for the professional user was made in 1964 when, after careful market research, the Motor Triple was introduced. Another significant advance was made in 1968, following a worldwide study, when the Hydraulic 5/7 gang mower was put onto the market. This was the first machine to be totally hydraulically operated. Both the Motor Triple and the Hydraulic 5/7 are still in production and continue to sell successfully today. It was from these two units that Ransomes further developed their range of self propelled and tractor drawn cylinder mowers to occupy a dominant position in world markets.

Feedback from the field continued and while new products were being created by the engineers, new overseas markets were being exploited. Guy Catchpole's philosophy was that export markets can only be built up with a strong home market acting as the springboard for success overseas. "You have to make sure when you move into a new market" said Guy Catchpole "that the right products are going to be available and staff are there to give the distributors adequate back-up in the field". These have been the basis of Ransomes export successes with overseas sales in 1985 accounting for 60% turnover.



*Illustration by
Stephen Spellman
for Golf Greenkeeping*

APPOINTED TO THE BOARD

In his capacity of Sales and Marketing Director, he was appointed to the Executive Board in 1977 and the Main Board three years later. He has also served on Ransomes subsidiary company boards in the U.S.A., Germany and France. He organised the transfer of the Australian company to Victa and sales to that market exceeded £1 million in 1985.

One of his great interests has been the growth of the Group's business in North America. The opportunity for a total plan for the U.S.A. came when Guy was approached at the Portland Show in 1977 and was asked if he could assist in the overseas distribution of a range of rotaries made in the U.S.A. This approach resulted in Ransomes acquiring the rotary manufacturer and forming Ransomes Inc. Based on a 40 acre site in Wisconsin the American company distributes the Group's products in the U.S.A. The machines made by Ransomes Inc. are, with the exception of North America, marketed worldwide from Ipswich.

An important change, he feels, is the emphasis now being placed by local authorities throughout the world for cost effective turf grass maintenance. This has caused us, he says, to develop, in conjunction with these authorities, high workrate machines such as the Motor 213D and the Motor 350D as well as triple mowers for golf greens maintenance. These all incorporate technology learned as a direct result of the Motor Triple and Hydraulic 5/7 gang mower introduced some 20 years ago.

GRASS MACHINERY A MAJOR PART OF THE BUSINESS

In 1960 grass machinery contributed barely 25% of Group turnover. Today it is nearly 80% and the 1970 turnover of £3 million had grown to £47.62 million in 1985. "This has been a team effort and we would not be where we are today had it not been for the major contribution and hard work of everyone in the Ransomes Group and the support of our dealers in Britain and Overseas", said Guy.

Three years ago he took on the additional responsibility of Sales and Marketing Director of the Farm Machinery Division. A re-organisation under his guidance has already resulted in a significant share of the plough market in the U.K. being regained and the beginnings of new developments in the campaign to gain more overseas business.

Described by some as a workaholic Guy Catchpole has certainly been dedicated to Ransomes and hearing the Company's name taken in vain is an anathema to him. He has not been known for doing things by half. Once he gets his teeth into something he sees it through to the bitter end.

GOLF, FISHING AND WALKING

During his well earned retirement Guy Catchpole will continue living in Ipswich where he and his wife Myra, whom he met whilst in Scotland, will be able to spend more time together. They enjoy golf, and visiting their friends in Scotland for golf, fishing and walking.

A great supporter of Greenkeepers, Guy has taken every opportunity possible to meet Association members both on their courses and at Association meetings.

Members of the BGGGA would like to express their thanks to him and his staff for the help and encouragement always freely given and wish him a very active, healthy and enjoyable retirement.

APPOINTMENTS

DOWNES CREDITON GOLF CLUB

require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The person appointed will have had formal training and will be responsible for maintenance, repair and construction on the golf course, machinery maintenance, the instruction and management of junior staff and course budgeting

No accommodation

Salary negotiable

Application in writing with full curriculum vitae to:

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From persons of proven ability with suitable qualifications and experience in all aspects of course management, who have a thorough knowledge of machinery maintenance and also the ability to direct and motivate staff.

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SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

Administration:

This year has been a very busy time for meetings from November to June, many of them in respect of the amalgamation of the three Greenkeeper Associations. Our Chairman (Mr. E. R. James), must have travelled many hundreds of miles including a journey from Bournemouth to St. Andrews to attend the International Tournament and Symposium on our behalf and surely must be feeling in need of a well earned rest. Thanks are due to Eric for all his efforts and for the work he has put into the Association during his year of Office.

Mr. G. Malcolm of the Cleveland Section now takes over the principle office, and I am sure he will carry out his duties as National Chairman with the same enthusiasm as his predecessor.

Last year saw our Hospitality Caravans at the Belfry, the Southport Show and the Windsor Show, these were open to all Greenkeepers and proved most successful.

The Kubota Trophy this year was won by the Greenkeeper team, and I understand was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

Teams from England and Wales represented the B.G.G.A. at Ransomes International Tournament.

A very successful Symposium was held at the Belfry, and Sections continued their good work with local Seminars.

I feel that it would be remiss of me if I did not mention the Greenkeeping Staff under the Leadership of Derek Ganning for their marvelous efforts in preparing the course for the Ryder Cup.

Executive Members continued to represent the Association on the National Turfgrass Council, the Greenkeeper Training Committee, and the Turfgrass Advisory Committee.

The membership continues to grow with almost a hundred new members during the past year.

For many years Addington Court Golf Club have contributed the proceeds of the Harry Bennett Tournament to our Benevolent Fund and our thanks are made to them for their support.

The Sectional news outlines the many activities and continued growth of the Sections, and thanks are recorded to all Section Committees for their support and hard work. And to all members for their participation and support.

Minutes of the 69th Annual General Meeting

held on Monday, 11th August 1986 at approx 3.00 p.m.
at The Clubhouse, Billingham Golf Club,
Sandy Lane, Billingham, Cleveland.

CHAIRMAN:

Mr. E. R. James On opening the Meeting the Chairman asked all Members to rise and observe one minutes silence in memory of all the members who had passed away during the year.

Minutes of last A.G.M.

The Chairman asked that as the minutes of the last A.G.M. had been published in the Magazine, "That they be accepted and taken as read". Mr. Price proposed, Mr. Burnell seconded.

Executive Committee Report:

Nomination of Vice Chairman.

Mr. P. Fitzjohn was nominated for the ensuing year by the Committee of the Mid Anglian Section.

Tees for the Tournament:

Tees left to the discretion of the Head Greenkeeper.

Tournament Committee:

Mr. E. R. James (Chairman), Mr. M. Sheehan, Mr. J. S. Richardson, Mr. A. Kite, and the Hon Secretary.

1987 Tournament:

Will be held at the VERULAM Golf Club at ST. ALBANS by kind courtesy of the Members and Committee.

Financial Report:

Although the Balance Sheet has shown a loss of £698 over the past financial year, you will see on the Income & Expenditure Account this was mainly caused by the following large Expenditure.

MAGAZINE: An increase to the Editor from 25p - 35p from Jan. 1986. This cost the Association £718 more than was received from the Members.

COMMITTEE EXPENSES: This year £2,015, last year £913 an increase of £1,102 caused through all additional meetings.

MANAGEMENT INCREASES: Management increases from £700 - £2,000.

RANSOMES INTERNATIONAL: Cost of sending English and Welsh teams Speakers Expenses, (in previous years this tournament cost has been offset by sponsorship of the symposium).

HOSPITALITY CARAVANS: At I.O.G. Windsor, Southport & the RYDER CUP.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

	Proposed by:	Seconded by:	
President:	J. Hamilton Stutt	J. Webster	R. Shaw
Chairman:	G. Malcolm	B. Burnell	A. Gamble
V. Chairman:	P. Fitzjohn	H. Herrington	R. Goodwin
Hon. Sec/ Treasurer:	W. Heeles	H. Walsh	B. Embury
Executive Committee:	As nominated by Sections.		
V. Presidents:	en bloc.		

At Approx. 4.00 p.m. the Chairman closed the meeting

Following the A.G.M. the Chairman reconvened the meeting to discuss the business appertaining to the E.G.M. called to discuss the proposed Amalgamation of the three Greenkeeper Associations. The Secretary explained that the Postal Vote that had taken place was not a resolution but a means of obtaining the views of the Membership, also no official resolution had been put forward to the E.G.M. which had been called to obtain Members views and for discussion to take place.

After discussion and question, it was agreed unanimously that talks should continue, also a Postal Voting card be sent to all Greenkeeper Members together with the proposed constitution.

The Chairman closed the Meeting

HEAD OFFICE

General & Benevolent Fund

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th APRIL, 1986

	1986	1985
FIXED ASSETS		
OFFICE EQUIPMENT at 1.5.85	940	1,080
Additions during year	—	95
	940	1,175
Less: Depreciation	188	235
	752	940
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of Ties, Badges and Sweaters	634	603
Balance at: Britannia Building Soc.	21,386	22,796
Balance at: Bank and Cash	625	602
Balance at: Benevolent Fund Debtors	784	711
	125	158
	23,554	24,870
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	163	899
Provisions for Taxation	90	60
Monies Received in Advance	—	100
	253	1,059
NET CURRENT ASSETS	23,301	23,811
TOTAL NET ASSETS	24,053	24,751
REPRESENTED BY ACCUMULATED FUND:		
Balance as at 1st May, 1985	24,751	20,379
Less: Deficit for the year	(698)	4,372
	24,053	24,751

SECTIONS

General & Benevolent Fund

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th APRIL, 1986

	1986	1985
FIXED ASSETS		
Office Furniture & Equipment		
At 1.5.85	220	240
Additions during year	75	34
	295	274
Less: Depreciation	46	54
	249	220
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	—	10
Stock of Ties & Badges	249	288
Balances at: Bank, Building Societies, Cash & Benevolent Fund	10,272	9,528
	10,521	9,826
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	—	35
Prepaid Subscriptions	515	—
	515	35
NET CURRENT ASSETS	10,006	9,791
TOTAL NET ASSETS	10,255	10,011
REPRESENTED BY: ACCUMULATED FUND		
Balance as at 1st May, 1985	10,011	8,410
Add: Surplus for year	244	1,601
	10,255	10,011



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5. INDIVIDUAL CONTROL

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No wonder there's simply no opposition.

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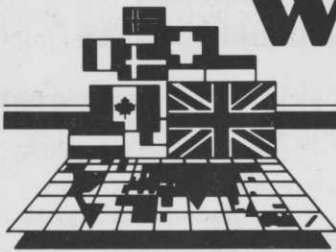


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WINDSOR SHOW

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 Pattisson, 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!