



■ Kubota (UK) Ltd. launched a new 18hp ride-on front mounted mower – the F1900. Developed to meet commercial needs, the F1900 provides the operator with high levels of machine manoeuvrability, efficiency and comfort. A multi-purpose ride-on, the F1900 can tackle long and wet grass and because of its lightweight – 400kg – it can also undertake fine turf and lawn work without crushing grass. With a short wheel base of just 850mm, the F1900 achieves very tight turns around trees and other obstacles or can leave an uncut area of 650mm diameter. The F1900's side discharge cutting decks – 48" or 54" – are shaft driven off-set mowers with a three blade cutting action to allow trimming of wide swaths. In addition the hydraulic PTO brake immediately stops the mower blade when the PTO clutch is disengaged.

The one lever operation of the deck's hydraulic power lift means raising and lowering of the mower deck for maintenance is quick and simple. The F1900 features cruise control which reduces operator fatigue by freeing up the driver's foot whilst working in wide open spaces or on long distance work. The control panel, instrument panels and operating levers are conveniently located to the side of the driver giving clear visibility and easy operation. The adjustable, fully padded high back seat and four position tilt steering wheel ensures operator comfort throughout the working day. The F1900 48" S/D deck is priced at £6,750 (54" £6,850) and will be available in the spring of 1993.

■ Drawing on more than 20 years of experience, Trilo Manufacturing of Holland have produced the SG 700 Grass Collector. Launched at IoG, the new SG 700 – especially designed with the golf course application in mind – drew wide approval from greenkeepers. The combination of the powerful vacuum and a 2m brush unit inside a free floating head means that leaves and grass cuttings can be easily be collected.



In addition the machine has options such as a 2m tripartite scarifier which enables greenkeepers to scarify and collect in one pass, and a 6m wander hose to enable those difficult to reach areas, such as ditches, to be cleared. Additional uses include the collection of litter and clearing hollow cores (a service already offered by D&E Turf Maintenance Ltd using the Mini Sweep). Although multi-functional and with an enormous 7m³ capacity, the SG700 weights in at under 1300kgs. It can be supplied with extra wide 19x17 tyres. Telephone: 0223 355796.

■ Shelton Trenching Systems, specialists in sportsturf drainage machinery, and Boral Lytag, the aggregates manufacturer, have joined forces to launch a leaflet on machinery and materials for efficient and effective sportsturf drainage. Infor-

Top dressing firm puts £350,000 into its future

A top dressing supplier is bucking the recessionary trend with a £350,000 investment in its future.

Abcon North East Ltd, based in Blaydon, Tyne & Wear, have been trading since the early 1960s, supplying the construction industry with sands and gravels. With expansion and diversification, Abcon are now also serving the green-keeping industry. They have what they believe to be a unique computerised and sterilised blending and mixing plant.

Their north east location is ideally placed to supply northern England and Scotland, but the company also intends to extend their operation nationwide.

Expansion to date has been rapid. A spokesman told Greenkeeper International that they have enjoyed an increase of over 60% in clubs supplied with their product range of top dressings, root zone mixes, sands and screened soils.

Newly appointed sales manager Wilf Tucker and sales director Grant Taylor are the men behind Abcon's growth, reporting to managing director Alan Taylor.

As well as supplying more and more golf clubs, Abcon has also won the contract to supply Durham County Cricket Club with individually specified mixes for their new HQ ground and complex at Chester-le-Street.

Contact Abcon on 091 499 0555 or by fax on 091 414 1544.

mation is given on the various techniques that may be used to improve drainage where ground has become waterlogged or where water is perched on the surface. The Shelton range of drainage equipment available to overcome these problems is outlined.

The use of lightweight aggregates in drainage schemes is gaining in popularity. A table setting out the results of hydraulic conductivity tests with various materials shows the outstanding characteristics of Lytag in this respect. With several grades available from sand through to 12mm., this manufactured material is now available all over Britain. The advantages over conventional materials are enumerated. This leaflet should be in the hands of all involved in sportsturf drainage or those contemplating such work. Copies from Shelton Trenching Systems. Tel: (0732) 833647 or Boral Lytag. Tel: (0889) 583446.

■ Developed by Allen Power Equipment Ltd for their popular 18" hover mowers, their latest innovation, the Tri Cut Pro Blade, has been designed in response to requests for improved cutting performance whilst maintaining the need for maximum possible protection for the operator. The new blade uses the normal height of cut adjustment and is fitted to the 218 Tecnamotor and 218Si Suzuki powered 18" machines.

The metal disc carries three free swinging blades, manufactured from Nylon 6, which cut grass with the efficiency of metal but offer operator and machine protection if solid objects are encountered. The blades can be simply removed and replaced when worn or damaged, quickly and easily.

The new Tri Pro Blade is a result of exhaustive testing and improvements and Allen believe this new blade is the most efficient nylon cutting blade ever designed for a rotary mower.

■ The debut of the Jacobsen LF3810 Fairway Mower complements the company's LF100 (2.5m) and ST5111 (3.4m) machines to complete the Jacobsen fairway range. The 3810 has five cutting



cylinders, a working width of 3m (10ft) and the same styling as the recently announced ST5111. The 38hp diesel engine is mounted between the axles to provide an exceptionally low centre of gravity for safe working on banks. Drive is hydrostatic with stepless forward/reverse speeds.

The control lever is conveniently placed, together with the Synchronshift control which is used to raise or lower three, four or all five cutting cylinders to allow cross-cutting of fairways to be undertaken quickly and easily. The cylinders have 10 blades and are arranged so that they precisely follow ground contours. Cutting heights down to 1cm (3/8in) are possible, and working speeds can be up to 7.5mph. For easy servicing the complete operator platform can be lifted clear to provide access to engine and drive line components. Other features of the new LF3810 include power steering, adjustable steering wheel and quality suspension seating to provide an exceptional level of operator comfort for long periods of working.

■ The new high performance Ransomes Fairway 300 is a 5 unit ride-on fairway mower which offers many additional features and benefits over the current competitive lightweight fairway mowers. Already exhibited at the GCSAA → 36





35 → show in America, this machine has received wide acclaim, designed as it is to cope with all grass growth conditions. Powered by a 38hp Kubota engine the 300 has excellent fuel

economy, low exhaust emissions and low noise levels – which make it very friendly to the operator and the environment. Designed to enhance operator efficiency is a new style console which includes a tilting steering column with all the controls immediately to hand and system monitoring dials for regular maintenance checks.

The 300 is fitted with new hydraulically driven 26" cutting units which are based on the successful Motor 180D units, offering a total cutting width of 114". Both the height of cut and the cutting cylinders can be adjusted without the need for tools. It features 4WD with wide turf tyres which offer exceptional traction with low ground pressure and enhance its stability and ease of operation when working on fairways. When cross cutting fairways all five units can be raised in a single operation, enabling fast turns and ease of manoeuvrability.

■ John Deere's versatile new 1800 utility vehicle takes a range of sprayer and turf maintenance equipment for professional turf care applications. This heavy-duty, four-wheel vehicle features an



18hp petrol engine, hydrostatic transmission and power steering. Load capacity is 907kg and the Softrac tyres give excellent traction combined with low ground compaction.

The two-person adjustable bench seat tilts forward to provide easy access to the Kawasaki liquid-cooled V-twin engine. Ground speed is infinitely controlled in low and high ranges, for working and transport applications, from 0 to 11.5mph. A console-mounted lever provides easy speed and direction control. Stability and manoeuvrability are enhanced by the 55" wheelbase and 66" overall width. Overall length is 1 02". The vehicle can be fitted as standard with a Hardi sprayer with 66 or 132gal capacity tank and 20ft wide boom. An optional universal frame enables it to carry a variety of other turf care and maintenance equipment. Prices start at £6,400.



■ Lamborghini – the new 'force on the course' – has introduced a range of compact tractors in a bid for the golf course market. The Lamborghini range in the UK now spans 25 to 165hp in 15 models.

Called the 'Runner' series, the new compacts are available in three models; the Runner 250 with 25 DIN hp diesel engine; the Runner 350 with 33 DIN hp diesel engine, and the Runner 400 with 40 DIN hp diesel engine. All models are equipped with an advanced 12 forward, 12 reverse speed shuttle transmission, 4WD and load sensing power steering as standard.

Power units are Mitsubishi. The 350 and 400 models have the same 1490cc four-cylinder engine to which a turbocharger is added for the 400 model to provide the power increase to 40hp. It also gives the Runner 400 a significant advantage in terms of improved combustion and fuel efficiency. The small-

Video shows tough turf facts

A new video from Netlon Limited – **Rootzone Technology – stronger by nature – illustrates the benefits this unique self-cultivating rootzone offers in the construction and reconstruction of tees, and greens. Designed with golf course management and greenkeepers in mind, the video details the Netlon Advanced Turf System, a unique combination of natural turf and a stabilised rootzone. The system has proven itself on a number of prestigious courses including Woburn, which is one of the projects highlighted in the video. The video also includes a trial at the Royal Agricultural Showground, to assess the system's load bearing characteristics. This will interest courses with grassed overspill car parking, access roads for television coverage and across fairways and frequently trafficked buggy paths.**

Comprehensive technical details including the principle responsible for the system's inherent self-cultivating action responsible for the system's inherent self-cultivating action are also detailed, as is a summary of an independent research programme carried out by Dr James Beard, Professor of Turfgrass Science at Texas A & M University. For a copy please contact Netlon Limited free on 0800 585012.

est model, the Runner 250, is powered by a Mitsubishi three-cylinder engine with 1118cc capacity. The Road Runner 350 compact is priced from £9,650 and will be available shortly.

■ ICI Professional Products have launched a free collection and disposal service for their UK amenity customers. The service is a co-operative venture with Envirogreen and follows the introduction of new (April) laws on special waste. The Duty of Care under the Environmental Protection Act, 1990 requires anyone who has the responsibility for controlled waste to take all reasonable steps to ensure its correct disposal. The free service is offered on all empty pesticide containers carrying ICI Professional Products labels. • Option 1 – Free collection and disposal of ICI Professional Products empty containers in batches of 200 litres or more. • Option 2 – One annual free collection of batches of empty ICI Professional Products containers under 200 litres.

ICI have also launched the new ICI Professional Products 'Guide-to-Excellence', which attempts a fresh and innovative approach to customer communications. Combining technical substance, commercial purpose and industry relevance, the Amenity Guide has been specifically designed to interest the reader by being both educational and entertaining. The result is a fully illustrated 84pp guide segmented into defined areas, designed to allow each of these segments to become stand-alone guides in their own right.

Each section includes a brief overview of the use for which the product is being recommended, with appropriate photographs, illustrations, diagrams, graphs and charts to aid a more thorough understanding. Following each product use area are tables, which provide all the essential and relevant information of product application, rates of use, timing and area coverage. Where appropriate chemical active ingredients and MAFF numbers are included.

■ The new 4ft (122cm) SISIS Multislit is a deep slitting aerator for relief of compaction, increased drainage and improved root development – six inch (15cm) or eight inch (20cm) slitting



tines can be fitted. The Multislit has been developed from many years experience with the highly successful AO/4S. There are five tines fitted to each larger diameter tine plate to give more slits and a shorter slit length on the surface. The tine plates have a wide rim to reduce surface marking when operating at full penetration.

The Multislit performs without the need for VPF variable pressure frame although it will operate with one, making it a versatile aerator suitable for attachment to a wide variety of tractors and power units.

■ The new Charterhouse Lawnsystem is a unique concept specifically aimed at the renovation of lawns, tennis courts, bowling greens and cricket squares. The machines consist of a pedestrian spiker, pedestrian scarifier and top dresser/fertiliser spreader. All the units are located on a purpose built trailer and each machine has been designed with three main points in mind. The first is simple operation, the second high manoeuvrability to gain access in difficult areas, the third robustness to withstand heavy use. Though aimed at the hire market, the system is such that it may well anticipate acceptance from the greenkeeping profession.

The system comes complete with a leaflet on how to renovate turf areas, written by Jim Thorn, remembered by all as head groundsman at Wimbledon. Jim is not the only high profile member in our industry to endorse the system, for Steve Tingley, head groundsman at Wembley and Jack McMillan, latterly head greenkeeper at Sunningdale and now an international consultant, have given the system their full support and endorsement.