



The John Deere 3235 lightweight fairway mower has a 32hp diesel engine and can be equipped with either seven-bladed, 5in reels or eight-bladed, 7in reels. Inset: Powered brush on Allett's Tournament mower now has more coils per inch and uses polyethylene bristles.

CUTTING EDGE



MICHAEL BIRD examines cylinder mower developments

Anyone visiting the IoG Exhibition at Peterborough hoping to compare the merits of triplex-type greens mowers would have been struggling to spend much more than half an hour at the event. With the exception of John Deere, all of the leading manufacturers of such machines had decided to give the show a miss for 1993.

Their reasons ranged from a dislike of the location to the fact that they had little new to exhibit or had better things on which to spend their money. In the first case, at least, the return of the show to Windsor next year should please a number of companies, particularly those hoping for a more international event.

John Deere's managing director, Alec McKee, agreed that the show needed to attract more overseas visitors and the move back to Windsor would help in that respect. "However, we have the situation in the UK where there

are several large events during the year aimed at the grounds maintenance industry," he commented. "All have their slight differences, but they also overlap in many areas. The organisers of each really should get together so that we have just one major show in this country - a truly European event, which could be supported by all companies within the industry."

John Deere's decision to attend Peterborough in 1993 was rewarded by a steady stream of visitors and those on the look out for innovations on the company's stand were not disappointed.

Now available with a diesel engine is the John Deere 2243 greens mower. Introduced "to meet user demand", the machine has a three cylinder 18hp Yanmar engine, rubber mounted in the mower's frame. The engine has been set up to meet Californian emission standards, which are among the toughest in the → 23

LOCKWOOD GRASS MACHINERY

LESCO THE GREENS MACHINE THAT
MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE FOR
TODAY'S GOLF COURSE



SOLE UK IMPORTER FOR LESCO

Unit 17 Greenwich Close, Landseer Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 0DD
Telephone: (0473) 289158 Mobile: 0850 745055 Fax: (0473) 289161



Suitable for mowing large areas of parkland and sports turf, Ransomes' Commander 3500DX can be equipped with 6, 8 or 11 knife cutting reels



21 → world. The mower has no gearbox. Its transaxle is direct driven from the engine via a two-section hydraulic pump. One section drives the reel motors, the other supplies the steering and cutting units' lift rams. Apart from the 'Diesel' logo, the only visible difference between the petrol and diesel-engined machines is the rear hood which has been raised slightly to accommodate the taller power unit. Available next Spring, the JD 2243 diesel greens mower costs from £12,887.

Two cutting reel options are offered on two new lightweight fairway mowers also launched at the IoG exhibition by John Deere. Labelled the 3215 (25.5hp) and 3235 (32hp), the machines have been designed so that users can select the optimum power output and cutting unit to suit their grass and terrain. The smaller machine is offered only with standard seven-bladed, 5in diameter reels, said to be suitable for any turf type, but particularly the more delicate grasses found in cooler climates. Either the standard units or heavy-duty, eight-bladed, 7in diameter reels, can be specified for the larger JD 3235 fairway mower, the latter being better suited to longer, lusher conditions. Both reel types are 22in wide and feature a patent-applied-for mounting to the rear of the cutting unit. John Deere say that the design maintains a balanced force over the front and rear rollers keeping the cutting unit level and in more solid contact with the turf. Available with

four-wheel drive, fairway groomer and verticut options, the mowers are priced from a little under £21,000.

Although absent from Peterborough, both Toro and Ransomes announced new five-gang ride-on mowers to coincide with the IoG show. The Toro Reelmaster 4500-D is based on the RM 450-D, but

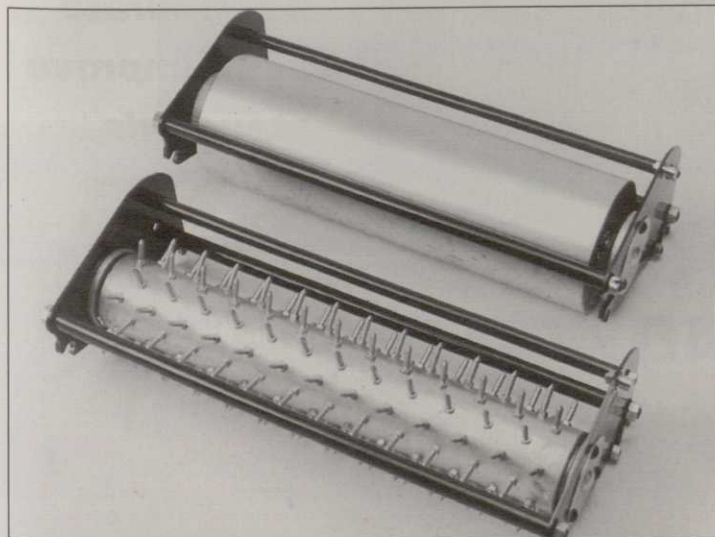
features some important upgrades including a four wheel drive option, a larger capacity engine, a new cooling system and a four post roll-over protection structure, the latter standard on the four-wheel drive mower and optional on two-wheel drive machines. Four-wheel drive is engaged by a switch on the instrument panel and operates in forward mode only. The engine has been changed from the Mitsubishi 4DQ5 (50hp governed down to 40hp) to the latest Mitsubishi 4DQ7, rated at 55hp. This is governed similarly down to 40hp, but the additional power available throughout the speed range will, says Toro, reduce noise levels and help prevent smoking under heavy load. A new water pump, two speed electric cooling fan and larger capacity radiator provide for cooler running, assisted by a new air intake and cooling system, now drawing air from the rear. Available with 5, 7 or 11 bladed reels, the 3.5m (11ft 6in) cut Reelmaster 4500-D costs from £25,725.

Also offering a maximum cut of

3.5m is the new Ransomes Commander 3500DX, a five unit mower suitable for parkland and sports turf. It has full hydrostatic transmission, on-demand four wheel drive and a choice of 6 knife fixed head and 8 or 11 knife floating head cutting unit options. Power comes from a 51hp diesel helping produce a maximum workrate of 3.2ha/hour at 12.5km/hr (8 acres/hr at 7.5mph).

Features designed to improve cutting performance and operator comfort include variable cutting speed reel control, a differential lock, articulating mower wing units for work on slopes, a rubber-mounted operator's platform and fully-enclosed engine compartment. An optional all-weather cab with roll-over protection structure is available for the new Commander 3500DX, which costs from £23,339.

Described as a tees and surrounds mower, the Sabo Roberine C400 from Claymore Grass Machinery offers a number of interesting features which extend its versatility for those looking after a variety of grass conditions and areas. The basic machine resembles a triple greens mower having a rear-mounted 16hp diesel engine, hydrostatic drive, rear wheel power steering and up-front driving position. However, the two front cutting units have hinged rear deflectors which, when raised, allow grass to be discharged direct from the rear of the unit. With the deflectors down, grass can be collected in the normal manner in the optional front grass boxes. On the rear cutting unit, the grass collector fits to the rear of the assembly, removing the need for any deflec-



Latest cassette attachments for the Dennis FT510 mower are a turf roller and a Sorrel surface aerator

CUTTING EDGE

23 ➔ tor. Price of the 1.8m (6ft) cut C400, complete with three-wheel drive, fully-floating 7 bladed reels and de-luxe seat is £12,250. Grassboxes and 5 or 10 bladed reels are optional.

First seen at last year's IoG exhibition, the Green's 20in super-fine pedestrian mower now has a name – Romax. The 10-bladed machine includes a number of detail improvements as a result of testing by selected golf clubs over the past year. Probably the most important is the fitting of an indexing adjuster for bottom blade adjustment, with a quarter turn of the hand wheel giving a thousandth of an inch blade movement. Price of the Green's Romax is from fl,800. Turf combs and transport wheels, yet to be priced, are extra.

Staying with pedestrian mowers, Allett has modified the powered brush on its Tournament 20in greens machine. The fully adjustable brush serves three main purposes: It keeps the front roller free of grass build-up to maintain a consistent height of cut; it brushes the turf, promoting healthy growth; and it helps lift lateral growing and flattened grasses for a complete cut across the full mowing width. Changes to the spiral brush include increasing the number of coils per inch and moving from nylon to polyethylene bristles. The result, according to Roy Allett, is an improved grooming action and extended working life. Price of the Tournament mower is £1,995.

Lloyds of Letchworth is introducing a 24in version of ➔ 27



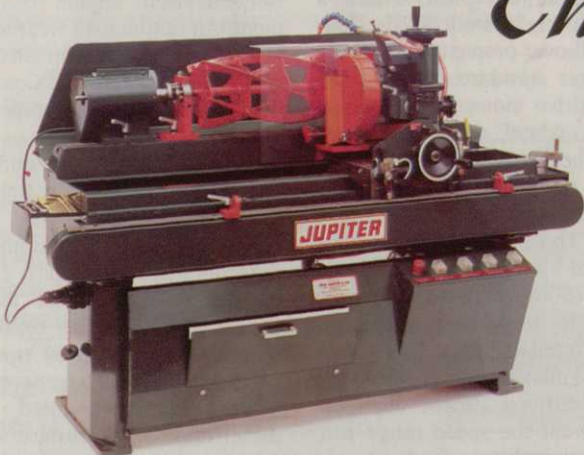
Shortly to be offered with a 10-bladed cylinder, the Masport Olympic 500 combines a 'no-frills' design with an economical purchase price



ERIC HUNTER GRINDERS LTD

HOBSON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BURNOPFIELD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE16 6EB. TEL: (0207) 70316 FAX: (0207) 70312

The Rolls Royce Range



42" capacity Mower Cylinder and Bottom Blade Grinding Machine. A truly 'precision' grinder, built to last half a century. Used and preferred by professionals.



The NEW JUNO 36" capacity Cylinder and Bottom Blade Grinder will accommodate every make and type of Professional and Domestic cutting cylinders and soleplates. Simple to operate, fast changeover from cylinder to bottom blade grinding.

**Quality
engineering at
its accurate
best. Improve
standards
- cut costs**

THESE CLUBS ALREADY DO IT!

- Bramley Golf Club
 - Caldy Golf club
 - Carnoustie Golf Links
 - Cawdor Golf Club
 - Charleslands Leisure (Co. Wicklow)
 - Chirk Castle Golf Course
 - Collingtree Leisure
 - Crompton & Royton Golf club
 - Delapre Golf Complex
 - Eaton Golf Club
 - Ely City Golf Club
- Gleneagles Hotel
 - Goring and Streetley
 - Hags Castle Club
 - Harpenden Golf Club
 - Kinross (Green Hotel)
 - Leek Golf Club
 - Lingfield Park
 - Malone Golf Club
 - Massereene Golf Club
 - Mere Golf & Country Club
 - Milltown Golf Club (Dublin)
- Mold Golf Club
 - Muirfield (Gullane) Golf Club
 - Newbury & Crookham Golf Club
 - Northwood Golf Club
 - Omonde Fields Golf Club
 - Piltown Golf Club
 - Pine Ridge Golf Club
 - Ponteland Golf Club
 - Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club
 - Royal Dornoch Golf Club
 - Royal Liverpool Golf Club
- Rye Golf Club
 - St Andrews
 - Sleafy Hall G&C Club
 - South Moor Golf Club
 - Tehidy Park Golf Course
 - Telford Golf Club
 - The Vale Golf & Country Club
 - Turnberry Hotel
 - Wellingborough Golf Club
 - West Herts Golf Club
 - Whitecraigs Golf Club

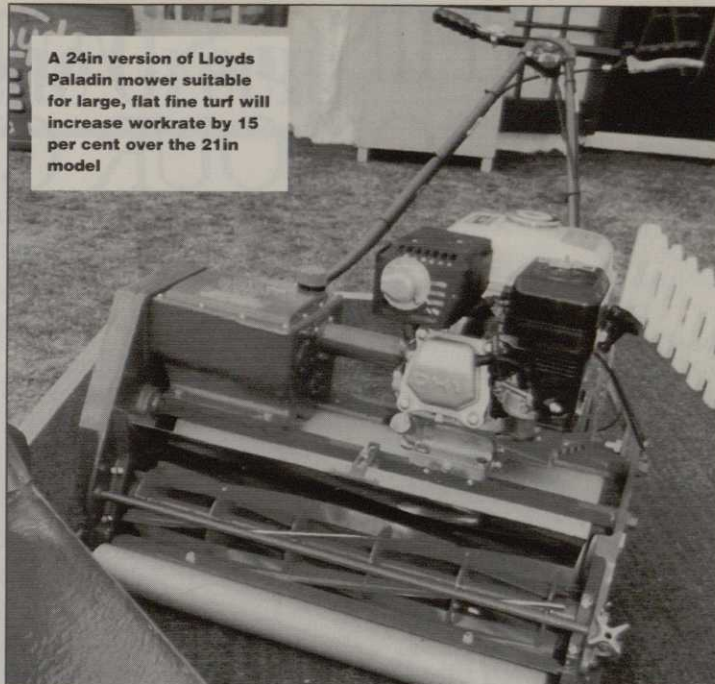
CUTTING EDGE

24" its long-established Paladin mower, to be sold alongside the 21in model. The 18in Paladin is to be discontinued. The principal change is to the width of the aluminium rear roller and 5 or 9 bladed cylinder, although Honda's GX120 4hp engine is now used on the range. Ideal for large, flat greens, the 24in Paladin weighs just 3kg (6.6lb) more than its 21in stable-mate. Price is expected to be around £2,200 when it goes on sale for next Spring.

Dennis, winner of the most innovative new product at last year's IoG exhibition with its FT510 20in fine turf mower, has extended the range of cassette heads available for the machine. A turf roller and sorrel-type surface spiker are now available, with a slitter and wire rake currently undergoing prototype testing. All are interchangeable in less than one minute without the use of tools.

Finally, one name which would not spring immediately to mind when discussing pedestrian greens mowers is Masport, distributed in the UK by Autocar Equipment Ltd. Although badged as Masport, the mowers are in fact now built by New Zealand company, Steelfort, following the take-over of Morrison by Masport, and the resulting rationalisation.

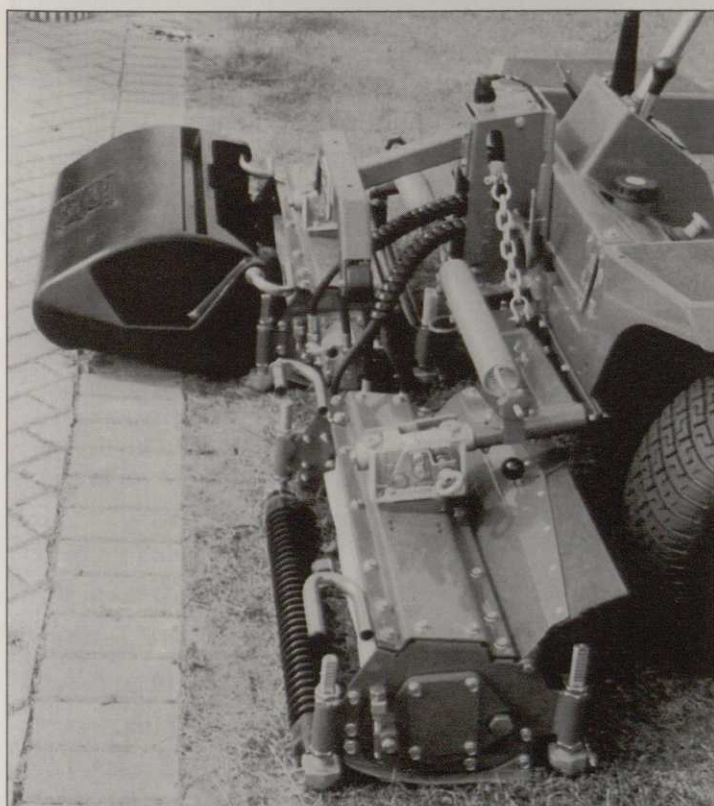
If price is a major consideration, it could well pay greenkeepers seeking a 'no frills', sturdily-built machine to take a look at the Olympic range, especially when a 10-bladed cylinder option becomes available next year. Estimated price of the Masport Olympic 500 with 3hp Tecumseh petrol engine, 20in cut and self-adjusting chain drive is under £900. Although not seeking to be placed in the same class as the top professional pedestrian greens mowers, it is still expected to cut fine turf very nicely, thank you, at considerably lower cost.



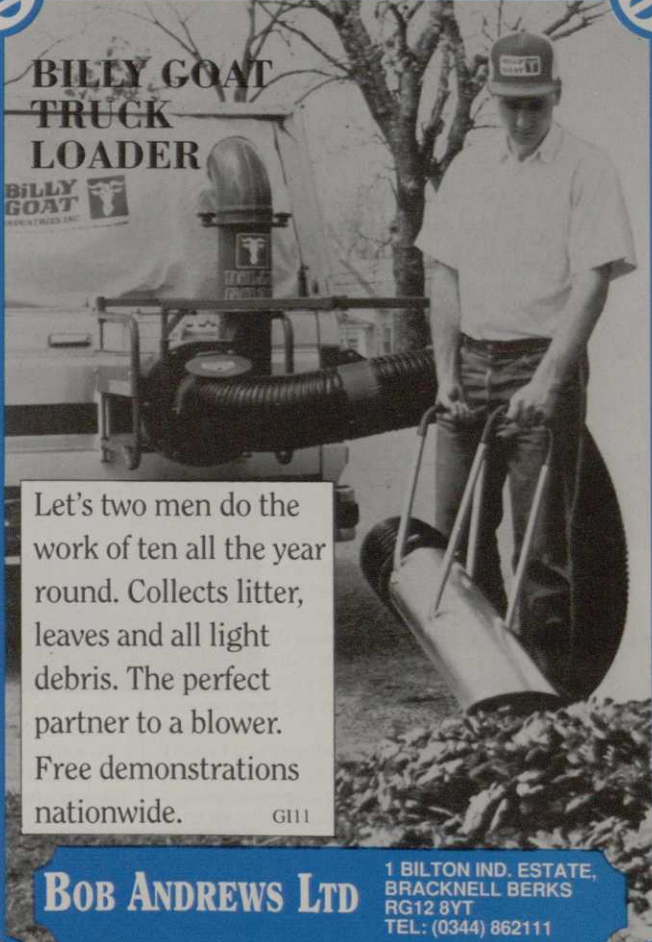
A 24in version of Lloyds Paladin mower suitable for large, flat fine turf will increase workrate by 15 per cent over the 21in model



A roll-over protection structure, four-wheel drive and improved cooling system are key features of Toro's Reelmaster 4500-D



Raising a hinged deflector on the Sabo Roberine C400's front cutting units allows grass to escape rearwards (nearside unit). Lowered, the deflector directs grass into the optional collector



**BILLY GOAT
TRUCK
LOADER**

Let's two men do the work of ten all the year round. Collects litter, leaves and all light debris. The perfect partner to a blower. Free demonstrations nationwide.

G111

BOB ANDREWS LTD
1 BILTON IND. ESTATE,
BRACKNELL BERKS
RG12 8YT
TEL: (0344) 862111