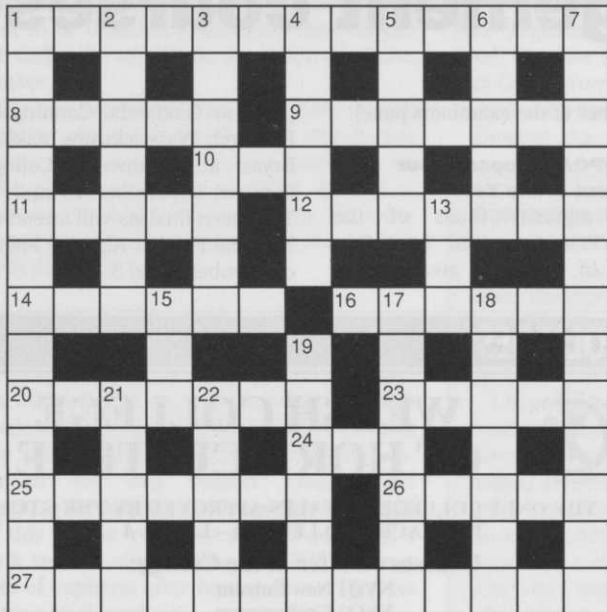


GREENKEEPER'S CROSSWORD

Compiled by Mark G Smith



Ransomes make the claim that their E-Plex is the world's first all-electric greens mower, bringing quiet, pollution-free operation to golf courses

Electric machines on the brink of a quiet revolution

Now that Ransomes has brought out an all-electric triple greens mower, greenkeepers in the UK and in America are asking about other electric products – especially fairway mowers and bunker rakers. Next year boys, next year, is the word.

The big advantage that electric machines have is they are super quiet. The Ransomes E-Plex we saw recently at Foxhills in Surrey could not be heard when it was being test-driven at speeds of up to 7.5mph. Only when it started cutting was there a sound, but it was still very quiet compared with traditional greens mowers. This will be of great importance to greenkeepers who want to cut early in built-up areas and those who are maintaining courses in resorts.

The E-Plex, which will be launched at this month's Saltex show, draws power to drive its wheels and cutting cylinders from eight 6-volt batteries which provide up to three hours operation

from a single charge. This equates to a minimum of nine greens, or up to 18 depending on terrain, ambient temperature and the distance between holes.

Another appealing feature of electric mowers is that because they have no engine nor hydraulic system, daily maintenance and running costs are kept to a minimum. The cutting heads are powered by three 48-volt direct-coupled electric motors and the centre reel is mounted on a swing-out arm for ease of servicing. Further advantages of the mower's all-electric drive are no worries over oil leaks or exhaust fumes.

The downside is that it is nearly as expensive as a diesel mower – £17,000 – and that the eight batteries will need to be replaced once they have been recharged about 350 times.

● Ransomes' half-year results show turnover up 14% to £102.1 million and profit up to £11 million, more than double the £5.4 million achieved in 1993.

Success for greenkeepers who curry the can

Tests on a new range of chemical agents to get rid of worms show that one of the best antidotes is... curry powder sprayed on the grass in a gallon of water. STRI researcher Emma Kirby says: "Worms don't like it. It acts as an expellant which irritates them and brings them to the surface. Then greenkeepers can swish them off or pick them up." She added: "Some years ago it was found that Coleman's English Mustard worked, but we haven't tested it ourselves."

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1 The crane fly (5,4,4)
- 8 High grade palm oil from W. Africa used as a lubricant (5)
- 9 Metallic equivalent of the 4 wood (3,4)
- 10 Subscription owing but unpaid (3)
- 11 Ash tree (L. Fraxinus Ornus) (5)
- 12 Claydon European Tour Professional (7)
- 14 Tool for enlarging drilled holes (6)
- 16 A sprinkler head does it when activated (4,2)
- 20 Surname of the US Tour Professional, known as 'The Walrus' (7)
- 23 Tree inhabiting marsupial found on Australian courses (5)
- 24 Large branch of tree where the trunk divides (3)
- 25 Discover or remove the wire from neutral perhaps (7)
- 26 Tea, the floral name of the 1st hole at Augusta National (5)
- 27 What were played on the final day of the 1991 and 1993 Ryder Cups? (6,7)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Full name of the 1933 Open Champion (8,5)
- 2 I dig any mixture, with two carpels (anag) (7)
- 3 Distance from the ball to the target (7)
- 4 Large aquatic mammals of the weasel family (L. Lutra Vulgaris) (6)
- 5 Medal score before deducting handicap (5)
- 6 The nest of a bird of prey, particularly an eagle (5)
- 7 They have no 'standing' on a golf course (6,7)
- 13 The vital juice of trees (3)
- 15 Soil suspended in water (3)
- 17 C.C. Pittsburgh, Pa, venue of the 1994 US Open (7)
- 18 Nationality of Jose Maria Canizares and Jose Rivero (7)
- 19 Surname of the Australian winner of the 1981 US Open Championship (6)
- 21 A cocktail of ale be the white poplar (anag) (5)
- 22 The 1.68" ball, large or small (5)

★ Solve the crossword puzzle and you could win either a BIGGA blazer (worth £87.95) or £50 in cash! Send completed entries to: Crossword Competition, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF.

Closing date September 23, 1994. First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win the prize. Photocopy your entry if you don't want to cut up your magazine.

→ This is the solution to last month's crossword, and the winner was David Leith, first assistant at St Andrews Links Trust.



Name:

Address:

If I'm the winner, please send me £50 cash or BIGGA blazer, size