

Magazine wins top award – again

For the second year running your magazine, *Greenkeeper International*, has won a top award.

It scooped a Certificate of Merit in the Magazine of the Year category in the Editing for Industry Awards, organised by the British Association of Industrial Editors.

Up against big budget publications from the likes of British Gas, BP and Shell, the judges said: "Greenkeeper International continues to be a thoroughly worthwhile publication. This pleasing magazine is well presented, professional and must fulfil its target of informing and promoting all aspects of greenkeeping."

Some 1,439 entries – an all-time high – were put forward in the prestigious competition which attracts magazine and newspaper entries from trade associations, local government, industry and commerce across Europe.

MP and media celebrity Ken Livingstone will present the award at an Oscars-style ceremony in Harrogate next month.

NEWS



■ Never a club to do things by halves, Wisley has bought 14 Kawasaki Mule 2500s for carrying staff and equipment around the course. Two of the Mules, supplied by R Hunt of Stockbridge, are fitted with Amazon topdressers powered by hydraulic PTOs. These are pre-production versions of a hydraulic powerpack that Kawasaki plan to launch in the near future.

Greenkeepers under fire: from sub-machine guns

Greenkeepers at Ireland's Balla club in Co Mayo have to take great care when going between the second green and third tee.

This is where the gardai are to be found blasting away with sub-machine guns at a bank of earth. They stop when people pass, but members are, understandably, still concerned.

The course has been used inter-

mittently as an impromptu rifle range for at least 20 years, according to Dick Roche, a member of Balla town park committee, which owns the 18-hole course. But greater use has been made of the practice facility since an officer accidentally shot himself in the leg recently while preparing to go on patrol.

A gardai spokesperson said:

"Obviously we can't set up designated firing ranges all over the country. We've come to an arrangement with the golf course, and we do our best not to inconvenience golfers."

Mr Roche admitted that members found the gunfire a bit unusual. "But we wouldn't like to lose them. The gardai are paying rent."

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Edd Hall, 25, has moved from the London Golf Club, where he was deputy head greenkeeper, to The Buckinghamshire to take over as head greenkeeper. "With his experience at the London Golf Club and his four-year degree in horticulture and soil science, he will be a valuable asset to our operation," says Phillip Chiverton, who was promoted from head greenkeeper to course manager last July. Edd joins a team of 11 greenstaff at the 18-hole private members course which opened in September 1992. This workforce is topped up by six casual staff in the summer.

Steven Hook has been promoted to first assistant after three years at the club.

■ Graham Waller has been appointed head greekeeper/course manager at Crockett's Manor Golf and Country Club, Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire. Set in over 200 acres, the 18-hole par 73 course and 9-hole par 3 academy course opened last June. "I previously worked at Crockett's Manor as assistant greenkeeper but moved just after it opened to Oakridge Golf Club, Ansley, Warwickshire, where I was appointed head greenkeeper," Graham tells us. He returned to Crockett's and took over from Adrian Porter on March 27.

■ The former head greenkeeper of North Manchester Golf Club, Fred Johnson, has died, aged 91.



■ Derek Walder BEM, sportsground manager at the Richardson Evans Playing Fields in south London, was

installed as the chairman of the Institute of Groundsmanship at its AGM in Edinburgh this month.

■ Steve Mason beat 50 other applicants to get the head greenkeeper job at 9-hole Mount Pleasant Golf Course in Bedfordshire. The former deputy head greenkeeper at Welwyn Garden City is now building new tees to give the course 18 sets of tees.

Clearing out

Sisis land clearers, all tractor operated, are now available for hire direct from the manufacturers, for short or extended periods. Rates start at £525 per week. The Macclesfield company has also informed us of a new distributor for the Republic of Ireland – Turfland Enterprise Ltd of Blackrock, Co Dublin.



NEWS

Golf course, superstore for Grimsby

A new driving range and golf superstore have opened in Grimsby. The accompanying golf course will follow in a few months. The Swingtime Golf Centre features a 27-bay floodlit driving range and a 9-hole 2,400-yard course created to USGA specification.

"I was genuinely impressed with the quality, design and variety of the course," said Stephen Bennett, the PGA European Tour professional with an academy at the range.

MGC credits

Attendance at the 'Greens' part of 'Grounds and Greens' seminars at Lancashire County Cricket Ground on June 21 will earn three credits towards the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Speakers include George Brown (Turnberry), Derek Ganning (The Belfry), Stuart Stenhouse (Gleaneagles) and Anthony Davies (Prestbury).



Turfgrass scientist Robert Laycock has set up a new agronomy consultancy. During his 20-year career working with turf, his clients and employers have included the STRI, Rolawn, English Heritage and the National Trust. Two years ago Ping makers Karsten (UK) Ltd took over his first consultancy, Turfgrass Science. Laycock will continue to work as a consultant for Karsten on its two golf courses at Gainsborough and to interpret the results of soil and tissue analysis for Karsten Turf Science, the analysis and fertiliser company run until recently by Laycock.



Tractor order

Eight new tractors line up at Haynes of Maidstone, ready for delivery to turf supplier Tip-Top Turf. The seven 51hp model Ford 3930s and one 75hp model Ford 5640 are fitted with 30.5x600x600 low ground pressure tyres and will be used for mowing, vacuuming clippings, spraying and rolling. Mowing is carried out on a three-day cycle with the tractors working up to 16 hours a day. Pictured is Tip-Top Turf director Charlie Wood (centre) receiving the keys from Peter Innis (left) and Eric Highstead of Haynes.

Langton Hall sold and could become 18-hole course

Langton Hall and its Hawtree-designed 9-hole golf course in Leicestershire have been sold to a private South African buyer. He paid close to the guide price of £1million to the receivers, KPMG Peat Marwick. Harborough District Council have indicated that they would favourably consider a change of use for the conversion of the hall to a 21-bedroom hotel, the

9-hole course into an 18-hole course with a clubhouse, and a residential scheme. Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby, chairman of surveyors Humberts Leisure, says: "Langton Hall's overseas buyer is particularly interested in the residential element of the scheme. It could provide over 15 houses in a superb setting, and will be developed over the next few years."

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Following the success of its first Greenkeeper's Information Day, the Cambridgeshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture is looking for sponsors for next year's event. Local greenkeepers, secretaries and members of greens committees were invited to the Milton Centre to listen to a variety of talks and see machinery demonstrations on the college lawn. They were joined by students from the second year NVQ course. It is hoped that next year's event will be bigger. Tel: Martin Crimmins 01223 860701.

■ The Greenkeeping Supply Company has appointed Tony Oldell to represent it in London, the south-east and East Anglia while Liam Galway has had his area increased to cover Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Cleveland.

■ Neil McCarthy-Primett, deputy head greenkeeper at Huntercombe GC, Nuffield, Henley-on-Thames, has passed the TDLB D32 and D33 assessor award at Oaklands College, St Albans. This means he is now qualified to assess his own staff at NVQ levels 1 and 2.

■ Hugh Soden has set up a new business - Jubilee Seeds & Turf (JST) - to market the range of turf grown by Q-Lawns in south-east England. Tel: 01797 320536.

■ Terravent Ltd has appointed distributors for its new range of soil aerators and decompactors. A&F Warehouse will distribute in Sussex (01428 661676); Surrey Power Machines in Surrey (0181 9741001); Haynes Agricultural (Kent) Ltd in Kent (01622 755726); BS Mowers in Avon, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset (01272 353588); Nigel Morgan Mowers in Dyfed, South Powys, Glamorgan and Gwent (01873 880244); and Risboro Turf in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire (01844 274127).

NEW PRODUCTS



■ A low-cost, lightweight transporter equipped with the option of either petrol or electric power units has been introduced by grass machinery manufacturer **Ransomes**.

Suitable for use on turf or hard surfaces, the Sprinter utility vehicle, pictured above, is designed for all applications requiring fast, efficient and cost-effective movement of light goods, tools or work materials around golf courses and sports complexes.

The four-wheeled Sprinter has a polypropylene body to resist knocks and bumps while its tubular steel frame and heavy-duty suspension give a smooth, comfortable ride. Rugged moulded bumpers are fitted at the front and rear for added protection.

The petrol engine available for the Sprinter is an air-cooled unit developing 8.5hp and fuelled by a 6gal (28 litre) tank. Alternatively, customers can specify the electric Sprinter which has a 36-volt direct drive motor powered by six 6-volt batteries. Equipped with electronic speed control, the system gives an operating range of up to 30 miles from a single charge, depending on temperature, terrain and load.

The Ransomes Sprinter has a manually-tipped, polyethylene dump box suitable for carrying tools, work materials and other light loads. Maximum payload of the vehicle, including driver and one passenger, is 800lb (364kg).

The price of the petrol-engined Sprinter is £4,100. The electric model is £3,950, to include a battery charger with fully-automatic timer.

■ After two years of development and testing, **Dennis** has added the 24in FT610 to its range of fine turf machines. Designed with greens and tees in mind, the FT610 can be used to cut, comb, scarify, de-thatch, brush, roll,

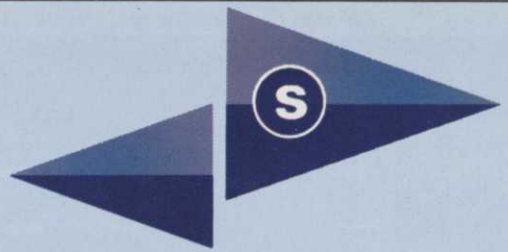
sorrel roll, or slit, simply by removing and replacing cassettes – a job which takes less than a minute and requires no tools. "This variety of functions performed by a single power unit allows for year-round usage with cost effective savings in time, money, and storage space," says managing director Ian Howard.

Other features include:

- Variable drive speed, independent of engine revs, gives the operator total control (including cuts per metre/yard);
- Independent rear roller and cassette unit drive.
- Three-part differential rear roller for manoeuvrability with minimal turf damage;
- Positive and easy height of cut adjustment.
- Comb assembly, active or passive, lifts horizontal growths before cutting.
- Choice of Kubota or Honda engine; and
- Simple backlapping facility on removed cylinder cassette.

Price starts at £1850 without cassettes. Cassettes start at £328. Tel: 01332 824777.

■ **Huxleys** report an amazing response from customers for its new Soil Reliever Vertical Deep Tine Aerator. Orders have exceeded initial expectations and include Carnoustie Links, Helensburgh GC, Radley College, Tylney Park GC, Shrewsbury GC, Parker Hart Contract Services, Corhampton GC and Sundridge Park GC. Director Paul Huxley says: "On all demonstrations, customers have been tremendously impressed by the Soil Reliever's speed, smooth operation, clean finish and robust construction. Use of the hydraulic link attachment allows the operator to regulate aeration depth from the driver's seat, and routine maintenance is minimal." Tel: 01506 856968.



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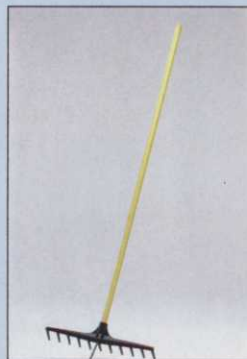


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