

## Marathon man's race for charity



Gay Hill Assistant, Andrew Kite, is currently in training for one of the country's biggest sporting events and his efforts should go a long way to assisting with rare Metabolic disease.

Andrew, 35, is running in the London Marathon on behalf of the RTMDC charity and the money raised will be given on behalf of the golf club.

"Andrew has run marathons before but never the London Marathon and he is delighted to be doing so on behalf of the charity," said Andrew's Course Manager, former BIGGA Chairman, Dean Cleaver.

Metabolic Diseases are rare, inherited and incurable, although some can be treated by diet, drugs and organ transplant.

The film *Lorenzo's Oil* was based on a Metabolic disease while, just before Christmas, it also claimed the life of Rhys, the brave little boy whose parents fought to have him treated after the Local Health Board had initially turned him down.

Anyone wishing to sponsor Andrew in the marathon should contact him or Dean at Gay Hill Golf Club Tel: 0121 430 8544.

## Sharp new idea from Bernhard

A new machine from Atterton & Ellis, part of the Bernhard Group, created quite a stir on their stand at the recent BTME exhibition at Harrogate.

The RAPID THINNER has been

introduced to allow machinery operators to quickly and easily restore the manufacturer's original relief to cutting cylinder blades. Explaining the concept, Bernhard's Managing Director, Stephen Bernhard said "We

have proved through exhaustive trials, particularly in the United States, that grass quality can be dramatically improved, and stress on mowing machinery reduced if cylinders and bottom blades are regularly sharpened."

"Mowers perform best, and grass is healthier, if the cylinders are performing a scything action when cutting, rather than the more brutal scissor-action which occurs when cylinders and bottom blades are back-lapped and in constant contact between the two components."

The RAPID THINNER is a high-speed device that attaches magnetically to the bottom blade. A specially developed air grinder is then guided across each blade, ensuring that the correct blade relief - as intended by the manufacturer - is returned to the blades, quickly and easily.

The new machine is an ideal companion to Bernhard's RAPID FACER 1000, a magnetic attachment for high-speed re-facing of the front edge of bottom blades. Machinery operators can save money by buying the individual grinding heads of both the RAPID THINNER and RAPID FACER 1000 to fit the same attachment frame.

In recent years, Bernhard's have pioneered the concept of better grass quality and reduced costs through regular cylinder and bottom blade grinding.

The company are manufacturers of the best selling EXPRESS DUAL reel grinders and ANGLEMASTER bottom blade grinders, used now by most of the USA's top 100.



## Allen Power take command of new 4x4

Allen Power Equipment has launched a four wheel drive version of their Commander out front rotary ride on mower.

Drive is via hydraulic motors to each wheel and the 4 x 4 performance is ideal for bank work where the ability to stop and start on slopes with the improved traction reduces scuffing and wheelslip as well as improving the safety aspect for the operator.

The new mower is designed for ease of access for maintenance and servicing and a high forward speed for travelling between mowing sites coupled with a large capacity stainless steel fuel tank improves output.

Powered by a 18 hp twin Briggs & Stratton Vanguard engine the new Commander has a 44in. (1122mm) three blade mulching cutting deck which cuts outside the width of the wheels and a height of cut from 12.5mm - 100mm adjustable from the operators seat.

With rear steering and rear engine the operator is free from exhaust fumes and manoeuvrability is second to none.

This new initiative in safe mowing retails at just £5995 + VAT



## New Vitax range advances after BTME

Vitax launched a new range of fertilisers named Vitax Advance at BTME. This new range, specially formulated for UK conditions, contains controlled release fertilisers that give a 4-5 months release pattern, and immediately available micro-prills to give a quick response early in the season. Three formulations are

available, including two for Spring and Summer use to allow the Greenkeeper to decide whether his regime requires phosphate or not, and a high potash Autumn analysis. The use of Polyon "Reactive Layer Coating" materials from the USA as the controlled release part of this new range, brings a high tech

fertiliser which uniquely releases nutrients through osmosis. This gradual diffusion of turf nutrients through a polymer coating is controlled by soil temperature alone. In times of heavy rain, this would prevent surges of growth, common to most fertilisers, and the leaching of valuable nutrients in surface water.

## Kubota's walk-behind rotary mower

Kubota is introducing three new self-propelled walk-behind rotary mowers for the 1999 grass-cutting season.

Designed and built to commercial quality standards, the Kubota W521 TC, W521 HTC and W621 HTC models are all four-wheeled machines with a 53cm (21in) cutting width and a choice of two lever-selected forward speeds. A blade brake clutch is a standard safety feature on all three models.

Both the W521 TC and W521 HTC mowers are powered by 5hp Kubota petrol engines while the W621 HTC has a 6hp petrol power unit. The HTC suffix on the latter two models is used to designate a rugged, professional quality mower, suitable for everyday grass-cutting duties in the hands of local authorities, contractors, ground staff and those responsible for maintaining parks, estates and the largest gardens. Although making no compromise on build quality, the Kubota W521 TC model is a lighter-weight, lower-priced machine suited to both commercial and domestic mowing applications.

All three mowers have a six-position cutting height adjustment from 16mm to 76mm (0.63in - 3in), altered manually by a hand lever on each wheel. A standard feature across the range is a light and easily emptied bag-type grass catcher with rear-emptying and a capacity of 75 litres. The three new Kubota walk-behind rotary mowers are priced at £670, £800 and £899 respectively.



## MM brand is core product for Mommersteeg

Mommersteeg's MM brand of grass seed mixtures is to be a core product of Advanta Seeds' amenity portfolio, following the formal merger of Mommersteeg, Sharpes International, Advanta and Sinclair McGill, into one trading company.

The MM range, in particular the winter sports mixtures MM60 and MM25, and the golf course mixtures MM22 and MM12, are well known and trusted by groundsmen

and greenkeepers across the UK.

"We recognise how strong the MM brand is in this country, and will invest in its future development and marketing to the top quality end of the sports and amenity markets," says Advanta Seeds' UK Commercial Manager John Akers.

"With direct access to Advanta's breeding programme and the recently expanded production and research facilities in Lincolnshire,

the MM brand can only go from strength to strength."

Advanta was created from the merger of Mommersteeg's parent company Van der Have with the seed interest of Zeneca two years ago. It breeds and produces the full range of agricultural arable and forage crops, as well as being a significant player in amenity market world-wide. It has 35 operating companies in 20 countries.

## New Pro-Tee divot box

The Shropshire-based golf course equipment manufacturer, Links Leisure, has extended its PRO-TEE range of accessories with the introduction of a brand new divot box.

The new divot box is the latest addition to a range of specially designed products which already includes accessories such as all-weather mats and practice nets, plus an array of course furniture such as golf signs, tee markers, litter bins and the like.

Marketed under the trade name The PRO-TEE COLLECTION, the range has become increasingly popular with operators who realise the need to provide on-course facilities such as directional signs, hole information, etc., but, at the same time, want to include a corporate identity element for their own particular golf course.

After reporting that it had recently doubled its sales of signs both in this country and overseas, Links Leisure believes that the success of the PRO-TEE range is due in no small way to the fact that each product - whether it be an elaborate sign incorporating a club name, logo, and hole detail, or the humble tee marker, litter bin, or divot box - is tailor-made in detail, style, and colour to meet the individual requirements of each golf course and that many of the products can also be used for sponsorship or advertising.

## Robert's new venture

Robert Cowley, formerly Contracts Manager with Watermation, has set up Chedworth Trading Company, an irrigation company which can design, cost and buy any type of sprinkler required as well as having maintenance engineers who can provide servicing.

In addition the company can supply golf course fittings and furniture including flags, netting, range balls and is an agent for Club Car.

For further information contact Robert Cowley Tel: 01285 720259.

### Contact us

You can contact The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in any number of ways:

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