

**The name Taylor is synonymous with crime prevention but this time it is Roland and not Shaw who is providing the useful advice...**

# Crime stoppers

It must be a horrendous shock to open the machinery shed one morning to find it bare or looking like World War Three has started on your doorstep. Theft and vandalism are on the increase.

Not only is this very stressful, also it causes considerable inconvenience. The grass does not stop growing and you are still expected to continue producing a quality-playing surface. Police and insurance companies have to be dealt with and if the thieves or vandals are caught you may be involved in the court case. A considerable amount of time can be taken up dealing with the police and insurance company arranging the purchase of replacement machinery. On top of this, the insurance premiums will very likely escalate. If the thieves are caught and the machinery recovered then there is the question of identification and proving it belongs to you.

Not a pleasant scenario, yet it can happen to anyone. In England and Wales, (according to a Home Office survey) over a million burglaries are attempted each year. It reports that entry to premises was achieved in 60% of these cases and of this figure 30% were without force either through open or insecure doors or windows. Robbery is on the increase and reports show that, because of increased security, it has moved from banks and other money outlets. In addition, violence to staff has increased by 40%.

This report demonstrates how important it is to protect equipment and make it as difficult as possible for thieves or vandals to get their hands on it.

Like everything else in this world, it costs money and the size of the budget will determine the level of security that can be put in place.



# Crime stoppers



Above: A police tracker in action

Below: Examples of secure storage solutions



The building that houses the course machinery is the first place to start. Often this is sited well away from the clubhouse and set in a secluded area of the course. This type of location is ideal for someone or a gang to gain access without being disturbed. Buildings come in all shapes and sizes and are made of a wide variety of materials. A quick analysis of your security is to determine how easy is it to gain access if you had lost the keys. It would be a good idea to call in a reputable security company to carry out a survey. They should be able to tailor a suitable system for your requirements. This may include lighting and in some cases a CCTV system. You can even buy dummy cameras.

If a new machinery store is being considered then there are companies who specialise in manufacturing a wide range of high security modular units for this purpose.

Where the overall structure of the building is questionable from a security point of view, then a possibility is to purchase interior security units for storing smaller items such as tools, chainsaws,

brushcutter, plus any other items that can be quickly removed. These units can be bolted to a concrete base or wall. The larger machines could be fitted with wheel clamps. The object of the exercise is to make nicking the items as difficult as possible. One thing the thieves do not want is to have to spend too much time trying to remove equipment - this increases the chances of them being caught.

Fuel can often go missing, so some form of security is needed. Again, there are purpose-built units on the market that help to reduce the risk of theft.

In the event of items being stolen and then recovered, it is then up to you to prove ownership. The chances are that the serial numbers and ID tags will have been removed, so something that confirms ownership will be required. Technology has come up with a solution in the form of an electronic identification device that utilises a micro-transponder. Each tag has its own 10 character alphanumeric code that can be "read" by a scanner via radio frequency. This code is fed into a mainframe computer and registered together with make,

machine model, the frame and engine identification numbers and details of the owner. In the event of a piece of equipment being stolen, incident details including crime reference, police station and officer handling the case will be fed into the computer.

The tags are very small and have been designed to withstand vibration, electrical and magnetic interference as well as an acid attack. They are unobtrusively secured to the machine with two-part epoxy adhesive. These systems are accepted by Police and Customs who have the equipment to read the tags as well as access to the supplier's main frame computer.

Another possibility worth considering, especially for triples, larger machines and tractors, is a tracking device. Up until now these have been mainly used on cars and plant.

They consist of a small homing device that is hidden on the machine and emits a silent signal that can be picked up by a police car or helicopter and followed to its exact location. For vehicles there are two systems - retrieve and monitoring. With retrieve, immediately





NEW

# SITESAFE

MODULAR SYSTEMS



...make all the difference to secure storage & accommodation units.



GARAGE



PAVILION



WORKSHOP

For further information please contact:

Irvine Weston on Tel: 01427 752058 or  
Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd. Park Farm,  
Dunsdale, Guisborough,  
Cleveland. TS14 6RQ.

Tel: 01642 475009 or Fax: 01642 471036.



Ad Ref 50

a vehicle goes missing it is reported to the police and the operator's network. The device is then activated and then can be tracked by the police. With the monitoring system the unit sends out a signal to the network that it has been moved; they contact the owner who immediately informs the police and the tracking control centre.

Security does not just entail fitting lighting, cameras, locks and other devices - there is also the human element. Making sure things that should be shut and locked are. It is no good having a sophisticated system if the doors of the machinery store are left wide open all day, or tools left in an open trailer for long periods.

A golf course is a big place to keep a check on, so members too can play their part by reporting strangers wandering around or a vehicle sighted where they are not normally seen. If anything is spotted that is out of the ordinary, it should immediately be reported to the police. Your local police can best advise on how members and staff can play their part in reducing the criminals' chances of committing a crime.

A break-in, whether it involves vandalism or theft of machinery, affects everyone. A sound security operation is made up of three areas:-

**Secure the buildings and contents as much as possible.**

**Mark all the machinery and equipment for identification**

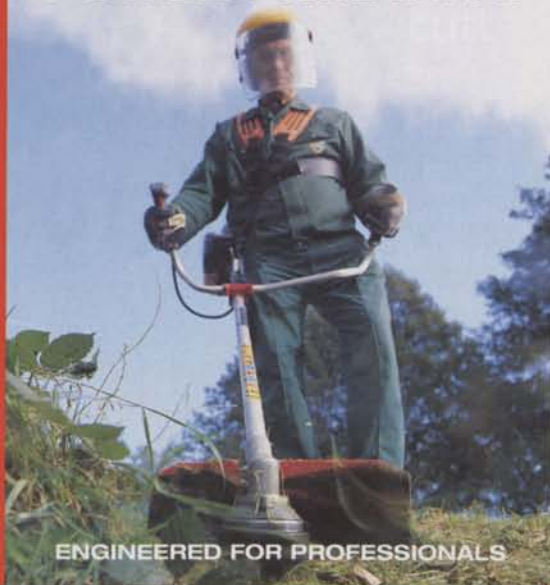
**Encourage all club members and staff to be vigilant and report anything out of the ordinary.**

No one should put themselves at risk by getting directly involved or "having a go". Contact the police so they can take action.

This is not a guarantee that a crime will not be committed, but it could make the thieves or vandals think twice before going ahead with their plans.

**Kawasaki**

## POWER PRODUCTS



ENGINEERED FOR PROFESSIONALS

Now joining the established range of Kawasaki Brushcutters are Hedge Trimmers, Water Pumps and a Leaf Blower. All powered by world-class Kawasaki engines. Engineered to deliver the performance and reliability true professionals demand.

**Kawasaki POWER PRODUCTS**

Call free for a brochure  
0800 500245

Ad Ref 504