

SALTEX REVIEW



Saltex proved to be a very lucrative show for BIGGA with the on-site team taking every opportunity to speak with new and existing members as well as promote the BTME & ClubHouse Shows in Harrogate next January to prospective exhibitors.

The BIGGA stand was again the ideal meeting place for a host of BIGGA members and guests. Steve Jones MG, of Golf Course Solutions, Jim McKenzie, of Celtic Manor and Billy McMillan, Mannings Heath, were just three members who took advantage of the facilities, and the sun, to have a chat.

Three members of the Sisis Production Department found an unusual, if a little slow way, of getting themselves to the Show.

Andy Brown, Ben Lloyd and Craig Perry decided to drive the 161 miles to Windsor from the Sisis factory in Macclesfield in a Sisis 321, a versatile tractor with an average speed of 10mph.

They arrived at Windsor Racecourse after a journey lasting two days having raised approximately £1500 for the East Cheshire Hospice.

The return journey was completed in more conventional means.

Two lucky BIGGA Head Greenkeepers won for their clubs a Farmura F25 walk-behind sprayer in the annual Blazon promotion sponsored by Farmura & GreenLink International. From a large number of entries, the names of Effingham and Morpeth Golf Clubs were the first to be drawn and Peter Broadbent, Effingham's Course Manager, was personally presented with his prize by BIGGA's Executive Director Neil Thomas (see below).

Morpeth Golf Club's Head Greenkeeper, Jerry Cramer, was unable to attend the presentation and a prize sprayer was received on his behalf by Richard Aitken Jnr. Both greenkeepers also received a Palm Computer for their personal use.

Left to right: Richard Aitken Jnr, Aitken's Sportsturf Ltd; Neil Thomas; Peter Broadbent, and Gary Ogilvie, Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd.

Saltex was the venue for the presentation of a superb Gambetti Barre tractor mounted sprayer to the winner of the Blazon-LoDrift national promotion and, from a large number of entrants throughout the UK, the name of Yelverton Golf Club, Devon was the first to be drawn. The presentation was made on the Avoncrop Amenity Products stand and the club's Head Greenkeeper, Steve Evans, received the prize on behalf of his club from BIGGA's Chairman Richard Barker.



Blazon-LoDrift is a three-in-one formulation that has an anti-drift agent incorporated into the original Blazon formulation. Now spray operators can not only see where the spray has been applied but also allows them to reduce the level of spray drift and concentrate the spray more effectively to its target.

Left to right:

Rod Feltham and John Palfrey, Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd; Steve Evans; Richard Barker; Patrick Dixon and Vincenzo Gaspri, Gambetti Barre.



PRODUCT LAUNCHES

JOHN DEERE

Featuring a 56hp turbocharged Yanmar engine, John Deere's new 1600 Turbo multi-purpose implement carrier was launched at Saltext.

It is fitted with a 3.25m wide triple rotary mower deck, suitable for large scale commercial mowing. The base unit can also be fitted with front blades and brushes to provide a versatile, high capacity machine for all year round turf and highway maintenance operations.

The engine generates an extra 7hp compared with the standard unit fitted to the model 1600 wide area mower. Despite its light weight, it has a high torque reserve and can produce plenty of power for the toughest conditions.

Combined with an 83.2 litre fuel tank and a transport speed of up to 14.5mph, it offers increased productivity on golf courses and in sports grounds, parks and public areas, especially on slopes.

The 1600 Turbo front rotary mower unit has three rear discharge mower decks fabricated from 7-gauge steel, the thickest in the industry. These include a 1.57m centre deck and two 1.06m wings, giving a total width of cut of 3.25m; cutting width with one wing raised is 2.39m.

In mower form, the machine is capable of covering up to 3.4ha an hour, at speeds of up to 9mph, with a cutting height of between 25 and 140mm. The wing mowers automatically stop working when raised above 45 degrees, and overall transport width with the wings locked is 2.13m.

Each wing has a breakaway feature that allows the mower deck to move back and away from any obstacle, then automatically reset to the normal working position. Gauge wheels on all four corners of the wings mean they follow ground contours for a better quality cut.

Price of the new John Deere 1600 Turbo multi-purpose implement carrier fitted with the triple rotary mower deck and a four post ROPS with canopy is £30,303. A mulch kit is also available, suitable for use with both grass and leaves, costing £256.

For further information Tel: 01949 860491



TALIWIN SERVICES LTD

Taliwin Services Ltd have an answer for contractors and small sports complexes that would like to have their own vertidrainer. In the past, the initial cost of a machine has for most small operations been prohibitive, with an entry level of £7000, it is now within the reach of more potential users.



Compaction, continues to be a major problem of turf sports areas, but increasingly other grassed venues, such as the lawns of gardens open to the public, are also experiencing problems. To break up the underlying compaction requires deep aeration using a 'lifting' or 'heaving' action and Tallwin's Aerokings do just that.

There is a choice of hollow, solid or pencil tines. Special attention has been paid to the system for removing and mounting the tines on the carrier, as a result this operation is fast and extremely easy.

The Aerokings are designed to work behind compact tractors. The 1.2 metre model requires a minimum of 18 hp while the 2.1 metre needs about 55hp.

The Aerokings, C1204J and C1656J, go down to a maximum depth of 30cm and the three other models have working widths of 1.85metres, 2.1metres and 2.5 metres will operate to a maximum depth of 40cm. As well as vertidrainning all the units can also be used for light aeration.

For further details. Tel: 01799 500316

RANSOMES

The Ransomes Hydraulic 5/7 tractor-mounted, wide area gang mower has been enhanced by Ransomes Jacobsen's design engineers with the introduction of in-cab electric controls.

A control box with electrical switchgear replaces the previous levers that operate the hydraulic drive to the cutting reels and lift and lower mechanisms. Seven cutting units provide a maximum working width of 4.65 metres and the new controls allow the centre three units to be lifted, while providing individual control over the four outer units enabling working widths to be varied to suit the ground conditions.

Other enhancements include repositioning the hydraulic pumps within the frame of the rear five units. The result is that it is now possible for one man to demount the rear in under 10 minutes. New CE-certified belly frame kits enable the Hydraulic 5/7 to be mounted easily to a selection of 65-70hp tractors including Massey Ferguson, New Holland, Renault and McCormick.

The Hydraulic 5/7 is usually specified with Magna 6-knife fixed head cutting units but other cylinder types are available. The Hydraulic 5/7 is capable of cutting 3.5 hectares per hour at a speed of 8km/h, making it one of the highest capacity cylinder mowers on the market.

Another debutant on the Ransomes Jacobsen stand was the Iseki TSG 23 Junior compact tractor. This new machine, which will commence production in Japan this September, is powered by an Iseki 21.5hp, clean burn three cylinder diesel engine with a displacement of 1123cc.

Another new product was the Ransomes ZT220, a manoeuvrable, zero turn, out front rotary mower.

Powered by a 22hp Yanmar diesel engine, the ZT220 is capable of cutting up to 1.4 hectares an hour and with hydrostatic drive it has the ability to manoeuvre around trees, shrubs and other hard or soft landscaping features.

A wide wheelbase and large turf tyres deliver stability, traction and a light footprint, even on hills and sloping terrain.

Combining the durability of a mid-weight, the footprint of a lightweight and with seven cutting units, the Jacobsen LF-4677 fairway mower is the latest offering from Ransomes Jacobsen.

Power comes from a 44hp turbocharged Kubota diesel engine and four-wheel drive ensures excellent traction. Seven 56cm wide units provide a cutting width of 3.56 metres, which is 40% wider than conventional five-reel mowers. There's a choice of 9- or 11-blade, 17.8cm diameter reels, which can also be found on, and are interchangeable with, the units on the Jacobsen LF-3800.



LLOYDS

Lloyds award winning Paladin fine turf mower saw the launch at Saltext of the new groomer models, the Paladin TG.

The addition of the groomer, which is fitted closely between the cutting cylinder and front grooved roller, has made very little difference in the roller to roller distance thus making it one of the most compact on the market.

The groomer has hardened blades with 9mm spacing with optional kits available to change number of blades used and it can be engaged or disengaged via a simple clutch arrangement. The design has kept parts to a minimum therefore the quality, robustness and ease of use is as on all Lloyds equipment.

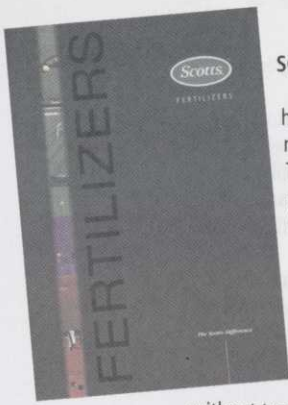
The new range of Summerpark and Multipark tractors, with cylinder, rotary and flail mowers will give a more versatile machine than is currently available, and an end to dedicated equipment which stands idle for much of the year. By utilising an advanced articulated tractor power unit, manufactured by Holder, the Lloyds Cylinder mowers along with rotary and flail mowers can be quickly exchanged to suit the day-to-day requirements of the machine.

All machines have articulated steering and four equally sized wheels ensuring the tractor and equipment always steers on track and coupled with a stabilising system that ensures constant traction and stability in extreme situations.

The compactness and manoeuvrability and a four option drive system, allowing low and high range transportation with speeds up to 40kph and 2 optional ranges for working both normal and high which are programmable according to working conditions make these machines extremely versatile.

Both machines are available as tractor units only or as outfits mounted with 3 & 5 cylinder mowers, 1.5m & 1.8m rotary decks with either manual or hydraulic height adjustment, flail mowers and sweepers in various widths.

For further details Tel: 01462-683031



SCOTTS

A new publication from Scotts, designed to help Turf Managers select the best nutrient regime for their sites, was introduced at Saltext. The 44 page booklet, entitled "Fertilizers", is packed with explanatory information on how different fertilisers work, and illustrates the benefits and advantages of particular formulations.

"Turf managers are faced with an enormous choice of fertilisers these days. Slow release, rapid release, controlled release, liquid, granular, organic, with and without trace elements etc. Navigating your way through to the right selections is not easy. We recognise this as an issue and have invested a great deal of time and expertise in developing this guide to help our customers get the best from their turf," said Scotts Technical Manager, Simon Barnaby

Copies of "Fertilizers" are available free — Tel: 01473 830492.

Scotts also launched a new outfield turf fertiliser- Scotts Sportsmaster Organic High N (13+5+1 O+TE).. Designed for all turf areas with a mowing height of over 12mm, Sportsmaster Organic provides an analysis appropriate for use throughout the growing season.

SISIS

Offering the clean, vertical action of larger tractor mounted machines, the Sisis Dart is easy to use and highly manoeuvrable. It has a working width of 42cm and is powered by 6.5hp Briggs & Stratton engine. A wide range of interchangeable tines is available: hollow coring; jumbo hollow; microcore; slitting; solid; pencil; fluted, all penetrating to a depth of 10cm. All controls including the balanced depth control is adjustable from the operating position.

The Dart has been designed to require minimal maintenance with sealed bearings and one-piece easily removed cover.

For further information Tel 01625 503030



MCCORMICK TRACTORS INTERNATIONAL

McCormick Tractors International confirmed its commitment to the amenity and sports ground sector at the show by launching nine new models, with many more variations, to create one of the most comprehensive ranges of tractors for grounds care use.

From the 21hp McCormick G25 mini compact to the 102hp McCormick CX full-size model, the grounds care line-up from Britain's newest tractor maker covers a host of applications from mowing formal lawns and sports fields to tackling scrub clearance and green waste shredding.

"Although our roots are in the agricultural industry, our tractors are eminently suitable for highways, golf course, parks, sports field and road side maintenance work," said McCormick Sales Director, Ray Spinks.

The CX range of 53hp to 102hp two-and four-wheel full size tractors are produced for sale worldwide on modern assembly lines at McCormick's factory in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. The C Series, GX/GXH Series and F Series tractors are produced to McCormick requirements by sister companies within the ARGO Group.

The scale and scope of the McCormick operation, which has attracted a network of 80 dealer outlets across the UK and Republic of Ireland, ensures it has the resources to provide full parts and service support for the tractors it sells into the grounds care sector.

The launch of nine new models, to add to tractors that have already been well received in the grounds care sector, together with the planned appointment of specialist grounds care equipment staff, emphasises the serious intent of McCormick and its dealers in this important market.

For further information Tel: 01302 733393



TORO

Toro launched the new Groundsmaster 4700-D, an innovative mower designed to be at home in a wide range of different sports turf, landscaping and golf applications.

The unit's precision cut makes it ideal for cutting sports fields, and due to its wide height-of-cut range – 3/4inches to 4inches in 1/4inch increments – the Groundsmaster 4700-D is also the perfect choice for both rough and trim golf applications. It is fitted with seven Contour Plus rotary cutting units, which deliver a superb quality of cut over a width of 121/2ft.



These cutting units are relatively small, which means they are able to closely follow undulating ground contours and deliver a consistent, accurate height of cut. Rear rollers behind each deck provide an attractive striping effect for sports field applications.

Power is provided by a robust 60hp turbo-charged, four-cylinder diesel engine, producing ample power for hill-climbing and mowing in the most difficult conditions.

The new Groundsmaster is also fitted with full-time, bi-directional, four-wheel drive, which ensures excellent traction on hills and wet terrain.

Toro also unveiled what it says is the most economical diesel trim mower on the market – the Reelmaster 2300-D. This new version of the highly popular triplex unit has been specially developed and improved to provide an affordably-priced mower that delivers a superior quality cut on both sports fields and golf courses.

The new Reelmaster 2300-D has been given more power than its predecessor, via a 19hp Briggs & Stratton/Daihatsu engine. This delivers the necessary muscle for excellent traction and mowing on slopes, trim and surround areas on the golf course, as well as sports fields.

The mower has a 6ft width of cut, with a choice of five-, eight- or 11-blade reels. With manually variable reel speed and height-of-cut range from 1/4in up to 13/4in, the mower can meet the cutting requirements of any application. There is also a choice of 21/2in or 3in front rollers.

For further information Tel: 01480 226800



DENNIS

Dennis are building on their strong penetration of the grounds care market by offering a wider range of hand tools for professional users.

"Dennis has established an extensive client base throughout the UK and the rest of Europe, with a list of customers representing facilities at all levels of sport and leisure, and the Bray hand tools range has obvious synergies," says Managing Director, Ian Howard.

Dennis already offer the Bray Hand Seed Slotter, which allows optimum overseeding or turf repairs to be carried out. Its efficient operating method gives a reduction of up to 50% in the amount of grass seed used. Developed by Dave Bracey, Head Bowling



Greenkeeper at the Metropolitan Police Sports Club at Hayes, Kent. The slotter creates a flat-bottomed niche in the soil at an optimum depth of half an inch, encouraging the deposited seed to 'turn' during germination.

Dennis are also expanding the range with purpose-built golf hole cutters, dew rollers, soil samplers, level lutes and corers. These are essential items for those responsible for maintaining bowling greens, cricket grounds, golf greens, tennis courts, winter games pitches and other fine turf areas.

For further information Tel 01332 824777

ETESIA

Making their debut on Etesia's stand were two new pedestrian rotary mowers.

The company has re-named the Viva 46 models. For 2002/3, all 46cm mowers in the company's range of professional wheeled rotaries will come under the group banner of Pro 46. Built to the highest standards, these lightweight yet rugged machines are used extensively in commercial sectors. This new branding brings them into line with Etesia's existing Pro 51 and Pro 56 ranges.

The latest addition to the Pro 46 models — the PHB — is powered by a Honda 5.5hp GCV 160 4-stroke engine. The machine has a sturdy, lightweight Xenoy deck and is easily transported, making it ideal for mobile grass cutting units. Cutting height adjustment on each wheel provides a range of settings to suit most applications.

The Pro51B is a rugged 51cm wide rotary which is ergonomically designed for ease-of-use and outstanding performance in commercial applications.

A 6hp Briggs & Stratton Intek engine produces ample power to deal with tough grass cutting, yet still have some in reserve. Three-speed control enables the operator to adjust the machine's travel to suit prevailing conditions.

Etesia's ProSi B has a die cast aluminium deck and a front rubber bumper to prevent damage to the casting in the event of it coming into contact with an obstacle.

For further information Tel: 01926 403319



CHARTERHOUSE TURF MACHINERY

Charterhouse Turf Machinery's new tractor-driven Easy Spread top-dresser removes all the backbreaking effort from an essential task and maximises efficiency. The Easy Spread can be loaded with material, driven to site and put to work immediately, all without the operator having to leave his seat.



Eighty tonnes of material can be applied in one day, and some users claim over 100, with coverage varying from a light dusting to levels of over 15mm (5/8 in) thick.

The Easy Spread requires a tractor of 25hp or higher, and operates via single-acting hydraulics. A hand lever, activated from the tractor cab, engages the hydraulic powered distribution drum and a

variable control valve sets the rotational speed of the drum, which gives the variable thickness of spread independent of the tractor working speed.

The Charterhouse Easy Spread has a working width of 1300mm (Sun) and has a maximum load capacity of 0.6m³ (21W). It weighs only 250kg (5501bs), and, unlike many competitive machines, has no wheels to mark sensitive turf surfaces.

"Groundsmen, contractors and other turf professionals will be amazed at the high work-rate and simple operation of the Easy Spread," says Charterhouse Turf Machinery Director, Philip Threadgold.

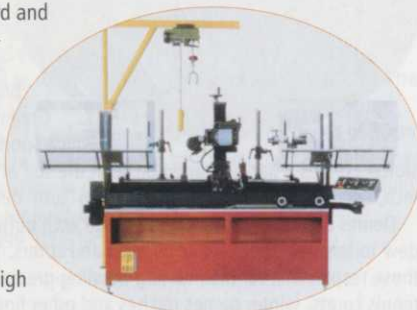
For further information Tel: 01428 661222

BERNHARD AND COMPANY

Grinding specialists Bernhard and Company introduced the high-tech MAX, which can bottom blade, cylinder and relief grind, without removal of the blades from the mower.

Combining excellent performance within a cost-effective package, means professionals will soon reap the benefits of MAX - a high specification machine.

The Cylinder and bottom blade grinding can be carried out in situ - with no disassembly of the mower units required.



This leads to a short set-up time for all grinding operations with no lapping required.

MAX has been designed to provide a comfortable, ergonomic working position for operators when adjusting mower units.

Incorporating many automatic functions, cutting gap and cutting height adjustment of the mower unit is a straightforward procedure.

Operating elements are easily accessible on this latest machine and there is a clearly arranged control panel.

The standard package includes numerous accessories together with a comprehensive manual - and training is provided by Bernhard - to ensure operators can make optimum use of the grinder's capabilities.

For further information Tel: 01788 811600

BARENBRUG UK

How do turf-type perennial ryegrasses differ from their agricultural counterparts? Why is strong fescue unsuitable for fine turf? And how can a good variety of hard fescue lessen the maintenance workload at local authority parks? The answers to these and many other questions will be found in Barenbrug UK's new Grass Seed Specifiers Handbook for 2002/2003, launched at the show.

This reference for specifiers and maintenance professionals contains essential information on grass species and cultivars for sports and amenity turf, and outlines the criteria for selection. It also highlights the unique qualities of key Barenbrug varieties.

The Guide contains an at-a-glance guide to species characteristics and recommended applications, and summarises Barenbrug's principal mixtures. The publication gives an overview of individual grasses, including perennial ryegrass, slender and strong creeping red fescues, chewings fescue, hard fescue, bents and smooth stalked meadow grass, amongst others. Advice is given on sowing rates, establishment and maintenance.

Details are included on exciting cultivars exclusive to Barenbrug. Barcampia tufted hair grass shows exceptional tolerance of shade and wear, and the ability of Barkoel crested hair grass to withstand drought and low fertility, combined with a short growth characteristic, makes it unrivalled for low maintenance sites.

For further information Tel: 01359 272000



CAMPEY TURF CARE SYSTEMS

Campey Turf Care Systems have increased their line-up of versatile and cost-effective grounds maintenance machinery with the introduction of the Undulator rotary mulching mower, launched in prototype form at the show.

The front-mounted, hydraulically driven Undulator can be used with compact tractors of

30hp - common workhorses that are to be found in many grounds care professionals' machinery sheds. This means that the tractors' versatility can be extended further, and does away with the need for sports clubs and other facilities to buy a separate, and typically more expensive, ride-on mower.

The Undulator follows ground contours closely to avoid scalping and to give a uniform quality of cut. The mower can be attached and detached by one person in less than three minutes without tools.

"In trials, the Undulator has proved a simple but effective high work-rate mower," says Richard Campey, Managing Director of Campey Turf Care Systems. "We expect the machine will appeal strongly to local authorities, golf courses, sports clubs and other professional users."

For further information Tel: 01260 224568



Note: More Saltex New Products will be featured in next month's Greenkeeper International