

Your Letters...

Mower Cabs as Standard

While reading the article 'Cutting It' in the July edition of Greenkeeper International I got to wondering why so few cabs are fitted to dedicated fairway and rough mowers. The machinery representatives that I speak to all say that they sell the odd cab now and then. From a Health and Safety aspect, where a machinery manufacturer can offer a cab should they be fitted?

There are times of the year when the grass grows faster than we can cut it, especially in the spring, and if you happen to be blessed with meadow type species of grass, and it is pouring with rain, there is a need to keep cutting for as long as possible, a cab will provide the protection required.

I can remember when the last cut on the fairway would be November/December and then you would get them back out in March.

It is now however more common to have to give the fairways a trim at anytime of the year and therefore to sit on a mower out in the elements should be a thing of the past. With cancer being a major killer today a cab would also keep the sun off the user, which would help protect against skin cancer.

Many times I have heard old farm workers complaining about the aches and pains, commonly know as the "screws", because of working in such weather conditions in a time before tractor cabs were fitted as standard.

I do wonder about the legal implications, for if a machinery manufacturer can supply a safety cab from new and we choose not to fit it, have we done enough to satisfy the Health and Safety inspectorate or indeed the court; should litigation take place in respect of serious injury.

When I worked at Hainault Forest, one of my colleagues was cutting rough with the old grey T.30 Massey Ferguson that had no cab and was towing a set of gang mowers. He was hit by a golf ball that came from an unexpected direction, he was momentarily knocked unconscious and on coming to he found himself slumped over the wheel, with the tractor still moving forward cutting grass, can you imagine the consequences if he had fallen off.

To me it makes sense to fit safety cabs to these larger course maintenance machines, inspite of the cost, in order to provide greater protection from the elements, improve efficiency and safety.

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YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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Contribution to Help

Dear Friends

Thank you, on behalf of all at Saint Michael's Hospice, for your wonderful gift of £1918.06, which you raised by holding a golf day in memory of Neil Thomas. Your contribution will help our patients to benefit from the love, care and skilled medical attention provided to people suffering from life-threatening illnesses, at no cost to them. Every year we must raise over one million pounds to meet our running costs, and every donation makes a difference to our future. You can be assured that your contribution is appreciated and will be put to good use.

Thank you so much for thinking of Saint Michael's and supporting us in this way. If you would like further information on the Hospice, or if we can help you in any way, you have only to ask.

Yours sincerely

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