

Letters ▶▶

Help!

I am an ex Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper and worked at various golf clubs around the UK for 23 years up until 1999. I was also a member of BGGGA, which became EIGGA and finally BIGGA and was a committee member in the Surrey Section, working at Bramley Golf Club, between 1980 and 1983 where I met and talked passionately with Jack McMillan and Kenny McNiven, amongst others. From there I took up a position at the Royal Norwich Golf Club. I hope that some of your members can help me.

I own a pedestrian certes mower, which was originally one of three units from an unused Ransomes Overgreen donkey engine triple greens mower dating back to the 1950's. The brass plate on the RH side casing states that it is a Ransomes certes MK12 made by Ransomes, Simms and Jeffries. I don't know where else to look for specific identification numbers.

It is a geared push mower with a 16" width of cut (certes mower units are listed as 12" or 14" wide, but I can assure you that this one was used on an overgreen). The cylinder has 10 blades and is approx 4.5" in diameter at present, although a new cylinder may be closer to 5" in diameter.

The problem is that the cylinder blades are now worn down almost to the webbing and it is difficult, if not impossible, to adjust the cut. I estimate that it will last until the end of this season and then the cut quality will deteriorate to the point where it will no longer cut at all.

I have tried contacting various people and companies to try to find a solution to the problem, but to date have not had any success. I am mystified by the situation as I know that certes cutting units are well renowned and some are still in use.

As I see it I have four options:

- 1) A new cutting cylinder, but that will be expensive (I have been quoted £150 net by Garfitts).
- 2) A reconditioned cutting cylinder, but I'm not sure whether anyone supplies them.
- 3) Have the blades removed and new or reconditioned ones installed, followed by grinding. This will be expensive due to the time involved.
- 4) Find a complete unit for sale. In all cases, I will probably need a new or reconditioned bottom blade. Or have my present one, allows for a height of cut as low as 3mm (1/8") reconditioned.

Am I correct? I hope someone can help, or if not can suggest a course of action or a contact who can help me?

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Paul Bertenshaw

Over the Pond

Having just returned from Atlanta and the GCSAA Show I felt that I wanted to drop a quick note to say thank you to all those involved in the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernard & Co.

The week long trip was full of new and innovative ideas from across the pond and from the Delegation, which I will undoubtedly use on my return to my golf course.

I would thoroughly recommend this experience to anyone from the greenkeeping world. It was a packed seven days with access to areas of the Show, which not everyone can reach. For this I would like to thank Steven Bernard, Kim Furnell and the Bernard team. Also John Pemberton, Richard Wyman and the other Greenkeepers in the Delegation.

J. Austin

Course Manager

Windwhistle Golf Club

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: scott@bigga.co.uk.

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