



CUTTING EDGE TRAINING



Ransomes Jacobsen launched a new training initiative for operators and technicians during Harrogate Week in January, which is known as Cutting Edge Training. This new programme is industry recognised and accredited and is available to all operators and technicians, irrespective of the manufacturer or type of machinery that they use at their respective golf courses.

The Cutting Edge Training Team are committed to providing the turf care

industry with the most comprehensive package of dedicated industry sector training available today. Working closely with industry experts to understand and adapt its training to meet the needs and requirements set out by Government and HSE, the Cutting Edge Team have aligned their training with independent assessment bodies.

With over 75 years of industry experience the Cutting Edge Training Team are well suited to provide training to the sector. All have proven

track records in their chosen areas of expertise and are able to provide candidates with the knowledge required to safely and effectively complete their daily roles.

“Cutting Edge Training is committed to providing a world class service to the industry sector, and as a world wide business our aim is to provide a training standard that can be relied upon around the globe. Our training programmes are available to ALL technicians and operators, irrespective of manufacturer or model of equipment. Training can either be held on-site at the end-users premises or at our Training Centre in Ipswich, where candidates will experience some of the best training facilities in the market available today. We are able to offer both LANTRA training and our own bespoke training to ensure that each candidate is equipped with the knowledge to pass various assessments related to mowers, tractors and ATVs,” Jason King, Customer Support and Training Manager.

The Cutting Edge team have added their backing to the Landbased



Technicians Accreditation scheme (LTA), developed by the AEA in conjunction with the Institute of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE).

The objective of the scheme is to provide a nationwide means of benchmarking, monitoring and assessing the competence of technicians employed within the sector. The scheme will also provide encouragement and recognition for both employers and technicians, who voluntarily commit to continued professional development in pursuit of technical support excellence.

There are four categories, or tiers, with all tiers being registered on a central database held by IAgrE.

- **LTA 1:** Self registration on-line. Entries on this register would be categorised as either Apprentices (on recognised programmes) or more skilled/mature entrants not yet otherwise assessed and categorised. There is currently no charge to register.
- **LTA 2:** Newly qualified apprentices or assessed skilled technician meeting the required criteria.
- **LTA 3:** A skilled and experienced technician who has successfully attended a series of assessed course programmes - may be a product specialist.
- **LTA 4:** A professional technician having a proven and assessed track record. Additional assessment criteria are included to demonstrate exceptional diagnostic and technical ability together with customer and technical mentoring skills.

“The scheme has been established to give credit and recognition to developing the skills and knowledge of technicians working in the land-based sector. All training is accredited by the relevant manufacturers in conjunction with the employers to guidelines agreed jointly with them, LANTRA and IAgrE. The scheme also provides a clearly defined career path for those working in the land-based engineering sector and is backed by the AEA and BAGMA,” said Jason.

“We are absolutely delighted to be part of this scheme as it dovetails perfectly with our Cutting Edge Training programme, which has been introduced to enhance the skills of today’s grounds care technicians,” he added.

Cutting Edge provides all levels of training from preventative maintenance to diagnostic and problem solving. Using the latest training materials and learning techniques, we can provide the tools to undertake every technical aspect; from routine maintenance to complete strip downs and rebuilds of tractors or mowing machinery.

The team will provide delegates with the skills to keep their machines performing to their expectations, irrespective of model or manufacturer.

A typical example is the introductory one-day course on electrics. Upon completion delegates will be able to understand and use electrical schematic diagrams, identify visually common electrical components and understand their function. They will also be able to demonstrate safe and effective use of basic electrical instruments and test equipment before safely and effectively diagnosing and rectify simple equipment electrical faults.

Many technicians who enter the industry have come from other business sectors, so it’s important that they understand the theory behind cutting grass. At the end of this particular course they will certainly be able to explain the principals of grass cutting and demonstrate an understanding of verti-grooming and scarifying. They will also be able to visually identify grass cutting techniques and problem conditions such as tram lining and ribbing. However, these training sessions are not just theory; hands on experience is essential so delegates will be asked to strip down and rebuild a selection of cutting units, some with verti-groomers and rear roller brushes.