



Industry Update

KIOTI TRACTORS MAINTAIN PITCHES FOR CHAMPIONS

Three Kioti tractors are playing an important part in keeping the pitch at the world-famous Headingley Carnegie Stadium in Leeds and its 35-acre training ground in top condition for the Leeds Rhinos rugby league and Leeds Carnegie rugby union clubs.

The stadium pitch is probably the most heavily used of any rugby pitch in the UK. It hosts around 80 matches a year involving the Leeds Rhinos, who are current rugby league Super League champions and World Club title holders, Leeds Carnegie and other teams. Sometimes three games are played in a single weekend, and the biggest gap between games is less than three weeks, according to head groundsman Jason Booth, who is the current Rugby Football League Groundsman of the Year.

As there is no time for full-scale pitch renovation, staff are kept busy carrying out small-scale repairs and remedial work continuously all year round. Verti-draining is carried out on the pitch at least once a week, as well as scarifying, top-dressing, spraying, seeding and brushing as required.

As part of a major up-grading of its ground-care equipment, Leeds Rugby Ltd chose three models from the Kioti CK and DK ranges supplied by Longs Groundcare Machinery Ltd, based in Leeds. The two smaller models – a CK20 and CK35 – work at the stadium, while the 50hp turbo-powered DK501 is based at the training ground.

Leeds Rhinos players and ground staff at Headingley Carnegie Stadium with head groundsman Jason Booth (centre), Ian Brown of Rustons Engineering (left) and David Long of Longs Groundcare Machinery (right)



MACHINES TAKE TO THE OPEN ROAD

Japanese manufacturer, Kubota, took to the road two years ago with a series of its Kubota Live! events.

Proving a resounding success in 2006, the event makes a welcomed return this year with 8 events taking place across England, Scotland and Wales. Running from 2 – 25th September, the event offers visitors a unique opportunity to view and drive the entire Kubota Tractor and Groundcare range, as well as its world leading construction equipment, and this year's events are set to be on an even bigger scale.

The event venues incorporate extensive demonstration areas and a purpose built off road 4 x 4 course to give visitors the chance to put the Kubota machines through their paces in realistic, working environments.

For further information and to register visit: www.kubota.co.uk/kubotalive or call: 0800 023 1111. Entry is free.



NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

Laurence Scowen took over as Managing Director for DLF Trifolium Ltd recently after leaving Eurocaps, where he held a Board of Directors position as Sales and Business Development Director. Eurocaps, who contract manufacturer vitamin and mineral supplements, supply high street multiples, pharmacies, health food stores and mail order companies in the UK, mainland Europe and further afield.

"We are delighted to welcome Laurence to the company and feel confident that his experience and personality will help maintain our market leading position within the grass seed business," said David Keegan, who has been MD for DLF for 16 years.



MANAGEMENT TEAM STRENGTHENED

Leading sportsturf contractor MJ Abbott Limited has appointed Nigel Pritchard as Purchasing and Direct Sales Manager.

Nigel spent almost 20 years with John Davidson Pipes, where he became Technical Product Development Manager.

He has extensive knowledge of water management solutions and will be responsible for identifying and sourcing new product ranges to add to the company's growing offering to the professional market. He'll also be driving the company's technical and sales support, ensuring that customers receive first-class customer service from initial enquiry through to after-sales assistance.

BRITISH WILD FLOWER PLANTS IN BUTTERFLY WORLD

British Wild Flower Plants (BWFPs) is playing a significant part in the design and construction of Butterfly World, Clive Farrell's £25m project currently underway at St. Albans, Hertfordshire.

The specialist Norfolk nursery is responsible for the creation of a substantial wild flower meadow with a central garden celebrating the life of Dame Miriam Rothschild the famous entomologist, gardener and conservationist. "Ivan Hicks' design across the 26 acre site depicts the shape of a Butterfly," explains BWFPs' Ian Forster. "The wild flower meadow is within the proboscis, with the Rothschild garden at the centre. We're planting Field Poppies, Chamomile, Cornflowers, Oxeye Daisies and Corn Cockles to create a natural habitat for indigenous butterflies, and creating a garden of colour and water in honour of Dame Rothschild." Ian, who has designed the central garden, is basing it on a globe, surrounded by a spiral stream, bordered by nectar plants.



NEW GOLF DISTRIBUTOR

Huxley Golf Northern has taken on responsibility for the sale and installation of Huxley Golf's extensive range of golf practice, teaching and playing aids throughout North Wales.

Appointed initially in mid-2007 to look after northern England, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and parts of Cheshire, Huxley Golf Northern's newly extended responsibilities encompass the whole of Cheshire and the Welsh counties of Flintshire, Wrexham, Denbighshire, Conwy, Gwynedd, the Isle of Anglesey and northern parts of Powys.

Huxley Golf Northern's first project in North Wales was the installation of a 56-yard (50m) long all-weather practice tee for Royal St David's Golf Club, Harlech, Gwynedd.



NEW FACILITIES AT LINCOLN SITE OPEN

British Seed Houses' staff gathered recently to mark the completion of development work at the company's site at Witham St Hughs.

Located on the Nottinghamshire/Lincolnshire border, the company has operated out of the site for more than 30 years and purchased it outright in 2001. The decision was taken to expand the facilities to accommodate BSH's growing amenity seeds business.

Eighteen members of staff are now based at the modern office complex which also houses a seed testing laboratory. Seed is cleaned and blended on-site and the improved 80,000 square foot warehouses provide improved product storage and packaging, resulting in faster order response times.

BARONESS ON THE MOVE

Kyoeisha UK, manufacturers of Baroness fine turf mowers, has moved into brand new premises on the outskirts of Basingstoke.

The new 6000 sq ft warehouse and offices on the Hatch Industrial Park just off the M3 will be the new base for the sales and back up team being put together by Managing Director Ian Kerry. The new address and contact numbers for Baroness are: Unit 5, Hatch Industrial Park, Greywell Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 7NG. Tel: 01256 462591.



NEW APPOINTMENT

Etesia UK Ltd is pleased to announce that Phil Catley has been appointed Area Sales Manager for the South West and Southern England. In his new role, 26-year-old Phil will provide sales and support to Etesia's specialist dealers in



the territory, including involvement with local shows, demonstrations and open days.

Having started his career in the motor industry where he gained a Level 3 City & Guilds qualification as a Motor Technician, Phil has a sound engineering background. He left the motor industry to join Sharnford Horticultural Ltd in Leicestershire and later moved to Devon's Abbey Garden Machinery. As a result he has considerable knowledge and experience in outdoor power equipment, with a sales track record which covers a wide range of professional products.

JOINT VENTURE

SITR, the largest independent recycling group in the UK has announced a newly formed joint venture.

SITR will be the key UK manufacturer of the Dunweed range of landscaping and playground products.

Announcing its intent on changing the face of the tyre recycling market place, SITR has committed a £4,000,000 investment into the creation of the most modern tyre recycling plant in Europe.

ASTON VILLA STAYS SHARP WITH SUPER ATOM

Jonathan Calderwood, Grounds Manager of Aston Villa Football Club, needed a fast solution to keeping the pitch edges sharp when the new stadium surface was built two years ago.

"After the new pitch was laid the edges became flush with the rubber track surround," said Jonathan, a former IOG Groundsman of the Year, who was at the old Wembley Stadium and Wolverhampton Wanderers before joining Aston Villa five years ago.

"Using traditional edging tools up to the concrete divide would take us an hour. Then we discovered the Atom Professional Edger from DJ Turfcare - and the job now takes just five minutes."

He was so impressed that he has bought two more for the Aston Villa training ground at Bodymoor Heath.

The new training ground has three full size pitches, three goal kicking areas and a warm-up pitch. Alongside this are five full-size pitches in the old training ground, which is to become the Football Academy.

Aston Villa's Paul Mytton, Deputy Head Groundsman, with the Atom Professional Edger at the training ground

