



## Launceston Chooses Massey

Graeme Gallimore, Course Manager at Launceston Golf Club, in Cornwall has selected an MF 1540A compact tractor as being the ideal power unit for the club's demanding course maintenance requirements.

"Our ageing loader tractor had seen better days and the time had come to pension it off and give its loading duties to

another tractor," he explained.

"We decided to fit a front-end loader to an existing model and buy a new tractor of around 40hp that could work comfortably on all parts of our hilly course in all weathers."

As the incoming power unit was to be used on tasks such as deep tine aeration, mole drainage, top dressing, trailer work and spraying, Graeme

and his greenkeeping team wanted a versatile tractor that was able also to satisfy a number of key points.

"It had to have good stability, a high power-to-weight ratio, decent rear lift capacity and be fitted with wide flotation tyres so it could work effectively without compacting our clay-loam greens," explained Graeme.



## Honorary Award

The IOG has announced two Award schemes in honour of its late chairman, Alex Millar: The Alex R Millar Award for Pitch of the Year; and the 2012 Fund's Alex R Millar Bursary Fund. Both schemes reflect aspects of the industry that Alex was deeply passionate about.

Alex was IOG National Chairman from 2002 up to his death last year. He also held the post from 1991-1993 and was the IOG representative on football's Playing Surfaces Committee, helping to establish the Football Groundsman of the Year awards. Alex also served as IOG Board member as well as being a former Treasurer of the IOG.

IOG Chief Executive, Geoff Webb, said the Alex R Millar Award for Pitch of the Year would be an annual award open to all professional football clubs throughout Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland.

"The difference with this award will be that it will be groundsman themselves that will vote, in much the same way that the Professional Footballers' Association votes for its player of the year."

He also announced that the bursary aspect of the IOG's 2012 Fund will be renamed. Alex was a fervent supporter of the bursaries, which offer financial help towards students' costs of tuition, fees and materials incurred as part of turf science and grounds management studies.

## Tracmaster Goes to Oxford

Oxford University Parks have purchased two Tracmaster BCS Commander Flail Mowers through Bicester-based dealer, Turney Groundforce.

The University Parks consist of about 70 acres of parkland on the west bank of the River Cherwell. Walter Sawyer, Park Superintendent, and his 34-strong team are responsible for this park on South Parks Road, as well as the grounds of 21 colleges across Oxford.

"We needed to replace our Saxon flail mowers so we contacted our local dealer,

Turney Groundforce, who recommended BCS from Tracmaster," said Walter.

"We opted for the BCS Commander with the 80cm flail mower as the best machine for the job."

The BCS Commander is a professional grass management system designed for those who need adaptable machines. It is capable of operating a number of implements including a flail mower, scythe, rotary mower, hay rake and mini baler. There is also a bank version of the machine for use on slopes up to 40 degrees.



## To the Manor Combe...

**The Manor House Golf, at Castle Combe, has purchased a fleet of 46 electric E-Z-GO RXV golf cars from local distributor, TH White.**

Charlie Gaisford, the Club's Course Equipment Maintenance Technician, was instrumental in the decision making process together with Estates Manager, Paul Bishop.

"We were operating a mixed fleet of petrol and electric golf cars supplied by another of the major manufacturers," said Charlie.

"When it came time to change we had a good look at what was

on offer across the industry. We undertook some detailed evaluation of the major brands and the operating costs of petrol versus electric.

"I particularly like the durability of the RXV; its robust and well put together. The onboard chargers kept the cost of installing the additional charging points in our covered buggy park to a sensible level. The automatic battery fill system not only ensures that the batteries are maintained easily, but that they are topped up to the correct level and not over-filled.

"TH White's loaned us a

demonstration vehicle for a week on two separate occasions so that the management and members could evaluate them extensively. The members have really taken to them and particularly like the regenerative braking system, which combined with the automatic parking brake, provide excellent downhill control and safety.

"The major attraction of these buggies is that they are very cost-effective to run and generate significant revenue for the club. Almost as important, they are certainly a hit with members and visitors."



## Chairman Elected

John Deere has elected Samuel R Allen as Chairman of the board, effective from February 24. He will continue as Deere & Company President and Chief Executive Officer.

The decision is another step in the company's systematic process of leadership transition that was announced last June.

Samuel will become Chairman immediately following expiration of Robert W Lane's current term as Chairman and member of the Deere Board of Directors. The board also voted to reduce the size of the board to 11 members, effective at the same time.

In June, Deere & Company announced that it had elected Samuel to become President and Chief Operating Officer.

The new Chairman is a 34-year veteran of Deere with a broad range of leadership experience. He has served as a Senior Officer since 2001, was President of the Worldwide Construction & Forestry Division and also led the Deere Power Systems Group, John Deere Credit's global operations and Deere's global human resources and labour relations.

He also had responsibility for Deere's intelligent mobile equipment technologies and for Deere's advanced technology and innovation.

Torrential rain has highlighted compaction and drainage problems on golf courses throughout the UK, sending Terrain Aeration from Hampshire to Birmingham and Hertfordshire to Eastern Scotland.

At Copt Heath and Basingstoke golf course, Terrain Aeration treated all 18 greens with the Airforce Scamper terrallift machine, relieving compaction panning by injecting compressed air. Terrain got to Kirkcaldy GC and treated nine of Head Greenkeeper Mike Ewan's traditional greens while the weather held.

David Green remembers rock hard ground conditions.



## Terrain Drains Fore Golf