



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 care 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.