



Toro keeps The Old Course in Championship Condition

The St Andrews Links greenkeeping team has paid tribute to the Toro turf maintenance fleet that helped it keep the Old Course in championship condition for the recent Open.

Louis Oosthuizen may have lifted the Claret Jug, but hearty congratulations are also in order for Director of Greenkeeping, Gordon Moir, and Gordon McKie, Course Manager of The Old Course.

Also, credit goes to their crew, who battled blustery conditions and heavy rain to keep the course in perfect playing condition – with a little help from Toro, whose machinery The Home of Golf exclusively uses.

“Our Toro fleet certainly helped us to get the job done and achieve the results we were looking for,” Gordon Moir reveals.

The team also sought Toro’s special Tournament Fleet service to supplement St Andrews Links’ existing machinery supply from its other course.

“The tournament support helped by loaning us seven extra Greensmaster 3250Ds to allow us to achieve the huge task of mowing fairways to the highest standard within the tight timescale we had each morning,” Gordon McKie adds.

“The Old Course has seven double fairways, which means we had to mow two fairways at once, so we required the additional machinery to make that achievable.

“In addition, we brought in extra Workman utility vehicles for transportation of various pedestrian mowers and, of course, the staff as well!”



FRENCH CONNECTION

ClearWater has made the French connection with one of its washpad water recycling systems being recently installed in France at Omaha Beach GC in Normandy.

Highspeed Group’s Joint MD, David Mears said; “This follows many months of hard work, particularly by our agent for France, Michel Champenois of MACDIS Sarl to secure business for ClearWater. We were very pleased to have been selected to install one of our systems at this superb club.”

With the demands of legislation concerning pollution prevention tightening across Europe, ClearWater recycling systems are now a familiar sight in the UK and Ireland. With over 140 installations, the company hopes that the same will be the case in France as they showcase the system at Omaha.

Trucks in Demand



For many years Club Car, has been the Official Golf Car of the European Tour. This year sees additions to the Tour trucks used to transport the vehicles to and from each event.

“We’re delighted to continue our commitment to the European Tour,” said Roberto Gorostiaga, Director of Marketing & Sales for Club Car.

“Our association with the Tour provides a highly visible and prestigious platform for Club Car to showcase a wide range of products, build relationships and enhance the brand globally.”

The Club Car entourage covers the European Tour’s needs for staging, television and rules cars. Every car supplied by Club Car is designed to fit a specific purpose and it takes two double-decker 28 ton trucks to transport the cars around from venue to venue. Additional trucks have been added this year to cope with demands.



Oxfordshire Gardens

go Mowing with Sanli

High-profile Oxfordshire visitor attraction, Waterperry Gardens, has taken delivery of a pair of Sanli LSP46 self-propelled pedestrian mowers to help maintain a variety of formal lawns and other grassed areas within the magnificent 3.2ha ornamental garden.

Handed over by Sanli UK's Area Manager, Claire Morris, the two mowers are to be used by Waterperry's three full-time gardeners. The mowers incorporate operator-friendly features such as comfort-grip handles, 60 litre grass collectors and single-point cutting height adjustment.

Located near the village of Wheatley, east of Oxford, Waterperry Gardens was, until 1971, home to a school of horticulture for ladies. Today, the gardens at Waterperry have evolved into an oasis of calm and beauty where visitors can enjoy the spectacular formal gardens, which include a waterlily canal, a rose garden and the celebrated 60m long colour border, said to be one of the finest purely herbaceous borders in the UK.



JCB Secures Huge Order with Leading London Plant Hirer

JCB has won a huge order – including 42 tracked and wheeled excavators – from one of the country's leading plant hire firms.

The multi-million pound deal has been secured with London-based Lynch Plant Hire and includes a fleet of racked excavator models in addition to two wheeled excavators – manufactured at JCB Heavy Products in Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.

The excavator order has been placed in response to increased demand from Lynch Plant Hire's customers for machines which can operate in the demanding road and rail sectors. Several of the machines have already been delivered and are already performing on high profile projects across the UK. This includes the JCB wheeled excavator models carrying groundworks as part of the M25 motorway widening scheme.

What's your number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month's lucky number...

Lee Penrose, of the STRI, is interrogated...



What is your position?

Project Manager / Consultant

How long have you been in the industry?

Just over eight years

How did you get into it?

Whilst at university I conducted a research project for Dr Stephen Baker, at STRI, investigating rootzone construction in greens. The time I spent working with Steve and the team was great and I took the opportunity to work for a forward looking company!

What other jobs have you done?

Laid bricks, built conservatories, managed Burger King, and worked on turf construction and maintenance.

What do you like about your current job?

Definitely, the variety. My life is impossible to predict day to day, and that is a great thing. I spend a lot of time travelling and meeting new people. I love being at the cutting edge of the turf industry and, through the STRI, helping to steer things in the right direction for our clients.

What changes have you seen during your time?

Technology is now king and we are slowly seeing that creep into the industry and, in particular, course management. We are moving into an era where quantitative analysis and prediction, using tools like the STRI Trueness Meter, will help take golf course presentation and playability to the next level.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I have 3 great passions in my life:

- 1 – My wife and 2 daughters, Mary and Abigail
- 2 – Fly fishing for salmon and wild trout
- 3 – (Sadly) work. I spend my evenings working on things like the Golf Environment Awards.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Who knows? I have an inherent need to re-invent myself every few years. I will no doubt still be involved with STRI and working within the industry (but hopefully for more money!)

Who do you consider as best friends in the industry?

Numerous, but I particularly enjoy annual jaunts shared with Dr Micah "Buckie" Woods (Director, Asian Turfgrass Centre) and have spent many happy hours with Simon Elsworth (Head EAME Turf & Landscape, Syngenta)

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

215 – not sure why...

Lee has picked Shona Garner, Consultant