

James de Havilland takes a closer look at the intricacies of current machinery

The anatomy of...

British hand mowers

Hand mower choice may be wider than you think



The 'big three', John Deere, Ransomes Jacobsen and Toro, may be the key names associated with golf course mowing equipment, but these companies do not have it all their own way when it comes to all fine turf care.

Cricket wickets, lawn tennis and bowls, for example, are areas where smaller independent British mower makers Allett, Dennis and Lloyds continue to do extremely well.

But this is not to suggest British pedestrian mower makers do not have models suitable for 'hand mowing' golf greens and tees. And to suggest that Ransomes hand

mowers, such as the highly regarded Super Certes, will never compete with in-house siblings Jacobsen for some golf course duties would be misleading too. But it is fair to say the key US makers, with US made models, have fine tuned their pedestrian models specifically for the golf market.

British designed and built pedestrian mowers do of course retain a strong following. The ability of these mowers to produce the fine quality of cut demanded by bowls and cricket wickets proving the ability of these machines to deliver a good, consistent finish. What many in the golf sector may not have also

appreciated is how British made models have evolved. Lloyds may well still make a Paladin model but to suggest it is the same mower as the ones on sale in the 1960s is wide of the mark.

Allett and Dennis have made huge development changes too; current models have vastly improved ergonomics, vibration damping and ease of set up.

Here we take a brief overview of Allett, Dennis and Lloyds and the models that these companies suggest are well suited to producing a cut to meet the most exacting of standards to include greens mowing.

All electric power: The Allett ELMOW is due for release this autumn. Battery powered, the ELMOW shows how British mower manufactures are continuing to develop their machines.

Dennis Mowers, Ashbourne Road, Kirk Langley, Derbyshire DE6 4N
www.dennisuk.com

For many, it is the versatile Dennis FT510 'cassette' model that is the most recognisable Dennis model. The company does of course offer a far wider model choice, including its increasingly popular Razor models to include the Razor Ultra 560. Fitted with a 'loop' handle more familiar to many in the golf sector, the Razor Ultra is designed to suit greens and other fine turf mowing. Dennis has recently invested in new production facilities.

Dennis Razor Ultra 560

The Dennis Razor Ultra 560 has been purpose developed to meet the demands of golf greens and tees, cricket pitches and bowling greens. It features a 560mm (22") cutting width with an 11 bladed cutting cylinder, ultra short wheelbase for undulating surfaces, tungsten tipped groomer, click height adjusters and stub free transport wheels. Claimed to offer excellent balance and good manoeuvrability, the mower has a compact handle design and simple controls with durable acrylic guards.

Key Razor Ultra 560 specification details:

Cutting width: 560mm (22")
Cylinder: 11 blade
Height of cut: 1.6 – 15mm
Cut performance: 200 cuts/m
Dimensions (LxWxH): 910 x 823 x 1135mm
Weight (approx): 140kg
Engine: Honda GX120

Dennis Razor Ultra 560 features a short wheelbase and loop handle.

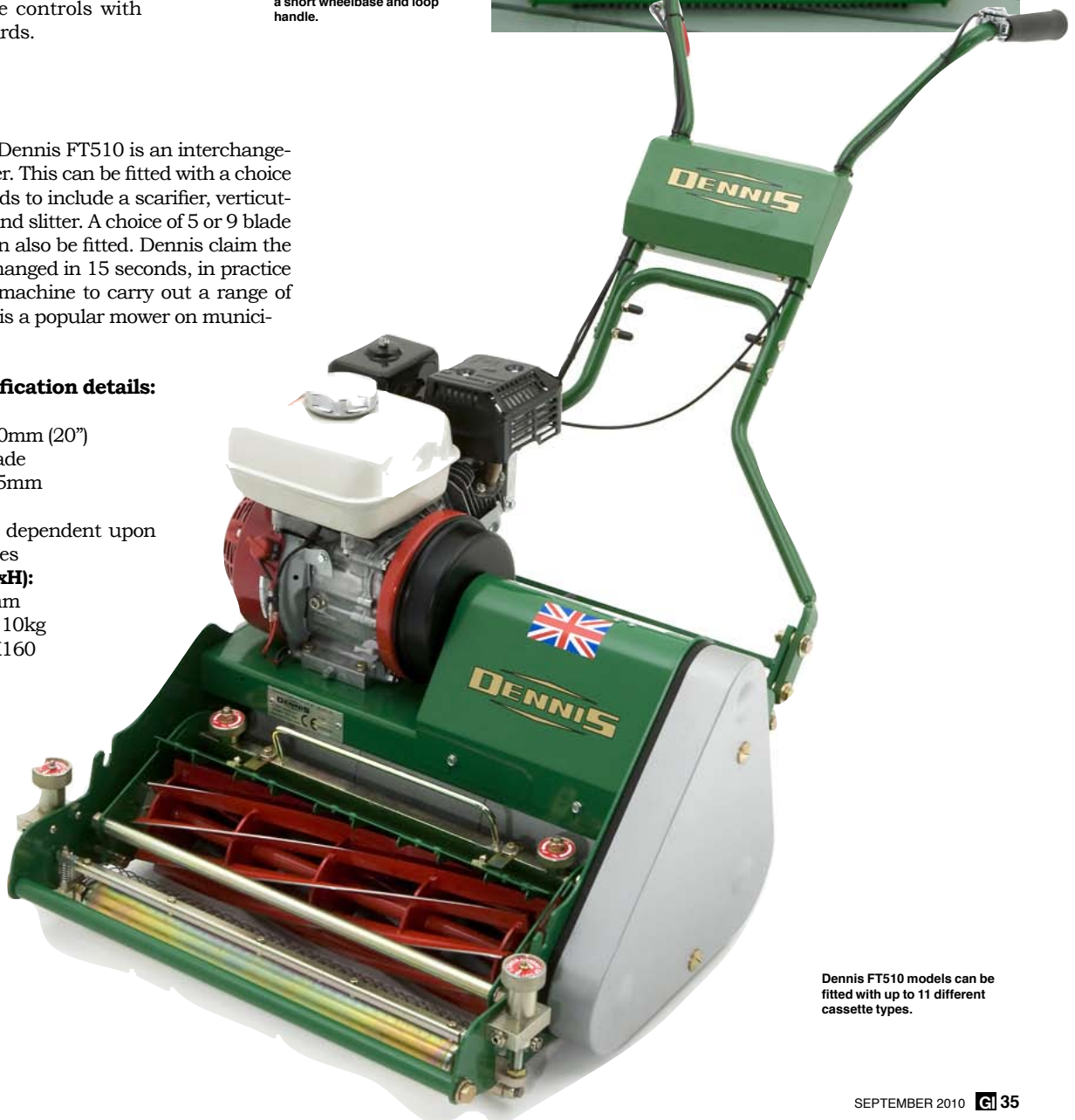


Dennis FT510

The established Dennis FT510 is an interchangeable cassette mower. This can be fitted with a choice of 11 different heads to include a scarifier, verticutter, brush, spiker and slitter. A choice of 5 or 9 blade cutter cassettes can also be fitted. Dennis claim the cassettes can be changed in 15 seconds, in practice this enabling one machine to carry out a range of duties. The FT510 is a popular mower on municipal golf courses.

Key FT510 specification details:

Cutting width: 510mm (20")
Cylinder: 5 or 9 blade
Height of cut: 2-25mm
Cut performance: up to 200 cuts/m dependent upon the number of blades
Dimensions (LxWxH): 1300 x 750 x 970mm
Weight (approx): 110kg
Engine: Honda GX160



Dennis FT510 models can be fitted with up to 11 different cassette types.

**Allett Mowers by Turfmech Machinery Ltd ,
Hangar 5, New Road, Hixon, Stafford ST18 0PJ
www.allett.co.uk**

Allett Mowers was acquired by Turfmech Machinery in 2007 with production moving to the company's Stafford factory. During the past three years, Turfmech

has retained the basic Allett mower design but developed production to make the mowers both easier to build and maintain. The key models that target the golf sector include the Tournament and Shaver, although the new ELMOW model, due for launch this autumn, is an interesting development. Based on the Tournament, the ELMOW should boast low noise and running costs.

Allett Shaver 20 and 24

Allett Shaver mowers have no groomer fitted but have space to accommodate a static brush. The front roller can be moved rearwards so it is closer to the rear roller on the Shaver - there's no groomer in the way- to better handle undulating turf and contours. The Shaver targets those who mow their greens regularly using a ride-on triple mower fitted with a groomer and use a hand mower solely ahead of competitions where a close strip final finish and appearance is paramount.

Key Allett Shaver 20 and 24 specification details:

- Cutting width:** 510mm (20") or 610mm (24")
- Cylinder:** 10 blade
- Height of cut:** 2.4 - 19mm
- Dimensions (LxH):** 1010 x 1280mm
- Cut performance:** 246 cuts/m
- Weight (approx):** 81.5 - 92kg or 91.5 - 104kg
- Engine:** Honda GX120 (4hp) or GX160 (5.5hp)



Allett Tournament 20 and 24

Allett Tournament models have an integral groomer that can be raised out of work when not required. This model is otherwise the same as its non-Groomer Shaver alternative. Turfmech has made a number of detail changes to these models since taking over production, these ranging from improved roller bearings, improved vibration and noise control and the introduction of a quick height micro system that allows adjustment without tools.

Key Allett Tournament 20 and 24 specification details:

- Cutting width:** 510mm (20") or 610mm (24")
- Cylinder:** 10 blade
- Height of cut:** 2.4 - 19mm
- Dimensions (LxH):** 1010 x 1280mm
- Cut performance:** 246 cuts/m
- Weight (approx):** 81.5 - 92kg or 91.5 - 104kg
- Engine:** Honda GX120 (4hp) or GX160 (5.5hp)



**Lloyds & Co. Letchworth Ltd, Birds Hill,
Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 1JE
www.lloydsandco.com**

The Paladin mower comes in three varieties, the Paladin, Paladin Dual and the Paladin TG and two widths of 21" (533mm) and 24" (610mm). The mowers are all fine turf models, suitable for cutting bowling greens, tennis courts, cricket squares and golf putting greens. Lloyds suggest the independent clutches of the Paladin models

transmission is unique system and prevents the mower from the snatching on take off. All models are constructed from high-grade aluminium castings with a rotationally moulded grassbox with lifting handles for ease of use; this helps make them one of the lightest machines on the market. Height adjustment is via a single adjuster with additional alignment compensation. Dual and TG models target those seeking the highest quality of cut and are the units most suited to mowing golf greens.



Paladin Dual

The Lloyds Paladin Dual is developed from the Lloyds Paladin TG without the groomer being fitted. The front grooved roller can be located closely back to the cutting cylinder thus ensuring the shortest roller distance to follow the tight contours of the golf greens.

Key Paladin Dual specification details:

- Cutting width:** 533mm (21") & 610mm (24")
- Cylinder:** 5,9 or 11 blade
- Height of cut:** 1-25mm
- Cut performance:** up to 225 cuts/m dependent upon the number of blades
- Weight (approx):** 76 to 80kg
- Engine:** Honda GX120

Paladin TG

The Lloyds Paladin TG has a groomer fitted closely between the cutting cylinder and the grooved front roller. The groomer aids healthy growth by removing the lateral grasses and other debris to aid the playability of the surface. The groomer can be engaged or disengaged via a simple clutch arrangement. All Paladin models are designed to allow the cutting cylinder to be removed quickly and easily for maintenance.

Key Paladin TG specification details:

- Cutting width:** 533mm (21") & 610mm (24")
- Cylinder:** 11 blade
- Height of cut:** 1-25mm
- Cut performance:** up to 225 cuts/m
- Weight (approx):** 82 to 88kg
- Engine:** Honda GX120

