



Kubota Makes the Difference

“Our award-winning pitch is all thanks to our Kubota ride-on mower” – that’s the message from Glenn Bellis, Manager of Harefield United.

The Middlesex-based club purchased a Kubota G21 ride-on mower and quickly scooped the title of Best Pitch in the Spartan Premier Division before going on to win the Steps 5 and 6 National Award category in the FA’s 2010 Groundsman of the Year Awards.

The accolades came after the club’s committee took the decision of cancelling the existing groundcare contract in order to maintain the two pitches for themselves. With this in mind, each committee member personally contributed to the cost of buying the ride-on mower.

It was chosen because of its 21 hp Kubota engine and tight turning circle, which when combined with its light weight, means it can mow both pitches quickly and efficiently without marking the turf.

Glenn said that everyone at the club is absolutely delighted to have won the two awards:

“To be honest, we weren’t happy with our pitch, so we decided to buy the Kubota and maintain it ourselves. Our aim was to improve pitch quality so our teams could enjoy better facilities and game play – we never dreamed that we’d go on to win two awards within two years of deciding to maintain it for ourselves.

“It is a reliable machine, extremely easy to use and helps us to get the job done quickly.

“What’s more, it’s diesel, so it’s economical to run too.”

CARBON CAPTURING TURF

A new breed of slow growing carbon capturing turf has been launched in joint venture by Inturf, Paynes Turf and Rigby Taylor

In addition to its ability to lock up carbon dioxide, Carbon Capture Turf grows at a slower rate than other grass varieties, thus reducing maintenance costs and producing fewer clippings. Supplies of the new turf are available from this spring.

“Turfgrass already plays an important part in the designed landscape by providing the green open spaces which many people – especially city dwellers – long for,” says Brian Robinson, Director of Seed Research for Rigby Taylor.



Sanli Building Business Across The Irish Sea

Outdoor power equipment specialist Sanli is continuing to spread its wings with the appointment of new sales and service dealers in Ireland.

Now responsible for looking after domestic and professional customers in southern Ireland is Dublin Grass Machinery, based at Castleknock, Dublin. The company, which has a number of sub-dealers located primarily in the Irish Republic’s Leinster province showed off a selection of Sanli products recently to existing and prospective dealers’ staff at a special, horticultural machinery show staged at Punchestown Racecourse.

Organised by Irish garden machinery distributors, the indoor event represented the first public showing of Sanli outdoor power equipment in the Dublin area.

Moving northwards, newly-appointed Sanli dealer for Northern Ireland, Ground Control, attended a series of open evenings held to give domestic and professional machinery users a preview of some of the new products heading their way for the 2011 season.

A division of Johnston Gilpin of Lisburn, Co. Down, Ground Control has an excellent reputation for pre- and after-sales customer support, attributes that will help Sanli establish a strong and loyal customer base in the north of Ireland.

www.sanli.co.uk



New Man for Etesia

Etesia UK has appointed Phillip Gibson as Southern Area Sales Manager covering South Wales, the South East and the South West areas.

Phillip's new responsibilities include liaising with the company's marketing department, providing product advice, demonstrations and assistance to customers and dealers, as well as attending shows and exhibitions. He is also responsible for the sales, advice and demonstrations for the complete range of Pellenc lithium-ion battery powered products.

The last 12 months has seen an increasing number of operators now using Pellenc products. Pellenc is the only manufacturer in the world to be able to produce machines that can be used in the landscape and local authority industry for up to a full day's work on a single charge and at the same time guarantees use with no odour, no pollution and virtually no noise making them a truly environmentally friendly product.



ROLAWN APPOINTS NEW MANAGER

Rolawn, has appointed Steve Mullarkey as York Depot & Lawn Care Products Manager.

In addition to managing the York Depot, Mullarkey will also be responsible for the national distribution of the company's lawn seed and fertiliser range.

Phil Cuthbert, Commercial Director said:

"We are extremely pleased to welcome back Steve after several years in Australia.

"His extensive experience within the industry and knowledge of our customers and product range will enable him to build on the success achieved and further improve service levels to our customers."

What's your number?

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

Name: Tim Merrell

Company: The Grass Group

Position: Managing Director

How long have you been in the industry?
21 years

How did you get into it?

By accident of course! I am an agronomist by qualification and farming was going to be my life.

What other jobs have you done?

I worked for Velcourt Farm Management, then in France and onto Alberta, in Canada, before coming back to be a Farm Manager in the Loire Valley in France for four years before setting up the business.

What do you like about your current job?

The variety, both in the people I meet, the places I get to visit and being outdoors. I always knew I didn't want to be stuck in an office!

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

I believe the whole industry has grown and become much more professional. Competition on both sides of the industry has meant suppliers have to innovate and the professional users have had stay on their toes. At a time where all budgets are restricted those involved have to know what they are doing and why they are doing it. If you don't you will be found out and you won't survive very long

What do you like to do in your spare time?

It seems to be a rare commodity! The expanding business and a family keep me pretty tied up. If I get a chance I sneak off and depending on the season I'll go coarse fishing or shooting.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Still working to keep my wife and three daughters in the manner to which they have become accustomed!

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

The Dutch guys from Trilo and Paul Trowman

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

10

Pick a number

3

Tim has picked Adrian Handbury of Intelligent Watering



Suzuki GB Appoints New ATV Dealers

In a busy year promoting their All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) range, Suzuki GB PLC has appointed three new official dealerships in the UK.

The new dealers are Brian Keys Tractors of Dromore, Omagh, Goodrowes of Chichester, West Sussex and Martin Pears Engineering of Totnes, Devon.

All of which are qualified to offer a full sales and after-sales service to customers in their area.

For more information on the Suzuki ATV range or to arrange a test ride, find your local dealer at www.suzukiatv.co.uk

Or call 0500 011 959.