

A QUICK GUIDE TO...

MAKING THE MOST OF MACHINERY

Stuart Hall, of John O'Gaunt GC and the IGCEMA, offers advice on making the most of your machinery

We all understand the importance of looking after machinery and the reasons why, but sometimes with all the pressures from all around us we sometimes forget the basics

1. Operator Training

Probably the most important part of the workplace safety, ensuring all operators young and old, experienced or not, have regular reviews in machinery operation and safe practices.

2. Pre and post operation checks

With the constant pressure of an ever increasing workload sometimes pre start check get overlooked, not only does this risk operator safety it also reduces machine performance and increases the possibility of expensive machinery damage.

Washing down machinery after use not only helps retain the value of the machine but can show up oil leaks or damaged parts before they lead to untimely breakdowns or turf damage.

3. Storage

Safe and secure storage is a must, not only for safely getting on and of machinery but with the global economic downturn expensive machinery becomes even more susceptible to thieves, simply marking

machinery with some sort of identification to your club is enough to deter the opportunist thief, while chaining together the smaller, easy picking items like chainsaws and strimmers can put them off too.

4. Scheduled maintenance

Routine maintenance through the cutting season can be neglected due to busy periods, staff shortages and cost, but cutting corners on routine maintenance can lead to serious and expensive issues with machinery, in the short term it may save money but in the long term can lead to catastrophic failures and large repair costs.

5. Equipment replacement plan

A rolling replacement plan is easy to set up, not only does it help forecast replacement costs over a five or ten year period, run side by side with machinery maintenance costs can be a useful tool in managing your golf clubs machinery purchases.

6. A good work place attitude

Everyone wants to work in a positive and happy environment. No one wants to work at a place where everyone is bickering and just putting in their time just to get paid. If you work in a company that is



happy and has the necessary equipment and materials to make a job easier to do, then staff can do their job more proficiently and correctly.

A company that is constantly having down time because of outdated equipment or shabby materials will see a decrease in performance and staff morale.

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