



WIEDENMANN UK'S PLATINUM CHARITY TERRA SPIKE KEEPS OMBERSLEY GC OPEN

What a difference a year makes when you've taken delivery of a Wiedenmann Terra Spike GXi8 HD.

Ombersley Golf Club purchased Wiedenmann UK's charity platinum-painted deep aerator last January, and coincidentally was also celebrating 20 years of operation. In truth, the Kidderminster club would have purchased the Terra Spike a year previously but too many weather-enforced course closures meant they had to delay their investment.

Exactly a year on, Ombersley happily reports that they've had no closures what so ever and that drainage on the course has never been better despite the last 12 months been almost the wettest on record.

Andrew Halfpenny, Course Manager, said: "We've set up a programme to aerate eight days a month on tees greens and aprons. We've pretty much stuck to that in the spring, autumn and winter but got a little bit caught up with other tasks during the summer. From October onwards, when the days became shorter, we really started to reap the benefits of sustained frequent aeration. The transformation in the quality of the turf was evident to everybody.

"We've remained open when others around have had to shut bringing in additional business so our Terra Spike is a machine that's truly earning its keep. I've even been fortunate to take on another member of greenkeeping staff, so from our perspective aeration is truly working and is our key critical task."

BRITISH SUGAR TOPSOIL GUIDE LAUNCHED

British Sugar Topsoil – who recently exhibited at BTME for the first time and have already agreed to return next year – have launched a free booklet outlining how topsoil can be used on golf courses.

They've teamed up with Peter Jones Associates Ltd to produce the eight-page technical 'Essential Guide' which is a must for those involved in the golf course industry. It's freely available as a download from British Sugar TOPSOIL's web site www.bsttopsoil.co.uk or by calling 08702 402314.

KUBOTA ADD PRECISION TO POWER WITH NEW 100-INCH MOWER DECK



Tractor and groundcare specialists Kubota has introduced a new Lastec 100-inch flex mower deck available exclusively on its high performance and market leading F3680 Out Front Mower.

The F3680 is the most powerful out front mower in the Kubota range. With a 36hp engine and Auto-Assist 4WD as standard, it is designed to offer maximum manoeuvrability and versatility whilst being able to tackle the most demanding commercial mowing operations. The F3680 also includes a host of features to increase operator comfort and reduce fatigue, such as hydrostatic power steering, adjustable seat and conveniently positioned operator levers.

Dave Roberts, Kubota's General Manager, commented: "The introduction of this new mower deck is part of Kubota's ongoing commitment to add value to the product and the service we provide our customers to ensure they can complete their work efficiently and effectively.

"The patented Lastec design integrates five 21-inch mower pans, uniquely pinned together and belt driven, giving a 100-inch wide cut with the precision of a 21-inch walk-behind mower. For turf professionals, this means a larger area can be cut in a shorter space of time, saving them valuable time and money."

The 100-inch mower deck, called the 100 EFK, is only available on Kubota's F3680 as this model has the ideal horsepower requirements for a 100-inch cut width. The solution has been designed so all the deck pans articulate independently 15 degrees up and down to follow the ground contour with walk-mower precision which reduces the possibilities of scalping.

Other features include hydraulically fold up outer pans to minimize width for transport and an adjustable deck height ranging from 1-inch to 4 ¾ inches with ¼ inch increments with no tooling requirement. Adjustable internal baffling also allows for standard rear discharge or mulch to optimise performance in a variety of positions.



Wayne Ganning (inset left)

MOOR HALL GC ROLLS OUT THE RED IRON

Moor Hall Golf Club in the West Midlands has become one of the first in the UK to put Toro's new GreensPro 1200 greens roller through its paces.

Course manager and BIGGA member Wayne Ganning (shown inset above) included the machine in his replacement Toro fleet package after the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) recommended greens ironing to help improve the smoothness and trueness of the Sutton Coldfield course's greens.

As he explains: "We didn't get a great deal of use out of the iron last summer because of all the rain, but when we did use it the results confirm that smoothness and trueness improved. Also surface performance achieved near-tournament levels with a significant increase in green speed by two feet, which STRI confirmed in a test. The committee and players also started to notice the difference towards the back end of the summer, so we're looking forward to getting the full benefit

this summer. It's much better than the vibrating rollers we used to use. We're hoping it will help us cut back on mowing, too, which should help improve sward health."

The GreensPro is just one of several new arrivals at the 18-hole parkland course, after the club replaced an eight-year-old Toro fleet reaching the end of its useful life.

Wayne's other new mowers include a Groundsmaster 3500-D and 4500-D, and a Reelmaster 6700-D. "I've particularly noticed that the 4500-D rotary mower has a much quicker grounds speed, which makes us more productive," he adds.

A machine Wayne did get plenty of use out of during the washout summer was the SandPro 3040 bunker raker. "We bought a front plough as an optional extra and it pushed all the sand up despite the rain and really helped us to get the bunkers back into play more quickly after a downpour."

BSH PRODUCES NEW COMBINED CATALOGUE

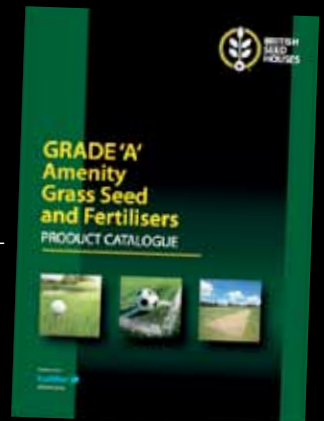
British Seed Houses has produced a new product catalogue which combines its Grade 'A' amenity grass seed and fertilisers in one booklet.

The new-look catalogue details the comprehensive range of products available from the UK's largest privately-owned grass seed company and has been well received by customers.

Amenity sales manager Richard Brown said: "We look to improve the catalogue year on year to ensure it is a well-laid out, informative guide. It was a natural progression for us to combine the seed and fertiliser catalogues together, rather than having separate ones, as it was felt more appropriate for our customers.

"Our products are closely interlinked and our technical sales representatives advise on both seed and fertilisers. They have specialist knowledge and experience to help professionals in the golf, sports and landscaping sectors to find the correct grass seeds and fertilisers to benefit and improve their facilities."

The representatives operate throughout the UK and are also FACTS qualified (Fertiliser Advisers Certification Training scheme). The British Seed Houses product catalogue is available to download at www.bshamenity.com



MOVE FOR MACGREGOR



MacGregor Forest & Groundcare have recently been appointed as the authorised dealer for the Redexim Charterhouse professional Golf and Turf Management machinery range, in the North West Scotland area.

As a well-established business with regional branches in Elgin, Portree and Stornoway, MacGregor Forest & Groundcare work with a host of national names and have an excellent market share in the areas they serve.

Commenting on the agreement with MacGregor Forest & Groundcare Depot Manager Callum Sim said, "the decision to work with Redexim Charterhouse was customer driven as we had noticed an increase in demand from our clients for Aeration, Overseeding, Top Dressing and both natural and synthetic turf maintenance equipment.

Our subsequent market research confirmed the quality and established reputation of the Redexim Charterhouse product range and we have also found the dealer support and back-up to be excellent."