

KUBOTA'S SPECIAL YEAR



Tractor and groundcare specialist Kubota has increased its popular out-front range of mowers with the launch of its updated F90 fleet, improving its existing models with enhanced cutting and discharge performance.

The revamped F3090 and F3890 deliver professional performance with Kubota's 30.6HP and 37.3HP diesel-powered engines, fabricated durable mower deck, easier maintenance and superior operator comfort; as well as increased levels of productivity and reliability. Bolstering the existing range, Kubota has also added the F2890E 2WD model to its fleet, designed for operators with less challenging demands.

The improved F90 range comes with rear and side discharge mower decks, available

in 60" or 72" fittings, with both decks raising a full 90 degrees, providing unobstructed access to the blades and deck underside for simpler cleaning and maintenance.

Speaking at BTME 2014, Dave Roberts, Managing Director of Kubota UK, said: "As well as everything else BTME is a great networking opportunity, and there was plenty to talk about with our new products on show."

"The F90 is aimed at the golf course manager, is ideal for the semi-rough and affordable, so we were very excited to show it off in the flesh for the first time.

"2014 marks Kubota's 35th year of business so BTME is a great platform for us to start this special year – we believe in longevity and commitment to the market."



INFiNiSystem

Pride of place on The Grass Group stand at BTME was the first showing of ATT's 26" INFiNiSystem™. Designed with all the features of its celebrated 22" sister, this completely new product has the same dual Hybrid/Battery power source and range of SMART cassettes for the ultimate in turf maintenance.

The 26" floating head INFiNiSystem™ has been designed to offer even greater productivity – especially when compared to a standard 22" greens mower.

TWO NEW REDEXIM PRODUCTS IMPRESS AT BTME 2014

Charterhouse Turf Machinery always try to bring something new to BTME and 2014 was no exception as visitors saw the Redexim Double Disc Seeder and Speed-Brush for the first time in the UK.

The new Double Disc 1830 Overseeder was well-received. It buries the seed up to 20mm deep in the ground. At a working width of 1.83 metres, the machine is fully adjustable for any type of seed and has a 300 litre hopper. With disc spacing of 30mm the DD1830 places the seed effectively and accurately drops the seed between the blades into the groove. A 65hp tractor requirement sees the Overseeder taking undulating ground firmly in its stride and promises good germination rates.

Going down a storm at the Redexim demonstration event in Holland last year, the Speed-Brush made its UK debut at BTME 2014. This is a towable grooming machine with two round brushes that rotate in the opposite direction to that of travel.



BTME 2014 A BIG HIT FOR HIGHSPEED GROUP

BTME 2014 was a successful show for Highspeed Group, particularly for their class leading ClearWater washpad water recycling system.

Director David Mears said: "This was an important show for us and we were determined to make BTME 2014 our best yet. We were not disappointed as the footfall, orders and enquiries exceeded anything seen in the last four years! Confidence is certainly returning."

Worthy of particular mention was the first ClearWater sale confirmed at the show from a German Golf Club. Chris Knowles, course manager of Golf Club Hanau-Wilhelmsbad near Frankfurt, placed an order with Highspeed Group Ltd on their stand. He'd met David Mears at BTME in 2012 and, having checked out a number of washpad solutions, believed the ClearWater recycling system to be the ideal solution to meet the demands of anti-pollution legislation and be future-proof.

Chris said: "The system



we had was inadequate and I wanted to challenge the negative environmental press golf clubs can get in Germany anyway, by showing that we can prevent pollution.

"I was attracted to the ClearWater system as soon as

I saw it because, being below ground, it is enclosed and easy on the eye."

Chris needed to be sure that the system was compliant with EU and German legislation. The UK manufactured system has undergone exhaustive

testing and meets the necessary requirements of EN858 (equivalent to DIN 1999-100 in Germany). Highspeed passed official certification to Chris by way of proof and Chris consequently signed the deal.



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GOLF INDUSTRY FIRST AT BTME

Visitors to BTME were the first in the UK to see Toro's all-new Sand Pro 2040Z zero-turn bunker rake.

With the SP2040Z, Toro brings zero-turn technology to bunker maintenance for the first time. The result is a mechanical groomer delivering unmatched maneuverability and productivity – and, as a result, one of the most laborious jobs on the golf course just got a whole lot easier.

The machine boasts a brand new 'flex' raking system with a patent-pending 'lift in turn' feature that enables operators to make the tightest of turns in bunkers without leaving unraked 'teardrops' or tyre marks, to produce picture-perfect surfaces even in small, tight bunkers and those with sloped walls. Toro also says it won't tear bunker liners or turf on bunker edges.

Lely also chose BTME to showcase its latest Toro PREMA machine – a Reelmaster 5410.

This showed the thousands of visitors the quality of machines available for clubs wanting to buy quality, pre-owned Toro turf machinery that's technically as good as new, at affordable prices, under its new PREMA scheme.



WORLD FIRST FOR TRIMAX AT BTME

Trimax Mowing Systems' brand new golf and turf mower 'snake' was unveiled for the first time anywhere in the world at BTME 2014.

Snake has been meticulously designed from the ground up, drawing on 30 years of innovation, refined engineering practice and customer insight.

The 3.2m wide trailed rotary mower has been specifically designed for sports turf applications where a high standard of presentation, safety, durability and low downtime are essential. Like its namesake, when it's on the move, it is surprisingly quiet, allowing mowing to take place around sensitive areas without causing disturbance.

Snake looks like a smaller version of the popular

Pegasus mower, and has several innovative features integrated into its design. The clever 'kerb jump' feature allows the decks to be lifted with the blades still engaged to go over kerbs, paths and other obstacles without stopping the PTO. This prevents wear and ensures smoother operation whilst mowing. It is also useful for turning at the end of a mowing run.

Snake has been designed to require little maintenance. Sealed spindles mean there are fewer points to grease. All grease points are easily accessible to ensure any maintenance time is kept to a minimum.

It is equipped with a new sealed PTO system which seals the moving parts from dust and other debris. This allows for

up to 50 hour greasing intervals, dependent on the environment it operates in.

To complete the package, Snake comes with a market-leading three year warranty. This true and trusted warranty, which is also offered on many other Trimax models, demonstrates the company's total confidence in its build quality and engineering.

Trimax Customer Relationship Manager Michael Quinn said: "The Trimax team continues to prioritise the customer. Because our mowers contribute to their livelihoods, we understand that when a mower is not in operation, our first priority to get them running again. Trimax operators are part of the family and with family, you support each other."



RT LAUNCH NEW RANGE

The biggest, brightest and most informative brochure Rigby Taylor has ever produced was showcased for the first time at BTME 2014.

This 136 page brochure has been specially designed to incorporate user friendly features that allows the reader to easily and quickly navigate through the product sections. Each section is preceded by a double page spread range-selector, which shows 'at-a-glance' the products features.

Also included for the first time are attractive and highly visual icons that depict each product's key characteristics.

The new brochure includes the company's extensive 'R' range of grass seed; including cultivars exclusive to Rigby Taylor and extended wild flower mixtures.

In addition the new wetting agent Propel-R, polymer coated fertilizers PolyPro and ConVert and, the latest addition to the Microlite range, TE-Bag.

HARD ROAD TO HARROGATE



One of the undoubted highlights of BTME was the arrival of the ‘Mad Mower Men’ completing their amazing 200-mile trek from Ransomes Jacobsen’s Ipswich HQ to Harrogate pushing Ransomes hand mowers.

Their incredibly tough week-long charity challenge – all in aid of Scotty’s Little Soldiers – came to an end on the Tuesday of BTME as they triumphantly walked through the entrance at the Harrogate International Centre.

They were then welcomed with applause and party poppers into Hall M with their trusty mowers which they had pushed across several counties in heavy rain, hail and freezing fog.

The fearless foursome were Mark Hillaby, Head Greenkeeper at Macclesfield Golf Club, Tim Johnson, Senior Greenkeeper at Wilmslow Golf Club, Gordon Irvine MG Golf Course Consultant and David Steventon, a former greenkeeper who is now director of Prestige Garden Services. David’s wife Amy and Tim’s dad Stuart also formed part of the support crew.

David said: “I went into it with no training whatsoever, and after the very first day my feet were in bits so I switched to some proper running trainers. They helped but my feet were still held together with blister plasters. It was agony at times but

you just get your head down, take some painkillers and get on with it.

“Walking along we had a lot of cars and lorries beeping their horns encouraging us. Now and again we’d be walking through the middle of nowhere and a car would slow down behind us and stick a tenner at us, that sort of thing really kept us going.

“The first few days were very rural and quiet, it was quite eerie at times pushing this mower along in the middle of nowhere, so it was good to get to busier towns and cities towards the end.

Tim said: “The penultimate day was the worst. The entire route had been pretty flat until we hit this hill near Leeds Golf Club. I could feel my heels and my shins going. We had the odd puncture but other than that it went well – we learnt a lot from our mistakes on last year’s walk. The team spirit was fantastic.”

Gordon added: “My biggest concern was the safety side of it, you’re walking along the road itself at times but we made sure we were very visible. Also the weather was a constant worry – I did last year’s walk in the summer and obviously it was harder this time round. We had some hail and heavy rain plus freezing fog but you get through it.

“We all knew each other at the start but you end up being very close friends at the end, that’s what makes it so special. We talked

greenkeeping as well as lots of other subjects for many hours! I spent a lot of time talking to Tim, he's been involved with lots of the education BIGGA have organised, and it was great for me to hear a young guy's perspective on the industry as we walked round."

Peter Driver, PR and Media Communications Manager at Ransomes Jacobsen commented: "The team were so keen to start the walk that they left our head office at around 4pm on the Tuesday evening, a week ahead of the show. On route they were interviewed by BBC Radio Suffolk on three occasions and also by BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and BBC Radio Lincolnshire. On my way up to Harrogate, on the Saturday prior to the show, I even managed to find them on a B-road somewhere north of Sleaford in the wilds of Lincolnshire to offer encouragement and take a few photos.

"What is really amazing is just how robust the Super Certes mowers proved to be. Tim's mower was the same one used for last year's walk from Liverpool to Hull, so it's now done over 400 road miles without any mechanical modifications whatsoever.

"The team has done a tremendous job, all in aid of a very worthy cause and everyone at Ransomes Jacobsen congratulates them on their achievement. Well done Tim, Mark, Gordon and David and to your support team, who were vital to the success of the walk."

Thanks to everyone who has donated money so far and all the sponsors: Ransomes Jacobsen, Campey Turf Care Systems, Bernhard & Co, Symbio, Cheshire Turf Machinery, Rigby Taylor, Sports Metals, Rushserve, Banner Building & Plumbing Service, Prestige Garden Services, Wilmslow Golf Club and Gordon Irvine MG Greenkeeping Consultancy.

Scotty's Little Soldiers is dedicated to supporting the children of men and women killed in action while serving with the British Armed Forces. You can still donate at www.bmycharity.com/HardRoadToHarrogate and watch this space for the lads' next challenge, which Tim's dad Stuart says will be the biggest yet!

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