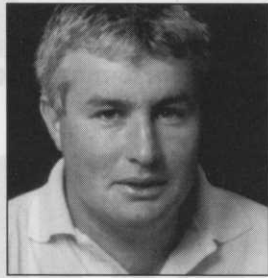
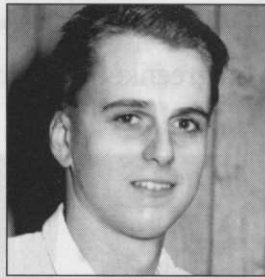


Gary Tusler



James Timmins



Chris Chapman



THE CANDIDATES

turer, had this to say: "Adrian has a very questioning, thorough mind in that he requires to understand 'why' rather than accepting facts on face value – an attribute which keeps staff very much on their toes. He has consistently achieved very high marks in written and oral exams and demonstrated an excellent understanding and background knowledge of greenkeeping and the game of golf.

"He always produces project work of an extremely high standard exhibiting his key virtues of enthusiasm, conscientiousness and hard work with that sparkle of innovation which separates him from his colleagues. These traits, combined with his sense of humour and easy going personality, make him a fine ambassador for the profession and an ideal candidate for this award".

Adrian, an avid golfer, has won several section events and represented his region in the 1991 Iseki Championships.

Gary Tusler – nominated by Oatridge College

Twenty one year old Gary began his golfing career as a YTS trainee at Murrayfield GC, remaining for two years before spending a brief spell in the Royal Navy. On his return to terra firma he immediately joined Uphall GC as an assistant greenkeeper, a position he has held for nearly three years.

Attending Oatridge Agricultural College on day release over three years to take Scotvec National Certificate modules in Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, he has pleased his tutor by consistently giving total commitment and producing very high standards of both written and oral work. These exceptional standards have resulted in his gaining top college honours of Best First Year Student, Best Second Year Student, and Best Overall Greenkeeping Student (practical) in 1992.

In providing Greenkeeper International with observations of Gary's project and assignment work, course tutor Steve Miller had this choice comment to make: "Gary, a very able and diligent student, possesses the necessary attributes to make it to the very top of his chosen profession." Praise indeed.

James Timmins – nominated by Teagasc National Botanic Gardens, Dublin

It could be said that James has greenkeeping in his blood, for having grown up in the shadow of his greenkeeping father, he has followed in his Dad's footsteps to become a greenkeeper in his own right. In James's case, there was never any doubt that he would follow the calling and he joined Courtown Golf Club straight from school. Courtown is an 18 hole course located by the sea in County Wexford – God's own country. It's a busy course with over 1,000 members and employs three greenkeepers year round, supplemented by three extra assistants in the summer months.

Apart from his activities behind the triplex, James is an accomplished golfer who has won several competitions, including Intermediate Scratch and All Ireland Daily Mail Foursomes, representing Ireland at Royal Porthcawl.

Pat Suttle, tutor at Teagasc, is fulsome in praise of James as a student, telling us of his splendid progress in Phases I&II Greenkeeping & Sportsturf Management. Now these hurdles are safely crossed, James, aged 30, intends to continue with further education, progressing to Phase III Management, no doubt with a view to becoming a head greenkeeper.

Chris Chapman – nominated by Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture

Twenty four year old Chris Chapman is something of an outdoor enthusiast, being an active participant in football, badminton and numerous other leisure activities.

Not content with spending his leisure time outdoors, Chris has been working on the golf course at Rochdale Golf Club for some seven years, three of those as first assistant to Karl Buckley.

His studies have taken him to Oldham College and thence to the Lancashire College, where his efforts have been rewarded by his being acclaimed as 'Student of the Year'.

Chris, who gains great satisfaction from his career at Rochdale GC, nurtures ambitions to become a head greenkeeper at a championship golf course.

FLYING DIVOTS

Another Scot strikes lucky

◆ **Not all activities at The Open** were centred around golf, as witnessed within the extremely 'liquid' marquee manned by members of the Golf Club Stewards Association. One such activity, which raised a splendid sum for the charity SPARKS (Sportsmen Pledged to Aid Research into Crippling Diseases) was the draw organised by Northwood GC steward, Peter Walsh. The good news, notwithstanding the funds raised, was that Willie Blair, secretary of the East of Scotland section of BIGGA, won first prize, a full set of Sundridge carbon shafted golf clubs. This follows the trend set in 1991 by Jim Paton, with yet another lucky Scot leaving The Open better equipped than on arrival.

◆ **Your editor shares the concern** expressed by members of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors (BAGCC), raised in their recent press release which decried adverse publicity generated in the 'popular' press regarding some golf developments.

'The majority of successful developments', say BAGCC, 'do not receive the same publicity as that generated by the high profile failures, resulting in the appearance that banks seem unwilling to look at golf as a business'.

The BAGCC membership have indicated their willingness to meet with bankers and discuss the many examples of successful developments with which they have been involved. They issue the challenge to bank financiers to 'consider golf on business grounds rather than on purely emotive terms'.

With the country in deep recession, the BAGCC argues that golf development over the past four years has continued to produce excellent businesses, some so successful that several golfing millionaires have been created. They are deeply upset by rumours that some banks have issued a hidden 'no to golf' edict.

The BAGCC, which employs over 3,000 people in all aspects of golf development, fear this negative attitude may lead to staff cutbacks at a time when the construction industry is severely depressed.

Permitting myself the luxury of theorising on banks and bankers, having personally tried and dismissed all five of the 'High Street Banking Mafia' as ill-equipped to meet even my modest demands, I believe that bankers – especially those at high street level – are lost souls floundering in a sea of their own incompetence. At a higher level, where the idea of demoting or sacking an obvious blunderer just never occurs, one is left to wonder who will eventually pay for such monstrous 'gaffs' as the loaning of irretrievable sums to Third World nations; aiding and abetting Robert Maxwell; the Canary Wharf white elephant, or their abortive and foolhardy stock-broking escapades.

◆ **Jon Allbutt has brought my attention** to recent reports regarding two chemical substances that could be encountered in some vehicles. Fluorolastomer or Veton is a material used to make some brake and oil seals and fuel pipes. There may also be a number of other, as yet unidentified, rubber/plastic substitutes now being used in vehicles.

These substances become highly dangerous after they have been burnt – ie. in a vehicle fire, when they melt and turn into highly corrosive Hydrofluoric acid. If this acid comes into contact with any bare skin it cannot be removed, other than by amputation. It also remains dangerous for a minimum of two years. Therefore, when dealing with a burnt out vehicle, gloves must be worn.

Electric ignition modules also contain dangerous substances which, when in contact with the skin, could cause cancer. The rule must be not to open ignition modules and if a vehicle has been damaged by fire or accident, take great care.

Jon's rider suggests that members should not handle burnt vehicle components without specialist assistance. Such an operation comes directly under COSHH regulations and will require an assessment before any work can be started.



Stuart Cameron - Under 21s winner

DAVID WHITE reports from Coventry
on greenkeepers' favourite tournament

ISEKI
CHAMPIONSHIPS 1992

REVVED UP FOR GLORY

History buffs will know that the city of Coventry can boast more than its fair share of power and glory. It is therefore fitting that a city which is immortalised by the escapades of a publicity-seeking Lady Godiva, which continues to revel in the splendour of Jaguar's winning ways at Le Mans a decade or so back and which has always been at the forefront of Britain's technological superiority, should proudly boast the staging of the 1992 Iseki Championships - the favourite championship of BIGGA greenkeepers everywhere.

Fitting too that this final of finals, the last to be staged under the Iseki sponsorship banner, should have been a total rip-roaring success.

We can now cast our minds back over five successful Iseki championships - all held at exquisite courses of undoubted repute and all masterminded (save the final of finals) by the ebullient Colin Gregory, whose vision of a championship incorporated players of every standard of ability competing at all levels (sectional, regional, national) and bringing together in the spirit of competition those whose paths

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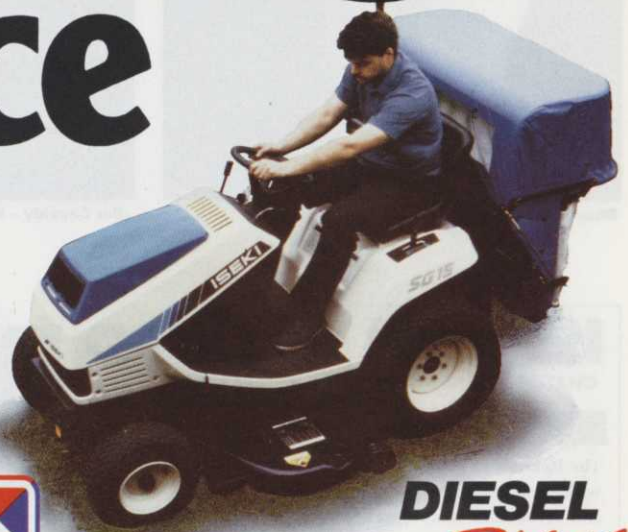
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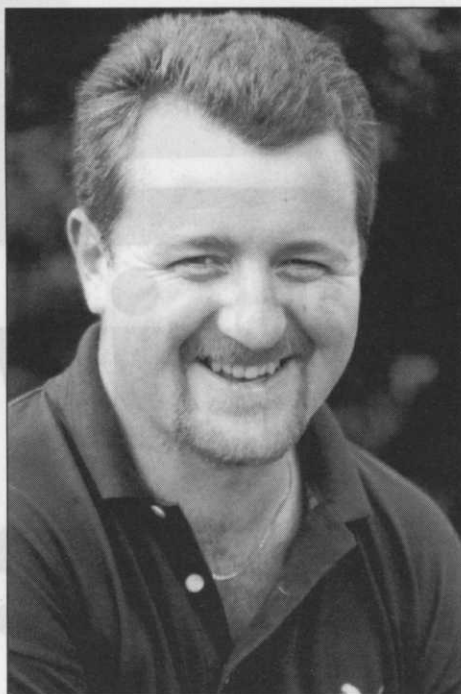
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Stuart Taylor – Best Gross



Jim Cassidy – Winner, Category Three



Alan Carter – Winner, Category One

ISEKI CHAMPIONSHIPS 1992

RESULTS

The Iseki Trophy and winner on handicap:
Jim Byrne, Eire 106.5

Best gross:

Stuart Taylor, Scotland
113

Over 55s:

Owen O'Connor, Eire
111.5

Under 21s:

Stuart Cameron: Scotland
113

Category One:

1st: Alan Carter, South
East 109
2nd: Tony Burke, Eire 110
3rd: Michael Gunn,
Northern 111 (countback)

Category Two:

1st: Owen O'Connor, Eire
111.5 (countback)
2nd: Mike Coultas,
Northern 111.5
3rd Stuart Cameron,
Scotland 113

Category Three:

1st: Jim Cassidy, Midland
113.5
2nd: Kevin McGuire,
Scotland 114
3rd Leslie Hallett, SW & S
Wales 115

Team Prize:

1st: Midlands 926.5
2nd: SW & S Wales 931.5

Nearest the pin:

Ollie English, Eire

Longest Drive:

Pat Devine, Northern
Ireland

'Minor miracles' clear the way for an event to be remembered

22 → might not otherwise cross. For all that this last Iseki event was tinged with sadness, we are certain that the sponsor's original aim – to be identified, recognised and remembered – has been reached and surpassed, and that the Iseki Championship will be recalled with affection for decades to come. Iseki, we salute you!

The cries for rain that echoed through the land must surely have been heard, for during those days leading up to the final the heavens opened – literally – and many parts of England were submerged – roads turned into rivers, golf courses closed, fears of tournament cancellation or curtailment uppermost in many minds.

Finham Park did not escape the deluge but we need not have worried, for John Bayliss and his crew performed minor miracles in removing surface water and the course at Finham Park was looking – and playing – at its best. From the very back medal tees (step back and fall over!) John laid out a challenge that demanded solid striking and length – no run on the ball on damp fairways – and accurate target play to clever pin positions: full marks for this very proper examination!

Space limitations will not allow a ball by ball account of play, but suffice to say that the cream of the crop – including players from Northern Ireland and Eire – were on tenterhooks and fidgeting with putting strokes when Scotland's Stuart Taylor answered the command of starter Bert Cross to "play away." His drive was perfection, followed by 27 holes of immaculate play which brought him the coveted low gross award with a score of 113. It was left to another Scot, Stuart Cameron, to produce the best Under 21s score of 113 nett and team captain Harry Diamond must have been very proud indeed.

The men from Eire were in scintillating form, with a perpetually grinning Owen O'Connor delighting in steady play to win the Over 55s and the handicap award in category two, bettered by Jim Byrne's wizardly play in taking the premier award, this off a reduced handicap and demonstrating his mastery of the putter – sliding

'em in from every direction! They were to leave Coventry as the happiest of men, with Tony Burke also gaining a sound second place in category one.

In any championship there is always the "dark horse", though the Midland's Jim Cassidy proved his rock steady play was no fluke by pulling off a coup with a score of just 113.5 for the 27 holes in category three – bringing jubilation to the Midland camp.

It is left to the low handicap players to produce fireworks, and in Alan Carter the South East team had a winner – he fired off shot after immaculate shot to win the first category, proving Norman Exley's prediction that he was the "main man"!

Let's hear it for the mighty atom – Welshman Les Hallett, who though beaten into third place by Scotland's Kevin McGuire in category three was at one point leading the field – nett 32 for the first nine holes in the afternoon – a spirited performance from the "wee one".

The Iseki Championship is also about team performance, and the fact that winning team Midlands produced a total of 926.5 to win should not be regarded as a walk-over. Runners-up SW and S Wales were a man short when poor Tony King was hauled off to hospital with a collapsed lung (we heard later that he was "comfortable" and would be up and about in a few days) and they are to be congratulated. In fact, the final team scores were the closest for many a year, just 11 strokes separating the first four teams.

To end on a really upbeat note, it gladdened my heart to hear Hugh McLaughlin describe this Iseki Championship as "the best four days of my life." He further expanded by saying, "I'm 42 years old, I've never been further than Dublin before now – and I'm having a marvellous time. I hope the spirit of good fellowship in such a competition can continue and that perhaps another sponsor will recognise the potential for such a wonderful way for us to meet – and occasionally beat – our fellow greenkeepers."

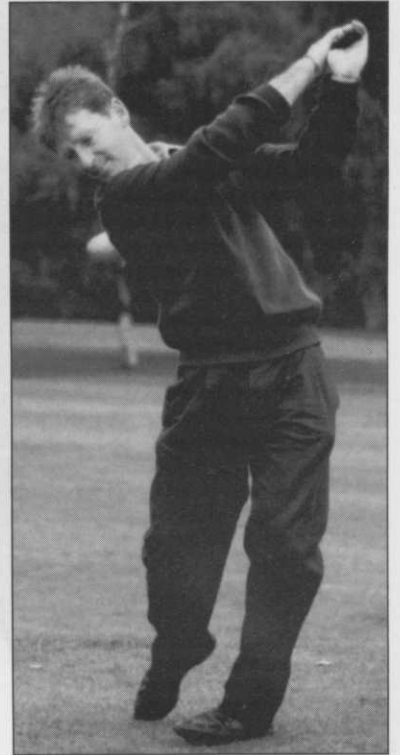
A sentiment echoed by us all.



Winners all: Jim Byrne, left, with the Iseki Trophy as overall victor, with Owen O'Connor, winner of Over 55s Category and winner of Category Two.



Les Hallett - the 'mighty atom'



Pat Devine - Longest drive

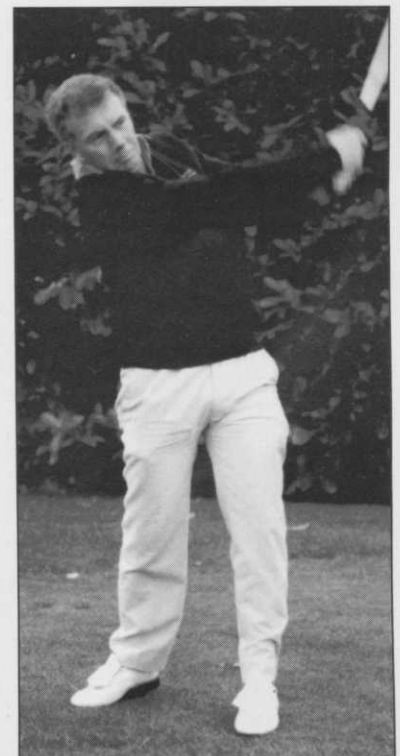


ISEKI

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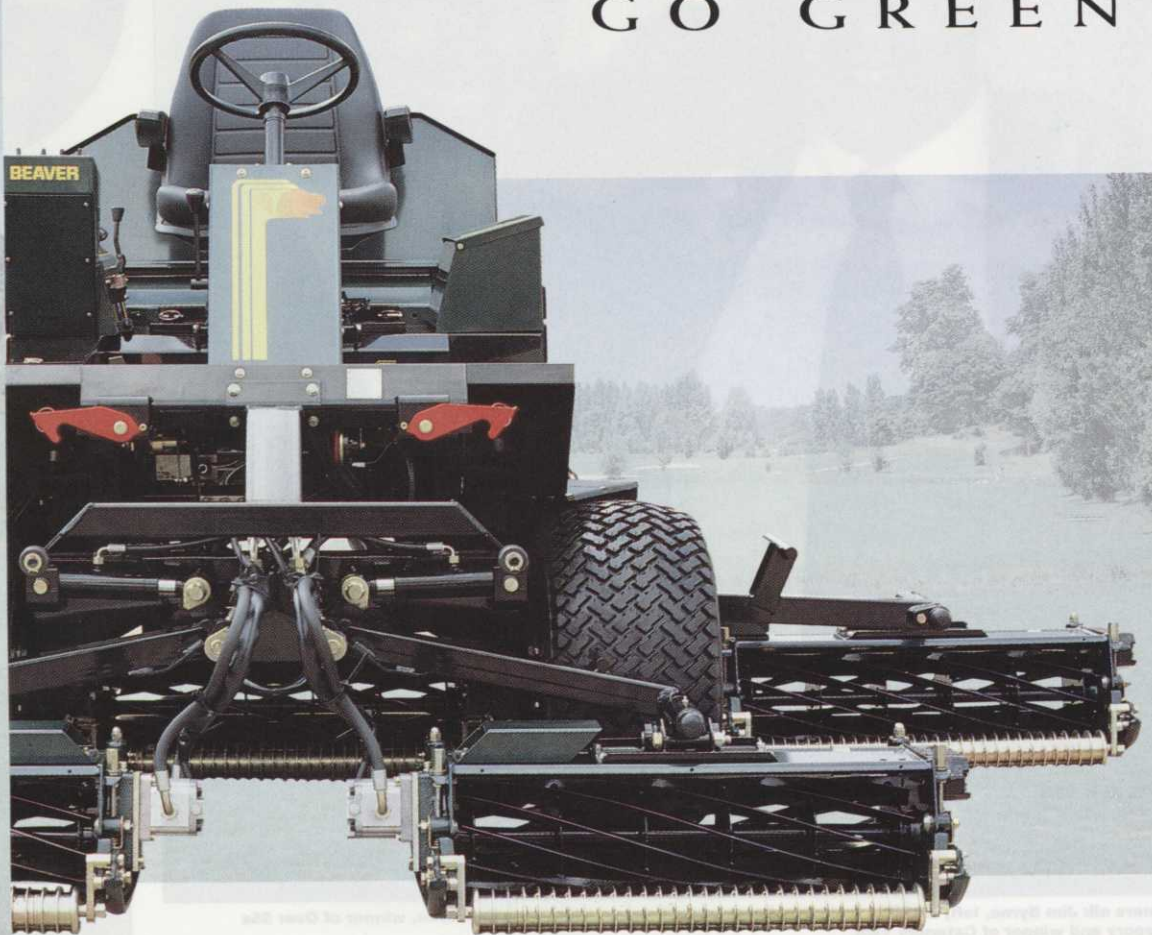
Left: Our sponsors: Iseki's Ian Pogson and Peter Powell.

Below: Iseki's Bill Murton, left, with Under 21s winner Stuart Cameron and BIGGA Chairman Roy Kates



Ollie English - Nearest the pin

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Looking for a new greensmower, yet overwhelmed by the range on offer? MICHAEL BIRD discusses the facts and highlights some of the latest innovations designed to produce the ultimate finish on your greens

Greenkeepers need to keep an open mind about the type of machine they select to cut their golf greens, stresses Steve Isaac, agronomist with the Sports Turf Research Institute. "There is little doubt that both the pedestrian and ride-on greens mower have a role to play at the majority of golf clubs in Britain today," he comments. "Experience has shown that those courses which concentrate solely on using just one type of mower usually achieve poorer results than those which adopt a combined approach."

On most new and existing golf courses, time and labour availability have become the major factors dictating the ultimate choice of machine. With increasing constraints on both the quantity and quality of green staff, the ride-on triple mower has taken the lion's share of sales in recent years.

However, there is a growing conflict of interests between those who want to see all → 29

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- Hags Castle Club
- Harpenden Golf Club
- Kinross (Green Hotel)
- Leek Golf Club
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- Mere Golf & Country Club
- Milltown Golf Club (Dublin)
- Muirfield (Gullane) Golf Club
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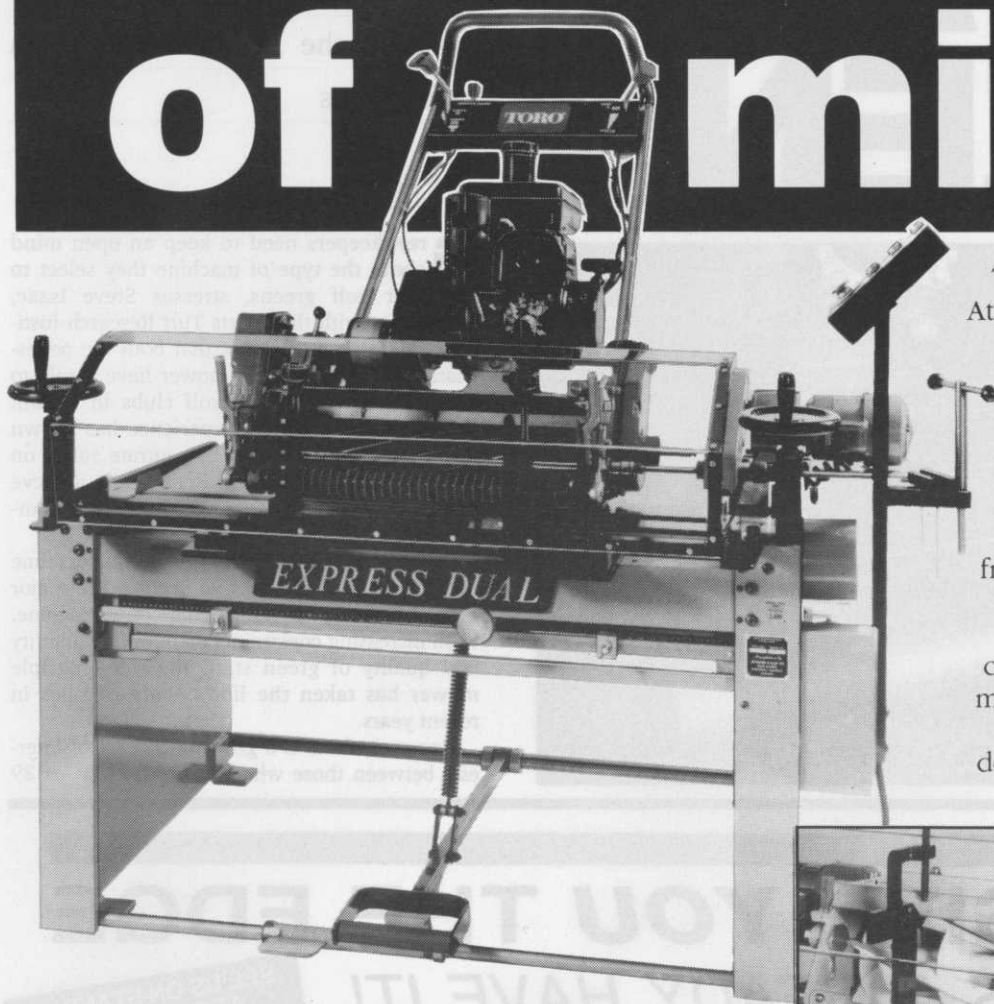


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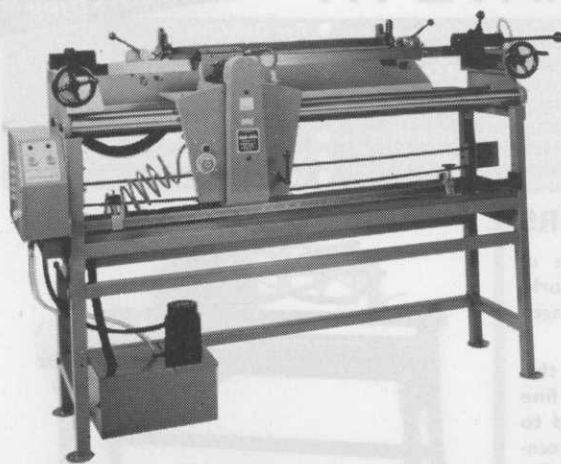
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'Inadequate instruction is probably the major factor for poor hand mowing results'

27 ➔ greens cut in advance of golfers stepping onto the first tee in the morning and those who expect their course to resemble those featured in televised tournaments from around the world. Such is the power of the commentator, camera and satellite dish!

As Steve Isaac points out, there are few courses with sufficient staff and machines available to hand mow every day, and complete the task in good time. "However, working in partnership with a ride-on triple, it is certainly practicable to use pedestrian mowers to give the greens that special finish before an important match or tournament," he says. It is this ability to give greens an "ironed" appearance, enhanced by the narrower roller stripes, that has brought pedestrian mowers back into the limelight over the past few years. In addition, says Mr Isaac, they can help the greenkeeper keep a closer eye on the condition of the whole green, often providing earlier warning of disease, thatch build-up and turf pests than is possible with the more remote ride-on.

There is also a growing reluctance on the part of a number of clubs to pay the price demanded of some ride-on greens mowers – an understandable reaction when one considers that the necessary complement of pedestrian machine for an 18 hole course can be had for as much as £15,000 less than one ride-on triple.

That sum, they reason, will go a long way towards paying the wages of another member of staff who will then be available for work on the whole course when the hand mowing is completed.

Steve Isaac comments that there had also been recent problems in the development of the triple mower, with reports of powered grooming attachments and grooved rollers causing damage to the turf when perimeter cutting a green. "Steering mowing heads appear to have largely overcome this problem, but users should beware of over-compensation when turning at sharp angles, resulting in missed areas."

That stated, Mr Isaac believes that a correctly set ride-on triple is still more likely to give a better overall cut than a walk-behind mower. "There is definitely a greater likelihood of variation in cut across a green from a pedestrian machine which has to cover



Ian Howard, Dennis's sales director, demonstrates the ease of removal of the interchangeable cassette head on the new FT510 mower

a far greater area at a single, narrower width," he says. "And one should not forget that the human foot causes more compaction than any mower." For these reasons, Mr Isaac advocates thorough training of all greenkeepers in the correct use and setting of their pedestrian mowers.

"Inadequate instruction is probably the major factor for poor hand mowing results," he points out. "Turning to the ride-on machine, training is also important and the greenkeeper must ensure that the mower provides good visibility, that the grass catchers can be removed easily and that there is sufficient engine power to get round the whole course without labouring."

This last point is particularly important with the increasing availability of all-wheel drive, power steering and attachments such as groomers and verti-reels which have greatly extended the versatility of the triple greens mower.

One company aiming to achieve

a similar feat with the pedestrian machine is Dennis, whose new FT510 mower is available with a range of interchangeable cassette head options. Offered with a choice of five-or nine-bladed 20in wide cutting cylinders, light or heavy scarifiers, a verti-cutter and brush, the FT510's cassette heads can be changed in less than a minute without a spanner.

Ian Howard, the company sales director, says the machine was designed and built first and foremost as a mower. "The various cassette options have not compromised its mowing qualities," he points out. "What they have done is extend its versatility to help the greenkeeper with his seasonal turf maintenance programmes in a more cost-effective way."

Available with a 5.5hp Kubota or Honda engine, the FT510 features independent rear roller and cassette head drive, fully floating handle bars and infinitely variable drive speed, giving a cut rate from 150 cuts/yard upwards. It costs from £1,695.

The latest addition to Jacobsen's greens mower range is the walk-behind Greens King 422 offered with the company's Turf Groomer as an option. This tournament standard mower has an 11-bladed reel giving a cutting frequency of 213 cuts per yard down to 5/64in (2mm). An interesting feature of the mower is an adjustable weight system which allows the operator to remove weight from the frame to maintain a constant balance irrespective of whether the machine is fitted with the Turf Groomer or a solid or grooved front roller.

To reduce wear and down-time, the 422 has an automotive-type clutch assembly which has been bench-tested for more than 700,000 operations – equivalent to 70 years of normal use, according to Jacobsen.

Other components designed to minimise maintenance time include a Kevlar-reinforced three belt drive line, Teflon-lined bearings and a reel, bedknife and traction roller which drop out for service in a couple of minutes.

Powered by a 4hp Honda engine, the Greens King 422 has a 22in cut width, a choice of three different bedknives and safety interlock to prevent start-up if any drives are engaged. It is priced at £3,360. The Turf Groomer option costs £870.

While the user of the walk-behind 422 may have few worries about oil leaks, it is a different story when it comes to an all-hydrostatic ride-on. For that reason, Jacobsen now offers its GreenSentry leak detector as a £360 option on the Greens King IV mower. This attachment incorporates a separate tank to allow for the outflow of oil when filling hydraulic rams before the alarm sounds.

Toro fits its Turf Guardian oil loss detector as standard on its latest ride-on triple – the Greensmaster 3100. This mower is said to be the lightest on the market at about 948lbs, as well as having very low noise and vibration levels.

According to David Boothby of distributor Lely UK, these benefits come primarily from the use of a carefully-mounted and designed Vanguard petrol engine which offers remarkable economy at around 0.5gal/hour. "We have not noticed any resistance to the fact that we do not fit a ➔ 31

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