

Reports and photographs by SCOTT MacCALLUM



The Americas: Winning team in the first Hayter International Cup

Greenkeeping unites under Hayter banner

The Hayter International Cup brought greenkeepers together from all four corners of the globe and friendships were forged both on and off the golf course.

The first time you play sport at representative level is a daunting experience. Whether it be for your class, your school, a club or, for the chosen few, your county or country or even, in the case of the Ryder Cup, your Tour or continent, the weight of responsibility is enormous and the desire not to let anyone down huge.

Well spare a thought for those 24 players in the Hayter International Cup at West Lancashire Golf Club. They weren't just playing for themselves. They didn't even have the hopes of their club, county or country riding on them.



Before the off!

They were the representatives of, on one side, the entire continent of the Americas and, for the other team, the Rest of the World!

If carrying the banner on behalf of billions played on the minds it certainly didn't weigh them down. Quite the reverse in fact. It inspired them to reach some giddy heights in both the morning

fourball matches and the afternoon singles.

The match could have swung either way and in fact was decided by two matches in the final three out on the course which both went down the final hole. Had the Rest of the World extracted two wins instead of a defeat and a half the match would have been forced into a play-off with a player selected by each Captain sent out to play four extra holes and then sudden death if required.

The 10-8 result to the Americas ensured that a new and exciting competition had been born and fuelled the resolve of both teams. One, to retain the Cup when it is played on their home soil in two years time and the other to go over to the States and bring it back... although with players from Australia, Sweden, Ger-

many, Spain and the home countries "back" is perhaps a misnomer. The Cup will, in fact, reside at Aldwark Manor if and when the result is reversed.

First of all though it has steeled both those players who competed this year and BIGGA members to make the Hayter Challenge a priority next year. Finishing top player of your resident country with a handicap of 12 and under will guarantee a place on the Rest of the World team.

But golf was not the only reason for the event. As a forum for interchanging ideas and greenkeeping practices and generally learning about other countries it was unmatched and the 24 players, two Captains, Association officials wives, partners and caddies all now have firm friendships in place which will last lifetimes.

As Americas Captain Bruce

Williams, and President of the GCSAA said at the closing banquet.

"The 24 players who qualified, or were chosen, to compete for their team could not have been bettered as ambassadors for their profession, or their respective countries and Associations."

Dean Cleaver Rest of the World Captain and Chairman of BIGGA was fulsome in his praise of Hayter for the commitment shown by the company and, in particular, Kim Macfie, the Sales and Marketing Director whose concept the match was.

HAYTER INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

FOURBALLS

Americas Names First.

- Jim Dusch (US) and Randy Nichols (US) halved with Derek McJannet (Eng) and Andreas Kauler (Ger).
- Sam Williamson (US) and Thom Charters (Can) halved with Michael Dohlon (Swe) and Peter Schumacher (Aus).
- Ricardo De Udaeta (Arg) and Paul McGinnis (US) lost to Fredrik Goa (Swe) and Cosme Bergareche (Sp) 2&1.
- Doug Meyer (Can) and Gary Grigg (US) halved with Sandy Reid (Sco) and Ignacio Soto Alacron (Sp)
- Dean Morrison (Can) and George Renault (US) beat Brian Mulholland (NI) and Matthias Ehser (Ger) 6&5
- Bob Heron (Can) and Eduardo Torres (Arg) beat Ian Buckley (Wal) and Peter Frewin (Aus) 1up.
- Fourball Result: Americas 3.5 Rest of the World 2.5.

SINGLES

Americas Names First

- Jim Dusch beat Michael Dohlon 5&4.
- Randy Nichols beat Peter Schumacher 5&4.
- Sam Williamson lost to Derek McJannet 2&1.
- Thom Charters beat Andreas Kauler 3&1.
- Ricardo De Udaeta beat Sandy Reid 2up.
- Paul McGinnis lost to Ignacio Soto Alacron 5&3.
- Doug Meyer beat Fredrik Goa 1up.
- Gary Grigg lost to Cosme Bergareche 4&3.
- Dean Morrison halved with Ian Buckley.
- George Renault lost to Peter Frewin 7&6.
- Bob Heron beat Brian Mulholland 1 up.
- Eduardo Torres lost to Matthias Ehser 3&2.
- Singles Result: Americas 6.5 Rest of the World 5.5.
- Overall Result: Americas 10 Rest of the World 8.



Clockwise, from top, a new job for Tony Bourke, as assistant scoreboard operator; Dean Cleaver presents Bob Heron with the International Medal Winner's prize; Dean Morrison, with his wife as caddie; Thom Charters defeats Andreas Kauler; Tony Bourke, Neil Thomas and Kim Macfie walk the course; a tense moment for Michael Dohlon



THE ALTERNATIVE PRIZE TABLE

- The Three Consecutive Shots of the Week Cup: Bob Heron nett albatross at the 11th in match with Brian Mulholland – two drivers and a single putt.
- The Putt of the Week Shield: Ian Buckley's 30 footer for birdie on the 17th to go one up in his match with Dean Morrison.
- The Comeback of the Week Spoon: A sub plot was a match between Steve Mona and Bruce Williams and Kim Macfie and Paul Bevan of Australia which resulted in the first going to America 8&7 and the return at Fairhaven going to the Scottish Aussie combination 6&5.
- The Achievement of the Week False Teeth: Bert Cross' pronunciation of the players' names on the 1st tee was undoubtedly one of the

- great moments in sport and well worth the hours of practice the night before.
- The Outside Interference of the Week Ashtray: Trevor Leger reporting for Golf Course News also got into the action when he came across a ball during a search. He told the stricken player of the discovery only to be told it was the wrong one. Trevor picked it up just as the player said, "Ah. I changed ball at the last hole. It is mine." Oops.
- The Injured Warrior of the Week Band aid: Gary Grigg who battle through the afternoon round while his feet were attacked by a plague of blisters.
- The Mr and Mrs Gold Rings: Ignacio Soto Alacron who left Fairhaven to get married in Spain

- on Saturday and return to Scotland on honeymoon.
- The "Why did I come here again?" Loving Cup: David Goldie who travelled all the way from Australia to caddie for Peter Frewin, got a better offer from a young lady he met of the flight over and missed the match!
- The Wally of the Week Quach: The unnamed person who left all his shirts and underwear in a drawer in the Royal Hotel, Waterloo, and only realised after he had checked into the hotel in Lytham. Forced into some emergency shopping.
- The Wally of the Week Rose Bowl: The unnamed person who left her coat in the Blundellsands Hotel and only realised after



The vanquished: Beaten but not unbowed



Doug Meyer escapes from a bunker

Northern lights shine brightly at Fairhaven

Fairhaven Golf Club is a tough golf course. It is long, peppered with bunkers and difficult enough to ensure that even in perfect conditions the lowest score in the Open Qualifying in July was a 64.

Not bad when it is being attacked by some of the best players in the world. The Course Record 64 came in fact from American Justin Leonard who has won on the US Tour this year.

So when the winds got up on the morning of the Hayter National Final and the tees were back as far as they could go we knew scoring was going to be at a premium.

A total of 63 players plus 23 in the Hayter International Medal played the course with handicaps ranging from +1 upwards and the best gross score didn't break 80.

In fact Graeme MacDonald's 81 was the best score of the day and although, no doubt one of the highest scores he has made in this excellent summer he has been having he should be extremely proud.

Another group who should hold their heads high are those nine who represented the Northern Region who won the team prize by a mammoth 12 shots.

A combination of strong leadership from Captain Bob Lupton, consistent play and a will power which dragged them out of Blackpool's night spots before the over indulging had a chance to affect their game ensured that they would be too good for the other six regions on the day.

One man who certainly didn't rave the night away before the match and who reaped the benefits was Toddy Huddleston of the South East Section. Toddy, who plays of 24, shot an extremely respectable nett 81, which although beaten by quite a few others during the day, had a special claim to fame. Toddy is 82 and by some considerable margin he was the only man to beat his age on the day. In fact, if 22 handicapper Brendon Harman of Eire lived to 108 he would only just have equalled his age on his nett score.

arriving in Lytham.

■ The Wally of the Week Coat Hanger: Peter Schumacher who left his best suit in the Fernlea Hotel and had to have it sent back to Australia.

■ The New Job of the Week Statuette of a Swinging Golfer: Tony Bourke, Managing Director of Hayters, promoted to Assistant Scoreboard Operator.

■ The Dual Nationality Passport: Derek McJannet and Ian Buckley who qualified as an Englishman and a Welshman respectively but who are very definitely Scottish and English.

■ The Mark Thatcher Book of the Road: Brian Mulholland and Terry Crawford who were aiming for Lytham but hit Manchester instead.

■ The Heroes of the Week Gold Medals: John Muir and Peter Simpson who produced wonderful courses for the matches to take place.

■ The Unsung Heroes of the Week Shield: The North West Section members who gave up their weekends to ensure everyone arrived at their appointed hotels on time.

■ The Bloody Typical Brickbat: British Rail for transporting some of the team members an hour up the track from London and then going all the way back again because of a fire.

■ The Bloody Typical Bowl of Raspberries: British Airways for leaving someone's luggage at Heathrow and not putting it on the shuttle to Manchester.



Stephen Heap is presented with the overall prize by Bruce Williams

Gala dinner had flavour of Wales

The severity of course and weather can also be witnessed by the fact that the best nett score of the day was a 74 – a score with which very few of the finalists would even have qualified for the final.

Stephen Heap, of the Midland Region's Rothey Park GC, was the overall winner off his handicap of 24 which gave him a one stroke win over Brough GC's Paul Neve of the winning Northern Region team.

The gala dinner in the evening had a Welsh flavour to it with the six course meal including leek soup, Welsh rack of lamb and Welsh Cheese followed by the Cor Meibion Ardurwy Male Voice Choir from near Harlech in Wales – a choir which included the Head Greenkeeper at Royal St David's Golf Club.

HAYTER CHALLENGE RESULTS

(All scores Nett unless stated)

- Regional Team Prize: 1. Northern Region 642 2. Midland Region 654.
- Overall Individual Winner: Stephen Heap, Midland, 74.
- Category 1. Handicap 0-9. 1. Paul Fitzgerald, Eire, 77; 2. Graeme MacDonald, Midland, 78 (BIH); Alex Russell, Northern, 78.
- Category 2. Handicap 10-18. 1. Philip Wentworth, South West and South Wales, 76; 2. Robert Washbrook, South East, 77; 3. Martin O'Shea, Eire, 80.
- Category 3. Handicap 19-28. 1. Stephen Heap, Midland, 74; 2. Paul Neve, Northern, 75; 3. John Cuffey, Northern Ireland, 76.
- Best Gross: Graeme MacDonald, Midland, 81 (Gross).
- Over 55s: Tom Mulqueen, Eire, 80.
- Under 21: David Gibbons, Midland, 80 (BIH)
- Putting Competition. Brian Hillen, Scotland, 29.
- Longest Drive: Bob Walker, South West and South Wales
- Nearest the Pin: James Logan, Northern Ireland.
- Special Prize: Toddy Huddleston, South East, whose nett score of 81 beat his age by a shot.
- International Medal. 1. Bob Heron, Canada, 76; 2. Sandy Reid, Scotland, 78; 3. Doug Meyer, Canada, 79. (BIH).



The winning Northern team. Bob Lupton receives the prize from Hayters MD, Tony Bourke



Participating teams, from top: Eire, Northern Ireland, South East, Midland, Scotland and South West & South Wales



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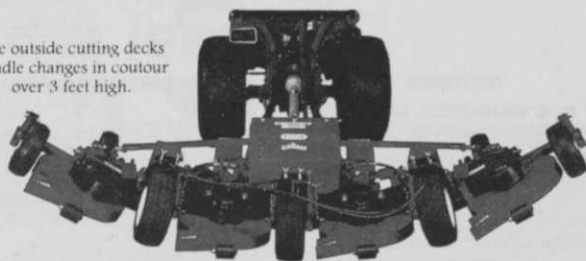
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Slowing down for the 'fall'

OCTOBER

BY BOB MAIBUSCH, CGCS, MGC

Hinsdale Golf Club is one of the older Golf Clubs (c1898) in the Midwestern United States., although that seems relatively new compared to many of the clubs in the UK. The current Golf Course (the club's third location) was designed by Donald Ross in the early 1900s. It is heavily wooded with over 100 species of trees and is on rolling terrain.

Being located near Chicago in the northern United States, October is typically a time that the course is beginning to slow down. Although it is in my estimation, the best time of year to play because of cooler temperatures and the beauty of the changing colours in foliage, we generally see a slow down of play. This affords the grounds staff the opportunity to perform improvement projects without inconveniencing a majority of the club's membership. Our fall (autumn) improvement projects are scheduled to be completed before winter sets in, but adverse weather conditions often

mean we complete these projects through the snow, frost and ice of winter so that they will be ready for the onset of spring.

The bulk of improvement projects at Hinsdale Golf Club are completed by our in house grounds staff. I am extremely fortunate to have a dedicated group of veteran staff members. Their experience allows us to perform these improvement projects in-house at a considerably lower cost then contracting out the work. Typically, we work along with a golf course architect and our membership committees to finalise improvement plans. At that point, if a considerable amount of earth moving is required we will bring in a shaper to rough out the work. Our staff will commence grading, drainage, sodding, irrigation or whatever else is necessary to com-

plete the project. In the last three seasons we have completed renovation of all the clubs 53 greenside bunkers and sodding of all green surrounds, a number of new tees and tee renovation construction, dredging of an existing three acre lake including removing approximately 25,000 cubic yards of material and setting in place by hand approximately 1.5 million pounds of boulders along the pond edge, new green construction, renovation of formal and informal landscape gardens, cart path construction assistance in a U.S \$2.5 million clubhouse renovation, oversee construction of a 4,000 square foot golf cart storage facility, construction of a new irrigation pump house, and oversight assistance in the planning of the facilities parking lots, and numerous other smaller projects.

This fall (1996) we are overseeing the installation of a new golf course irrigation system. This work, being performed by an outside contractor, will result in a radio controlled Rainbird system. We investigated the possibility of using triple row irrigation on the fairways but it was determined that the proximity of the trees on this wooded golf course would not allow it. We had resigned ourselves to a typical double row irrigation system with some trepidation on my part because of the membership's desire to have greens rough during the hot, dry Chicago summers and my intent to keep the bent grass fairways dry and firm. Our solution is to install perimeter watering on all of the fairways. In addition to the double row of part circle (180 degrees) irrigation heads which will only irrigate the blue grass roughs. It is believed that we are the first golf club in the US to install this type of system.

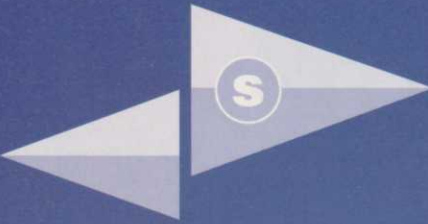
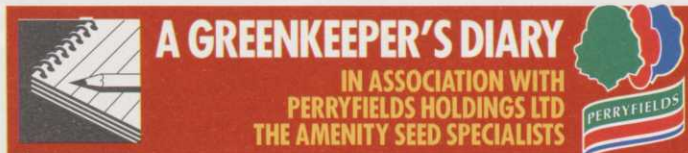
In addition to the irrigation system, the grounds staff will be constructing six new tees and beginning renovation of the golf courses 32 fairway bunkers. This will likely keep us busy until the snow covers the ground.

While these aggressive improvement schedules put significant stress on the staff and myself, particularly when we are expected to

complete with them with no diminished quality to the rest of the golf course, there is no great degree of satisfaction in seeing them completed. We all take great pride in the work that we do and the obvious enjoyment of the majority of the membership.

One of the key elements in gaining approval for projects and allaying members fears concerning their effect on playability is to maintain a high degree of communication. I accomplish this by attending all of the clubs Board of Directors and related committee meetings as an active participant. Additionally, I write a monthly article for our club's membership newsletter, post daily or weekly updates in the club house locker rooms, make myself available at least a portion of each day at the first tee, and eat my noon meal in the member's dining area so that I am available to answer questions, respond to criticisms or accept congratulations. This goes along way in satisfying members' curiosities and concerns about what we are doing to their golf facility, and gives me a significant advantage in attempting to anticipate their future wants and needs.

Another method that I have found invaluable in performing improvement projects in the most efficient and successful manner as possible to utilise the expertise of my fellow management professionals. By remaining active in local, national and international golf course management associations I have been fortunate enough to develop a network of outstanding individuals. Virtually every golf course improvement project that we might consider has been performed at some time by another club. Before we embark on a project that we have limited experience in I will contact that individual who has some experience in the procedure to ascertain the pitfalls and shortcuts that they encountered during their improvement process. This goes a long way to minimising the frustrations inherent when venturing into new territory, and ultimately saves my employer money by increasing our efficiency in seeing it through to a successful completion.



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Amphibious mowers

Despite all the horrific examples from the past, some golf architects never seem to learn from past mistakes and perpetuate design faults which make subsequent greenkeeping a nightmare.

Common mistakes are the over-contouring of greens, resulting in minimising available pin places and creating virtually insoluble maintenance problems and bringing surrounding banks and slopes too close to the green, thus making it impossible to turn a triplex mower off the putting surface and on the surrounds which inevitably creates worn and scalped bare areas on the perimeter.

Another is to build the greenside bunkers so close to the putting surface that the narrow surround cannot be mown or worse still, the machine slides off into the bunker. Sand blasted out of such close bunkers creates serious maintenance difficulties.

Equally, when built-up slopes or batters of greens and tees are too steep and especially where there is a water feature at the foot of the slope, the machine ends up in the water.

It is hoped that architects or designers will listen to Course Manager and greenkeepers on the practical implication of their design – it is after all they who will have to maintain the course when completed. Gimmicky designs do not impress those with knowledge and experience and observance of a few sensible rules can avoid having to fit triplex mowers with snorkels – quite apart from the much more serious factor of injury to the operators.

Arne van Amerongen
Germany

Axe to grind

Re: Septembers's article on mower grinding.

Having read the article on grinding reels and bedknives, there are several points to clarify and correct. The article mentions 'relief angle' and 'single-blade' grinding as if they are two different techniques, they are not!

'Single-blade' grinding is the term used throughout the 1960s, 70s and 80s to describe the simple process of grinding each blade of a cutting cylinder individually. It was never intended to be accurate, just a simple way to 'true up' damaged or re-bladed cutting cylinders. The reason being that 'single-blade' grinding removes metal much faster than conventional 'spin grinding'.

'Relief grinding' as now performed, is similar to 'single-blade' grinding but on some machines much more accurate. It removes unnecessary metal from the 'heel' or back edge of each cylinder blade thereby reducing friction instantly. The benefits are enormous. Bottom blades last considerably longer, there is less need for regular adjustment as due to there being less metal to metal contact there is less wear. Lower fuel bills can be anticipated in addition to fewer problems with engines and transmissions. The grass being cut much 'cleaner' leaves less likelihood of 'yellow edges' or disease ensuing.

Drier summers experienced since around 1989 have exposed the short comings of spin grinding, which only 'true up' a worn cylinder by removing the 'heel' or high unworn section on the back edge of the reel blades. During dry spells, the bottom blades and reels heat up as there is no moisture to cool or lubricate them. The wear pattern of the bedknives often leave 'tram-lines' or stripes on the new cut grass.

Interestingly, Americans have ground reels with 'relief angles' for decades but as their grinding machinery and methods leave blades of discrepant heights, 'back-lapping' or 'spin grinding' is part of their grinding process to ensure that all the blades end up all the same height.

Time has moved on, we at Hunter Grinders have developed machinery and techniques which have raised standards of grinding throughout the grass machinery trade generally. 'Relief angle' grinding as we now teach is totally accurate, each blade cuts true and there is no need to spin or to back lap afterwards.

There are, in fact, three ways to grind a reel, and this is another area where the article has possibly confused readers.

Method One. 'Spin grinding' - The old fashioned established way, which grinds the high 'heel' from the back of each worn blade but which leaves a lot of metal to metal contact to create friction and 'rub' or wear out the bottom blades.

Method Two. 'Partial relief angle grinding' - Whereby metal is ground at an angle from the rear of each blade either prior to or after spin grinding. An improvement over total spin grinding but not as effective as Method Three.

Method Three. 'Total relief angle grinding' - A proven technique, possible on our machines whereby there is no need to spin or to back-lap after grinding. Each blade cuts true. In addition we have water coolant applied during the grinding process to quench the removed grinding dust and to prevent any heat distortion. Finally our machines are manufactured to grind reels perfectly parallel to a tolerance better than 0.004 over a 30" long reel. This eliminates any stress on the reel bearings due to grinding tapered reels. This accuracy is 'built in' and requires no thought or adjustment by the operator to obtain.

Finally, the article failed to mention that we do in fact produce two types of grinding machine. In addition to our JUNO machine, no mention was made of our heavier JUPITER machine installed in many golf course workshops. The JUPITER has the most versatile specification of any grinding machine. It offers a choice of either 'total relief angle' grinding, 'partial relief angle' grinding or fully automatic 'spin grinding' with the choice of 'In-Situ' or out of the mower grinding. The usefulness of water coolant is appreciated by our many clients in addition to the fact that our machines also precision grind the bed knives.

Eric and Michael Hunter
Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year Regional Finals

After more than 1000 miles and five days of intensive, stimulating but tiring interviews, the regional judges, Pat Murphy, BIGGA Vice Chairman, Peter Mansfield, Bob Bevan and David Cole, all from Lely (UK) and yours truly finally came up with eight national finalists.

This is the third year that I have had the privilege to be part of the regional panel of judges and I was, again, very pleasantly surprised by the extremely high standard of new entrants to the profession of greenkeeping and the high levels of enthusiasm, knowledge and character shown by all of the Regional Finalists. A full report on the National Finalists appears elsewhere in this magazine but I would like to congratulate all of the Regional Finalists and, especially, Alasdair McLean, Stephen Privett, John Donnelly, Fintan Brennan, John Bachelor, Noel Greene, Michael Hartney and Karl Weston for being selected for the National Final, which will take place on Sunday/Monday 27/28 October 1996 at Aldwark Manor.

Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Competition

This year saw the largest number of entries, ever, for the Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Competition. After a long and difficult selection process by each Region, the judges finally selected their five National Finalists. They are Stewart McBain from Nigg Bay Golf Course, near Aberdeen, representing the Scottish Region, David Leach, from North Manchester Golf Course, representing the Northern Region, Cedric Gough from Broadway Golf Club, representing Midlands Region, Huw Morgan from Wilderness Golf Club, representing the South East Region and Paul Jenkins from Lilybrook Golf Club, representing the South West Region. All five golf courses will be re-inspected, this time by Pat Murphy, BIGGA Vice Chairman and Richard Minton, from Miracle, prior to the National final, which will be held at Aldwark Manor on 1/2 December 1996.

Regional Supervisory Management Courses

From some of the answers given during the recent Student Greenkeeper of the Year Competition, it was apparent that some Golf Clubs are still not complying with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act. There are still a few places available on Regional based Health and Safety at Work Courses where you could find out if your club meets the requirements. Contact BIGGA immediately to reserve your place.

Aldwark Manor Supervisory Management Courses

Unfortunately, due to the very poor response to advertising of the Aldwark Manor Supervisory Management Courses Modules 3 and 4 have had to be cancelled. However, the response to Modules 1, 2 and 5 has been better than expected ensuring that these three modules should be a success.

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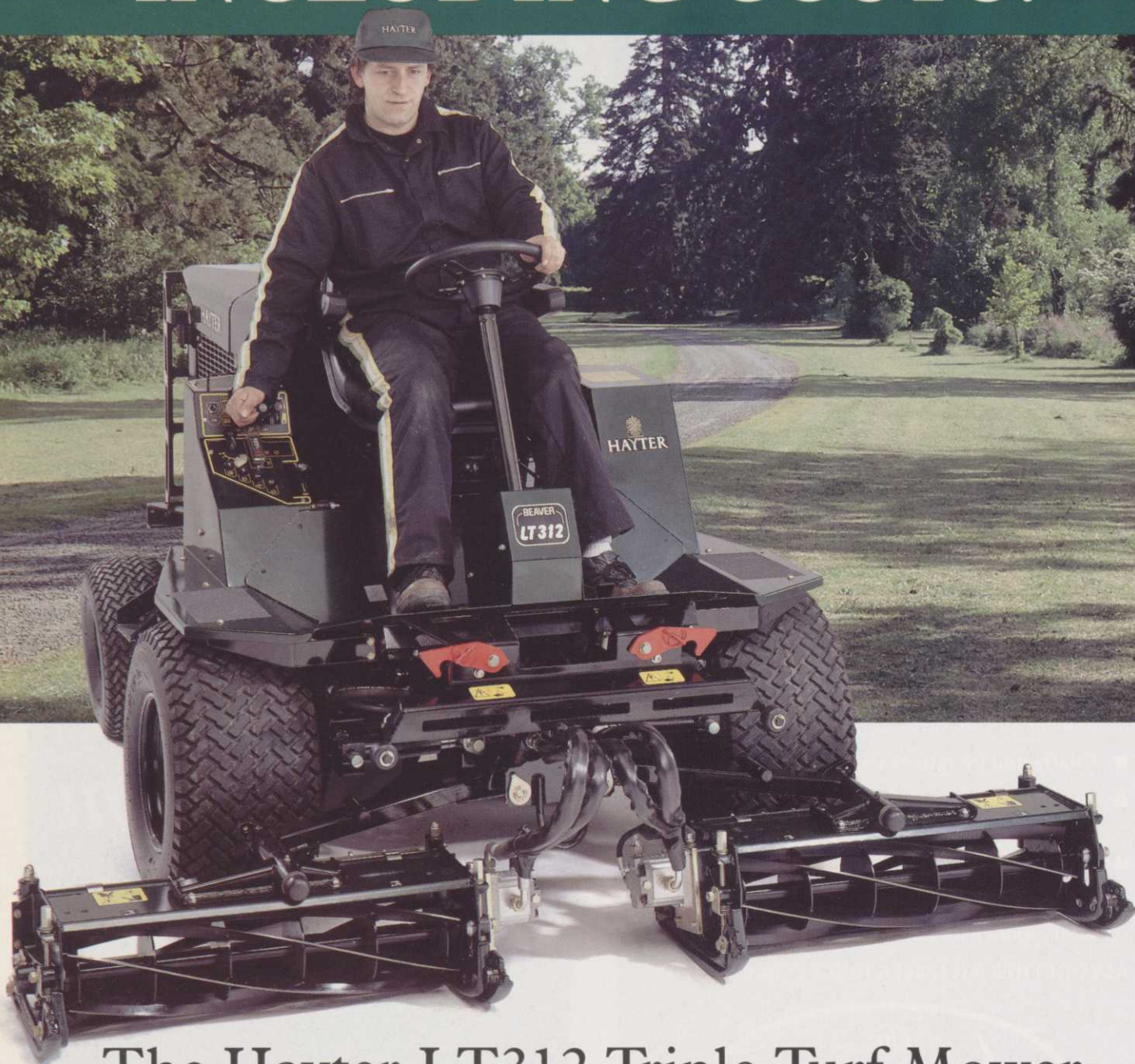
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