

Teestar hydraulic triple mower, the Greenstar features exceptional performance and quiet operation.

Other new exhibits include trailed and rear mounted versions of the Grainskeeper Greens Brush (for efficient integration of Top-dressing), Groundforce and Taskforce low cost utility vehicles and the latest 4 Wheel Drive Turf-blazer 1280T turbocharged 126" cut rotary mower.

Huxley's sell and hire their range of British and imported turf care machinery direct for their branches in Alresford (Hampshire) and Broxburn (Scotland), and through selected dealers in other areas. For further information contact Paul Huxley 01962 733222.

Marlwood Ltd - Stand Demo B26 - the X-Series Articulators are our third generation of floating rotary mower. They are more

productive, automatically fold for transport, are more accurate, low maintenance, have stronger frames, and are 300 pounds lighter than previous models. Larger tyres decrease ground compaction, perform better in rougher terrain, and allow faster cutting speeds. The drive system also transfers more power to the blades for improved performance in long and wet grass. Contact: Marlwood Limited, Court Lodge Farm, Forge Lane, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 0HQ. Tel: 01622 728718; Fax 01622 728720.

Course Care - Stand T45 - Saltex will see the launch of Course Care's "Course Cap" and the latest in oil interceptors.

With approval to European Standard prEN812 the Course Cap provides wearers with stylish and comfortable protection from incidental head impact - includ-

ing flying balls - and is a much demanded addition to the Course Wear wardrobe.

The oil interceptors on display will be complemented by the presence of Course Care's range of environmental services featuring waste oil collection, biodegradable grease, and an oil absorbent produced from coconut fibres for those who have an environmental policy which precludes the use of peat.

For a Course Wear brochure and details on all the Course Care range call 01535 611103.

Avoncrop Amenity Products - Stand H71-H72 - offer a comprehensive range of Chemicals, Fertiliser, Grass Seed Mixtures, Top Dressing and Line Marking Materials.

Strategically positioned depots at Sandford, near Bristol, and Bracknell, Berkshire, enable Avoncrop to offer an efficient

delivery service throughout Southern England and South Wales, backed up by an experienced Field Sales Team.

At the 1997 Saltex Show, we are launching an advanced range of Microbial Soil Inoculate, Plant Nutrient and Soil Management products manufactured by Green Releaf of Jacksonville, Florida, U.S.A.

Systematrix Ltd - Stand CA26 - Systematrix will be exhibiting the ITM system of modular turf.

Modular turf trays have been used at the Baltusrol for golf practice tees and in early 1997, 6400 were exported to the Giants stadium in New Jersey USA for the Metrostars soccer team.

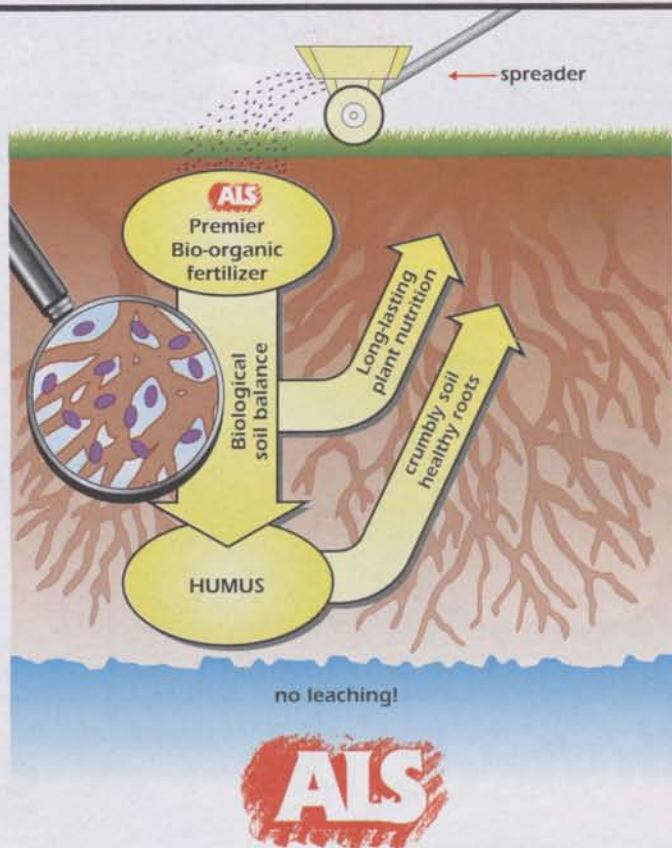
The modules have an excess water flow rate of 170mm per hour and are ventilated with the Sub Air system for heating or cooling the turf. ITM will be

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exhibited by the UK dealer Inturf Ltd on stand no CA26.

Risboro Turf – Stand A18 – Last year's winner of Turf Management's New Product Award – the unique Little John Hydraulic-driven scarifier now has an extensive range of attachments.

RTS's Sorrel rollers open surfaces so water, air and nutrients reaches the root zones. A new tractor-mounted slitter joins the Big Willy pedestrian aerator and the 1.5m linkage-mounted Hercules.

For workshops there are grinders and back-lappers from Neary and the Park Brushcutter Workstations.

The Stop & Go Tyre Plugger is a 'must' for every tool box. Other equipment worth seeing includes ball-pickers, turfcare rakes, drag mats and brushes, plus Agria two-wheel tractors and attachments.

There is a difference between simply grinding and sharpening mowers as visitors to **Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd** – Stand R39 – will see.

Hunter's leads the field in the method of accurate 'Relief Angle' grinding. 'Relief' grinding is simply grinding each blade of the cylinder with a clearance angle. When performed correctly, it results in mowers that are easier to set, produce a cleaner cut and creates hardly any friction between cylinder and bedknife thus causing less wear. Blades are known to last up to four times longer after being 'relief' ground.

Among the grinders being demonstrated, are its popular Jupiter and Juno machines.

Hunter's well engineered products have acquired an excellent reputation over the last 25 years for a 'quality' grind and are used at numerous leading Golf and Sports Clubs, Local Authorities,

Turf Grower and mower repair workshops throughout the world.

Symbio – Stand F37 – launches Symbio Resister for the Biological Control of Fungal Disease. Symbio is pleased to introduce a new concept in disease control – Symbio Resister which combines the power of microbes and fungi to degrade thatch and assimilate nutrients into the plant with microbes specially selected for their ability to prevent the growth of pathogenic fungi – including fusarium.

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Symbio Resister can be applied in early spring or late summer or autumn. It may take some time to build up the microbial population

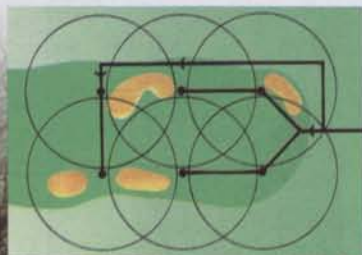
in your greens, but one application of Symbio Resister may work for up to six months whilst accelerating/enhancing the effect of Symbio's existing products Symbio Green Circle, Symbio Thatch Eater and Symbio Black Layer Treatment.

Rolawn (Turf Growers) Limited – Stand CA11 – have a network of 16 turf depots staffed by Rolawn's own employees. The depots sell turf on a no minimum order basis. Rolawn offer free mechanical off loading, free literature and free samples. Inspect before you buy, free samples can be dispatched anywhere in the UK within 24 hours.

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This Autumn/Winter Rolawn have issued a price beating challenge on greens turf. Both grades of greens turf are included in the deal.

Kawasaki - Stand W71 - launched just after SALTEX last year the Kawasaki Mule 550 will be shown for the first time this

year. A development of the extremely popular Mule 500 the major change is the provision of a bench front seat enabling two people transport. Minor modifications to the transmission and engine have improved economy and smoothness of operation to this very popular low ground pressure workhorse. The larger Mule 2500 series will also be shown in both two and four wheel drive versions together with a range of accessories.

Of great interest to professional ground care personnel will be the launch of a completely new range of ground care equipment by Kawasaki on Stand W17. All are welcome!

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club. Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star...

Name: **Martin Kohler**
Age: **19**
Club: **Swanston GC**
Position: **2nd Assistant**



1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
Three years.

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
SVQ Level 3 in Greenkeeping and Horticulture at Oatridge College.

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Cutting greens by hand.

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Knapsack spraying.

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?
None. I've always wanted to be in greenkeeping.

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
I think Oatridge College has been the biggest influence on my career.

7. What would you do to

improve the life of a greenkeeper?

I would make all committee members take lessons in greenkeeping.

8. What are your hobbies?

Golf, music and cars.

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

BIGGA gives me a good chance to socialise with other greenkeepers from all over the country at outings, meetings etc. I also get to see what's going on at other clubs every month in the magazine.

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?

I would hope to be Course Manager at some well known club in Spain.

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No feet of clay from Kedleston's Mr Sand Man

Dave Leatherland talks with Scott MacCallum about the major change his club is currently undertaking.

Let me outline the following scenario to you. For 23 years you have been Head Greenkeeper at what is widely regarded to be the best course in the county. You know the course like the back of your hand. Whatever is thrown at you in the way of disease, weather conditions or general freak of nature you know what to do. You can handle it. Everything runs with the precision of a Swiss watch...

Then the decision is taken to dig up the clay based greens and replace them with USGA spec sand based greens.

How would you feel? ...A touch concerned, a tad disconcerted, a little bit worried?

Exactly that happened to Dave Leatherland, Head Greenkeeper at Kedleston Park, near Derby.

"I was absolutely terrified," confessed Dave, as he looked back two years to when the decision was taken to re-construct every green on the course.

"After 23 years of being at Kedleston and managing clay, parkland greens I would be working with USGA spec sand greens

with creeping bent. I told myself it was just a new learning experience and I would have to start all over again," said Dave, who readily paid tribute to BIGGA's education programmes which helped to ease him through the transition.

In fairness Dave was fully involved in the decision making process and was in little doubt that it was the best way to go.

"The existing clay based greens had been designed in 1946 to retain water and were excellent in the summer months but flooded in the winter.

"The members had spent a lot of money on the clubhouse six years ago and when the VAT money became available this year the members told the club that it could have the money as long as it was spent on the course.

Kedleston Park is beautiful parkland course set in the grounds now part of the National Trust but previously the Estate of Lord Curson and the late Lord Scarsdale. Widely regarded as the best course in Derbyshire it has hosted the Midland Professional Championship, the English Amateur and the English Boys in 1975



Dave Leatherland: massive task in digging up the clay based greens to replace them with USGA spec

which was won by a young lad by the name of Faldo.

Resident Professional is David J Russell, a former European Tour two time winner and stalwart for many years and it was DJ who brought European Golf Design to the club to speak to the members and EGD recommended Craig Cook as designer and constructor of the new greens.

"Before the work began I said that I wanted to see some of Craig's work and I flew to Powers Court in Ireland which he

designed and constructed.

"As soon as I saw the end product I thought 'yeh, that's for us'. I also spoke to the young American Head Greenkeeper and asked him what he thought of the design and construction," explained Dave.

The decision was taken not just to rebuild the greens but to redesign them and in some cases to relocate them, adding around 150 yards to the length of the course, as well as amending the existing greenside bunkering.

The work has been phased with seven greens already finished with five more next March with the remaining six before the Millennium.

"We worked closely with Craig on where he was going to take the drainage and on matters regarding the irrigation. His foreman was on site permanently and he would come for three days at a time to make sure everything was going according to plan," explained Dave.

Of those already done – the 6th, 13th and 15th – were seeded in April of last year while the others – the 7th, 8th, 10th and 14th – were seeded in mid October.

"I feel we missed out on three of four weeks of seeding with the first four and didn't get a good coverage of seed before the winter set in. That encouraged a little poa to get in but we hand picked it all and hopefully we've got on top of it. We were playing on the greens on May 31."

The root zone mix was Dave's decision and he decided on an 85% sand 15% peat mix.

"The standard is probably 95-5 but I wanted to incorporate a little more peat and the contractor had no worries about that."

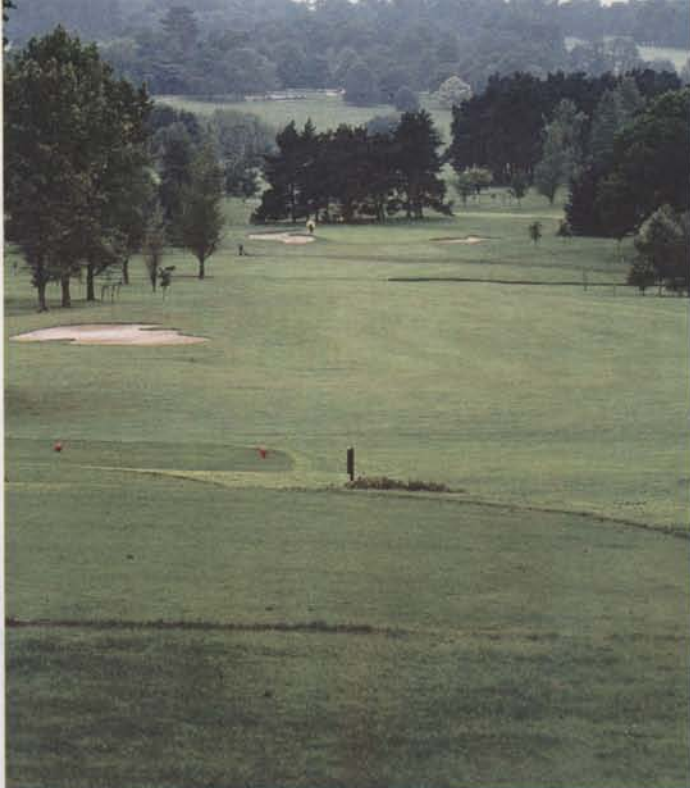
It was decided to sow Providence Creeping Bent which didn't take long to establish itself.

"With the last three greens we were cutting them five weeks later. I'm still bringing down the cutting heights. It's a patient game we're playing. I was probably bringing them down a millimetre every ten days during the growing in period but now we are cutting them every day seven days a week," explained Dave.

Until the remaining 11 greens are laid and established Dave and his team are left with a situation where they are managing some clay based greens and two sets of USGA spec sand based greens of slightly differing ages.

"It is a problem. I would have liked to have seen them all done in the one scoop but obviously the members wouldn't have taken too kindly to that. However, they were extremely patient when having to play off temporary greens during the rebuilding work.

"The main difficulty is on the playability side as the old greens are still quicker than the new."



It has also seen major changes in Kedleston's feeding regime.

"The old greens are fed perhaps three times a year while with the new greens it is every two weeks with a Rigby Taylor 12-0-6. It's a little and often especially with the weather we've been having and the leaching which has been caused."

If any members had doubts about the validity of the decision to make such a fundamental change to the golf course the weather during the club's Jubilee Week put their minds at rest.

"In the thunder storms the new greens were the only ones which didn't flood and remained playable. The members were over the moon and were shouting that the others should be done as soon as possible," said Dave, who revealed that the cost was working out at around £19,000 per green.

Dave's initial reservations are now well behind him and he is relishing the challenge that lies ahead.

"I'm excited by the prospect of 18 new greens. It's almost like having a completely new golf course.

"I would say to anyone who finds himself in the same position that it is not as scary as it seems. You hear reports about how different sand greens are and what complications they cause but, and I'm touching wood here, I haven't had any real problems yet," said Dave who did say there was a couple of patches of Take-All on one of the greens but that once it had been treated it was fine.

He is fully aware of the differences between the two, fundamentally different, greens with which he is currently working.

"Things happen more quickly on sand based greens so you have

to be ready to react when necessary," said Dave.

Dave is quick to pay tribute to BIGGA and, in particular BTME, for giving him access to the information needed to cope with such a marked change in his working practices.

"I love Harrogate. I think it's the bees knees. I go every year and talk to other greenkeepers, not just from this country but abroad as well, and get ideas from them. It was through talking to guys up there that I got the confidence to do the job."

Dave is also quick to pay tribute to the rest of the club staff, and in particular, DJ and the club secretary Ken Wilson.

"We have a meeting every week and discuss what is happening out on the course and what the members have to say. At the end of the day they all think that it is DJ who is behind all the ideas and he has played all over the world, seen many golf courses and been able to bring back ideas. He doesn't get involved in the running of the golf course but I've learned things from him and he's learned from me.

"He is a front man who can explain to members in the bar why certain things are done," said Dave, who also plays with members every Saturday and learns what they think has been a good idea as well as what hasn't gone down so well.

What has been universally acclaimed, however, are the new greens and Kedleston is a fine example of how a potentially disrupting process can be undertaken by planning, professional execution and sound greenkeeping.



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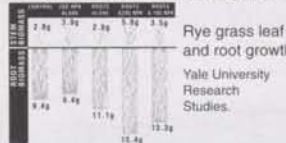
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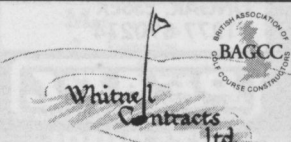
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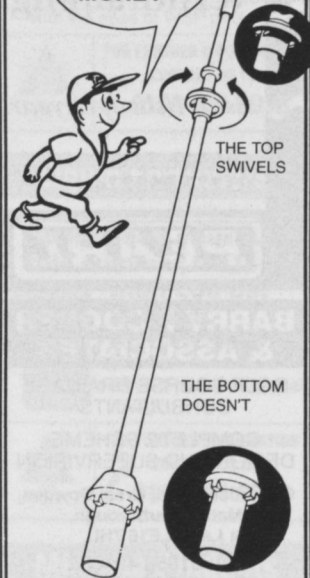


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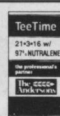
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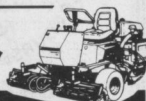
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