



## Toro launch new products at Saltex

Toro unveiled two pre-production versions of a new machine which will be available for delivery next spring.

The Toro Reelmaster 3100-D Sidewinder (top left) is the first mower which boasts cutting units which can be hydraulically moved to the left or right to increase overhang up to 22 inches. This is ideal for cutting around bunkers as well as aprons and obstacles such as trees or under overhanging branches.

By increasing the length of overhang operators can keep the wheels farther away from the bunker to prevent the edges collapsing.

The Sidewinder is available in cutting widths of 72 and 84 inches and a simple joystick movement shifts all three cutting units to one side of the machine or the other. The operator is seated in a forward position with the engine at the rear for maximum visibility. It also has a three wheel drive system which coupled with a low centre of gravity gives good hill climbing capability.

Toro also introduced its Toro Sitework Systems (bottom left) known as The Dingo hydraulic

power plant on wheels which has more than 35 attachments.

"This system offers productivity, manoeuvrability, versatility, convenience and power, which makes it perfect for anyone involved in landscape contracting, irrigation, fence installation, general construction or nursery activities," said Denise Koehn, International Marketing Manager, Professional Equipment.

It comes standard with a durable steel bucket and the attachment line includes adjustable forks, a backhoe, leveller, broom, cement bowl, tiller, hydraulic blade and a vibratory plough.

Toro has also produced a competitively priced and more simply-engineered fairway mower. Based on the Reelmaster 5300-D the Reelmaster 5200-D has a lower specification with fewer and less sophisticated components that rely more on manual operations.

The two wheel drive model sells at £24,430 ex vat with the four wheel drive version coming in at £27,420 ex vat.

For further information Tel: 01202 209281



## Kubota publish first magazine

Kubota launched the Kubota Owner's Club in the UK at the Show.

Marked by the publication of the debut issue of its own quarterly magazine the vent heralds the formation of an organisation which is inviting application for free membership from more than 20,000

owners of Kubota tractors, mowers and power products.

"We see the club as an important part of Kubota's Research and Development as it's a way for owners and users to tell us about their needs and how best we can meet them," said Tom Barnes, Marketing Manager of Kubota (UK) Ltd.

In addition to the magazine, membership card and official tie Kubota owners will be entitled to exclusive discounted offers on a range of Kubota products and receive answers to questions addressed to the readers' letters page.

For further information Tel: 01844 214500.

## Rigby Taylor's product launch struck by Lightning

Rigby Taylor launched a new adjuvant marker and a new plant and microbial stimulant.

Lightning, the first approved adjuvant marker for use with Roundup Pro Biactive via Controlled Droplet Application (CDA), leaves a clearly visible white deposit on treated weeds and surfaces.

Tests at the Imperial College - the International Pesticides Application Research Centre - have shown that mixing Roundup Pro Biactive with Lightning produces uniform-sized droplets which are less likely to shrink through evaporation and minimise the risk of potential drift.

Rigby Taylor has also developed a series of adaptor kits so operators can use the Slimflex backpack con-

tainers with their existing CDA equipment.

Activate is a concentrated plant extract and is released following work in plant and microbial stimulant technology. It supplies the grass with simple sugars, as a readily available food source while also getting essential trace elements right through to the root zone.

"Activate is based on the advanced and proved science of carbohydrate nutrition to produce healthier hard wearing playing surfaces, increasing the ground's resistance to drought and stress," explained Rigby Taylor's Technical Services Manager, Geoff Yelland.

For further information Tel: 01483 535657.



## Many happy returns to Lloyds and Co

Lloyds and Co celebrated its 120th birthday with a celebration party and a cake during a break from the hard business of selling machinery at Saltex.

The Letchworth based company was founded in 1878 as an agency for the import and sales of American Pennsylvania mowing machines.

The company began producing its own machines in 1934 and as design and manufacturing skills

developed the early machines were joined by motor mowers, gang mowers, lawn sweepers, lawn rakes, lawn sprinklers, mechanical scythes and electric hedge trimmers.

Today Lloyds still remains a privately owned company and is looking forward to the next 120 years.

Picture shows Managing Director Clive Nottingham toasting his company's birthday in the company of IOG President Robert Corbin and BIGGA Chairman Gordon Child.



## Textron new products

The Textron stable which includes Ransomes, Jacobsen and Iseki has been busy and introduced a number of new products and updated machines.

Ransomes-*Textron* launched a new engine-powered triplex greens mower, the Ransomes G-Plex II which supersedes the Greensplex which was first introduced in 1994. The G-Plex II is available with a choice of 18hp petrol or 18.8hp diesel engine.

Notable features include a patented centre reel which pivots sideways clear of the mower for convenient adjustment and servicing. In work, an automatic time delay lowers and raises the centre reel after the from two units to maintain an in-line finish and the edge of the green. It also boasts a stabiliser linkage which levels the cutting units parallel to the ground during lifting and lowering.

Jacobsen launched its new electrically powered SandScorpion bunker rake. Using a 48 volt electrical system with six eight volt deep-cycle batteries the Sand Scorpion will operate for up to six hours without recharging.

Long life steel blades with noise reducing bumpers move independently, avoiding the possibility of gouging, while the contoured rake can be matched to meet a variety of different conditions. Jacobsen has also added two lightweight fairway mowers to its range. Labelled the LF-3400/LF-3800, the five unit mowers combine, durability and productivity while retaining low ground pressure.

Available with two or four wheel hydrostatic drive the machines have power steering, tilttable steering column and hydraulic oil monitor with horn alarm.

Iseki has introduced two new ride-on rotary mowers, the SF200 and SF230 are powered by 20hp and 22.5hp water cooled diesel engines with two pedal hydrostatic transmission giving variable forward and reverse travel up to a maximum speed of 8.4 mph.

For further information Tel: 01473 270000.



## Sisis gain award with Autocare

SISIS received the Award for the Best New Sportsturf Machine at the show, for the second year running.

This year's award winner was the SISIS Autocare System, a budget priced, compact maintenance system for turf and artificial surfaces. The power unit has a 5hp engine and will operate a range of driven "heads" all fitted in seconds with-out tools. It will also operate a range of brushes, rakes, etc.

Once a user has acquired an AutoCare power unit, implements may be added over a period of time to build a comprehensive maintenance system.

The AutoCare will have all the flexibility of tractor mounted systems with the added advantage of being suitable for smaller areas or areas with limited access.

For further information Tel: 01625 503030.

## Amazone

Amazone's latest slitter/aerators the 1.2 metre wide SL and the SLS, and the SLC, available in 1.2 metre and 2.4 metre made their debuts at the show.

All are three point-linkage mounted machines and are fitted with a ground-driven rotor whose unique 10 degree offset blade configuration ensures high point pressure across the implement at high operating speeds, while exerting 91kg/point pressure for entry into the thickest thatch to a depth of 12cm.

The blade pattern also ensures that all the points in contact with the surface penetrate the ground to an equal depth when the slitter is driven forward, so eliminating the "walking" effect associated with some blade layouts.

For further information Tel: 01579 351155.

## Hi-Tec from Hydroscape

The Hydroscape Group has introduced a new range of state-of-the-art weather station technology to assist greenkeepers and groundsmen in their turf management practices. Currently three weather stations and systems packages are being made available that will record a range of weather and climatic data such as wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, rainfall measurement, solar intensity, humidity, temperature and evapotranspiration.

The Weather Monitor II will provide information on wind direction and speed and a quick check of the barometric trend arrow will show if pressure is rising, falling or holding steady.

The Weather Wizard III offers a professional package that monitors and stores data on a range of weather conditions including, inside and outside temperature, wind direction, speed and chill factor. The rain



collector will measure daily and accumulated rainfall and, when connected to a computer through the WeatherLink, will provide a detailed, long-term analysis.

The GroWeather, using information from the Evapotranspiration (ET) System, allows turf and landscape managers to conserve water resources, optimise irrigation requirements and monitor possible drought conditions.

For further information Tel: 01425 476261

## New waterproof spray grease from Course Care

Following requests from greenkeepers and groundsmen Course Care has introduced waterproof spray grease to their aerosol range. The grease is ideal for lubrication of pop-up sprinklers and other areas such as turnbuckles or swivels that are prone to failure in damp environments.

The Course Cap has been redesigned and re-launched at the show. The past six months has seen several changes to the style and design to meet the requirements of wearers. While the new Course Cap looks like a standard baseball cap it has a rigid shell in the construction

to give some protection.

The Abbeydale is a stainless steel cutter with laser-cut edges for the removal of small cores of fine turf, which have become damaged or diseased. It enables a healthy core of exactly the same size to be exchanged in a few seconds for the unhealthy one with an invisible finish. This has particular application on golf greens, bowling greens and cricket wickets and was developed by John Coleman, Course Manager at Abbeydale Golf Club.

For further information Tel: 01535 611103.

## Lance a lot better than before

The Cooper Pegler range of amenity sprayers - now owned by Hardi International - displayed a new telescopic hand lance and an addition to the Multipack sprayer range.

The hand lance has been developed to help operators reach into awkward places and also to adjust lance length to the job in hand.

Lightweight it is easily adjustable in the same way as a car radio aerial and has integral leakproof seal.

The multipack is a 50 litre replacement for the former 30 litre model and like the existing 100 and 250 litre versions has electric 12 volt operation of the Flojet pump.

For further information Tel: 01455 233811.

## Brushing up the course

Multi-Core introduced two purpose-built core collectors for use with the company's 1m and 1.5m fine turf aerators.

Designed to provide greenkeepers, groundstaff and other turf professionals with a truly one-pass system for hollow coring and core collection, the new Multi-Sweep MS 10 and MS 15 core collectors attach directly to the rear of their respective aerators on a

pivoting frame.

Collection of cores takes place less than a second after the cores are produced by the aerator. A hydraulically-driven revolving brush sweeps continuously over the turf, smoothly lifting the cores from the ground before flicking them into an integral hopper at the rear.

For further information Tel: 01937 843281

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**Geoff Steel weighs up the pros and cons of mortgages, and gives advice on the types of mortgage which are available to you...**

# SAFE AS HOUSES?

There are two types of mortgage, repayment and interest only.

With the repayment mortgage the instalments pay for the interest and the capital borrowed. The amount owing to the lender reduces a little each year. After the agreed mortgage period the balance owing reduces to nil.

The monthly instalments on an interest only mortgage pay just for the interest being charged and the amount owing to the lender stays the same throughout the terms of the mortgage.

The loan is repaid at a pre-agreed date traditionally from the proceeds of an endowment policy. More recently Pension Plans and Personal Equity Plans (PEP) have become popular as a means of

repaying a mortgage. There are advantages and disadvantages to all types of savings plans and I will cover the various aspects in more detail next month.

There is no best way to repay a mortgage as the choice depends on individual circumstances. If you don't like any risk and wish to see your mortgage debt reducing each year then a repayment mortgage is for you. Also anyone who intends to live in the same property for the full period of a mortgage should consider a repayment mortgage as first choice.

Interest only mortgages used to be beneficial because of Mortgage Interest Tax Relief (MIRAS). Tax relief has now been reduced and interest only mortgages do not have

the advantage that they had in the past.

Anyone who is likely to move house regularly may be better served by an interest only mortgage. The balance owing on a repayment mortgage is reduced by very little over the first few years and moving house means that a new mortgage has to be taken with practically no benefit from the amount paid on the previous mortgage. With an interest only mortgage the borrower has the benefit of an endowment or PEP savings plan which is carried on to the next house. There is a continuity of the savings element of the mortgage and there is no need to extend the original mortgage period when taking out a new mortgage.

As with all purchases you should consider your own personal requirements and the options available. Ask for illustrations for each method being considered and do ensure that you compare different companies. An Independent Financial Advisor will offer you a choice of products and providers whereas many banks, building societies and estate agents are tied to one company which may not be the most competitive.

**Geoff Steel is an Independent Financial Advisor with Walsh Lucas and Co and he welcomes comments from readers. His freephone number is 0800 7835132.**



**Tony Rees MIOSH continues his look at the Health and Safety implications involved in running a safe maintenance facility**

# DON'T TAKE RISKS

One set of Regulations that will be particularly topical for Greenkeepers and staff will be the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations. This legislation applies to all pieces of equipment used at work and covers items ranging from simple screw drivers and hand tools all the way through to complex machinery such as grass cutting devices, tractors etc.

The Regulations places duties upon employers with regard to equipment that they provide for use at work. Employers must pay attention to the selection of equipment ie is the equipment suitable for the task involved or the conditions on which it is to be used. For example does the employer provide an electric strimmer or a petrol powered one. The employer has a duty to ensure that the work equipment is kept well maintained, there is also a duty that everyone who uses equipment or supervise or manages work equipment must have available to them health and safety information and if necessary comprehensible, written instructions.

These people are also to receive adequate training in its use and if necessary in its maintenance requirements. Employers also have a duty to ensure that work equipment conforms to EU requirements. These Regulations also deal with the guard-

ing of dangerous parts of machinery and the accompanying guidance notes issued by Health and Safety Executive give practical guidance on a hierarchy of guarding methods ie from fixed guards to interlocked guards all the way through to simple push sticks of jigs.

Other duties placed on employers by the Regulations concern temperatures, controls for starting and stopping, stability, lighting and marking and warning notices such as "Machine must not be operated until guards are in position" etc. The Supply of Machinery Regulations 1992 also apply in this situation and provide a framework for manufacturers supplying machinery to ensure that it is safe and CE marked to show conformity through European member states. Electrically powered tools and equipment are also subject to another set of Regulations, these being the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989, which cover controls over electrical hazards. The Electricity at Work Regulations apply to all workplaces and are aimed at users and not manufacturers and suppliers of electrical equipment. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 places a duty on employers to ensure that all equipment that they provide for use at work is safe and without risks to health, this is enhanced in the

Electricity at Work Regulations 1989. There is a general requirement for design, construction and maintenance of electrical systems and these should be constructed and maintained so as to prevent danger, so far as reasonably practicable. To aid compliance with this the IEE Wiring Regulations (16th edition) have issued guidelines on testing periods for fixed installations and portable electrical tools.

Another problem that Greenkeepers will encounter, not only in their workshop or maintenance building, but also in the course of their every day duties is noise.

Noise may be produced by a number of different means but ones likely to be encountered by Greenkeepers are associated with various types of machinery or portable tools ie from mowers, strimmers etc to grinding wheels and compressors and occasionally even the rogue shout of "fore" that follows an errant shot.

The legislation that covers noise is the Noise at Work Regulations 1989, these regulations requiring employers to take reasonably practicable measures to reduce employees' exposure to noise at work to the lowest possible level. The regulations place a duty on the employer to undertake a formal noise assessment where employees are likely to be exposed to 85dB(A).

There are three "action levels" indicated by the noise at Work Regulations, these being 85dB(a), 90dB(A) and above or the peak action level of 200 Pascal's and different duties are placed on employers at each of the levels. At 85 dB(A) if the employee asks for hearing protection then the employer is obliged to provide it, however the wearing of it is not mandatory. At the second action level of 90dB(A), then the employer must not only provide hearing protection but the employee now has a duty placed on him/her to wear it. An employer has deemed it necessary to wear hearing protection while using a strimmer (ie carried out an assessment of risk) then the employee must wear it while carrying out the task in order to enable the employer to fulfil his/her statutory duty.

There are other duties placed on employers such as the need to engineer solutions to lower the noise levels and a requirement to put up signs to indicate where hearing protection must be worn.

Further information on training courses and consultancy contact Lantra National Organisation Ltd (Jean John on 01282 831973 or Tony Rees on 01686 622799)

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# Buyers' Guide

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Entries to reach us no later than Tuesday, October 20, 1998. The first correct entry drawn will receive the Walrus jacket. Don't forget to tell us the size of jacket you will require!

The judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. This competition is not open to BIGGA staff or non-members.

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