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NEW CLUB CAR ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE FEATURES DIFF-LOCK TRACTION

Club Car has launched the new XRT 272 rough terrain vehicle for construction, greenkeeping and general maintenance applications on golf courses. Based on extensive input from golf industry customers, the versatile XRT 272 model features a strong, durable design combining excellent load-pulling and hill climbing power with superior stopping ability, enhanced stability and increased traction via a differential lock system.

The XRT 272 model is a multi-purpose utility vehicle - it can easily be transformed from construction to maintenance mode simply by replacing its heavy-duty, all-terrain, four-ply rated tyres with turf tyres for working on grass. The XRT 272 vehicle is also fun to drive, providing versatile and tangible proof that utility vehicles can be tough and attractive at the same time. Users can customise the XRT 272 with accessories such as a light bar with halogen worklights; a 680 kg (1500lb) rated, remotely-operated front or rear-mounted winch; a hydraulic dump or electric lift bed; side step bars; a heavy-duty brush guard; a bed liner; a canopy top and windshield and beverage holders.

While competitive products have been engineered for other applications and then adapted for golf course use, the CLUB CAR XRT 272 vehicle was designed specifically for golf course professionals. "During golf course construction, tough ground conditions are often encountered. We have engineered a smarter, stronger, more versatile machine - one with power, stability, traction and stopping power to conquer trackless terrain and work harder in the field, where it counts," said Jerry Hanss, Regional Manager for Club Car Europe. By combining these advanced features, Club Car has created a utility vehicle that is without doubt the best in its class."

Ad Ref 583



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Ad Ref 535

Education up

Management Development Seminar - Carden Park 26 April 1999

As I indicated in my column last month, BIGGA will be presenting a FREE seminar, on The Golf Course Manager as a Leader and Motivator, at Carden Park on Monday 26 April 1999. Open to all greenkeepers, the Seminar will be led by Thomas Maloney, Senior Extension Associate in Human Resources at Cornell University with Duncan McGilvray providing the Course Managers point-of-view.

Full details of the Seminar content will be sent to all delegates. The Seminar, which will take place in the Clubhouse at Carden Park, will start at 12.45 and is expected to finish by 4.30. The Seminar is limited to 50 delegates so book your place now by phoning myself or Sami on 01347 833800. Delegates should note that smart dress is required ie no jeans, trainers, tee-shirts etc.

Groundwater Regulations

Anyone who disposes of listed substances (including material which contains these substances) eg pesticides, onto land or into land should apply for an authorisation from their local Environment Agency Office if they want to continue with that disposal. Applications made before 7 April 1999 will be deemed granted until fully determined by the Agency and disposal may continue. Applications submitted on or after 7 April 1999 will need to be considered and a formal authorisation issued before any disposal can take place.

The substances to be controlled fall into two lists:

Authorisation is only required for

List 1.

These substances are the most toxic and must be prevented from entering ground water. They include pesticides, sheep dip, solvents, hydrocarbons, mercury, cadmium and cyanide.

List 2.

These substances are less dangerous but if disposed of in large amounts they could be harmful to ground water. They include some heavy metals and ammonia (which is present in sewage effluent, phosphorus and its compounds).

the disposal of substances onto or into land. Where pesticide washings are sprayed back onto crops (in accordance with the label requirements) then an authorisation is not required.

An authorisation is not required if disposal is already covered by an existing waste management licence.

After March 1999, it will be illegal to dispose of any listed substance, to land, without authorisation.

For further information on the Groundwater Regulations, in England and Wales telephone 0645 333111 and you will be connected to your local Environment Agency Office. In Scotland contact the Scottish Environment Protection Agency on 0131 4497296.

TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition

Nominations for the TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition are pouring in to BIGGA HOUSE and entry forms are being sent to all those nominated. Remember, that all entries must be returned by 28 May 99. Please note: This competition is restricted to mainland Great Britain only.

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Ken Richardson gives an update on forthcoming educational activities

date

TORO Student of the Year Competition

The deadline is fast approaching for entries to this year's Student of the Year Competition. Have you been asked to enter? Is your college/training provider submitting an entry? This could be your chance to become the Student of the Year, win the TORO Scholarship and visit the GCSAA Conference and Show in New Orleans.

Computer Training

I have had many requests for information on computer training over the past few months. All Section Secretaries have been asked to coordinate their Section requirements and let me know numbers and locations where we can arrange section based courses.

Contact your Section Secretary if you want to learn about computers and computing. Watch this column for more details.

The Learning Experience 2000

Planning for the Learning Experience 2000 in association with Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products is well under way and the outline plan for the National Education Conference, Workshops and Seminar Programme is taking shape. There is, however, chance for you to have a say on who you would like to hear, what subjects you would like included and what entertainment you would like to see at the Banquet.

If you have any suggestions then please contact Sami or me at HQ.

The Millennium Bug

Do you own a computer? Do you use a computer at work? Do you have a computer managed irrigation system? Do you have any equipment that contains embedded processors?

If the answer to any or all of the above questions is yes then you could be affected by the Millennium Bug.

Most people have heard of the Year 2000 (Y2K) problem but do not appreciate how it could affect electronic equipment. The problem is all to do with how computers and embedded processors store dates. Since the 'birth' of microcomputers, most computers have stored the year in two digits eg 10/03/99. This was done for two main reasons. Firstly, storing two digits instead of four saves on storage space and, secondly, no one really thought about what was going to happen when the two digits changed to 00. The Millennium is approaching fast and you need to check if the BUG could affect you. Watch out for more details in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

My apologies to Wessex Software for misspelling the name of their course management software in the 'Second Byte' article in the February edition of Greenkeeper International. The correct spelling is QQUEST Maintenance Management Software.



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THEME – WATER MANAGEMENT

WESTPOINT

at

EXETER

BIGGA SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGION PROUDLY PRESENTS THEIR NEW LOOK WESTURF AT WESTPOINT THIS YEAR

-  Under cover at the prestigious WESTPOINT centre, 2 mins from junction 30, M5 at Exeter
-  Scheduled programme of seminars on water management, and machinery demonstrations
-  Entertainment from the wonderful ADAMS AXE MEN - a fast fun show of strength, skill and rustic humour
-  Gold Pro Simon Jefferies will be demonstrating the new revolutionary ZENO golf clubs. Simon will also be giving free advice on swings etc. Links Leisure have kindly loaned a practice net for you to use
-  Take a glass of wine in the BIGGA hospitality stand and meet experts in all fields and also BIGGA Head Office personnel including the Chairman, Gordon Child
-  Courtesy transport to and from Exeter City Centre for partners - sponsored by TRACKS of Exeter
-  Loads of show special offers!
-  An ideal opportunity for Trade and Customers to come together in superb surroundings and compare products
-  Full catering and licensed bar

ENTRY IS FREE - IF YOU ARE NOT THERE - WHO IS LOSING OUT?

Further details are available from: Paula Humphries Tel/fax: 01363 82777

This year, Westurf has moved to the prestigious custom-built exhibition site at Westpoint, Exeter. Organiser Paula Humphries urges you not to miss the new improved Westurf...

Welcome to Westurf

WESTPOINT



EXETER



Westurf, which has become a permanent fixture in the diaries of South West and South Wales greenkeepers, has undergone a major metamorphosis for 1999.

It has moved from its regular venue of Long Ashton Golf Club, in Bristol, to the custom built exhibition facility at Westpoint, in Exeter.

The benefits this will bring to the show are many fold but high on the list is the fact that it is under cover and no longer will the success or failure depend upon vagaries of the British Spring weather.

As well as an increased number of exhibitors there are other attractions to keep the visitors entertained and informed during the course of the day - April 27 9am - 5pm.

"Westurf has been running successfully at Long Ashton for 10 years but we felt now was the time to give it a higher profile and move to a custom built venue like Westpoint," explained Exhibition Organiser and BIGGA South West and South Wales Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries.

With 70 exhibitors, many of them new to Westurf, it should prove to be an invaluable

day out for any visitor with an array of attractions to keep everyone interested.

Topping the bill are The Adams Axemen, a team of mighty axe wielders from the New Forest, who can demolish logs at a spectacular rate of knots. The team has been together since 1966... I would expect that some of the founder members have retired and that some of the current axemen are chips off the old blocks!

Golf pro, Simon Jefferies, will also hold a demonstration during the day while the educational needs of the visitors are satisfied by a programme of seminars on water management and machinery demonstrations. Included on the panel are Stephen Bernhard who will talk on "Better Turf for less money" and Helen Wakerley "Water Management on the Golf Course."

A courtesy bus has been organised to and from Exeter town centre if partners wish to accompany a visitor for the day.

Westpoint is one hour from Bristol, 40 minutes from Plymouth and three hours from London.



Full exhibitor listings overleaf...

Welcome to Westurf

WESTPOINT
EXETER



Westurf Exhibitor List – Exhibitor and Stand Number

E. Allman & Co Ltd - 8
 Amazone Ltd - 25a
 Amenity Technology - C1
 Avoncrop Amenity Products - 37
 Barenbrug UK Ltd - 1/2/3
 Bernhard & Co Ltd - 32
 Better Methods Europe - E6
 Bioflow & Ecoflow - F1
 Bioseed Probiotics Ltd - F3
 Border Golf Ltd - 26
 Bowcom Ltd - A6
 Britannic Garden Furniture - 33
 British Seed Houses - F10
 Burgess Agricultural Engineers Ltd - 20
 Cannington College - G2
 City Irrigation Ltd/Irrigation UK - 11
 Complete Weed Control - E1
 Course Care - E4 Electric Irrigation - E3
 John Deere Golf & Turf South West - 14/16
 Devon Garden Machinery - 28
 Envigro (TEG Environmental) - A4/5
 Field Capacity Ltd - 12
 PJ Flegg Ltd - 18
 Grass Roots Trading Company - 1/2/3
 Hartpury College - G5
 Headland Amenity Products - D2/3

Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd - 19
 Green Relief (Europe) - 37
 Huxley Golf - D6
 IOG - G7
 ISS Aquaturf Systems Ltd - C3/4
 Simon Jefferies Golf Professional - Practice Net Outside
 Landmec Ltd - 10
 LBS Group - A2
 Links Leisure - 27
 Lloyds & Co Letchworth - 36
 Longfords - F4
 Lubrication Engineers Midwest - F6
 Andrew MacWilliam - F7
 Major Equipment Ltd - 15
 Maxicrop Int Ltd - A1
 Meadowside Machinery - 6
 Medland Sanders & Twose - 24
 Ocmis Irrigation - 34/35
 Pencoed College - G3
 Phoenix Irrigation Services - A3
 Pipewise (UK) Ltd - 17
 Pro-Seed Equipment Ltd - 23
 Radmore & Tucker - 7
 Rhone Poulenc Amenity - B4/5
 Rigby Taylor Ltd - B1/2
 Riko UK Ltd - 22

Roffey Bros - B6/C6
 Ryetec - 5
 Samson Outdoor Furniture - 12
 Scotts UK Professional - 37
 Sheerwater Leisure Ltd - F2
 Sheltons Sportsturf Drainage Solutions - 21
 Snoway International Ltd - 19
 STRI - G4
 South Wales Golfer - G1
 Spaldings (UK) Ltd - C5
 Sparsholt College - G6
 Sovereign Turf Ltd - F8/9
 Supaturf Products Ltd - 37
 Stylo Matchmaker - C2
 Swan Plant Services Ltd - F5
 Symbio - 1/2/3
 Synergie Products Ltd - 25
 Tacit - 37
 Terralift - 37
 Tildenet Ltd - D1
 TLS Southern - 4
 Tonic Watering - E5
 Tyre-Rite - D4
 Vitax Ltd - D5
 Wessex Software Systems - B3
 Whitemoss Amenities - E2



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The seed industry has become increasingly sophisticated in recent years and keeping up with the new developments is a never ending task. This month we look at some of the Frequently Asked Questions greenkeepers fire at the seed companies while we also examine the re-emergence of Velvet Bent.

Removing any seeds of doubt



Seeds - THE FAQs.

Area Managers for seed companies spend much of their time travelling around the country, meeting greenkeepers and responding to enquiries about mixtures and cultivars.

Recently, three local representatives for one of these companies, BIGGA Golden Key Supporters Barenbrug, got together to compare notes on what people were commonly asking. What they found was that there is a common core of 10 to 20 queries which seemingly all greenkeepers want - indeed need - answered.

So, in keeping with a modern convention borrowed from the Internet, they have identified a list of greenkeepers' FAQs - or Frequently Asked Questions.

Ben Petitjean, Darren Wilding and Jayne Leyland have put together the salient facts to help get the most from your seed.

What if, for example, a greenkeeper wants to use a cultivar - but not in a mixture from a catalogue?

Well, many may be unaware that many companies have the facility to

tailor-make a mixture in order to find the right blend for the individual. A brochure is often no more than a recommended guide for different applications and certainly not set in stone.

Conversely, some have asked why they need to change cultivars which they have used quite happily for several years.

These may indeed have been adequate, but the development of new cultivars continues at a fast pace. Every year there are new cultivars with a greater tolerance to disease and drought, plus a corresponding increase in shoot density. It is seemingly a never-ending task for the turf manager to assess thoroughly his latest options.

Fortunately, by referring to the booklet produced by the STRI, greenkeepers can quickly and easily get up-to-date information on the top available cultivars. The STRI thoroughly trials them all, here in the UK, and publishes its findings.

The indispensable annual also helpfully segments the various grasses into categories for specific use.

Removing any seeds of doubt

Many people have wondered where the various different cultivars have originated. Holland, France and the USA have usually been the main centres, but in many cases, the premier grass seeds available have increasingly been developed in, as well as for, the UK.

Each different area of the golf course is a rich source of discussion between greenkeepers and seed companies in the drive to find the right combination of seeds.

For example, given the wear tolerance of ryegrass, surely it follows that a 100% ryegrass mix is ideal for fairways? This is actually a question worth looking into in depth.

A total ryegrass mixture would not be recommended unless the fairways are suitably irrigated; ryegrass requires plenty of water for a good sward. It also needs to be remembered

that the plant must be well-fed with balanced fertiliser to keep it healthy. Then consider the appearance: a 100% ryegrass mixture would be coarser than a mixture containing fescues and bent grasses.

A red fescue in the mixture tends to be recommended, thus increasing the survival rate of the sward and improving its appearance. Fescues are excellent in drought situations and do not need to be constantly fed. Creeping varieties help to bind the sward together and

How does the greenkeeper makes his tees and fairways look their best in the face of serious wear and tear?

provide a quicker repair rate for golfer-inflicted damage.

In summary, a ryegrass/fescue mixture with perhaps a 10% bent grass component is often advised.

In contrast, the traditional green mix is often 80% fescue/20% bent and some have asked why this is so. Actually, these percentages refer to weight not the number of seeds. The true proportion should be 1,500 fescue seeds per gram and 15,000 bent seeds per gram.

Others have enquired whether it is possible to mow greens under 5mm. It is possible, according to the grass seed mixture present. A browntop bent mixture allows mowing slightly lower than 5mm, withstanding such treatment better than fescues. The traditional fescue/bent mixture mentioned above, however, should not really be mown that low, except occasionally for competition purposes, say.

Quite simply, it cannot be guaranteed that the resistance down to 5mm will extend beyond that point.

To answer another frequent question, browntop bent - better for resisting close mowing - is more expensive than other species because it is more difficult to produce and clean.

How does the greenkeeper makes his tees and fairways look their best in the face of serious wear and tear?

In repairing divots and renovating tees, everyone seems to understand that perennial ryegrass is necessary. But often guidance is requested as precisely how to balance the advantages of heavy-duty cultivars with the desire for a finer appearance.

Understandably, customers ask for reassurance that they can rely on good purity and germination from the products they choose.

Is it possible to mow greens under 5mm?

Is a 100% ryegrass mix ideal for fairways?

All seeds are rigorously tested for purity and germination so that they comply with the relevant statutory and voluntary standards.

Thanks to Barenbrug UK for their assistance in putting this feature together.



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