

Simon Hutton is a remarkable young man. As Scott MacCallum found out, he has two full time jobs and puts more than his fair share of overtime into both of them...

Simon says



Simon Hutton, FineTurf Services

Simon Hutton is a workaholic. There can be no other way of describing a man who not only maintains Sudbrook Manor Golf Club, near Newark, in Lincolnshire, but has masterminded the growth of Simon Hutton Fine Turf Services which, since the launch of the company two years ago, has grown to such an extent that many golf clubs in the Lincolnshire, and increasingly beyond, rely upon it to carry out verti-draining, coring as well as other construction work.

To fit such a workload into a normal week would be impossible but normal doesn't apply to Simon as he regularly clocks up 100 hours a week, while a holiday, which he takes once in a

blue moon, would be described by others as a "weekend".

He is no "Johnny come lately" to greenkeeping having already chalked up almost 14 years of experience, and has a network of con-

tacts to draw on from all aspects of the industry to enable him to carry out the tasks he is unable to undertake himself.

Oh yes. Simon has just turned 22.

His is a remarkable story of a single minded determination to succeed in a profession for which he has had a passion since an early age, and of a family who have pulled together to create a superb little golf club which certainly lives up to the term "family concern".

"My father, Tim, was the professional at Sleaford Golf Club and it was always his dream to have his own golf course," explained Simon, as he grabbed a bite of breakfast, in the attractive little Sudbrook Moor clubhouse.

"The land here came up for sale about

13 years ago and although it was a big decision for the family we decided to buy 17 acres. We put on six holes - three par-3s and three par-4s - laying them out and constructing them all ourselves," he explained.

"Then in 1990 we acquired another 20 acres and made it a really good nine hole course."

In the early days Simon worked on the course in his spare time after school.

"School was not a priority for me," he confessed.

"From the age of eight I used to hand cut the greens and cut the rough while my mother, Judith, who was a teacher at the time, used to cut the fairways in an old Massey Ferguson with trailed gangs when she got home from work," said Simon, who mused about how such a situation would go down with the Health and Safety Executive these days.

Judith retired from greenkeeping duties when they employed Ernie Tatchell, as a greenkeeper/mechanic. Other labour is brought in on a self employed basis.

Simon says

Simon's love of all things greenkeeping began as he grew up in the family home on Sleaford Golf Club itself.

"I used to love knocking about with the greenkeepers and did so every spare minute I had," recalled Simon, who remembers Jim Durrant, Head Greenkeeper at Sleaford as well as John Scotney, who took over a year before the Hutton family began their great adventure.

"I was in my element when we bought this place because I could be hands on."

Simon worked full-time on the course when he left school at 16 and the next big leap for the course came in '97.

"We bought another four acres and put two new holes to replace two not so good holes. It made it a proper course and we had 18 greens, and nine tees which means that golfers play to a different green on the back nine."

His greenkeeping skills have been accumulated through experience, reading books and magazines while he forged friendships with people who were able to pass on knowledge to him.

"I'm a quick learner and although I've made mistakes they have tended to be



adding that with 600 members plus green fees the course gets lots of wear.

Over the last ten years Simon acquired more machinery than would be absolutely necessary for a course of Sudbrook's size.

"I'd always had an interest in machinery and known a lot of people in the trade and they would phone me to say they had a particular machine and ask if I'd be interested in it. Ernie is a superb mechanic which allowed us to get the best out of the machinery. It got to the stage that we had quite a bit and in '98 I started to do a bit of contracting - spraying, hollow tining and top dressing," he explained.

It was through this that he was pointed in the direction of the machine that was to be the making of Simon Hutton Fine Turf Services.

"I was talking to Sheamus Cogan, of Belton Woods, and he asked me if I'd ever thought about getting a vertidrain. I said that it had

crossed my mind as I knew only two people in the county at the time had one but it got me thinking more seriously about it.

"I chewed the matter over. I had an old tractor that we could put it on already and I knew that I had the money to buy it as I lived at home and all I did was work and never had time to spend it so I bought a Wiedenmann for £16,000 in February last year."

Initially he did his own course and a few football pitches before sending out some brochures to five or six local clubs some of which took him on.

In addition they spent a full three to four week spell at Belton Woods on pathway construction, tee building, bunker work and big roll turving, with the help of another contact who had experience in that field.

He has also worked at The Belfry and was involved in some work on the Millennium Dome and Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

"Then last July I decided to buy a brand new Kubota L3600 tractor and got some work with Nuneaton Borough Council to verti-drain all 14 of their football pitches and sand spread them. So I went out and bought an Amazone sand spreader. Then last autumn it was absolute mayhem.

I hadn't done any advertising at all but I was going all over the country. I ended up buying a trailer to put behind my Trooper, which I'd already bought, and it just got busier and busier.

"I had New Year's Day off and the vertidrain was absolutely solid until something like May 20," said Simon, who has recently bought another Kubota tractor, a Proseed core collector while a second vertidrain is on the cards for this month.

While Simon Hutton Fine Turf Services enjoyed such a successful period the man himself was still running Sudbrook Moor, with the help of Ernie and two students, both of whom have worked for Simon since they were 15 - hence the need to extend his working week to 100 hours.

"For example I haven't started after six for the past month and normally don't finish until eight or nine at night, seven days a week.

The success of the contracting business is a boost to the whole Hutton family which is completed by his younger brother, Ben, who is an aspiring tournament professional.

"My father runs the pro shop and gives lessons, my mother acts as secretary and I manage the course but the club won't really support us all so my brother supplements our income with his winnings and I bring in more from

the contracting business," he explained.

He has a pool of around 10 able people on whom he can call on for work, including a tree specialist and a landscaper while he also has his own turf nursery from which he sells to the domestic market.

"I bought the land five or six years ago and it was meadow turf and I mowed it and sold it as such but then I redrilled it and sowed it with bent fescue and rye for domestic use and stripped that field. I've only got about 1000 metres left in a corner. We recently redrilled it again and hopefully it will be ready by Christmas," he explained, adding that he also acts as an agent for seed as well as top dressing.

"In an ideal world I would get another man on the course and another on the contracting full time to enable me to manage both," said Simon, who runs the business from a mobile phone. He has an accountant but does all his own invoicing in his "spare" time.

"I don't mind putting the hours in but it's tough when you can't see an end to it. I don't want to get too big because I've seen it with other contractors who are not making any money. Payments all go to the men and to cover overheads. At the moment I don't have many overheads."

Concerned that he might be burnt out by the age of 25 he does point to the fact that he has more grey hairs than his two older colleagues who popped into the clubhouse for their breakfast.

"My ultimate ambition is to do well early on in life, make money and then retire. I may build the business up and then sell it. I don't know really."

With his easy manner and extraordinary work ethic you can be sure that whatever the future holds for him he will make a success of it.

Ever the entrepreneur Simon called the office a few days after the interview to ask if we could include his telephone numbers in the article. Happy to oblige Simon. Tel/Fax: 01400 250796 Mobile: 0976 726909



Above: Remarkably, a bird has nested in the hydraulic arm of the company trailer, and now, the chicks travel everywhere it goes

minor and made on our own course, which tends to be fairly disease free.

"I've sprayed for Fusarium three times in 13 years. We use a lot of mechanical rather than chemical maintenance. We go from sandy loam to heavy clay on the course but it's amazing how it looks after itself.

"We mow it, aerate it, top dress it. We put on granule fertiliser in the spring or early summer and then later liquid fertiliser and we vertidrain the greens with large tines once a year and through the summer with pencil tines. In the autumn we hollow tine," he said,

WORKWEAR SOLUTIONS FOR GREENKEEPERS

From FRS Countrywear

FRS specialise in the provision of clothing to people who work outdoors, whatever the weather. We have illustrated here the products that have proved popular with Greenkeepers all over the UK. We are also willing to try and find items for you that are not shown here. Give us a call and you'll find FRS really is "Best in the Country".

WATERPROOFS



Code: NBDJ
Lightweight PVC/Nylon Jacket. Fully taped and waterproof with concealed hood. A superb budget rain jacket.
Olive, Navy or Yellow
S - XXL
£6.20



Code: NBDT
Lightweight PVC/Nylon Overtrousers. Fully taped with elasticated waist and access to pockets.
Olive, Navy or Yellow
S - XXL to match NBDJ
£4.70



Code: FLO
Flexothane Leggings in Olive Green.
One size
£10.95



****NB Original Flexothane also available****
Contact us for prices



Code: SBDJ
The Super B-Dri Jacket. Highly flexible, fully waterproof and puncture resistant. Full zip with concealed hood and storm flaps.
Olive, Navy & Yellow
S - XXL
£14.95



Code: SBDT
Super B-Dri Overtrousers. Elasticated waist and studded ankles. The puncture resistant and easy rinse properties of this garment make it ideal for use when strimming.
Olive, Navy & Yellow
S - XXL to match SBDJ
£8.25

Code: N

The Keeper PVC/Nylon Jacket. Fully taped, quilt lined with storm cuffs. One of the best insulated rain jackets around.
Olive, Navy, Black or Yellow
S - XXL
£12.80



Code: NS

The Super Keeper PVC/Nylon Jacket. Heavy quilt Tartan check lining. Fully taped with storm cuffs and hand warmer pockets.
Olive or Navy
S - XXL
£16.00





←
Code: L
Lakeside waterproofed Poly/Cotton Jacket. Heavy quilt lining, detachable hood, two-way zip and a multitude of pockets, both inside and out. Drawcord at waist and hip. Forest, Navy & Burgundy S - XXL
£21.00



←
Code: 3 in 1
PU Coated Polyester outer with anti-pill fleece zip-in inner. Three jackets in one to provide protection whatever the weather. Green/Navy, Navy/Royal or Navy/Navy S - XXL
£26.70



←
Code: NTJ
Trafford PVC/Nylon Hi-Viz Jacket with reflective stripe for extra safety. Taped seams and concealed hood. Not for use on high speed roads S - XXL
£15.50



←
Code: STJENG
Super Traffic Jacket. A jacket that is suitable for use on high speed roads and Motorways. Conforms to EN471 (Appendix G) S - XXL
£24.00

TRADITIONAL WORKWEAR



←
Code: PCBS
Poly/Cotton Boilersuit with concealed stud front. Two breast pockets, elasticated waist. Navy, Royal, Spruce, Orange, Red or White 36" - 54"
£7.50
Also in zip front
£8.95



←
Code: QBSR
Quilt lined Poly/Cotton Boilersuit with two-way front zip. Two breast zip pockets, reinforced waistband. Royal only 36" - 52"
£18.50



←
Code: WRT
Reaper Trousers. High quality heavyweight Poly/Cotton work Trousers. Winter lined for extra warmth. Green or Navy 30" - 48"
£20.80
Available unlined
£13.40
Dickies Deluxe Work Pant in Lincoln Green
£16.20



←
Code: PCT
Budget Poly/Cotton work Trousers. Two hip pockets, one rear pocket. Sewn-in crease. Navy, Royal or Spruce. 30" - 48"
£5.40



←
Code: PCJ
Budget Poly/Cotton work Jacket. Zip front, two breast pockets and two lower pockets. Navy, Royal or Spruce. 32" - 54"
£7.00

ALTERNATIVE WORKWEAR



↑ Code: FLJ
 Super Heavyweight Anti-Pill Fleece Jacket. Full Zip front and two zip pockets. Navy, Royal, Bottle, Red, Black, Orange, Yellow or Grey S - XXL.
£14.95



burgundy	raspberry
kelly	sky
purple	bottle
royal	jade
black	red
canary	white
navy	orange
natural	turquoise

↑ Code: PKS
 Poly/Cotton Polo Shirt. Wide range of colours (see above) S - XXL.
£4.95



↑ Code: PCS
 Heavyweight Poly/Cotton Sweatshirt. Wide range of colours. S - XXL.
£6.25



← Code: ABW
 Action Bodywarmer. Poly/Cotton quilted waistcoat with a multitude of pockets. Olive, Navy or Black. S - XXL.
£11.25



→ Code: LWCT
 100% Cotton Summer Trouser. Two front pockets, two rear button down pockets. Beige or Navy 30" - 44"
£13.50



↑ Code: TLS
 Traditional Tattersall Shirts in Poly/Cotton. S - XXL.
£5.95

↑ Code: RBW
 Reversible Bodywarmer. Quilted Poly/Cotton. Forest/Navy. S - XXL.
£11.95



← Code: HWACS
 Heavyweight Acrylic Sweater. S - XXL.
£10.95



↑ Thermal Underwear. Warmth without weight. S - XXL.
 Vest (THV) **£3.45**
 Long Johns (THL) **£3.45**



← Code: SSS
 Short Sleeve Summer Shirt in Poly/Cotton. S - XXL.
£7.50

All prices are EXCLUSIVE of VAT

SAFETY FOOTWEAR

All Safety Boots have steel toe caps to EN345 and are not subject to VAT



←
Code: SBBR
Water Resistant
Brown leather
Boot with a
padded collar.
6 - 12
£32.00



↑ Code: CDDC
Dual Density Chukka Boot. Lightweight
with a low profile sole, this boot is ideal for
on and around the Greens. 6 - 12.
£13.95



←
Code: ASBG
100% Waterproof PVC
boot. Superb in really
wet weather or for work
in the Rough. 6 - 12.
£13.95



←
Code: DTSB
Super quality
leather boot with
breathable lining.
Available in Black,
Mahogany or Tan.
6 - 12
£45.00



←
Code: T798
Green water resistant
leather Hiking Boot
with Ni-Trax sole unit
3 - 12
£38.00



↑ Code: RBL
Super High Quality Rigger
Boot with water resistant
upper and a full fur lining.
Dark Brown or Tan. 6 - 13
£37.00

Full range of wellingtons also available

GLOVES & P.P.E.



←
Code: CANYHQ
Yellow cowhide
Canadian pattern
glove
£1.30



↑ Code: QLD
Fleece lined all hide glove
in drivers style.
£2.95



←
Code: PVCFC
PVC fully
coated knit
wrist glove
£0.45



←
Code: PVCDD
PVC Gauntlet
with non-slip
palm, even in oil.
Resistant
to pesticides
(EN CAT III).
£1.20



←
Code: HH
Hard Hat to latest
EN standards.
Terylene harness &
sweatband.
Available in many
colours.
£1.30



↑ Code: GAM
Anti-mist goggles to latest
EN standards
£1.50



For Chainsaw users - a
wide range of
Forestry equipment is
available. All items
conform to the latest
EN regulations. Call
for more information or
visit the website.

PERSONALISATION



←
Logo's
Your logo can be
embroidered
exactly to your
specification.
Prices on
application.



←
Text
Dependent on
No. of letters
1-10 **£1.50**
11-15 **£1.95**
16-20 **£2.25**
20+ **£POA**



↑ Heatseal Badge
Virtually any design is possible.
Prices on application

F.R.S. Countrywear

Swancote, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, UK, WV15 5HA

Tel: 01746 716665 Fax: 01746 716578

e-mail: sales@frs-countrywear.co.uk www.frs-countrywear.co.uk/trade

Every effort will be made to maintain these Specifications and Prices. FRS reserve the right to make changes without prior notice.
If you can't see what you are after, give us a call - we are distributors for most of the major suppliers in the UK

Ty-Crop MH-400

The ultimate materials handler.



Use the MH-400 to load top dressers, spreaders and trucks



Use the MH-400 to move and off-load loose, bulky materials



Use the MH-400 to replenish bunkers and backfill trenches

Use the MH-400 to build tees, greens, borders and pathways



Visit our website at:
www.turfmech.co.uk



Use the MH-400 to spread top dressings, fertilisers and sand

Large or small areas to top dress? Ask for literature on Ty-Crop's dedicated top dressers.

This machine is a revelation. It'll save you time, money and a considerable amount of effort.

Judge for yourself. Start by requesting our informative brochure. If you like what you see, we'll be happy to arrange a working demonstration.

Turfmech Machinery Ltd. New Road Industrial Estate, Hixon, Staffs ST18 0PJ, UK
Tel: 01889 271503 Fax: 01889 271321 e-mail: sales@turfmech.co.uk



If you are choosing a quality irrigation system...

With 30 years experience of providing sports turf irrigation systems our specialist company is completely independent of a brand manufacturer. Each bespoke system is designed by our qualified engineers to the highest specification and according to the individual requirements of the course, and with thorough knowledge of the products produced by the top manufacturers we are in the best position to provide top of the range service care.

Our portfolio includes: Woodsome Hall, Sherwood Forest and Royal Lytham St. Annes.



North Staffs Irrigation Ltd
Consulting Watering Specialists

"The important aspect in choosing the specialist equipment is to choose the right sprinkler and controller rather than the make"

Greenkeeper International 1997.

At the end of the day the system has to work. Ours do - Beautifully.

Call us to arrange a free consultation

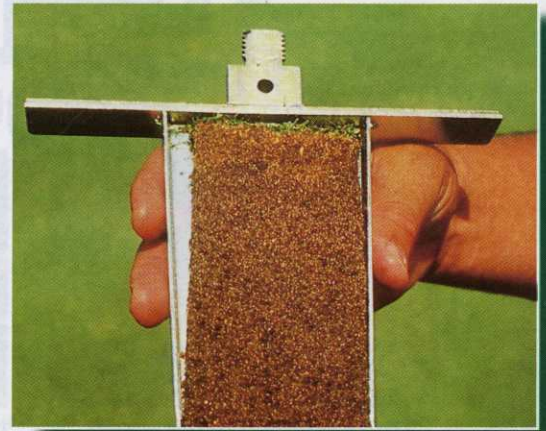
on 01785 812706
Ivy Mill, Longton Road, Stone
ST15 8TB.

...be sure its from a quality irrigation company



Poor soil structure results in recurring drainage problems, anaerobic conditions, weak root systems and thinning turf. Water doesn't drain, Air can't enter and Roots won't develop.

Integrate Soil Conditioner restores soil structure, improves drainage, increases aeration and promotes healthy root growth.



Why keep treating the symptoms when you can effect a cure with Integrate.

The Problem

Compaction and soil structure breakdown are ongoing problems for the turf manager. Constantly saturated soil or a build up of fine soil particles, cause the loss of air availability and this effect can break the soil structure down into even finer particles increasing the clogging effect. When these pores become unpenetrable, water and air transport stop.

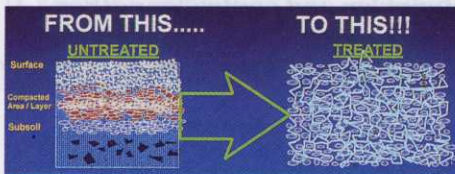


A Programmed Approach

Applied as a conventional high volume spray, initial applications will penetrate layers and solid soil structures and the turf manager should see the results in reduced soil compaction and lower bulk density. Integrate will remain in the soil at various depths rather than leaching through.



Opening up of soil structure reduces recurring drainage problems



The Solution

Integrate moves down through the soil profile solubilising the 'fines' that are clogging the pore spaces, drawing together the clay and organic soil particles into soil aggregates with the sand and silt. This 'opening up' of the soil structure provides an improved flow of air and water into and through the soil and, with additional pore spaces to develop pathways for deeper root growth, a more healthy, vigorous turf will be the result.

Soil Structure Restoration

Apply two applications of Integrate at 14 day intervals at the rate of 1 litre per 1000 square metres (10 lt/per ha).

Soil Structure Maintenance

Following the initial applications, additional half rate treatments may be required depending on the severity of the original problem or to maintain improvement. Apply Integrate at the rate of 0.5 litre per 1000 square metres (5 lt/ha) every 2-4 months to maintain healthy soil structure.

What is Integrate

Integrate is a unique, patented blend of water soluble polymeric polyelectrolytes. When in the soil the polymers unwind sending out a strong anionic charge that attracts clay and organic 'fines', agglomerating them into larger, water stable soil particles.

Integrate™
SOIL CONDITIONER

Distributed
in UK by:

RT
rigby taylor

MASCOT
EXCLUSIVE

FREEFONE 0800 424 919

Call today for further information or contact a Rigby Taylor representative.



Green-Releaf products are marketed in the UK and Europe by GreenLink International Ltd,
1 Rysley, Holybread Lane, Little Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 4DD
Tel: +44 (0) 1245 222750 Fax: +44 (0) 1245 222755 www.green-releaf.com

Integrate is a registered trademark of GreenLink International and manufactured by Milliken Chemical, Spartanburg, USA

Roland Taylor starts planning for autumn, by examining the various blower and sweeper products available

BLOWN AWAY

Have you ever thought that Mother Nature is having a laugh at your expense? You just seem to have got on top of the grass and she turns round and starts dumping thousands of tonnes of leaves all over the place. That time of the year is not too far away, so now is the time to start taking stock of the equipment that is available and preparing your battle plans.

Fallen leaves are unpredictable they often pile up in difficult and virtually inaccessible places and the first good gust of wind sends them all over the place. To clear up this annual event efficiently can be a labour intensive operation. Fortunately, manufacturers have not been slow in addressing the problems and there is now a piece of machinery available, not only to deal with virtually every situation but also make the clearing up task easy, fast and cost effective.

BLOWN AWAY



Leaf clearing machinery incorporates one or more of three basic systems: blowing, sucking or sweeping. These come in a number of configurations.

Blowing & sucking

At the heart of both blowing and sucking is an impeller for creating the blast of air or a vacuum - these two often go together as in the blower/vacs.

Where leaves are being collected, in most cases they will pass through the impeller and in doing so are chopped up. This combination has two advantages. Firstly, it reduces their volume, often significantly, thus reducing the number of times the collector has to be emptied. Secondly, the fibres of the material are broken up and exposed so decomposition is accelerated.

Obviously, organic matter is not

always all that passes through this type of system - stones, sand and other foreign bodies can be picked up so the impeller has to be constructed from a material that withstands a fair amount of abuse. This is a point worth remembering when considering which machine to choose. Other factors that can effect performance are the speed and the way in which the volume of air is expelled.

There are other methods of collection using airflows where the material is picked up and passes directly into a collector - these are generally found in the domestic machines.

Machinery using the impeller system comes in all shapes and sizes. There are the highly portable hand held and backpack models, wheel pushed or self propelled and tractor mounted versions.



Wanderhoses

Most of the pedestrian and tractor machines using the suck and blow principle offer as an optional attachment a wanderhose. This consists of large diameter inlet and outlet flexible tubing of various lengths. They are designed for clearing leaves from areas that are inaccessible to the large units, such as ditches and culverts or areas such as greens where heavier machinery would not be acceptable. A wanderhose can also be used for sucking up piles of leaves that have been windrowed by another machine. The system is used on loaders which are purpose built for collecting leaves and litter into trailers or a vehicle's bucket.

Brush type action

These can be split into two forms; the conventional rotary brush or the flail.

The brush is usually an attachment for a tractor, ride-on mower or ATV and these are available as an out-front unit or rear-mounted.

While they work reasonably well on grassed areas they perform better on hard surfaces.

There are a number of machines available that use the flail and these have an advantage that they can be also used for cutting and scarifying large areas. The flail drum rotates at high speed and this action picks up leaves and other debris and deposits them into a container. On the large units an impeller is incorporated to provide an extra vacuum for lifting the material into large hoppers. These have a moving floor to speedily unload. A wanderhose attachment is also available for the more inaccessible sites.

This type of unit is ideally suited to large areas. They are a valuable addition to the maintenance fleet, especially on the big tournament courses for clearing up after the general public has left.

Rotary mowers

Any rotary mower pedestrian or ride on that incorporates a collecting system will collect leaves - some machines do this well.

Around the course Greens

These are the number one priority and the equipment has to be as light as possible so the hand held or backpack blowers are the answer. The leaves can be blown into heaps off the green ready for picking up.

With the hand held models there are two things to look out for - plenty of power yet lightweight (power to weight ratio) and the velocity of the airstream.

The nozzles on these units can be directed wherever they are required. Most have the facility for collecting but these usually have a small capacity so are not practical in most course applications.

One of these machines is an ideal addition to the fleet as it can be used for other applications such as clearing leaves and litter from drains guttering.

Some readers may use them for blowing dew off the greens.

A wanderhose can be used but this may be found to be slow. Also one of the pedestrian machines could be suitable but as these have wheels there is the danger of leaving markings.

Tees

The equipment used on the greens is also suitable for tees. Here, the pedestrian machines may be more at home.

Fairways

This is where the tractor mounted units come into their own. The blower models can be used to directing leaves into windrows or piles. With the flails the material is collected immediately.



TRILO'S GOT LEAF COLLECTING OFF TO A TEE

For years people scratched their heads looking for a speedy, efficient and economical way of collecting leaves and



grass cuttings. Then, in 1966, the engineers at Trilo came up with the perfect solution - an ingenious vacuum sweeper which they called the Trilo Grass

Collector. The idea was a huge success and the company's reputation for expertise and quality soon spread world-

wide. Thirty years on, Trilo is still leading the way with a wide range of machines that will not only vacuum, but also scarify, cut and collect.

Find out how a Trilo can make your greenkeeping job easier and more efficient by calling us direct today.



TRILO

The first name in Vacuum Sweepers

SEE US AT SALTEX Stand B55-57 Demo Area



FOR HIRE OR SALES CONTACT:

MJT Contracts Ltd

Wadebridge Farm, Landwade, Exning,
Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7NE
Tel: (01638) 720123 Fax: (01638) 720128
Email: sales@mjt.co.uk www.mjt.co.uk

**BLOWN
AWAY**



Bunkers

There is the problem of sucking up or blowing sand about and in most cases these are better manually raked.

Other areas

Each course will have specific requirements. If there are large areas of hard surfaces to be kept clear then the type of machines used in pedes-

trian precincts might be the answer. The tractor mounted rotary brush type is also ideal for these areas.

What to choose

Each course will have different requirements and there are plenty of machines on the market. Now is the time to start looking at what is available. Saltex provides an ideal

opportunity to do just that. An alternative could be to hire some machinery but the only problem is when. Leaf fall can happen over night. One hard frost followed by high winds and there are masses to clear up or it could take up to a month before the trees are bare.

Because of this everyone needs to hire at the same time and machinery

might not be available. However if you are thinking of going the hire route it is worth talking to your local hirer now.

Leaves may look good in their autumnal colours, but they present a problem greenkeepers could do without - so a little preparation now could make the task, and life, a lot easier when it eventually happens.



Move Mountains . . . (well almost!)

Here is some of the debris that customers have shifted with their Turfmech Tornado blowers.

Leaves...litter...bottles...cans...
twigs...pine needles...fir cones...snow...dew...
puddles of water... grass clippings...soil...dust...
scarified thatch...rubber prills...small stones...plastic waste...
hedge trimmings...waste paper...

Call us for more information on the Tornado blower range. Don't sweep it, Tornado it. We'll be happy to demonstrate.

Visit our website at:
www.turfmech.co.uk

Turfmech Machinery Ltd. New Road Industrial Estate,
Hixon, Staffs ST18 0PJ, UK Tel: 01889 271503 Fax: 01889 271321
e-mail: sales@turfmech.co.uk

The All Weather, All Terrain Fertiliser

The Lebanon range of professional products is the **NO.1 CHOICE WORLDWIDE** for Greenkeepers and Turf Managers

Isotek - IBDU/Methylene Urea, homogeneous slow release fertiliser ideal for fine turf areas (regarded as THE all-weather, all-terrain fertiliser)

Pro Range coated controlled release fertiliser including Poly-X-PRO for fairways and outfields

Perk 4-0-10 - 10% FE stress relief formula product. Unique formulation with 25% derived from organically complexed FE - slowly released



Call +44 (0)1952 641949 for more details or Freephone 0800 5426236



www.amenity.co.uk



ALL YEAR ROUND QUALITY TURF

Guaranteed
No netting used in the production of our turf



TGA APPROVED
TURF AVAILABLE



MATCHING GRASS
SEED AVAILABLE

Tel: 01603 746229 Fax: 01603 746243

Mobile: 07850 752744

email: sales@sovereignturf.com

SOVEREIGN TURF LIMITED • FIR TREE FARM BLAXHALL • WOODBRIDGE IP12 2DX

Kawasaki

24
MONTH
WARRANTY



POWER FOR PROFESSIONALS

Brushcutters, hedgetrimmers, blowers

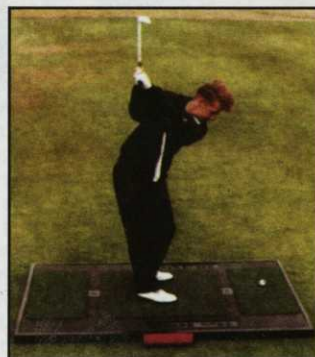
Kawasaki's power products range offers some of the finest working equipment available to the professional market.

- Powered by world-class Kawasaki engine technology for reliability
- Latest ergonomic design for operator comfort and safety
- Reduced noise, vibration and emissions

Engineered for professionals

CALL FREE ON 0800 316 4448 NOW

to put the power to work for you
(Outside the UK, call +44 1666 511356)



- ★ The Dunlop All Weather Mat System
- ★ The new Circular All Weather Mat
- ★ GM Flooring for all weather tees, pathways, patios, spike bars and changing rooms

ALSO PRESENTING

DUNLOP WT3 ON GM INTERLOCKING PAVERS

The rubber pavers provide an exceptionally durable walkway, which is spike proof and noise free. For more information or a sample paver please contact our sales office.



GM UK Ltd

42 Hillside Road, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 3PN

Tel: 01704 571271 Fax: 01704 571272



Steve Isaacs gives some advice on the health check you should give your course to give it the best chance of surviving winter. A time for hibernation... not likely!

WINTER

HEALTH CHECK



Prepare for winter all year round

Winter preparation is not a case of working hard on the greens for a couple of weeks in the autumn. It used to be, autumn scarification, coring and top dressing was the norm. However, in those days there were few hardy souls who ventured onto the course over the winter months. Your modern day golfer is a much tougher beast, seemingly determined to play golf in all weathers. Some believe that courses close themselves when the weather is extremely inclement. You need only look out of the clubhouse window to see golfers so padded with extra layers of woolies and waterproofs that they can hardly make a swing to appreciate that this is not the case. So, you must prepare your course for winter play and this must be seen as a year round exercise, implementing treatments all aimed at producing dry, firm surfaces with a good, dense and healthy grass cover.

Aeration is probably the most important maintenance procedure to produce firm, dry greens but isolated coring or Verti-Draining of greens in October or later is not the way to prepare them for the ravages of winter. Coring and Verti-Draining (or an equivalent such as the Soil Reliever

The days are drawing in and winter beckons. The course has looked fantastic all summer and now all you want to do is put your greens safely to bed to ensure they survive the winter so you can repeat that performance next season.

Sorry, you're living in the past. You can't rest the course over winter anymore, the demand from members is for year round play and year round play you must provide, oh, and on near perfect surfaces as well thank you. There will, undoubtedly, be courses where poor drainage or harsh weather conditions limit winter use.

Only a massive investment in fairway drainage and green reconstruction is likely to make the worst of these playable through the wettest part of the year. Nevertheless, the majority of courses are playable for much of the winter and there is a need to plan for the winter's play if the course is to emerge the following spring in a condition where you can take full advantage of any early growing weather.