



Kubota offers its well-proven RTV900 in road-homologated form. Fitted with a screen and ROPS frame, the unit has individual front seats with suspension for the driver, full road lighting and a front 'crash bar'. Full hypostatic drive means there will be little need to trouble the brake pedal.

So is there some middle ground? Well perhaps, take a Kubota RTV900 as an example, this hydrostatic drive utility can be specified with all the right kit to allow it to be run on the road. Realistically, the option is not designed to make it suitable for long trips on tarmac, but more to allow it to run between sites where there may be more than just a simple road to cross.

For some courses, a road worthy Kubota RTV could well be worth looking at. It is a tough utility with a half tonne load capacity for starters and, with its all-wheel drive and locking differential it can get across pretty tough terrain too. It is well worth looking at.



Kubota controls are well thought out and easy to understand, the quality of the fit and finish certainly having more in common with a road vehicle than most utilities. On-road pep not great but on off-road tyres this is no bad thing. Power steering is standard.

With this unique sprayer added, a Workman becomes a liquid asset.



TORO Commercial, Irrigation and Consumer Products are distributed by Lely (UK) Limited
St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH. Tel: 01480 226800 Email: toro.info.uk@lely.com
TORO Commercial and Irrigation Products are distributed by Lely Ireland Limited, Kilboggin
Nurney Co. Kildare. Tel: 00 353 (0)45 526170 Email: turfcaresales.ie@lely.com www.toro.com



Heavy-Duty Workman with 200 Sprayer

Toro's heavy-duty Workman utility vehicles now become even more versatile with the low-profile, 200-gallon Spray System attachment, ideal for applications of fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides and fungicides.

Easily mounted on the powerful Workman 3000 and 4000 models, the system's low centre of gravity and 6m-wide, three-section boom gives you superb spray distribution. Its high-density polyethylene tank is durable, chemical resistant and easy to fill, while the addition of the optional Pro Control Sprayer System will ensure automatic calibration to maintain an even rate of spray whatever your vehicle speed or the terrain.

For a free demonstration, please call 01480 226845 today.



Count on it.

AFT **An AFT 45 on a compact tractor has two applications**

- 1 Fitted with its chain and boom for wider and deeper trenches
- 2 Fitted with its slitting wheel for narrow slit drainage



AFT Trenchers Tel: 01787 311811
email: info@trenchers.co.uk www.trenchers.co.uk



Cushman Turf-Truckster... but a cab can make all the difference to its popularity on a cold morning!



A Piaggio Porter may be spartan by modern pick-up standards, but cosy compared to a utility in the same price bracket. This is a proper 'road going' vehicle, with only 2WD and a five-speed transmission. But with a 1400cc diesel engine it is priced in similar territory to a top end utility.

A more radical approach is to consider a really light pick up such as a Piaggio Porter. These diminutive little Italian vehicles are offered with a choice of not just petrol or diesel power but LPG and electric too. Depending upon the specification, you can expect the payload to be between 560 to 685kg but do not look for much choice in the transmission department; 2WD and a five-speed manual is your lot.

Conventional utility vehicle makers will continue to dominate sales, but it can pay to take a sideways glance at an alternative. A little pick-up may well be a very useful addition to the course equipment fleet.



Piaggio has been producing light utility pick-ups and vans for years. Distributor The Pro-Truck Group also offer the three-wheeler Ape range, these little units offering handlebar steering and even lower

DRIP DRIP DROP LITTLE APRIL SHOWER...

Spring is here! Time to discard your winter warmers in favour of some stylish new lightweight workwear. Melissa Jones looks at some of the latest clothing options...

The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 requires that personal protective equipment is supplied and used at work wherever there are risks to health and safety that cannot be adequately controlled by other means.

However, that doesn't mean you can't look good while you work! Safety Sunglasses protect your eyes while keeping you looking fashionable, polo shirts, available in a variety of colours and with club logos, give informal workwear a stylish edge and there are a number of improved fabrics on the market right now with many trendy lightweight jackets offering breathability as well as being waterproof.

Jerzee Colours Poly/Cotton Twill Cargo Workwear Trousers

Price: £4.55 + VAT



This contemporary design boasts an expandable waistband, cargo pocket, back pockets and mobile phone pocket. Available in five colours, the trousers come in a 32 and 34 inch leg.

BIGGA MERCHANDISE IN CONJUNCTION WITH CORPORATE WORKWEAR DIRECT (CWD)



Last year BIGGA announced a new deal with Corporate Workwear Direct (CWD), to supply a new comprehensive range of workwear garments and Personal Protective Equipment.

The range includes polo shirts, fleeces, safety footwear, gloves and high-visibility garments as well as an improved range of top quality waterproof suits.

You can save time and money by ordering direct from BIGGA. We can now offer quicker delivery times and a better range of products direct from stock at more competitive prices.

Check out the BIGGA website for a full list of available products: www.bigga.org.uk An embroidery service is also available.

Receive a free pair of gloves with every 10 BIGGA/CWD items purchased during the month of April.

Jerzee Colours Ripple Collar & Cuff Polo Shirt

Price: £4.55 + VAT



Made of durable fabric and suitable for hard-wearing environments, this ring spun cotton top is suitable for a 60 degree wash. With side vents for ease of fit and reinforced shoulder seams, this lightweight polo shirt is available in 10 colours and ranges in size from XS to 6XL.

Jerzee Colours Full Zip Outdoor Fleece

Price: £11.50 + VAT



Made of high density, heavy weight fabric, this fleece boasts a full length zip, cadet style collar, zip pockets and a waistband with elastic bungee cord and release toggle. Available in eight colours, sizes range from XS to 4XL.

Jerzee Colours The Outlander Water Repellent Jacket

Price: £23.50 + VAT



Caption: Available in three colours, this 100% nylon Oxford shell, 100% polyester quilted fleece lining jacket has a water repellent coating and boasts a cadet collar, Velcro closing flaps at the cuffs and a concealed hood. Sizes range from S to 4XL.

Also available from the BIGGA website (www.bigga.org.uk) are the -

RGPC27 Regatta Safety Glasses

Price: £31.00



As spring creeps up on us and the weather begins to flitters between sunshine and showers, these lightweight, polycarbonate safety sunglasses are ideal for this time of year. They are soft to touch, have non-slip frames/arms, completely protect your eyes against speed particles and provide full UV Protection. Tested to BSEN 166 (1995) and conforming to BS 1836 (1997) CE marked.

From April Showers to Summer Sun...

For greenkeepers who are not prepared to compromise on quality but have a budget that won't stretch to the top-of-the-range Hogg's of Fife Gore-Tex® waterproofs range, Hogg's - Green King range is the perfect alternative.



Green King Long Coat: £48.50



Green King Overtrousers: £20.40



Green King Leggings: £9.95



Green King Gaiters: £8.95

Unique and highly specified technical waterproofs, the Green King™ waterproof range is designed for greenkeepers who need to stay dry even in the toughest weather conditions. All Green King waterproof garments are made using state-of-the-art hardwearing Ripstop™ outer shell fabric with fully taped seams for 100% waterproof protection. The range consists of a long coat with built-in hood, overtrousers, leggings and gaiters.

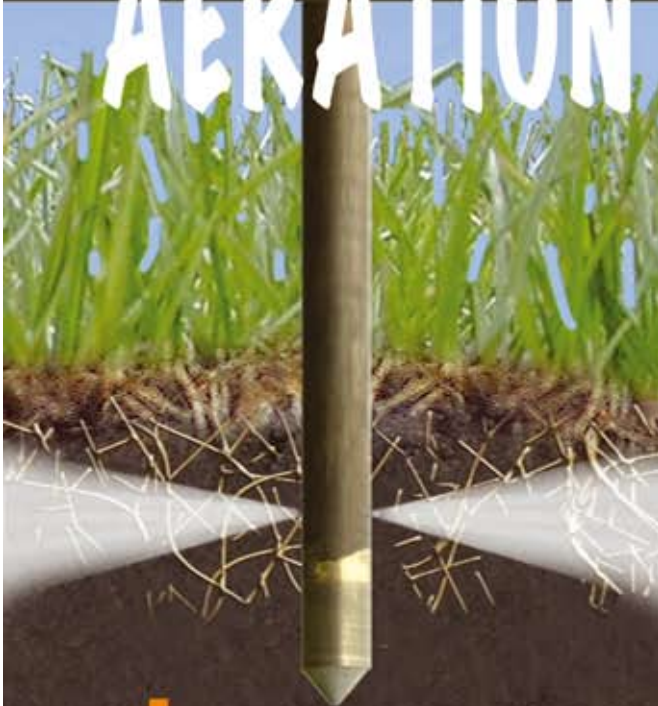
Mercury V2-ST

Price: £25



Hogg's of Fife can offer 21 different safety boot styles and more than a dozen non-safety styles with 17 of their work boot styles being fully waterproof and breathable. For summer wear, the Mercury V2-ST safety trainer is proving very popular among greenkeepers.

WHOLE AERATION



sisis AER-AID

- reduces compaction
- reduces pesticide and fertilizer requirement
- improves infiltration

The AER-AID system injects air directly into the root zone at close centres, delivering the benefits of reduced compaction faster than conventional aerators. Air is moved uniformly throughout the root zone for aeration of the whole area, not just where the tines have penetrated. Surface disturbance is minimal.



For full details of the revolutionary AER-AID SYSTEM and video strip visit www.sisis.com or contact us at:

SISIS EQUIPMENT (Macclesfield) LTD
Hurdfield, Macclesfield, Ches. SK10 2LZ
Phone: 01625 503030 Fax: 01625 427426
E-mail: info@sisis.com

BMS

WWW.BMSPRODUCTS.COM

NEW WEBSITE FOR 2008

BROWSE OUR NEW SITE FOR HUNDREDS OF GOLF COURSE PRODUCTS

VISIT US ONLINE TODAY

- GOLF PRODUCTS**
 - FLAGS
 - HOLE CUPS
 - TEE MARKERS
- GENERAL TOOLS**
- CLOTHING**
- SIGNAGE**
- TURFCARE**



DISTRIBUTORS NATIONWIDE TEL: 01582 758444



Model 521EH

LASTEC



Front mounted mower with 2.5 metre cutting width
Cost effective, versatile and rugged
Five fully articulating decks
Fits to most out-front traction units

The Articulator

Tel: 01622 812 103 Fax: 01622 815 534

"Quality Rotary Mowers for a World that isn't Flat."

www.lastec.co.uk

From their modern warehouse facilities, located just a few miles from the Home of Golf, Hoggs of Fife is able to offer all greenkeeper wear from stock. Most clothing lines can be embroidered with your club crest, logo or name as required. Pricing represents unrivalled value for money and BIGGA members are eligible for a 25% discount off the already very keen list prices.

For more information contact Hoggs of Fife Ltd, tel: 01334 653733 or visit: www.gkwear.com

Unpredictable Weather...

The thrill for many greenkeepers is the opportunity to experience the great outdoors and all that comes with it, but with the seasons constantly changing the elements can also provide their own tribulations.

Simon Jersey has woven suggestions and requests into a range of workwear specially designed for greenkeepers.

The company's unisex sweatshirts use a 60% cotton and 40% polyester blend to combine both ease of laundering and comfort into one.

Their gilets and fleeces have been designed specifically for outdoor wear. Keeping out the chill is their number one function, although they have been well designed to offer full manoeuvrability to the wearer. Made of polyester, they also boast anti-pill properties meaning that they're hard-wearing and therefore longer-lasting.

Fleece Jacket

Price: £16.99



Outerwear jackets are available in styles from lightweight waterproofs which can be carried in a bag 'just in case', through to heavyweight affairs with attachable fleece innards. There is also a high-visibility option with reflective stripes for those that need their presence to be known.

Casual, Quilted Jacket

Price: £39.95



New for spring 2008 is a quilted jacket of which Simon Jersey is particularly proud. Not only does the jacket provide warmth on colder days, but it is also waterproof and Teflon-coated meaning that it stays cleaner for longer.

This thinking has also been applied to their combat trousers that feature zips in the trousers allowing them to be cropped at different lengths, meaning warm legs in the winter and fresh legs in the summer.

Trousers

Price: £14.95



Also available are a wide range of items perfect for spring and summer, particularly various styles of polo shirts which are available in both short and long sleeve options, and a fantastic new range of Cotton Traders clothing which can be customised by employers.

Unisex Anti-Pill Fleece Gilet

Price: £11.95



Polo Shirt

Price: £6.95

All are available in a plethora of sizes, contemporary colours and trim options and, using Simon Jersey's embroidery service, garments can be personalised with club names and logos.

For more details visit: www.simonjersey.com or call: 0870 111 8800.



THE WALLER'S TALE

By Paul Worster, Course Manager, Minchinhampton GC

The two courses at Minchinhampton New incorporate some five miles of Cotswold Stone Walls. The courses have both boundary walls, and also internal walls. Both types are part of an old field system through which the courses were originally laid out - but a glance at an Ordnance Survey map of 1895 shows that there were then significantly more walls, and many lengths have been lost. This brings home the importance of protecting those that remain. Paul and Matt Worster take a look at how the walls fit into the golf courses, and the on-going maintenance of these historic features.



Planning restrictions imposed on the golf course design limited the number of fairway bunkers permissible on the Cherington course, which opened in 1995. Therefore the walls “double-up” as golfing hazards, and landscape features. They do in fact form pretty extreme golfing hazards, and Martin Hawtree (golf course architect) was able to make the best use of them in his layout. The Cherington Course has no less than seven holes, which require very accurate tees shots to be threaded through gaps in the walls in order to find the perfect position on the fairway.



Over the years before the farmland was purchased for golf, the farm walls, in common unfortunately with many other drystone walls in the Cotswolds, had been allowed to deteriorate quite significantly. The reason for this deterioration was the significant ongoing cost of upkeep and maintenance. As with other rural issues, the reduction in expense afforded by replacing crumbling stone walls with post and wire, has been compelling.

A condition of securing Planning Consent for the construction of Minchinhampton's Cherington Course in 1992, was that all the field walls were to be retained in the course design, regardless of their condition. A minimum height of 0.66 metres was to be attained throughout the property. This meant frantic mass-rebuilding over the winter of 1993 by greenstaff who frankly didn't have a huge amount of experience. It was nonetheless a tremendous effort over one winter to repair some two miles of course walls in order for the course to open. That was 15 years ago.

Now, time and resources exist to tidy, repair, and rebuild to higher standards, and over the past five years, bit by bit, the walls are being replaced with new stone as time allows.

Charlie Beetge, Assistant Greenkeeper who acts as Drystone Walling Tutor, is managing the project and comments – “If the course were regarded as a picture painting, then the walls would be the picture frame”. Sound words indeed.

Drystone walling is a very traditional art, and is very difficult to speed up even with the use of modern equipment, but as Charlie reminds us – “at least we can have the stone delivered - spare a thought for the original builders who first had to dig and salvage stone from the fields”.



The first step in the rebuilding process is to remove the old wall. Even this should not be done by machine for the danger of damaging any reusable stone.



Therefore, this is done mainly by hand, as there will be some stone which is reusable in the new wall, stone which will be suitable for foundations, and stone for infill during rebuilding. All these various materials are sorted and put to one side.

The rest of the material is removed, and a firm foundation trench dug. A specially shaped frame and lines are used to make sure that all walls are of standard dimensions and follow straight lines. Charlie makes it look easy, but this is an illusion – there is a lot more involved than placing one stone on top of two more. All stones must be level and firm with no rocking. Charlie actually walks on the foundation stones to make sure they are firm.



New stone – (as dug from the ground during a recent lake excavation), is sorted from a stock-pile, faced, and delivered on pallets to the wall site. All staff are involved in this sorting & facing process, while Charlie and the two other skilled “wallers” do the rebuilding. Most of the stone needs to be “worked” with hammers & chisels to get rid of any protrusions, allowing it to lie firmly within the new wall. The internal walls are known as feature walls and their construction differs quite significantly from boundary walls. Charlie pays great attention to detail whilst building these feature walls and uses large stones which virtually meet in the centre of the wall to produce a solid structure that uses the weight of the stones to hold the wall together. A boundary wall would be built much quicker than a feature wall and less work would be done to face and prepare the stone.



Adam Matthews & Matt Workman make the best of a muddy little corner!



Large stones are put into the foundation and base courses, followed by progressively thinner stones for the uppermost courses.

The site is rather windy and exposed – the builders are much happier with their own tea-room (a converted car-port, staff only - no members allowed!) Progress is slow but steady with some ten metres per week achieved from start to finish. On average, Charlie and his team spend one third greenkeeping, and two thirds of their day building during the winter.



The local wildlife is already showing a strong interest in the walls which provide a habitat for small mammals which in turn benefits the local bird of prey population. The walls are therefore a critical part of the various ongoing ecology initiatives here at Minchinhampton.

This stile-stone on one of the public footpaths dates back to the 1700's. It was found in an overgrown corner, and has been restored to its former glory. This helps demonstrate to the general public the clubs commitment to the environment and to being a responsible custodian of the land that it occupies.



This is clearly a long-term project, but both club and staff are totally committed to seeing it through.

P.S. No rodents were harmed during the making of this article.



Hobbies

Here's something you didn't know about me...

Name: Brad Anderson

Hobby: Building PC's

Job: Membership Services Assistant at BIGGA HQ

How and when did you start building computers?

"It was either 1994 or 1995 when my dad's computer started playing up and not working properly. I decided to take it apart to try and mend it for him – not knowing anything much about computers at the time – and I managed to fix it.

"I've always been interested in computers but ever since fixing my dad's, my interest in how they work has grown and I built my first PC from scratch in 2001. (I can only build PC's as it is not possible to build Macs from scratch)."

What is it about building PC's that appeals to you?

"Being a bit of a nerd, I just like taking things to pieces and looking at how they work. You get quite a sense of achievement from building something from nothing - computers are a part of everyone's life whether they like it or not so it's beneficial to know them inside and out."

What's the best computer you've ever built?

"The one I currently own at home which I built at the beginning of this year (see picture). It's made of transparent perspex and is basically an all singing all dancing PC. It has dual core which is better for performing many tasks and it is good to use for video and MP3 manipulation.

"I bought the pieces I needed to build the computer over time and it ended up costing considerably less than buying a new computer."



FEATURE



WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?



Name: David Withers

Company: Ransomes Jacobsen

Position: Managing Director

How long have you been in the industry?

"20 years."

How did you get into it?

"I was working as a mechanic in partnership with David Watson, now at Does of Esher, and we started servicing the cars for Charterhouse Turf Machinery. From there, we started doing demos, building some of the machines and so on, and in the end went to work for CTM full time, which was a great learning experience for me."

What other jobs have you done?

"I did two years working in Kenya as a volunteer followed by working at Barker's Garage, then CTM followed by a variety of different jobs since joining Jacobsen in 1992."

What do you like about your current job?

"The opportunity to meet interesting people and to travel to some of the best golf courses in the world. I also enjoy the challenges and being able to make a difference."

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

"Increased focus on environmental and ergonomics on machinery design, Consolidation of golf courses and increased commercial pressures on Golf Course Managers. It's also more professional in virtually every way than it used to be."

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"I enjoy playing golf and watching rugby."

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"I would like to think I will still be in the industry and doing a worthwhile job if I haven't turned golf pro by then."

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

"Too many to mention."

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

"Don't really have one."

Pick a number

"5."