

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

The Wentworth Club, May 22-25 2008

BIGGA are to provide a Greenkeeping Support Team for the BMW PGA Championship at The Wentworth Club, May 22-25.

As a team member you will be involved in walking with a match and raking any bunkers found by the players, as well as aiding Chris Kennedy and his staff, should adverse weather occur.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course, while there is no overnight accommodation provided. Being a member of this team will not be detrimental to your chances of making The Open Championship team.

Applications should be sent to: Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator, 34 Howard Close, Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 7QF.

The Open Championship, Royal Birkdale, July 17-20

This is your opportunity to work at Royal Birkdale GC to assist Course Manager Chris Whittle, and his team with the preparation of course and be a part of the on-course team which accompanies each match ensuring bunkers are raked in a correct and professional manner.

It will be your responsibility to make your way to the team's base for the week – The Lancashire Manor Hotel, Upholland nr Wigan - but after that transport to and from the golf course, shared accommodation and meals will be provided for the duration of the Championship.

You will be expected to report for duty by 5pm on Wednesday, July 16, and be available until the close of play on Sunday – a meal and bed and breakfast will be supplied for the Sunday evening and Monday morning if required.

This opportunity is open to full BIGGA members only. Younger members, relatively new to the Association, will also be actively considered. To apply complete this application form and send to: Scott MacCallum, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York, YO61 1UF. For further information contact Scott on 01347 833800 or email scott@bigga.co.uk

Closing Date for applications for The Open Team February 1, 2008, and you will be notified later in the month.

Name _____ Golf Club _____
 Position _____ Age _____

I have applied for/appeared on the team at:	Applied	Successful	Yes	No
Carnoustie, 2007				
Hoylake, 2006				
St Andrews, 2005				
Royal Troon, 2004				
Royal St George's, 2003				
I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years				
I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee				
I am enrolled on BIGGA's CPD Scheme				
I have attended three of the last five Harrogate Weeks.				
I am/have been a member of the PGA Championship Support Team				
I am willing to be a mini bus driver (You must have held a full driving license for three years and be over 25 years of age.)				
I am an overseas Member				

Note: A place on the team is open to all full BIGGA members but priority will be given to the more active members. Also, subject to sufficient experienced applicants, no BIGGA member will be eligible to appear on more than three consecutive teams. A limited number of places will be made available to overseas members. Please ensure that you have spoken to your golf club or Course Manager prior to applying and have arranged the time off. From this year should you be chosen you must send a passport picture of yourself to BIGGA HQ.



THE CHOSEN ONES

10 members of the BIGGA Delegation will be travelling to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Orlando, thanks to Bernhard & Co. Melissa Toombs reveals the chosen ones.

Orlando is a major city in central Florida. With an estimated population of 220,186 it is the sixth largest city in Florida.

The city is best known for the many tourist attractions in the area, in particular the nearby Walt Disney World Resort, which is located in Lake Buena Vista about 20 miles south of Orlando. Other notable area attractions include SeaWorld and Universal Orlando Resort. The region sees an estimated 52 million tourists a year. Orlando has the second largest number of hotel rooms in the country (after Las Vegas, Nevada), and is one of the busiest American cities for conferences and conventions with the Orange County Convention Center, the country's second largest in square footage. It is also known for its wide array of golf courses – 168 to be exact! - With numerous courses available for any level of golfer.

Once again 10 BIGGA members will be flown to the United States for the experience of a lifetime, thanks to the sponsorship of Bernhard & Co. While in Orlando, they will visit local golf courses, attend seminars, meet with superintendents to discuss how greenkeepers do things the other side of the pond, attend functions and of course be able to enjoy the GIS (Golf Industry Show) Conference and Exhibition.

ABOUT THE GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

The Golf Industry Show is an innovative trade show designed for the owners/operators of golf facilities, and the professional members of the golf course and club management industries. Like our very own Harrogate Week, the event combines education, networking and solutions for golf course superintendents, owners/operators, general managers, chief operating officers, architects and builders.

GIS is presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) and the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA), along with other supporting organisations.

The 2008 event will take place from January 31 to February 2 and is to be held at The Orange County Convention Center. More than 25,000 golf industry professionals are expected to attend this year's show, which will feature around 1,200 exhibitors.

THE DELEGATION



Name: Graeme Gallimore
Club: Launceston, Cornwall
Position: Course Manager

Educated to NVQ Level 3 and with a Certificate in Management Studies, Graeme has recently taken on the role of Section Education Representative for Devon and Cornwall. Currently Course Manager at Launceston Golf Club, Graeme spends some of his spare time teaching NVQ knowledge at Duchy College and is an active BIGGA Regional Committee member.

While away Graeme is looking forward to "viewing alternative types of machinery and the management available, in order to see how UK greenkeepers could adapt and utilise any of their initiatives." Graeme is excited about meeting likeminded professionals and establishing new working opportunities during his stay in The States.



Name: Nicholas Nottingham
Club: Luffenham Heath, Lincolnshire
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

Nicholas began his career at Rutland County Golf Club, before moving onto North Luffenham Golf Club and then finally to Luffenham Heath Golf Club, where he has been working as Assistant Greenkeeper for just over three years. Educated to NVQ Level 2, Nicholas has just started work on his NVQ Level 3.

"This trip will further my knowledge of greenkeeping. By learning new things/skills then hopefully the golf club will benefit too," said Nicholas, who would like to work towards a management position.



Name: Ian Smith
Club: Dundonald Links, Ayrshire
Position: Greenkeeper

From 1995 until 2002, Ian was a PGA Professional Golfer based at Sutton Hall Golf Club in Cheshire. Ian only began his career in greenkeeping in 2003, when he worked for a short period of time for South Ayrshire Council as a Seasonal Greenkeeper, before gaining a position at Dundonald

Links at Loch Lomond Golf Club. Ian has a HND in Golf Management Studies and is qualified in Sports Turf to NVQ Level 3.

“To meet my peers from both sides of the Atlantic at such a well respected show will be an invaluable experience. With education seminars and machinery demonstrations it would be great knowledge to gain for my career and also to take back to my club,” said Ian.



Name: George Pendrich
Club: Gleneagles, Perthshire
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

George has a HNC in Golf Course Management and is currently working towards a HND.

An active member of the Association, George was a member of the Open Support Team at Carnoustie this year and is a former Toro Student of the Year winner. George’s career in greenkeeping begun in 2004, when he took on the role of Seasonal Greenkeeper at Gleneagles. He then became a full time greenkeeper at the club and was promoted to Assistant Greenkeeper last year.

“This trip will give me a much better understanding of the business end of greenkeeping, America is a very competitive environment and I would hope to get an insight into making best use of available resources, therefore making me a better manager as well as a greenkeeper,” said George.



Name: Kerr Rowan
Club: The Carrick, Loch Lomond
Position: Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Kerr has worked at Gleneagles, Turnberry, Dundonald and currently The Carrick in Scotland. He has also worked at Westchester CC and Augusta National in America as well as spending some time working on golf course in Australia. Kerr has SVQ Level 3 in Golf Greenkeeping and a HND in Golf Course Management.

“I feel the trip will be an excellent chance to broaden my horizons, the chance to meet and talk with the experts in our industry will surely increase my knowledge and make me a better greenkeeper. The chance to represent BIGGA and be part of the team for the week would be a great thrill and would give me a greater insight into our trade,” said Kerr.



Name: Russell Lewis
Club: Hale, Cheshire
Position: Head Greenkeeper

Russell, who is currently studying for his BSchons, has achieved NVQ Level 3 and has a foundation degree in Sportsturf Science. A career in greenkeeping begun for Russell in 1996, when he started greenkeeping as a trainee at Northop Golf Club. He worked his way up to First Assistant at Northop and then decided to work in the USA for six months. Russell was promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Hale Golf Club about a year ago.

Russell is looking forward to being able to communicate with other greenkeepers from around the globe and to building up a network within the industry. He’s also looking forward to “seeing the latest equipment available on the market, taking in seminars from the leading guys in the industry and seeing first hand what the UK greenkeepers are striving towards.”



Name: Simon Marsh
Club: Harleyford, Marlow
Position: Head Greenkeeper

Simon is educated to City & Guilds Level 3. He started his greenkeeping

career in 1980 as a trainee at Hartley Wintney Golf Club, and worked at five other clubs as Head Greenkeeper/Groundsman before taking up the post of Head Greenkeeper at Harleyford Golf Club.

“I have a great deal of knowledge to share and a passion for the greenkeeping profession. I am lucky to be doing what I have always wanted to do. The best way to learn is to look at and talk to people and their golf courses to see if you can improve your own,” said Simon.



Name: Michael Bush
Club: St Mellion International, Cornwall
Position: Course Manager

Michael started his career in golf course construction and after two years went into greenkeeping at Lanhydrock Golf Club. He then moved to St Mellion International and worked his way up from Assistant to Course Manager. Michael has acquired SVQ Level 2 and NVQ Level 3.

“The benefits of this trip for me will be to see how Championship courses are managed in The States. This will include different feeding programmes and maintenance policies. Also to learn about new technology which has not been adopted in the UK,” said Michael.



Name: Daniel Lightfoot
Club: Bearwood Lakes, Berkshire
Position: Course Manager

Daniel has a MSc in Sports Surface Technology and is Course Manager at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club.

Daniel began his career as an Assistant at the Hertfordshire Golf Club where he was promoted to First Assistant then Deputy Superintendent. He then moved to Gatton Manor Golf Club as Deputy and was promoted to Course Manager. After this Daniel accepted the position of Head of NVQs at Merrist Wood College. In 2005 he accepted his current position.

“The trip will enable me to expand on my knowledge and broaden my ideas. I will experience new techniques and ideas which I can try, to improve the quality of my golf club. I am also looking forward to representing BIGGA and Bernhards at an international greenkeeper event.



Name: Kerry Jones
Club: Garnant Park, Swansea
Position: Course Manager

Kerry is qualified to NVQ Level 3 and has completed numerous other qualifications. Kerry’s greenkeeping career began in 1993, when he took the post of Assistant Greenkeeper at Palleg Golf Club. He worked at three other golf clubs before taking up his current position at Garnant Park Golf Club in 2001.

“I have never visited America and am looking forward to the chance of seeing how we compare with our counterparts in the US. I have a modern approach to the greenkeeping profession, with regards to balancing the commercial needs and golfer expectations, while always respecting the traditions of greenkeeping that have been practices for many years before me,” said Kerry.

EDUCATION CONFERENCES

Along with the show, GCSAA, NGCOA and CMAA will be presenting their annual Education Conferences. GCSAA’s conference will take place from January 28 to February 2.



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GREENER OUTLOOK FOR GOLF COURSE MACHINES

Mike Beardall looks at the changing face of fuels on golf courses as more environmentally-friendly equipment becomes available

Machinery on golf courses has traditionally been powered by petrol or diesel. But now in the 'greener' age biofuels, gas and electricity are playing their part in meeting the demands of the environment lobby, and bio oils that leak onto grass do not have the devastating effects resulting from mineral oil spills.

The Government has set targets which aim, in the case of fuel, to raise the amount of fuels from renewable sources sold in the UK by at least five per cent in 2010. And on golf courses many conservationists are encouraging course managers to buy equipment which runs on greener fuel.

"The benefits are many," says Ron Perera of New Holland. "The reduction in pollutants, fuel security of the future by using natural supplies and not relying on fossil fuels, and less emission of carbons into the atmosphere."

Mower engines which run entirely on sunflower oil have been introduced by manufacturers such as Etesia in the last 12 months and many already run on LPG or can run on SVO (straight vegetable oil) or PPO (pure plant oil).

Biodiesel is the most popular fuel at present which is part diesel and part plant oil.

In Germany and Austria, where green fuels are the norm, it has been shown that it is 20 per cent cheaper to run machines on biofuels, and it is on costs that most course managers make their decisions.

"Money is the number one reason for people to switch fuels," says Tim Evans of Renewable Zukunft (future).

"In surveys all machinery users across the UK put saving money before saving the environment, which is a sad fact but true – and ultimately good for the environment, because biofuels are cheaper to produce and save money in use."

Some of the problems of running engines on pure vegetable oil have been addressed by manufacturers.

Mower producer Etesia's research and development team recognise that an engine run on vegetable oil tends to "gum up", especially when cold - the resin build-up eventually causes serious damage.

To overcome this problem they developed a dual ignition system whereby the unit is initially fired up and runs for a few seconds on diesel supplied from a small fuel tank.

When the temperature reaches around 200 degrees, an electro-valve automatically switches supply to the main bio oil fuel tank to enable normal mowing and other tasks to be carried out.

Once the operator has completed his work, he switches back to diesel for the last couple of minutes to allow the fuel to clean through the engine.

During 2007, Bio Concept Hydro ride-on rotaries have been put to the test in France where local authorities have been successfully cutting and collecting grass with Etesia mowers fuelled by rapeseed oil.

Throughout these extensive trials the machines experienced little or no loss of power and performance remained unchanged. Fuel consumption matched that of diesel and emissions were considerably reduced.

Engine manufacturer Lombardini is supplying new engines to powered ride-ons in the Hydro rotary ranges that can simply switch between conventional diesel and B30-diesel (30 per cent plant oil) according to fuel availability or operator choice.

The two fuels are interchangeable – no modifications are required and there is no need to clean either the tank or the engine.

Toro introduced biodiesel-powered mowers and a hydrogen fuel-cell utility vehicle at the GCSAA show in California last year (2007).

Two dozen models of Toro's new biodiesel ground equipment were on display with new diesel-to-biodiesel conversion kits. Toro's new turf equipment will be delivered to commercial customers in 2008.

Toro has branded the equipment "Biodiesel Ready," meaning it can run on 20per cent vegetable oil and 80per cent petroleum (B20). Vehicles that run solely on biodiesel fuel could be on the market as early as 2009, said Steve Wood, Toro's biodiesel project manager.

"The time is right for Toro and the industry to commit to this effort," CEO Mike Hoffman said. "Our biodiesel readiness initiative is part of a commitment to developing innovative solutions that meet the evolving needs of our customers and help to better the environment."

Ransomes Jacobsen is another manufacturer committed to the use of alternative power in the golf sector and back up this assertion with a range of machines powered by electricity or LPG.

The E-Z-GO ST480 has a payload of 363.2kg (800lbs) and can run on

LPG. And an electric version of the MPT 800 is available with a 36 volt motor. The MPT 1000 is also electrically driven with a 36-volt, DC high efficiency series motor and the capability of carrying a heavier payload of 450kg (992lbs).

LPG-powered versions of the 800 and 1200 are available offering significant fuel savings and a reduction in harmful emissions.



Electric greens mower

The Jacobsen Eclipse 122 hybrid greens mower was introduced at BTME last year and redefines tournament quality of cut with a choice of fixed or fully floating cutting units, two electric motors for traction and cutting and alternative power options.

In true hybrid fashion, there are two power options: one uses a 48 volt genset powered by a 4.6hp Honda petrol engine, while the other is a drop-in 48 volt battery pack.

The Eclipse 122 has a fixed cutting unit, while the 122 F has an independently mounted, fully floating cutting unit which produces an optimum cut in any conditions.

Both machines utilise the exclusive Jacobsen In-Command™ OPC system for easy operation, while the use of electric motors reduces maintenance requirements.

SEPARATE PANEL?

The problem with mineral oil is that it is persistent. It does not readily biodegrade, it's toxic and most importantly it's non-renewable.

Says Tim Landsell, technical director of Ransomes Jacobsen: "The cost of remediation is expensive - there's clean-up cost, downtime of equipment and possible fines from legislative bodies.

"Clean up costs for Bio Oil spills are less. It comes from renewable sources and can mitigate sanctions and possible fines. It helps to preserve our environment and can have enhanced performance properties over mineral oil."

Turf Kill: If the plant is exposed to a sufficient amount of oil, the leaf,



Bio oil prevents spill damage to grass



As Tim Landsell explains: “For non-rhizome grass types self regeneration is just not possible. Once an individual grass plant is suffocated, there is no way it can regenerate. The solution, in this instance, is to reseed the affected area after 30 days following a bio oil exposure. Reseeding post petroleum oil exposure would not be possible for years without soil remediation.”

A recently published study by engineers at the Cushman Division of Ransomes Jacobsen showed that the use of soaps and other surfactant cleaning systems on mineral oil turf spills actually exacerbated the turf kill effect due to a “spreading out” of the petroleum oil’s toxic effects. The same cleaning aids when used with biodegradable fluids, speed up the rate of biodegradation.

Inevitably, oil leakages into the golf course environment will occur. To minimise the environmental effects of this exposure a number of approaches can be employed:

The use of biodegradable oils to replace mineral oil in lubricant applications.

Spill remediation aids, such as soaps or cleaning to “wash away” oil. Topical oil absorbents to “suck up” the oil.

Well maintained equipment to minimise leakage risk.

stem and root will be coated with an oil film. This will cause the worst case scenario regarding oil spill effects. Oil is not soluble in water. An oil film on a leaf will block the tiny leaf pores, stopping gas and moisture diffusion between the leaf and atmosphere, as well as prohibiting photosynthesis.

Oil coating a root will stop the soil water and oxygen absorption process between the soil and plant. If the oil coating remains on the leaf and root for a sufficient amount of time the plant will suffocate and die, typically within a week.

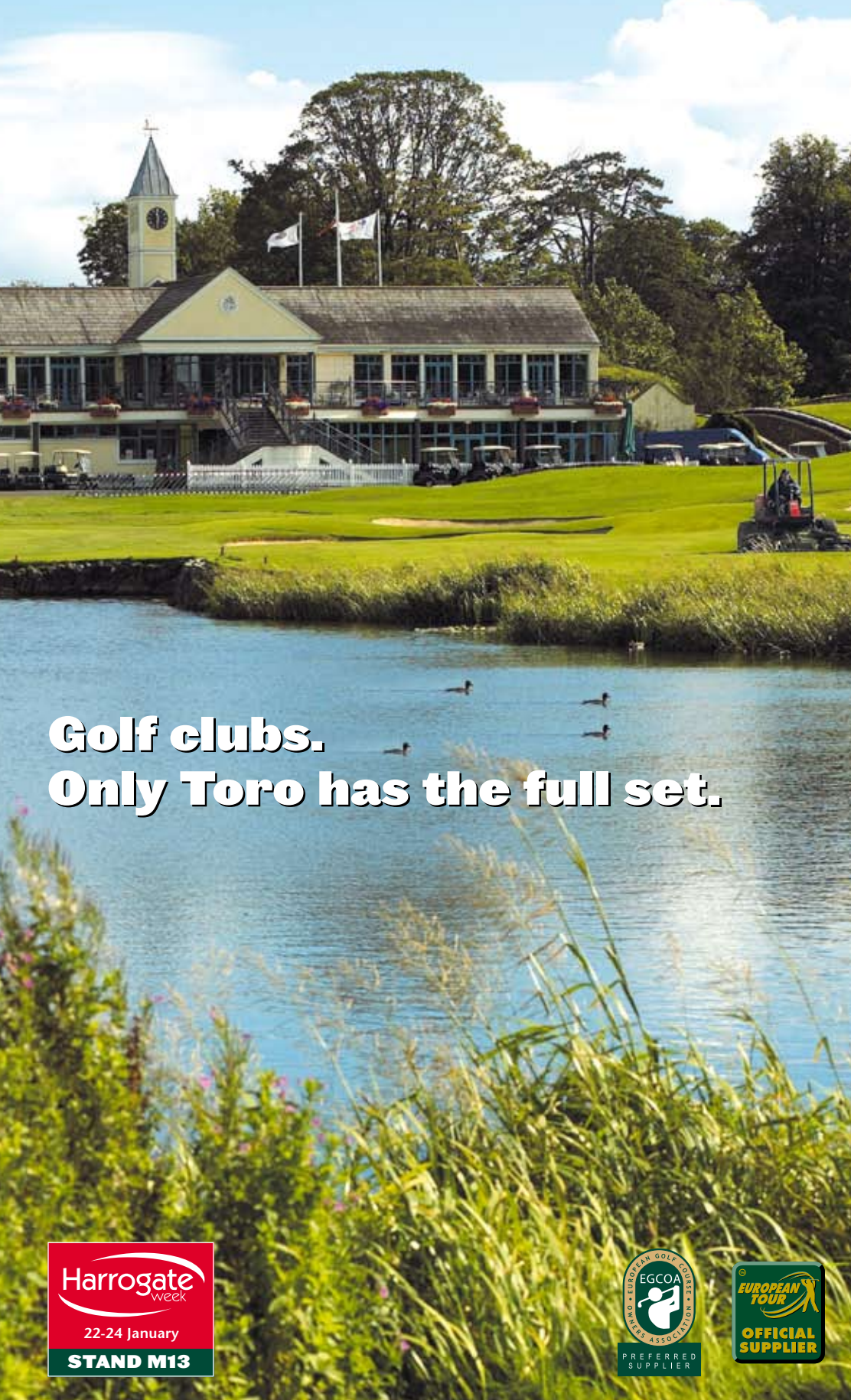
Soil Contamination: Another effect from significant oil exposure is the effect on the soil. Mineral oil is a known toxic material to living things. When sufficient oil is released into soil, the previously discussed plant effects occur.

But, more importantly, the presence of mineral oil in the soil causes a “sterilisation” of the soil, which causes a decrease in the level of micro-organisms present. Grass plant regeneration into the “sterilised” area is highly unlikely and the soil in a mineral oil spill zone must typically be removed and replaced so that reseedling of the region can be done.

Mineral oil will biodegrade and its rate of biodegradation in soil will typically occur over a period of one to two years. Conversely, other oils, such as natural esters (vegetable oils) or synthetic esters, biodegrade over a two to three week period.

For this reason, biodegradable lubricants are finding more and more use in spill sensitive applications. They minimise the turf kill effects on grass because they essentially disappear fast enough (biodegrade) to allow the grass to regenerate.





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New Products



VACUUM SWEEPER

Trilo will be launching the new SG300 high tip, vacuum sweeper at Harrogate Week. Built to the same high quality and with many of the features of the SG400, including a brush inside the suction hood and 6 metre wanderhose and it only needs 35hp to power the SG300, it fits perfectly into the range.

As the new Progressive mower importer for the UK, the company will also have at the show for the first time, the Pro-flex 120 mower - capable of mowing the worst in undulations without scalping, while leaving a perfect cut.

www.trilo.com



NEW GENERATION

Scotts' Harrogate Week offering includes the launch of a new generation spray pattern indicator.

Turf Mark Extra is the latest generation of spray pattern indicators for use with herbicides, fungicides and liquid fertilisers. The new Turf Mark Extra has the addition of a buffer to help stabilise the pH of the spraying solution, plus an anti-drift agent.

www.scotts.com



GIVE BUNKERS A SHARPER EDGE

DJ Turfcare will be showing the Atom Bunker Edger, which has gained more than 200 satisfied users among course managers and greenkeepers in the UK at this year's show.

Unique in the golf industry, the Atom trims bunkers up to eight times faster than any other edging device.

With a 17-inch (436mm) hardened spring steel blade and a powerful two-stroke Komatsu Zenoah engine, the Atom Bunker Edger safely cuts through sand and soil to sever grass runners underground.

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or email: sales@djurfcare.co.uk



EUROPEAN LAUNCH

Harrogate sees the official launch of Headland's DewCure onto the European market, one week before the product's American launch at the G.C.S.A.A. show in Orlando.

DewCure is a unique new liquid surfactant, specifically designed to suppress dew and moisture formation on turf, over an extended period.

DewCure is available in 10 litre packs.

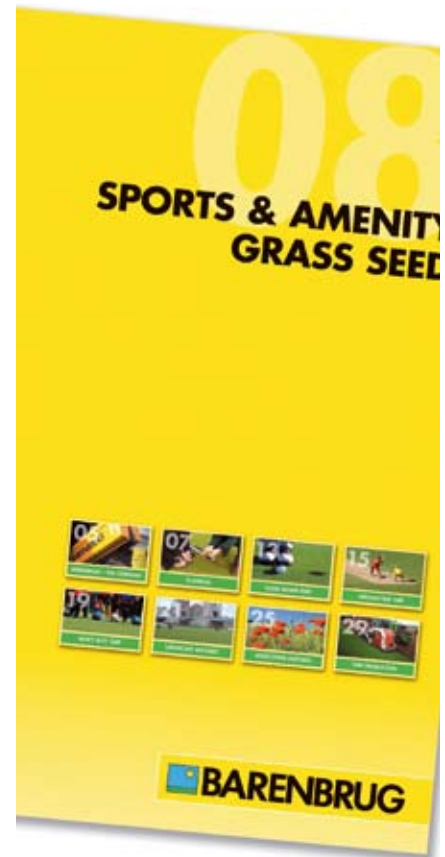
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or email: info@headlandamenity.com



NEW MIXTURES AND WEBSITE ON SHOW

Barenbrug is unveiling details of new amenity cultivars and its 'intelligent' website at Harrogate Week.

The introductions are headed by a new 100 per cent fescue blend BAR 22. Containing hard, slender creeping red and Chewings fescues, BAR 22 is suitable for close mowing down to 5mm.



Also new for 2008 is Bengal creeping bent (Agrostis stolonifera). Barenbrug claim Bengal has excellent drought tolerance for the species.

The website includes a wealth of technical data including Factfiles. Introduced originally by Barenbrug to ensure the technical data from its international and UK-based trials, breeding and research and development programmes was disseminated to those who can make best use of it, this service will also be available through the website.

www.barenbrug.co.uk

New Products



NEW PRODUCTS

NEW GOLF SPRINKLER

Toro says the new DT (Dual Trajectory) Series golf sprinkler it is launching at this year's show is the most advanced, durable and flexible irrigation sprinkler of its type. This latest range incorporates many proven features from the company's best-selling 800 Series. These include a special feature called 'selectable trajectory', which makes it very simple for users to adjust the trajectory of the main nozzle to either 15 or 25 degrees to better withstand wind or avoid obstacles.

Meanwhile, on the turf equipment side, the company will be giving a debut to Toro Protection Plus (TPP). This is new plan which, says the manufacturer, provides machinery customers with the industry's most comprehensive protection against unexpected and unwanted repair bills.

www.toro.com



COMPACT TRACTOR UNVEILED

A new 32hp compact tractor with an 8 x 8 synchro-shuttle transmission and creep speed option will be unveiled by Massey Ferguson at this year's show.

Known as the MF 1532, the tractor replaces the existing MF 1533 model in Massey Ferguson's 1500 Series compact tractor line-up for the grounds care market.

www.masseyferguson.co.uk



LOW MAINTENANCE FINE TURF

Hailed as the ultimate in low maintenance fine turf, Lindum's new Low Maintenance Fine is designed to be both drought and salt tolerant, with reduced feeding, aeration and mowing requirements.

Ideal for greens and surrounds on links courses, tees and sand based greens, Low Maintenance Fine is also recommended for exposed droughty areas and banks, which are difficult to maintain.

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Terrain Aeration's Airforce Scamper Terralift machine will be on show at Harrogate for the first time.

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EXPANDED PRODUCT RANGE

Farmura have expanded their product range to include water management products from Aquatrols which complement the Farmura liquid organic feeds, soil conditioners and specialist turf products and bring together under one roof recognised names such as Porthcawl, Revolution, Ferrosol and Primer Select.

www.farmura.com



CONTACT AND SYSTEMIC TURF FUNGICIDE

Bayer Environmental Science is launching its new Contact and Systemic turf fungicide Dedicate® at this year's show.

Dedicate® is a FAST, long lasting, broad spectrum fungicide which both cures and prevents turf disease all year round, "whatever the weather". Rainfast within the hour. Dedicate® controls Fusarium patch, red thread, dollar spot and others including Anthracnose in managed amenity turf.

01223 226680

