



The John Deere Z Trak 997 can be fitted with a side or rear discharge deck, tough units made from heavy 4.5 mm thick steel. The 44 litre fuel tank should be enough to keep the 31hp diesel engine fed for a full day of mowing.



Pro-Stance 1934 and Pro-Stance 1948 'stand-on' zero turn mowers are powered by a Kawasaki 19hp V-twin petrol engines and have respective deck widths of 0.86 and 1.22m with mulch kit option. Narrow width is a key to these machines appeal, particularly where access is restricted by pedestrian gates.



Powered by a 24hp Kawasaki V-twin petrol engine, the LP25KAW Convertible mower can be specified with a choice of 1.21m, 1.32m or 1.55m deck. Show working in pedestrian mode, the same mower can be converted to a ride-on, without any tools, in a couple of minutes.



Toro Groundsmaster 7200 series 28hp zero-turn mowers can be fitted with a choice of decks, including 1.58 and 1.83 Guardian recycler units. Made from heavy steel, the decks are claimed to be extremely tough and leave a really good finish.



Grasshopper zero-turn models have a four-wheel chassis, this enabling the mower to work with a range of attachments that can include a debris blower or brush. Pictures unit is fitted with a collection system. This is the sort of zero-turn that could well convert existing out-front rotary users.



The 33 hp Iseki SZ330 is among the most power zero-turn models, its large 1.83m deck enabling it to match tight turning with a high level of productivity. Large driving and big front castor wheels useful for work on rougher ground.



Powered by a 20hp Yanmar diesel, the Ransomes ZT220D has a 1.50m deck. Small and nippy, this mower is ideally suited to working in and around trees, flower borders and other obstacles.

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AR522 -

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Eclipse - walking greens mower



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Photograph by Mike Beardall



EUROPEAN TOUR



The European Tour has been a BIGGA Golden Key supporter since 1997 and since then through the Main Tour, the Challenge Tour and the Seniors' has visited over 1000 golf courses. Scott MacCallum met with David Garland to talk about the issues of the day.

It's not often you could look back at a European golf season, during which a Ryder Cup was lost, and still see it as a good year. But that's exactly how 2008 should be written up in the history books.

Sure, Nick Faldo's team lost out in Valhalla, but it came at the end of an unprecedented run of European success in the Ryder Cup and, much as it did with the European revival in the 80s, an American win should do much to reinvigorate the event.

But Pádraig Harrington's emergence as a true Champion in Majors with back-to-back wins in The Open and USPGA Championships marked the year out as something special.

It's easy to forget that Harrington teed off at Royal Birkdale not knowing if his injured wrist would carry him more than a few holes and to win in such majestic style, overhauling the amazing Greg Norman, was a wonderful achievement. Then to stare down Sergio Garcia over the back nine of the USPGA Championship to become the first European winner of the modern age took Harrington to another level.

On the European Tour itself, 2008 saw one of the most remarkable chapters in its history with the signing of the agreement with Leisucorp – new owners of Turnberry – for the Race to

Dubai, which will culminate in the top 60 players on the Money List competing for a \$10 million purse and \$10 million bonus pool in the Dubai World Championship. Makes your eyes water a little doesn't it?

"It is exciting. But it has always been exciting to work here," said David Garland, the Director of Tour Operations, as we sat in his office in the Wentworth-based Tour Headquarters.

"The awards for the players at the top end are fantastic and it's a wonderful contract we have with Leisucorp," said David, adding that the first of the World Championships will be played over the Earth Course at Jumeirah Golf Estates - a new Norman design.

The Race to Dubai has caused such a stir among the world's top players that many of them, including Camilo Villegas, Anthony Kim, Jeff Ogilvy and Mike Weir among others have joined the Tour, while other big names are considering joining them.

It marks an end to the traditional season finale when the Volvo Masters visited southern Spain, usually Valderrama, with weather often being a headache.

"We're an outdoor sport and weather is an issue. We've just played the Volvo Masters, for the 21st and last time at Valderrama, and we had very poor weather but the construction of

the course made it playable when all the other courses around were closed. That is testimony to what a wonderful venue it has been for us over the years," said David.

The 1997 Ryder Cup at Valderrama was another example of when poor weather nearly disrupted the event and it was only thanks to the wonderful construction and great work by owner Jimmy Patino and his team that allowed Seve Ballesteros to lead his team to a famous victory.

For many years the Sotogrande-based course has been the benchmark for conditioning on the European Tour and David believes that the quality of Valderrama quickened the rate of improvement in the condition of other Tour venues.

David joined the Tour in 1988 and has witnessed first hand the strides that have been made since then.

"That was the first year of the Volvo Masters and Valderrama was by far the best conditioned course in Europe and it has pulled the rest of the courses up to the standards they are now. That gap has now closed and other tournament venues are similar to the quality that Valderrama produces. All are of a high standard now but then generally the standard of regular golf clubs has risen enormously over the past 20 years," he said.

"At the end of the day it is still about golf tournaments but the biggest advances have been

in players services as well as the extent to which a European Tour event is marketed by the tourist authorities in the region or country. They are not stand alone golf tournaments anymore but part of a much bigger picture."

David is well aware of the fact that the Tour causes expectation levels to rise among golf club members and he sympathises with the pressure that results from that.

"People are expecting fast greens all the time and this can't happen. Those clubs who try to achieve tournament speeds all year round can have it backfire and stress out their greens," said David.

"The biggest thing we strive for is not speed but consistency."

With Tour players and officials having their passports stamped in countries their predecessors had only ever read about in books, it means a huge range of golf course and maintenance regimes.

They play on true links like St Andrews, without much rough; tree lined courses like Wentworth; modern courses like the K Club, while they are now in Asia and South Africa where the grasses are different.

"We have been very pleasantly surprised by China because the golf courses we play there are all modern and built to a high specification and they have experienced Course Managers, usually American, European or Australian."

The Tour has six greenkeepers/agronomists who provide support to the venues.

"Richard Stillwell runs the department, while we still use Jack McMillan as well as some very good guys in Eddie Adams, Graham McNiven, Alan Purdie and Scott McLean. There are five Scots in there just to keep Richard on his toes," laughed fellow Scot, David.

Every course gets at least one visit but more are made if considered necessary, while, on occasion, someone can be put into a venue for a few weeks in advance and during the tournament itself to offer advice and support.

"Really, we're there to advise, our team are experts in Tournament preparation and for the 'final tweaking' – the putting on of the lipstick if you like. The event is on television and we want to show the golf course off to its best. It's cutting lines to television cameras, raking bunkers towards the direction of play so we don't get ridges behind the ball."

(The support that comes from the Tour Greenkeeping Department can also help with the amount of cutting that goes on during an event.)

"Generally speaking we have 156 players in the field on a weekly basis and wherever possible we have a two tee start – that gets more people on the golf courses at the same time and makes it a slightly shorter day than a one tee start – but it does put pressure on the greenkeeping team to have the course prepared in time.

"We also get support from Toro who bring in a tournament fleet if extra machines are required."

With the three main Tours – the Challenge, the European Tour and the Seniors' Tour – the European Tour goes to over 100 venues each year and in his 20 years on Tour David has some good news for all Tour, or potential Tour, venues.

"I've never known a situation where greens have died off a short time after the Tour has visited. It's an Old Wives' Tale that we'd have crazy procedures and practices that affect the long term health of the greens. That is certainly not true. It's basic, commonsense greenkeeping

that we advocate. It's aeration, aeration and more aeration."

The Tour has been a Golden Key of BIGGA since 1997 and David is delighted to be able to provide educational support to the Association's members.

"We have a good relationship with BIGGA and would like that to be as strong as possible. We are particularly close to some of the Course Managers, including current BIGGA Chairman Kenny Mackay, since his time at Hanbury Manor, and incoming Chairman, Peter Todd."

David is also a regular visitor at Harrogate Week.

"I really enjoy going to Harrogate for a couple of days. It really is a wonderful meeting place and I can catch up with a number of people at the same time."

The Tour has grown amazingly over the last two decades. It has produced a string of golfing superstars and showcased some of the finest established and new courses in the UK, mainland Europe and beyond.

"We are here for the long term and we can all learn from each other."

As we reached the tail end of the interview, I still had a bone to pick with David. It was a personal beef regarding something the Tour has done absolutely nothing to halt and which has merely reinforced one of the negative images golf has among non-golfers – fashion!

Why is it, I asked, that we are seeing so many gaudy trousers, garish shirts and white belts on Tour?

"Scott, perhaps you're just middle aged!"

After an enjoyable interview it was, I think you'll agree, a very low blow to a legitimate question.



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HARROGATE WEEK

A BEHIND THE SCENES LOOK



Melissa Jones makes the most of her 'access all areas' pass and takes a look at the hard work that goes into organising this prestigious annual event.

Visitors from around the world will be gathering in Harrogate, England, later this month for the well-established, premier event in the golf and turf industry – Harrogate Week.

Harrogate Week, Europe's largest indoor turf event that combines both elements of turf and clubhouse management, has become a truly international event with 357 visitors travelling from 30 overseas countries as far a field as Australia, South Africa, the USA and Japan.

Harrogate Week's diversity is growing and visitors from all areas of the sportsturf industry – as well as from farms & estates, local authorities and theme parks – will be attending the three day exhibition and the five day world-renowned 'Continue to Learn' education programme.

With 5500 buyers and over 150 exhibitors, attending every year. Harrogate Week's strong brand provides a platform to build relationships between exhibitors and visitors. With 5495

people visiting last year's show, 2009's event is not to be missed.

So that's how prestigious the annual show has become but what exactly has it taken to achieve this? What goes on behind the scenes?

A lot of planning, preparation and general hard work takes place at BIGGA HQ prior to the annual event. Each department plays their part in making Harrogate Week a success and ensuring the show grows in status year-on-year...

SALES/EXHIBITION

The biggest department at BIGGA HOUSE, Sales, has the following staff: Rosie McGilvray, Sales Manager; Pauline Thompson, Exhibition Officer; Sue McDonough, Exhibition Sales; Kirstin Smith, Advertising Executive and Sharon Price, Sales Executive.

Sue McDonough works on the show all year and her job takes on a cycle: "After each January show exhibitors are given until the end of February to rebook their stand slot," explained Sue, who spends much of her time during Harrogate Week, speaking to exhibitors about what they would

like to see next year and how they might like to change their stand space.

Come March the hall space is opened up to everyone, and that's when the game of fitting stands around each other while ensuring exhibitors are happy, begins.

"Much of my job is customer service based," said Sue.

"It's important that we look after our existing exhibitors while also trying to develop the show by introducing new stands and clients."

There are many areas of Harrogate Week that also need organising such as: Where the BIGGA stand will be situated, where the eateries and café's will be positioned and how they will be promoted, and also what form the new 'Social Night' will take around the show.

Sharon's role is to help promote businesses by giving them as many options and opportunities as possible, be it website advertisements, show leaflets or information around the halls.

Kirstin works mainly on generating sales for this monthly publication, Greenkeeper International, and advertisements pushing Harrogate Week and exhibiting companies generally come in to play



Pauline Thompson, Exhibition Officer

in the December and January issues.

Probably the biggest and most complicated role is that of Exhibition Officer, taken on by Pauline Thompson.

Pauline is responsible for all the organisation, contracts and bookings for the show.

Her long annual 'to do' list includes organising security, temporary staff, first aid, the exhibitors lounge, catering points and menu's, internal and external signage, the park & ride, insurance, the Internet Café, marketing, registration, the show guide, welcome packs...the list goes on and on!

The Harrogate Week website also plays an important part in promoting the show, and Pauline is responsible for keeping this updated with the latest show news.

Another form of show promotion are advertisements within various publications. "I work with our Designer, Tom, to ensure our Harrogate Week adverts are eye-catching and the readers attention are drawn to them," explained Pauline.

Once Harrogate Week is upon us, Pauline has an early start on Saturday morning. "The first jobs for the contractors are to lay the carpets, measure out floor space, build the stand shells, and then I begin to schedule the lorries in," said Pauline.

The Sunday sees the middle of each hall filled, with the space and removal lorries being coordinated by Pauline and Mike Coleman, Floor Manager. Monday morning is generally when the smaller stands begin to arrive and by the Monday evening everything is set up and ready.

Once the show is underway, Pauline spends much of her time coordinating the main office, inspecting areas from a health & safety perspective and dealing with any queries.



Sue McDonough, Exhibition Sales



Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development

"Once Harrogate Week is over, the Thursday evening and Friday morning take the same form as build-up but in reverse," explained Pauline, who is always keen to ensure that each show is more successful than the last.

Back in the office Pauline starts the whole cycle again, and begins by collating attendance figures and passing these onto the Sales team so they can, once again, begin selling stand space.

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

The Learning & Development department consists of Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development and Rachael Duffy, Learning & Development Administrator.

Sami and Rachael are responsible for Harrogate Week's 'Continue to Learn' education programme.

The department coordinate approximately 65 speakers who run various workshops and seminars. Around 24 of these people will be fringe speakers – exhibitors given the opportunity to run a free session.

Work starts 15-16 months prior to the show, "an outline for the 2009 education programme was drawn up in October 2007," said Sami. "Ideas were finalised in March 2008, they would normally be shown to the education sub-committee, before we go full steam ahead and invite the speakers."

'The Definitive Guide to Harrogate Week 2009' brochure, which details the full 'Continue to Learn' education programme and any fringe seminars booked before it is published, was written in June '08, designed August '08 and went out with the October edition of Greenkeeper International – it



Rachael Duffy, Learning & Development Administrator

is also uploaded to the Harrogate Week website – www.harrogateweek.org.uk

"We are also responsible for the coordination of the required audio visual during workshops and in the auditorium," explained Sami. "We also make decisions regarding the catering arrangements, take bookings via post, phone and internet and produce marketing mail outs promoting the various courses."

Learning & Development also organise the Master Greenkeepers AGM and presentations for events such as: the Environment Competition, Toro Student of the Year, and to those who have acquired new Master Greenkeepers status or achieved a CPD Diploma.

"Badging for delegates and speakers is also a necessity which we organise, as well as sending the 'Continue to Learn' programme to America to have GCSSA credits assigned to courses, and ensuring BASIS credits are also organised," said Rachael.

Sami and Rachael start work at 8am on Sunday, January 18, and control and run the entire 'Continue to Learn' programme throughout Harrogate Week.

COMMUNICATIONS

BIGGA's Communications department, which consists of Scott MacCallum, Communications Manager/Editor; Melissa Jones, Assistant Editor and Tom Campbell, Design and Production Editor, put together articles, press releases and promotional material to do with Harrogate Week.

Tom designs 'The Definitive Guide to Harrogate Week', the 'Show Guide' and various advertisements/publicity material and signage to promote the event.

Scott and I write various articles, which feature within this publication, about the show. And as well as this, it is our job to email out press releases, help put together the Harrogate Week newsletters, and organise the set up of the Media Centre, taking bookings for press conferences, compiling media packs and ensuring the smooth running of the media centre.

After each show we have a departmental de-brief to discuss ways in which we can keep on improving the facilities.

ACCOUNTS

BIGGA's accounts department, which consists of Stephen Coates, Accountant and Tracey Tyerman, Assistant Accountant, are responsible for organising the BIGGA stand as well as collecting and paying out money.

"Our role doesn't just involve dealing with money," said Steve. "We organise the BIGGA stand design and arrange what equipment needs to be hired, ensuring tills/PDQ machines are also ordered."

Steve attends planning meetings at BIGGA HQ, and Tracey and he arrange all the invoicing for the seminars/workshops, advertising/sponsorship and stand space. The hire of Harrogate International Centre is also paid for prior to the show.

PA/SECRETARY

This year Sandra Raper has been responsible for organising an event which is new to Harrogate Week - **BIGGA Social Night**.

Taking place on **Tuesday, January 20, from 7pm until 10.30pm**, the Social Night replaces the banquet that used to take place on the Thursday evening after the show.

Sandra sourced the entertainment – casino tables, arcade games etc, and also picked the menu for the social night.

Sandra compiles agendas and takes minutes for Board meetings and AGM's prior to, and during, the show and helps out with various pieces of admin such as sending out invitations for the Past Chairman's reception and the Bernhard's & Co reception.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership department, which consists of Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership Services; Justine De Taure, Membership Services Officer, and Brad Anderson, Membership Services Administrator, play a part in the annual show coming to fruition, by sitting on various panels and helping to decide how the BIGGA stand will look.

However, the membership departments work really begins once the show is underway. The staff are on hand to help with membership renewals, to generate new members, and discuss any issues or queries members may have.

HARROGATE WEEK CHECKLIST

Just in case your mind is still crammed with Christmas memories and aching from New Year Celebrations, we thought we'd offer you a helping hand by putting together a checklist to ensure you make the most of Europe's largest indoor turf event, Harrogate Week:

- Invite Chairman of Green and Secretary
- Book Seminar and Workshop places through BIGGA HQ
- Plan which Fringe Seminars to attend
- Book Social Night tickets through BIGGA HQ
- Confirm travel arrangements
- Have blazer dry cleaned
- Log on to www.harrogateweek.org.uk for the latest Exhibition news
- Email friends and arrange to meet
- Check hotel reservation
- Create a wish list of the new course equipment and services
- Confirm with Treasurer how much money you have in the budget
- Decide which companies you must see during the Exhibition and plan itinerary
- Do some homework to ensure you get maximum benefit from your chosen workshops
- Buy a winter coat, scarf and gloves (it's cold in Yorkshire!)
- Check how many CPD points you need to remain on schedule
- Prepare your palate for the taste of Black Sheep and Theakston's Old Peculiar
- Ask your neighbour to look after any pets
- Put out the rubbish



STORING OILS

ARE YOU UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST REGULATIONS?

The problem with regulations is that the way in which they are explained can make them appear far more onerous than is actually the case. This, however, is no excuse for quietly ignoring them.

Golf courses with an ageing diesel storage tank should have been made aware of changes made in the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 by their fuel supplier. In outline, a diesel storage tank that does not meet current requirements should not be filled with fuel by the supplier's tanker driver.

The nature of customer relations, however, can lead to a blind eye being turned, with some courses possibly 'getting away' with a tank that does not meet more recent regulations. The fact that a farmer may still use a pier mounted single skin diesel storage tank with a gravity filler hose system and no bund is not a relevant argument either; different regulations apply to agriculture.

There are more general oil storage regulations that will also apply to lubricating and hydraulic oils. All aim to ensure that oil is safely stored and the risk of pollution is minimised. These regulations will apply to essentially any type of oil stored in:

- tanks
- intermediate bulk containers
- oil drums
- mobile fuel bowers

In England, the Oil Storage Regulations may apply to oils stored above ground outside in containers with a capacity exceeding 200 litres. In Scotland the regulations will affect you if you store oil of any kind at your premises, regardless of the volume.

The Oil Storage Regulations do not apply in the same way in Northern Ireland and Wales, but it remains best practice to meet the requirements of the regulations to prevent pollution. As an incentive, remember you are committing an offence if you cause pollution, either deliberately or accidentally. If oil from your site, or under your care, causes pollution, you may be prosecuted and fined.

Bear in mind that any oil storage tanks are considered a significant risk if they are less than:

- 10 metres away from any surface water or wetlands
- 50 metres away from any well or borehole.



Storage of petrol is covered by a completely different set of regulations than diesel. Anyone looking into petrol storage needs to take specialist advice.



A self-contained bunding diesel tank can be purchased off-the-peg, with designs including units from 1,000 litres capacity. Steel or plastic tanks are readily available, with a choice of filling systems that will include those with metering units and automatic nozzles. Pictured steel unit comes with integral mounting skids.

Containers, bunds and drip trays

You must use oil containers, and this relates to diesel and other oils, that are strong enough and that are unlikely to burst or leak during ordinary use. Leaky fuel cans break the rules in other words. In Scotland this is the key requirement for portable oil containers with a capacity less than 200 litres. In England, you must store containers within a drip tray, bund or any other suitable secondary containment system or SCS for short. Any SCS should contain any oil that escapes from its container.

For oil tanks, intermediate bulk containers and mobile bowers, your SCS must be able to hold:

- at least 110% of the volume of any single container in the storage area, or
- if there is more than one container, at least 110% of the largest container's storage volume, or at least 25% of their total volume (whichever is greater).

For drum storage your drip tray must be able to hold at least 25% of the total storage capacity of the drums. For fuel oil, you must ensure that the base and walls of your bunds are impermeable to water and oil. The base and walls must not be penetrated by any opening that is used for draining the system either. The aim is to make sure they really are sealed.

What is often not considered is the need to locate all valves, filters, sight gauges, vent pipes

and other equipment, other than fill pipes or draw-off pipes or pumps, within the SCS. Where a fill pipe is not within the SCS, a drip tray must be used to catch any oil spilled when the container is being filled. You should make sure this drip tray is clean and empty before each delivery.

Explained like this, it all sounds very complicated. In practice, it is not that difficult to meet all the requirements, but it could involve buying a new fuel storage tanks and investing in a system in which drums of oil can be safely stored. For the latter, your local oil supplier or equipment dealer should be able to help out with affordable systems.

With regard to diesel storage tanks, self-contained bunding tanks, made from steel or plastic, are readily available in capacities from around 1,000 litres. A critical design aspect of these modern units is that the delivery hose and nozzle, along with any metering device, are all stored within the tank bund and can typically be locked away to help prevent unauthorised use or vandal attack.

You will have a choice of hand pump or pumped system, the latter coming with a choice of mains or battery power. A self-pumping system with automatic nozzle is recommended as it will help reduce the chance of fuel spills. It is well worth specifying a tank with an integral fuel delivery meter fitted. This will enable you to monitor fuel use more accurately.