

DEALER OF THE MONTH

The series aimed at celebrating the great work done by dealerships up and down the country

JOHN OSMAN GROUND CARE LTD

Franchises held:

Ransomes, Jacobsen, E-Z-GO, Iseki, Ryan, Turfco, Wiedenmann, Kawasaki, Polaris, Wolf, Sanli, Mountfield.

Location:

Oswestry, Shropshire

Employees:

10 employees, 12000 sq ft

Number of service vans:

4

Brief history:

John Osman Groundcare was formed in 1992 in Oswestry, the company has expanded and moved on two occasions finally into its current site on Oswestry Industrial Estate.

Remaining a family owned business has allowed them to retain a strong, reliable, highly trained and conscientious work force.

Their skills and knowledge along with the proactive approach to customer care has helped them to be one of the most highly respected dealers in the Shropshire, North, Mid and West Wales area.

The core of the business is supplying sales, service and parts to the commercial sectors including local authorities, golf courses, contractors and caravan parks, as well as a well stocked 3,500 sq ft showroom for domestic sales.

Strong franchises such as Ransomes Jacobsen have been the key to continued growth, there has also been great success in the golf car hire market.

Hire is another growing sector of the business not just with golf cars but turf machinery, tractors, mowers and specialist aeration equipment.

The company puts its continued success and growth down to over 80 years of combined industry experience from its staff aligned with great products fantastic parts, service support and great partnerships with its growing customer base.



Key services offered:

Parts and Service support, on site servicing and repairs, cylinder grinding, machinery sales and demonstrations.

Specialist Services:

Machinery hire, contract spraying and aeration work.

How has the dealership changed over the years:

Customer Care is still the main priority for the company, with investment in better systems and staff training to accommodate this, along with diversification into the Agricultural vehicle market and the contract/hire market.

What would you like to see changed:

A more sensible pricing structure across the industry allowing for more sustainable business and investment going forward.

Do you support customers who have in house service facilities?

Absolutely yes we do, we appreciate that our customers all have different service requirements and we support these customers with training, impress stock and in many cases the more specialist work such as cylinder/bottom blade grinding, hydraulic testing and repair.

Franchises

Ransomes, Jacobsen, E-Z-GO, Iseki, Ryan, Turfco, Wiedenmann, Kawasaki, Polaris, Wolf, Sanli, Mountfield.

To nominate a GI Dealer of the Month contact Scott MacCallum with your reasons why the dealer of your choice should be featured...
Email scott@bigga.co.uk

Recruitment



Head Greenkeeper Blackwell Golf Club



Blackwell is a traditional private members' Golf Club founded in 1893. The Club is an 18 hole parkland course designed by Herbert Fowler and Tom Simpson. We have hosted many national Amateur and Professional tournaments, have been an Open Championship Regional Qualifying venue and will host the EGU's Reid Trophy in 2012.

Applications are invited with the following attributes;

Highly motivated with at least 5 years' experience as a Head or Deputy Head Green-keeper

This is a 'hands-on' position but the successful applicant shall also demonstrate proven leadership, man-management and communication skills with the ability to motivate a team of 4 experienced full-time plus 1 part-time green-staff

Recognised industry qualifications, knowledge of modern machinery and maintenance and experience of a modern computerised irrigation system

Capability of producing and controlling an annual greens budget

Experience in the construction of tees, greens and bunkers

Enthusiasm to become part of the planning process and then to oversee a full bunker restoration and renovation programme

Computer literate with the ability to provide written reports to the Club Committee

The successful applicant would be joining a golf club committed to excellence. The remuneration package offered will reflect the importance of the position.

Accommodation is available as part of the package.

Applications are by Curriculum Vitae with a covering letter ideally by email to;

secretary@blackwellgolfclub.com or by post to;

Mr Finlay Clark, Secretary/Manager, Blackwell Golf Club, Agmore Road, Blackwell, Worcestershire B60 1PY

Applications close on 31st December 2011



We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team during the 2012 golfing season.

Loch Lomond boasts some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world of golf, with the Scottish Highlands providing a perfect backdrop to an exceptional 7,100 yard parkland golf course designed by Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish and located in the North West of Scotland.

Experience and Training would include:

- USGA Greens and Turf Management
 - Estate and Environmental Management
 - Drainage installation and maintenance
 - Course projects
 - Operation and maintenance of an extensive fleet of turf grass maintenance equipment
 - Intergrated pest management (IPM)
- This could be a fantastic opportunity to gain valuable experience and expand your knowledge in turf grass and environmental management.

You can find further information about Loch Lomond on our web page www.lochlomond.com

To apply for a position or find out more information please email or post a covering letter and C.V along with minimum 2 references. to:

Mary Danielsen, Golf Course and Estate Administration Manager,
Loch Lomond Golf Club, Rossdhu House, Luss (by Alexandria),
Dunbartonshire
G83 8NT Scotland.
Email: mary.danielsen@lochlomond.com

Peter Haggarty, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent will be attending the BIGGA Conference in Harrogate on the 23 and 24 January.

If you are attending the conference and wish to meet with Peter please email Peter in advance at Peter.haggarty@lochlomond.com to arrange a suitable time to meet.

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www.bigga.org.uk/careers

THE WEBSITE IS UPDATED REGULARLY WITH NEW VACANCIES,
SO DON'T DELAY, A NEW JOB IS ONLY A CLICK AWAY
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT JILL RODHAM

ON 01347 833800
OR EMAIL jill@bigga.co.uk





Masstock and Rigby Taylor are leading suppliers of products for the improvement, maintenance and construction of amenity, sports and landscape areas throughout the UK. To facilitate a major strategic expansion of our amenity business, we are looking for exceptional individuals to join our team.

Turf & Amenity Technical Sales Regional Managers Nationwide

You will have a proven and successful track record in technical sales to the amenity sector, with the drive and commitment to develop a profitable customer base. An excellent communicator, you will possess a thorough knowledge of the technical and commercial aspects of the market. BASIS qualification would be an advantage although not essential as full training will be provided.

We offer an attractive package and exciting career development opportunities with the market leader.

Please write, including a current C.V. to : George Marshall, Head of HR, Masstock, Andoversford, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 4LZ or email: george.marshall@masstock.co.uk
Closing date for applications: Tuesday 31st January 2012.

www.masstock.co.uk
www.rigbytaylor.com

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QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Santa Pod
2. Wilma Rudolph
3. Roque Santa Cruz
4. Roy Carroll
5. Relief "The Goose" Goosen
6. Gabriel Agbonlahor
7. Santa's Little Helper
8. Christmas Island Golf Club
9. Santa Claus

CROSSWORD

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MONSTER SUDOKO

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1	F	7	2	6	0	C	E	B	9	4	8	A	D	5	3
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6	B	0	7	A	2	3	C	1	E	D	5	8	9	F	4
3	5	A	C	8	4	1	0	9	7	F	2	D	6	E	B
9	C	E	3	7	6	0	2	5	A	8	4	F	1	B	D
4	1	D	0	9	A	8	5	F	C	3	B	E	2	7	6
7	2	F	B	3	C	E	4	D	0	1	6	5	8	A	9
5	6	8	A	1	B	D	F	7	2	9	E	C	4	3	0

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

6	4	1	8	7	9	3	5	2
2	9	3	5	6	4	8	7	1
5	7	8	2	3	1	9	4	6
7	8	5	9	4	6	1	2	3
1	6	2	3	8	5	7	9	4
4	3	9	1	2	7	5	6	8
9	5	4	6	1	8	2	3	7
8	2	6	7	9	3	4	1	5
3	1	7	4	5	2	6	8	9

Monster Daily SuDoku: Tue 29-Nov-2011 very hard

Daily SuDoku: Tue 29-Nov-2011 hard



On the Soapbox

As part of a mini series, people from the industry discuss what they have gained from attending Harrogate Week. This month, Walter Woods BEM, BIGGA's first National Chairman, looks at how it all began

I can vividly recall the morning of the very first BTME, at Harrogate on a cold freezing January in 1989, and opening the doors, to see a long queue of people. Being our first Show no-one could be sure, on how successful it was going to be, and to see all those people, gave us the belief that we were on the right lines.

Collectively, we had done a lot of preparation work, by going out to the BIGGA Sections and Regions, and asking the membership to support the new exhibition, and seeing the numbers that first morning, showed that our hard work had paid off.

On every occasion that I have attended Harrogate, the feeling of achievement and satisfaction, we all acquired from that very first BTME. The Board members at the time had all worked hard to make it work, but it was the staff, led by the late Neil Thomas, who really made it happen. Many people thought that we wouldn't be able to pull it off, but we proved them wrong, and we were delighted to do so.

As a Trade Show, combined with a strong education programme, had been one of our main objectives for our Association, when becoming formed in 1987. The education, and the opportunity to learn, was the attraction for our members, who could then enjoy the Trade Show, which would help to fund the efforts of the Association. It was a combination that proved to be very effective.

It was also pleasing to have had the support of the Trade. Until that first Harrogate there had been smaller shows around the country, and the feeling was that it would be much more productive, for them to attend Harrogate, and have assurance in our ability to organise a successful event. That they had that confidence in us was very gratifying, and their faith on the BIGGA board has been repaid many times over, as it has grown and grown, and become the week that it has.

The fact that it is an indoor show has always been a big plus. It helps to give everyone a feeling that they are with friends, and in those early days the café at the end of Hall B, was a great place to meet and enjoy a coffee and a chat.

Harrogate itself is such a lovely town and the town's people genuinely seem pleased to welcome visitors. A group of us used to meet for a meal in an Italian Restaurant every year, and it is those sorts of annual traditions, that make Harrogate such a great venue, and BTME such a great event.

I'd been fortunate to attend a number of the American Conventions, so I had an idea as to what was needed to produce a successful Show, and the benefits that would arrive from getting it right. Harrogate has always been a little different, as it is much friendlier and family focussed occasion, and this has been commented on by the many American Superintendents, who have visited Harrogate over the years.

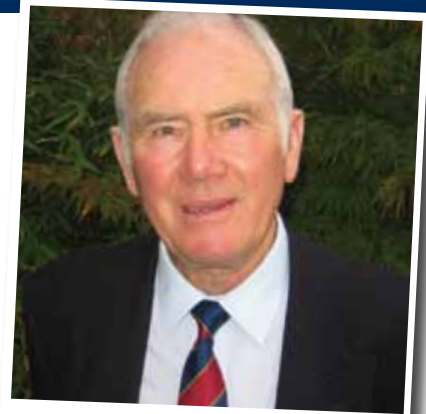
Since those early beginnings, Harrogate has become a fixture on the sports turf calendar, and thousands of green-keepers have benefited from spending some time in North Yorkshire every January.

Over the years I have never lost the feeling I had, when I attended that first Harrogate Week and it has been wonderful, to see how our own greenkeeping show has grown in size, as well as in stature, over the years.

I know so many people who attend the Show that I find my favourite spot to sit, often along with Jack McMillan, when we can talk with people for hours and hours.

I will be at Harrogate again this year, and will be on the BIGGA Stand to sign copies of my book, which was published recently.

I would urge those who have been regu-



Walter Woods BEM

lars at Harrogate, to continue to do so, as the career benefits it brings are immense, while anyone who has never been before should have a good look around. You will be amazed at what you will find, and once you have been, you will make every effort to get back every year. It is hard to describe Harrogate Week, in words other than to say it is "Magical".

Over the years, I've never lost the feeling I had, when I attended that first Harrogate Week



The views expressed within On The Soapbox are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International



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