



TYM DEBUTS AT SALTEX WITH LELY

A new addition to the leading turf machinery distributor's portfolio, Lely UK has exhibited TYM tractors at IOG SALTEX for the first time.

On stand A05, as part of its Lely – Partners in Turfcare exhibit, which also includes Toro, and Solo outdoor maintenance equipment, Lely displayed a number of TYM tractors.

"TYM tractors are fast becoming the tractor of choice for golf clubs, sports stadiums, local authorities and landscape contractors," says Jeff Anguige, turf products national sales manager at Lely UK. "There's a wide range of models from 23hp to 100hp to cater for all needs, and we showed off the 23hp, 35hp, 43hp and 100hp units at SALTEX."

All TYM tractors benefit from a reliable and powerful four-cylinder diesel engine that maximises fuel efficiency. Dual-air filter elements protect and extend engine life, and a heavy-duty, four-wheel-drive front axle offers greater traction where needed.



NEW FROM RJ

Ransomes Jacobsen returned to SALTEX with a host of new products for both the municipal and golf sectors. The Ipswich-based manufacturer launched the Ransomes Spider Mini II, a smaller version of the unique remote-controlled mower for mowing steep banks.

From the Iseki brand comes the all-new TJA 8080 and 8100 comprising of models rated at 80 PS and 100 PS respectively. These powerful and versatile workhorses are suitable for landscape and grounds care contractors, farmers and local authorities, where a range of implements can be used for a host of tasks.

Also making debuts at SALTEX were the Turfco WideSpin 1550 top dresser and the Turfco TriWave 40. The 1550 is the most advanced addition to Turfco's WideSpin family, offering unprecedented control and precision. It has more capacity, is easier to load, has programmable presets, rate calculation and can tackle a wider range of applications. The new TriWave 40 trailed overseeder can be towed behind a utility vehicle, quad bike, bunker rake or tractor, providing added versatility and is the easiest to operate of any overseeder on the market.

The Smithco Spray Star 2000 was another SALTEX debutant; this dedicated spray vehicle features an ultra low-profile 757 litre (200 gallon) capacity tank, hydrostatic drive and a liquid-cooled diesel engine

GLOBAL TURF EQUIPMENT OFFER SUPERCAR PRIZE

Global Turf Equipment (GTE) – the UK branch of the world's largest independent seller and exporter of pre-owned golf course equipment – offered a supercar experience as a prize at SALTEX.

Serving golf facilities in more than 80 countries worldwide, GTE offers owners, operators, and golf course superintendents substantial cost savings with fiscally-prudent alternatives to brand-new machines. GTE prides itself on its reputation for high-quality, low-hour, off-lease equipment.

GTE recently established an overseas partnership with County Mowers as part of long-term plans to offer late model lease return mowers and equipment to UK golf courses.

"We met golf course owners, operators, superintendents and others at SALTEX," says Jim Sartain, President, GTE.

"As we now warehouse and service products in the UK, it's easier than ever for European courses to take advantage of our exceptional value proposition."

In addition to receiving the latest company information, visitors to GTE's stand (L35) were invited to enter a prize draw. One lucky person will win the opportunity to drive a luxury supercar (Lamborghini, Ferrari and / or Aston Martin) for two hours around a famous track like Silverstone, Goodwood or Thruxton.

If you were unable to stop by the GTE stand you may still enter by sending an email with full name, company name, address and telephone number to Kasey@GlobalTurfEquipment.com before Sunday September 15.

Via its partnership with County Mowers, GTE specializes in stocking and servicing pre-owned, professional turf machinery and equipment for golf and turf facilities in the U.K. Services include sales, maintenance and repair of machines, accessories and machine parts.

An inventory of fairway mowers, green mowers, rough mowers, top dressers and spreaders, trim mowers, turf aerators, turf sprayers, turf vacuums and blowers, utility vehicles and more is available.



Carnoustie

What happened next?

Sandy Reid and Craig Boath spent years working under the tutelage of John Philp at Carnoustie. A year on from John's retirement, how is one of the world's most famous courses moving forward?



PROFILE

Name: Sandy Reid
Role: Links Superintendent
Born: Perth, 7 February 1977
Handicap: Scratch
Hobbies: Curling, golf
Favourite sports team: Aberdeen

Name: Craig Boath
Role: Head Greenkeeper, Championship Course
Born: Dundee, 10 May 1980
Handicap: 9
Hobbies: Fishing, golf
Favourite sports team: Dunfermline



Steve Mitchell (Buddon Links, Head Greenkeeper), Sandy Reid (Links Superintendent), Craig Boath (Championship Course, Head Greenkeeper), Colin Law (Burnside Head Greenkeeper)

'Hogan's Alley' - named after the legendary golfer who enjoyed such success here in 1953



It was impossible to speak to Sandy Reid and Craig Both in their recently refurbished maintenance facility without first acknowledging the elephant in the room.

The pair worked with John Philp MBE for many years before his retirement – a man credited with bringing The Open back to this most traditional of golfing venues, and was even honoured when the 11th hole on the Championship Course was named after him. But it was significant that, on the day of its renaming, John was quick to salute the efforts of the team who had supported him throughout his long tenure.

On a blazing hot afternoon on the East coast of Scotland, just days before The Open began 40 miles south at Muirfield, two of that team were keen to discuss their progress over the past 12 months. Sandy (Links Superintendent) and Craig (Head Greenkeeper of the Championship Course) were effervescent in their affection for Carnoustie – and honest about some of the problems they've had to deal with, problems which may surprise some.

I began by asking Sandy - a former curling champion and a scratch golfer - to define his role, a title which is normally the preserve of American greenkeepers. He replied: "It's the three Head

Greenkeepers that run the courses – I'm basically the buyer! The Head Greenkeepers largely think for themselves so they're in control of their own work, and primarily accountable for it too. As good as John was, when I was the Head Greenkeeper of the Championship Course I didn't necessarily want him interfering with my work. Call it stubbornness if you like, but you don't want constant advice. He was always there for guidance but you want to make the decisions yourself and learn from them. I therefore try to manage the Head Greenkeepers in a way that I like being managed myself.

"This way of working allows the Head Greenkeepers to plan ahead, not just for the day or the week, but for months in advance. In turn, this means the staff are more dedicated to the courses as the information from the Head Greenkeepers is more consistent. At least we try to run it that way!

"I'm not really that involved with, for example, setting cutting heights and other routine tasks, or what Craig, Steve Mitchell (Head Greenkeeper of the Buddon Links) and Colin Law (Head Greenkeeper of the Burnside) should or shouldn't use as a fertiliser. I may give some guidance and help confirm their decisions but I don't dictate what they should do. All three courses

Carnoustie have 30 full-time greenkeepers, four staff in the workshop and employ eight seasonal staff.

The course is sand-based with a black sand rootzone. The greens are predominantly bent, with around 50% bent, 30% fescue and 20% poa on the Championship Course. The Burnside is around 50% bent, 15% fescue, 35% poa, and the Buddon Links has more fescue with less bent. The poa is mainly poa annua var. reptans rather than poa annua var. annua.

The team's aeration programme varies. They vertidrain greens in November with either 8mm and/or 13mm tines, last year they were top dressed after the 13mm.

In summer there's a lot of hydro-jet work on the Championship Course, with the team injecting seaweed to encourage root development with varying forms of solid and star tining taking place on the other two courses.

Earlier stage of construction of new holes on the Buddon Links



Later stage of construction of new holes on the Buddon Links



Flooding in December 2012





run similarly anyway, with similar products and shared machinery.”

Sandy has been at Carnoustie since 1997 when he joined as Assistant Greenkeeper after spotting an advert in a local newspaper, having spent time at nearby Letham Grange Golf Club. Craig joined as a trainee greenkeeper a year earlier, so with over 30 years at Carnoustie between them they are steeped in the culture of the place. They’ve also been involved with countless projects on the course – the latest an exciting redesign of some of the current par threes on the Buddon Links.

Sandy said: “PULL QUOTE The Buddon is seen as the third course and we wanted to strengthen it by lengthening the course and reducing the number of par threes. Over the years we’ve lost holes for various reasons and two holes have been made out of one, so we hope these changes will improve the challenge.”

Both Sandy and Craig readily admitted their fortune at having excellent resources at their disposal. But they were equally honest about the problems they’ve had to overcome – mostly caused by the Barry Burn. It may be famous worldwide for troubling the world’s best golfers, but did you know it once flooded the course so badly it washed away an access bridge crucial to the greenkeepers?

Sandy recalled: “There was a bad flood in September 1985, but it didn’t happen again until September 2009, and since then we’ve had floods of varying severity. We had water in the pump house which badly damaged our irrigation system and the halfway hut near our maintenance facility. However, the biggest problem was that our main access bridge to all three courses got washed away. Craig and I were 30 seconds away from driving over it when it collapsed in front of us. We had to live without that for six months until it was rebuilt and take different routes all over the place – and it’s a 340 acre site. It wasn’t until it was gone that we realised just how important it was.”

Craig added: “We’ve been looking at ways to either prevent the flooding entirely or limit the damage. We’ve raised the 17th fairway, raised embankments, raised bridges and consulted with Angus Council to see if they can help us. We’ve also highlighted areas where we intend to install extra drainage because we’ve had to just pump the floodwater away – floods leave this layer of silt which water struggles to penetrate.”

“I’ve been here since 1996 and there’s no doubt that over the last few years, we’ve experienced more intense periods of really heavy rain. Before it would rain normally for

a couple of days - but it’s the two or three hours of intense rain that causes problems. Flooding can be a problem, just as it unfortunately is at so many other courses in the UK, but I feel we’re making real progress.”

Sandy was quick to hail the work ethic instilled by John – and he looked back with great pride on the team’s preparatory work before The Open in 1999, which he was involved in as soon as he arrived.

He said: “The intensity of the work and attention to detail struck me immediately. We knew we had got The Open so for two years beforehand we focused on the Championship Course with some big jobs such as renovating the third fairway. I loved it.”

“I remember we felled trees behind the 15th and 16th to create mounding for spectators. We also built a new putting green, returfed some of the rough as well as revetting all the bunkers. All of the work has always been done in-house, we have the resources to do it and a supportive committee.”

“The whole team do a great job, we’re mostly local and very passionate about the area which comes through in the end product – we have three terrific courses here.”

With John’s legacy complete, it seems certain one of the world’s most famous golfing venues is in safe hands.

MACHINERY LIST

- 10 x Toro Triplex’s (6 x 3420’s & 4 x 3250’s)
- 4 x Toro 5400 Fairway Mowers
- 1 x Toro 3100 Sidewinder
- 7 x Toro Flex 21’s
- 5 x Toro GR1000’s
- 9 x Toro Workmen
- 3 x Kubota RTV’s
- 2 x Toro Multi-Pro Sprayers
- 1 x John Deer Deck, 1 x Kubota Deck
- 14 x Tractors (Kubota and John Deere)
- 2 x Diggers
- 1 x Forklift
- 2 x Toro Hydro-ject’s
- 2 x Charterhouse Verti-Drains
- 4 x Toro Pro-cores (3 x tractor mounted, 1 x pedestrian)
- Hunter Irrigation System
- 5 x greens rollers

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Playing a **dual** role

Huw Morgan is both Club and Course Manager at Ashburnham Golf Club in South Wales - Laurence Pithie met up with Huw to find out more about his dual role





I first met Huw in 1988 when he was named 'Young Groundsman of the Year'. At the time he was an aspiring Head Greenkeeper at Fairwood Park GC near Swansea before moving on to Southerndown.

From 1993, he spent 13 years at the Wildernesse course in Kent, gaining his HNC in 2001 and the Master Greenkeeper award a year later. In 2007 the opportunity to manage a top links course enticed Huw to Ashburnham as Course Manager.

His remit was to improve the condition of the course in time for the Home Internationals in 2010. He was assisted by a £120k investment in equipment, as well as an operational budget that would allow the level of expenditure to match increased expectations. Staff training was also a necessary requirement for the work that lay ahead.

The task involved a combination of turf improvement work, creating additional tees and renovating all 70 plus bunkers in under three years. All was going to plan when just prior to the tournament, the club found themselves without a Club Manager. Huw takes up the story. "Three secretary/managers departed in five years with the latter resigning just ten weeks before the Home Internationals.

"There wasn't enough time to recruit a replacement and we needed stability when expectations were high, so I offered to fill the position for six months initially. I realised I would be stepping outside my comfort zone."

Challenges

Huw continues: "By June 2010 when I started my dual role as both Course and Club Manager, the country and in particular this region of south west Wales was in full recession. However I could see the club's potential and I had a passion to make it work, and thought it was a natural progression after 25 years in managing turf. I was to oversee the management of the course and a temporary greenkeeper was hired for six months to make up the shortfall in course work.

"Finance, golf competitions and matches were managed by the club but I would be in charge of everything else. A steep learning curve followed to gain an understanding of tee booking and other computerised systems, as well as catering, while at the same time working with a new board of directors who had

limited understanding of the running of a golf club. The early days meant that the members were not happy to see me in the office, nor were my greens staff!

"I needed to be flexible, an effective communicator and have a thick skin - I also needed diplomacy to keep a cool head when faced with an irate member or customer! It wasn't long before I realised that I needed to organise each day better and avoid tackling too many jobs at once. It was better to complete a smaller number of tasks before moving on.

"I had to get a better grasp of computers and to work more closely with other staff, whether it was in the office, bar, restaurant or kitchen. What I brought to the club was passion, experience, understanding golfers' needs and having a methodical approach to solving problems. This is something which most Course Managers are good at and I had to put this to good use on many issues ranging from blocked toilet drains to failed irrigation pumps."

Decision Making

After Huw's successful six months as interim club manager - which included hosting two major events - the club were faced with a dilemma. As is sadly the case with many clubs, membership numbers had decreased resulting in a significant drop in revenue. Ashburnham had a significant number of retired members with just 8% of the membership female, and very few members under the age of 30.

It was also noted that there was a reduced interest in competitive golf with friendly golf gaining the upper hand.

Visitor numbers remained steady, but two more courses opened nearby which affected Ashburnham. The reality was stark - the club could not afford to hire both a course manager and a general manager. Therefore the club retained Huw in his dual role but agreed the temporary greenkeeping position would not be filled for the forthcoming season. This meant Huw continuing to be in charge of the course, bar, catering and the professional shop, while being responsible to a board of six elected directors.

Working Progress

Now after three years as club manager, work generally follows a tried and tested routine. He said: "My day starts en route to the club

