

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate BIGGA on the introduction of the Master Greenkeeper scheme outlined in the December issue of Greenkeeping Management. This must be a step forward for greenkeeping. Having said that I would like to make the following observations and suggestions

I hope the Association will be democratic. As stated in paragraph one From Head Office. "The introduction of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate award for those members seeking the highest status within the profession". And not as in paragraph five. "All members of the Association will be placed in one of these categories", and: "Members not registering for the certification scheme will be placed in categories on the basis of experience alone". Members must have the freedom of choice if the scheme is for "those members".

An employee starting in greenkeeping, completing the City and Guilds course, and with four years total experience would be awarded 142 credits (136 for City and Guilds and 16

for four years experience). This would be equal to thirty five years for experience qualification. In some cases the head greenkeeper could have less credits than his assistants!

If the maximum experience allowed is thirty five years, it should be remembered at that time there were no colleges offering the qualifications we have today. I feel the credits for experience could be graduated, ie. four per year for the first ten years, five per year eleven to twenty, six per year twenty one to thirty, and seven per year from then on, this would make the scheme more attractive to the more experienced members and may encourage others to join the Association.

The recruitment pages of the December issue have thirteen adverts for course managers/head greenkeepers. Eleven of them have the word "experience" used to some degree in the advert. On this evidence alone experience is the main requirement for the job. The new scheme must reflect this to gain credibility from our employers.

The scheme does not differentiate between nine, eighteen or thirty-six hole courses,

but the Association already recognises this in the recommended wage scale.

Credits could be awarded for being in charge of a course hosting national and open championships and Euro/tour events. This must be worth extra.

No mention is made of why we are doing this job i.e. the playing of golf. More greenkeepers could be encouraged to play the game by having credits linked to handicap, i.e. one credit for twenty four and above, two for twenty three, three for twenty two and so on down the handicap scale.

The discipline of members is an important matter. For instance, the Association should reserve the right to withdraw credits from anyone that may be disciplined by section committees.

The scheme is a good idea but I feel it must be started from a broader base to encourage all members to join. There is little encouragement for the older men who have passed down their skills over the years. The colleges do a good job in their way but there is no substitute for experience, so "credits" where credit is due!

DAVID A. GALL

Dear Sir,

I regularly read your magazine with interest, especially the recruitment pages, which is why I am writing to you now.

For the past few months I have been looking for an opportunity to gain some experience of working on Continental golf courses but frankly have had no success whatsoever. In particular I was hoping to find temporary or seasonal work for the summer period and was wondering whether any of the larger golf clubs in Europe take such workers on and if they do whether a magazine such as yours hears of any vacancies.

Indeed I feel I need as much advice as I can find at the moment and would greatly appreciate any assistance you could give.

I enclose a s.a.e. for your convenience.

I.C. Butcher
15 Norfolk Street
Leamington Spa

● If you have any letters to the editor address them to: The Editor, Greenkeeping Manager, Spencer House, Swalwell, Tyne and Wear.

PRODUCT FOCUS

KUBOTA LAUNCH NEW TRACTOR AT ETME 2

KUBOTA, launched a new tractor at the European Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate.

The Kubota L3250 is a 40 hp tractor with 32 PTO-hp and 4WD, has integral power steering as standard and is particularly suited to meet the turf maintenance needs in the

gold, sports grounds and local authority markets.

The L3250's additional horse-power, heavy duty dual clutch and gearbox provides the extra power needed for turf maintenance on banks and inclines using vertidrain or larger gang mower units. The improved linkage geometry also provides the operator with more than 100lb additional lift capacity.

The Kubota L3250 is a real workhorse but its lightweight means less ground pressure and for applications such as on golf courses special smooth profile turf tyres are available to provide complete turf protection.

The mechanical shuttle transmission offers 8 forward and 7 reverse gears and creep speed as standard for vertidrain operations. The partially synchronised transmission enables the operator to bring the tractor up to full speed quickly and easily for road travel.

With the operator in mind the main shift and shuttle shift levers are mounted on the steering column which provides more leg room and makes shifting quicker and easier.

HOVERDRY'S NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

THE adoption of the Hoverdry by the PGA European Tour, at St Andrews and Gleneagles testifies to the proven ability of the machine to cope with the severest of rainstorms while leaving the finest grass playing surfaces unscuffed and unscathed.

Operating on the hover principle, the one-man lightweight machine of only 80 lbs is able to combat the heaviest of downpours to remove standing water at a rate of 60 gallons per minute; its 1.5 inch hose, which can be supplied in whatever number of 50 foot lengths the customer requires, then pumps the water out of harm's way; and its simple trolley attachment makes it easy to transport when not in use.

At the specific request of golf course customers over the past year, Hoverdry have also developed a way of removing water from bunkers, which, with a conventional pump, has been hitherto impossible.

By attaching skids to the bottom of the machine, the Hoverdry is now able to pump out bunkers and with hardly any disturbance to the sand.



The Kubota L3250 in action.

AROUND THE GREEN



The last Northern Section Ransomes trip of 1972. Spot the familiar faces?

from retiring John Scott at Wetherby. Our very best wishes and good luck for the forthcoming season to the new appointees. So after all these moves the gossip round the section is: 'Who has got Baildon, West End and

Fulford?'

The first lecture of 1990 was a very good talk on conservation gardening by Patrick Crowley who has his own business in Leeds carrying out this work. He was formerly a professional photographer and this showed in his excellent slides. It was just a pity he had a sparse audience.

An extra lecture date for your diaries is in March when Ian Proudler of Endfield Nurseries talks to us about trees for the golf course, March 28 is the date, West Bowling Golf Club the venue and 8 p.m. the time. Please try and pop along and fetch a friend.

The BIG EVENT of the Northern Section social scene is

the annual dinner dance, which this year will be held at Baildon Golf Club on Saturday, April 28. The time is 7.30 p.m. for a meal at 8 p.m. The disco after the meal will play until midnight.

The cost for the evening is only £10.

This event is open to friends, relations and not just members. I hope we shall see more greenkeepers this year. Tickets are available from me and a deposit of £5. per double ticket is required. In case you do not know my telephone no. is Bradford 590463 and I can also be found at Cleckheaton Golf Club.

Going through some books the other day I came across an old photograph which by chance is very topical to the Northern Section at the moment with the Ransomes trip in prospect.

It is of the last Ransomes trip some 18 years ago (I think!). See if you can spot the following (younger) faces: Brian Birdsell, (County Mowers) Geoff Mawson (retired), Hugh Marshall (retired), David Anderson (Moor Allerton), Mick Hegerty (somewhere in Germany), Ralph Smith (Bradford), Joe Baxter (St. Ives), John Storey (Ogden), John Scott (retired),

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NEW VERTI-GROOM CUTTING UNITS FOR RANSOMES GT GREENS TRIPLE

INTRODUCED to maintain constantly good putting surfaces on golf greens more economically, and being exhibited at ETME 2 for the first time, were Ransomes new hydraulically driven Verti-Groom cutting units seen on their GT Greens Triple mower.

Compared with conventional greens cutting units, during trials both in Britain and overseas, the Verti-Groom units collected up to three

times the amount of material after cutting a green. Besides grass cuttings, the boxes also contained thatch and moss.

Being mounted ahead of the front disc roll the Verti-Groom, which can be lifted out of work, does not throw top dressing into the cutting cylinder and as it floats independently of the cutting unit Ransomes say it is not over aggressive.

Mounting the Verti-Groom in front of the unit keeps the distance between the front and rear rolls to the minimum which reduces the incidence of scalping on undulating greens.

PRODUCT FOCUS



The Ascender lift barrow.

THE UNIQUE ASCENDER - GROUND LOADS, LIFTS AND CARRIES

MICHAEL Banks Marketing Limited have specifically developed their revolutionary Lift Barrow range to meet the needs of the professional sector.

The Ascender Twin can carry up to 5 cwt under very stable conditions. Such a

weight can be easily loaded into the bin at ground level and lifted into the normal barrowing position with remarkably little effort.

The Ascender Professional is based on the award winning original. Both models are carefully engineered and robust. The advantages of greater efficiency through speedier ground loading and considerably improved safety are important both to employer and employee.



The Ransomes Verti-Groom on Greens Triple mower.

PRODUCT FOCUS



The Holder M1000 professional bank mower in action.

THE HOLDER M1000 - A TRULY PROFESSIONAL BANK MOWER

BANKS, verges and steep grassland slopes up to 45 degrees, some of the more problematic areas for mowing, can now be tended by the Holder M1000 professional bank mower.

The rugged design of the machine, with its low centre of gravity and wide track make it ideal for use on banks for mowing and shredding grass, weeds and scrub.

A unique design feature is the ability to use the centre drive with a double reciprocating knife cutter bar width of 48" or 54" or select the Holder side outrigger with working widths of 47 and 55 inches. A flail mower with a 39" working width can also be easily attached for high grass and wasteland use.

All cutter speeds are independent of forward speed with mechanical drive to the implements via a bevel gearbox and mechanical clutch.

The side drive mower head is particularly safe on banks as the offset mowing unit allows the operator greater stability. Hydrostatic steering enables the operator to use the machine for long periods without fatigue.

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THE COLUMBIA UTILITRUCK

NEW to the UK for 1990 is the Columbia Utilitruck available with electric motor or petrol engine. This has been developed from the Columbia ParCar, originally of Harley-Davidson pedigree.

The frame is tubular steel with a front body of virtually indestructible RIM moulded Metton. The rear body is steel with aluminium plate flatbed, steel cargo box and tailgate. The Utilitruck has a carrying capacity of 1000lbs and speed is governed at 12 mph.

SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd are sole importers of the Columbia Utilitruck for UK and Eire. Also available are the Columbia Shuttle 4-seater transporter and the Columbia ParCar golf buggy or runabout, all with choice of power source.

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NEW RANGE OF SACHS-DOLMAR LAWNMOWERS FOR 1990

FOLLOWING in-depth research into customer needs and EEC requirements, Sachs-Dolmar have launched a range of eleven lawnmowers which meet their high safety and construction specifications, for the 1990 season.

Marketed in the British Isles only by Sachs-Dolmar (UK) and their country-wide dealer network, the lawnmowers are divided into two ranges. The standard range consists of economy models aimed mainly at the price conscious market. The premier range although more expensive have more features and are targeted at the more discerning buyer.

All are rotary mowers and are supplied complete with grass catcher. One model is electrically powered and all the others use petrol engines from respected and world famous manufacturers.

The standard range starts with the very low cost On-daverde, an electric powered 14" mower with a sturdy 700 watt motor. This lawnmower



The Sachs-Dolmar model GR 480 OBK 19" four-wheel mower with power drive.

promises to effectively take on the mowers sold by the large DIY stores.

The other three models in the standard range all have Briggs and Stratton engines. They are the Maxi 35, the Model M40 - a 19" mower featuring an alloy deck and a 4hp Max 40 motor and the same model with power drive designated the Model Max 40SP.

The seven models in the premier range are all powered by the world renowned Kawasaki VX 4-stroke, 4.5hp petrol engine which is designed to run on lead free petrol.

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The Honda H4514 lawnmower which is equipped with the Honda 'Slick Shift' hydrostatic stepless shift mechanism.

HONDA MAINTAIN LEAD IN TECHNOLOGY CONTEST

INNOVATIVE technology takes the Honda range of garden machinery into the '90s with a new lawnmower and a ride-on mower both equipped with the Honda original hydrostatic stepless shift mechanism to make mowing even easier and more enjoyable.

An advanced development of conventional hydrostatic transmission, Honda 'Slick Shift' is an innovative unit which offers reliability and stable performance and allows effortless, stepless, single-lever starting/stopping and speed control.

The optimum speed for the job can be set by using one lever which provides the control for moving off, accelerating and slowing down. The system transmits engine power more effectively than conventional mower mechanisms giving a smooth ride throughout the speed range, and an even finish.

'Slick Shift' minimises power

loss through internal friction and drag ensuring maximum power to drive the wheels. Designed specifically for this application it is remarkably compact, a feature achieved by housing the differential gears in a unique, Honda-developed transmission casing which is virtually maintenance free.

The engine cover's double layer structure effectively suppresses engine noise.

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NEW SHUTTLE SHIFT FROM SHIBAURA

THE new Shibaura S 445 incorporates a new forward/reverse change without use of the clutch using a hydraulic system which gives immediate forward-reverse change by use of the single change lever the system is hydro-shuttle.

The gearbox has 24 forward and 24 reverse with creep speeds as standard with steps from 180 metres per hour to top speed of 30 kph.

The Shibaura S 445 has a four cylinder Shibaura diesel engine producing 45 hp (DIN) with a cubic capacity of 2269cc.

Lift capacity at the three point linkage is 2175 kg. An extremely small turning circle of 2.72 metres is obtained by the unique Shibaura front axle and is possible by the front axle drive going via the king pin.

The Shibaura S 445 is because of its low weight, short wheel base, tight turning circle a very versatile tractor and is ideal for turf and ground work, golf courses, horticulture and agriculture.



The new Shibaura S 445.

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