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The leaves have turned and are falling from the trees, yet we are not through the woods just yet as far as COVID is concerned. As I write, Wales is preparing to enter its 17-day circuit breaker imposed by the Welsh Government. Of the decision, James Clark, Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) Director of Policy and Communications, said: “Like the rest of British business and society, our Welsh members are keen to see an end to this pandemic and the huge strain it is taking upon the nation’s health, welfare and economic future.”

Referring back to the national lockdown in March he continued: “We made the case that garden centres should be exempt from this category, like others who sell similar products. There is no evidence that shows why garden centres should be forced to close.

“With 60% of plants and bulbs produced in the UK sold in garden centres this is devastating news - the whole industry faces the knock-on impact.”

The crisis continues to have a damaging impact on the garden retail industry, including those who supply it, from plant producers to machine suppliers. And while the HTA continue to lobby for better business support for those across the industry, the greenkeepers organisation, BIGGA rethinks how its members will access continuing education during the pandemic. Launching an online national conference (more on page 48) on 10th November, it hopes to engage members with topics from encouraging wildlife in open spaces to managing turf around the world.

COVID aside, there is still much to look forward to. Albeit online, we have the BALI awards to look forward to and in addition our columnist Paula Warman and her team at the Landscaper’s Circle are bringing into your home, a virtual “horticultural” bootcamp on the 3rd December. Twelve speakers will be sharing their tips on reviewing your business planning for 2021.

And finally in this issue we look to prepare for the darker months ahead. Taking some insight from industry professionals from the greens to those managing public spaces, Frankie Youd takes a look at routine maintenance tasks that will take us through the season.

Maggie Walsh, Editor
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Ahead of Thank a Greenkeeper Day, which took on Wednesday 23 September, 2020 the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) launched a new online platform to help its members who find themselves out of work due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

It has been estimated that the coronavirus crisis saw British employers plan more than 300,000 redundancies during June and July as the economic impact of the pandemic hit hard.

Although golf has largely seen a surge in players this summer, as it was viewed as a healthy pastime that could be enjoyed in a safe and socially-distanced manner, sadly the economic uncertainty and revenue lost due to reduced capacity of clubhouses and other facilities mean that the golf industry has not been immune to the impact of job losses.

So BIGGA has launched an employment hub on the association's website, where greenkeeper members can advertise that they are available for work. Golf clubs are encouraged to visit these pages if they have positions available, whether short term or permanent.

The listings are completely anonymous and BIGGA will pass on the details of the golf club to the candidate if they show an interest.

Additionally, BIGGA has extended its ‘unattached’ member category whereby any member of the association who is now out of work can apply to receive discounted membership, enabling them to continue accessing the wide range of support and benefits that come with BIGGA membership, which will help in their search for new permanent employment.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton says: "There’s no doubt about it, 2020 has hit everyone hard. Losing your job is tough to deal with at any time, but when things are as uncertain as they are at the moment, it can be very worrying. But if you’re a BIGGA member and you now find yourself looking for work, the association is here to help. This service is completely anonymous and free to BIGGA members. It’s our way of helping you get back on the right track.”

Head to www.bigga.org.uk and click on the careers section on the home page and then click on Available for Work tab to find out more.
BALI 2020 awards go virtual

For the first time in its 44 year history the BALI 2020 National Landscape Awards goes virtual

70 Awards have been bestowed on 49 members of the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI), with 124 entries submitted overall. Members will now compete for the prestigious Principals, Specials and coveted Grand Award at this year’s event, which will be held virtually via a special online broadcast on Friday 4th December 2020.

Working with its production company H2 Business Communication, BALI is pulling out all the stops to create a spectacular digital showcase packed full of showstopping moments that will retain the magic of what makes the BALI National Landscape Awards the leading industry awards ceremony in Europe.

BALI, with support from headline sponsor Green-tech, believe this is the right decision, for the health and wellbeing of its staff, members and their guests. Members will be invited to join BALI for a worldwide broadcast of the prestigious event on the same day the ceremony was due to take place in London and is looking forward to celebrating with industry colleagues and cheering on all of this year’s National Landscape Award winners from the comfort of our own homes and businesses.

Says BALI’s Chief Executive Wayne Grills on the event going virtual: “This decision was not taken lightly. For months the team has been exploring all avenues for a safe and enjoyable event. Now the decision has been made progress on the online experience can continue unabated with the full support of our board of directors. The health and wellbeing of our staff, members and their clients is of paramount importance to us as an association and we have a duty of care to everyone, as well as to set an example for the rest of the industry to follow. “Our Awards event may have lost its physicality, but I can assure you it won’t lose its quality, integrity, professionalism and grandeur.”

Out of the 70 Awards announced, seven were from new members who have joined BALI in the past 12 months and 13 were first-time entrants to the awards, with several members also winning multiple times. Registered Contractors Bowles & Wyer and idverde both picked up four Awards, whilst Garden Club London and Graduate Gardeners each took home three. International Member DDON Planning and Design Inc. achieved five Awards out of 13 winning entries in a fiercely contended category, ‘International Award - BALI International Members only’.

The BALI National Landscape Awards’ expert Adjudication Panel, led by Chair John Melmoe, was joined by Wayne Grills and team members from Landscape House for three days of deliberation in mid-August, where every entry was reviewed and scrutinised. Commenting on this year’s judging, John continues: “The 2020 BALI Awards will undoubtedly go down in the annals of history for being the most challenging to pull off. The Adjudication Panel, supported by determined BALI staff, were adamant that the COVID issues would not undermine the integrity of the inspection and judging process. The entrants, in all categories, deserved this commitment which has been delivered with gusto and enthusiasm.

We were once again delighted to see members totally focused on submitting flawless projects, highlighting significant contributions from their staff. For the first time in the Awards’ history a number of schemes could not be separated on the merits of workmanship and quality alone, with the panel having to revert to the details in the entrants’ technical submissions to determine the ultimate winners. So often entrants overlook the importance of the submission packs despite it being clearly identified in the entry criteria. As the quality and complexity of schemes continue to rise, year on year, a few companies who entered this year’s Awards may regret this oversight.”

Further details on this year’s online event, including how to take part and how to celebrate with us, will be shared in the lead up to the 4th December 2020. Visit baliawards.co.uk for the latest updates.

For a full breakdown of BALI award winners visit: www.landscapermagazine.com/bali-national-landscape-awards-2020-award-winners/
In order to ensure the safety of customers and employees, John Deere has announced that it will not attend any international agricultural and turf trade shows during the company’s 2021 fiscal year (1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021), as this would require extensive international travel. Instead, the company will use a new marketing mix of traditional and digital tools to deliver information to customers.

Events of the last few months have profoundly changed everyone’s working and social lives. The protection of people’s health and safety is now more critical than ever, while maintaining close contact with customers is paramount to provide reliable services in these uncertain times. “Farmers have done an excellent job in the emergency phase of COVID-19 to ensure food supplies. For that we wish to express our appreciation,” says Denny Docherty, John Deere Vice President Sales & Marketing, Region 2. “The pandemic has changed the world and our industry is undergoing a period of great change too. This also applies to our marketing activities.”

The need for a new approach to communications with customers has therefore prompted John Deere to reduce its participation in trade fairs for the time being, and the company has decided not to exhibit at any international agricultural or turf show during the company’s next fiscal year, which ends on 31 October 2021. John Deere’s key focus in 2021 will be the change in its proposition to become a ‘smart industrial company’. As previously announced, Deere is moving towards being a production system-based organisation, in order to build a more customer driven and streamlined business. This is one of the biggest organisational restructurings in the company’s 183-year history, which requires a change of marketing approach and an extended focus on Precision Ag technologies.

“We are also expecting a major change in the exhibition landscape, driven by COVID-19 and digitalisation,” says Andreas Jess, John Deere Director Marketing, Region 2. “In the medium term, our company would welcome a new timetable to be implemented by the international trade fair organisations, to free up the show cycle across Europe. However, we will continue to support our John Deere dealers if they decide to participate in local agricultural and turf shows, always based on the fact that the health and safety of both customers and dealers can be ensured.”

Chairman of BALI Board voted in

Richard Kay of landscape suppliers Green-tech has been appointed the new National Chairman of the The British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) Board of Directors. He was voted in at their National Annual General Meeting, which was held online on September 10, 2020.

Richard is the founder and Chairman at Green-tech, a BALI Registered Affiliate member and award-winning supplier to the industry with a product range of over 12,000 product lines covering tree planting, urban landscaping, soils and wildflower seed. He has a wealth of experience and a genuine passion for the landscaping industry.

Richard takes over from the role of Immediate Past Chairman, John O’Conner of Suppliers of professional machinery GGM Groundscare who now takes up the role of Immediate Past Chairman.

BALI’s Chief Executive Wayne Grills comments: “I would like to congratulate Richard on his appointment as our National Chairman. He is a successful businessman whom, for many years, has made many industry connections through his adept knowledge, experience and strong leadership skills. My fellow board directors and I are delighted that Richard was voted onto the board in this position and I look forward to working with him in moving the Association forward over the next two years.”

Richard will be supported by Nigel Bowcock of Registered Contractor Acre Landscapes who was made Vice Chairman and Richard Stone of Registered Contractor Bawden Managed Landscapes who will resume his role as Honorary Treasurer.

In the role as National Chairman Richard will have the ultimate responsibility for the BALI Board fulfilling its responsibilities for the governance of the organisation. He will work closely with Chief Executive Wayne Grills and provide support to achieve the aims of the organisation, acting as a channel of communication between the Board and staff. He will also be expected to review the skills mix of the Board, appoint, develop and encourage good working relationships and support development of the membership.

Over the past 26 years Richard has successfully steered Green-tech to become the UK’s largest landscape supplier. He is well known within the industry for his staunch commitment to raising the profile of landscaping, supporting innovative solutions that address both customer demand and environmental challenges; along with a fierce ambition and determination to bring the future generations through, helping to position the industry as an attractive and rewarding career option.

Richard’s vast experience will be essential in his new role as BALI National Chair. He adds, “I am incredibly proud to have been elected as National Chair. It really is an honour. I’m passionate about our industry; it’s given me a fantastic career and I’m keen to see the profile raised.

“BALI really does have outstanding members and with membership numbers continuing to rise it is an exciting time to be involved. Fortunately, our industry has fared better than many throughout the Corona crisis and BALI continues to be a pillar of support for all members. I am looking forward to continuing its good work, working with Wayne, the Board and the members, and sharing my ideas for the future to move the Association forward.”

GGM Groundscare carbon neutral by 2030

Suppliers of professional machinery GGM Groundscare has taken its dedication to being an eco-friendly organisation to the next level and have committed to a drive to improve its green credentials even further.

Covering Yorkshire and the North West, the company already boasts an impressive record for environmental awareness and over the lockdown period the business has taken stock and investigated ways to enhance this, undertaking several new measures including investing in renewable energy, reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions, and helping to improve air quality locally.

The move came after the company completed a full energy and environmental audit and joined the Chamber of Trade’s Green Rose programme, and are currently working towards the ISO14001 environmental standard.

Chris Gibson, Managing Director explains: “GGM Groundscare recognise that, as with every organisation, our business activities impact upon our environment in terms of both our routine operations and our development. As a responsible and environmentally aware organisation, we acknowledge that we have a commitment to help protect the environment in every way we can.

“Having taken stock and investigated ways to enhance this, we have developed a range of measures to improve our already excellent green credentials. We are committed to ensuring our operations take into account the impact on the environment by reducing the consumption of fossil fuel and to incorporate long-term strategies for efficiency into our Environmental and Sustainability policy planning and development, with the goal of achieving ISO14001 Certification on the pathway ultimately to carbon neutrality.

“The drive includes the addition of two new electric vans to the GGM fleet and will replace the existing vehicle fleet where relevant and suitable with electric vehicles which will be used for supporting service and hire cut is a success in the region, calculated to save 30 tonnes of carbon in the first year, reducing the carbon footprint as well as improving air quality in the local community. In addition, the business has installed electric vehicle charging units which are offered to customers and suppliers free of charge.

The business has invested in Solar Photovoltaics Technology (Solar PV Panels) with the support of the Chamber’s Low Carbon grant programme which will improve energy and environmental efficiencies. Clean, sustainable and renewable, investing in solar energy allows the company to dramatically reduce its CO2 emissions whilst also reducing costs and assisting them in meeting environmental and sustainability targets. In addition, GGM decided that the company would benefit from upgrading the current lighting system, which would lower energy consumption and additionally install lighting controls to further reduce excess energy consumption by using motion, light sensors and timing controls, along with LED lighting.

The business has also undertaken several additional green initiatives which will have a positive impact on employee’s health and wellbeing, as well as the environment. At its Colne base, showers and a secure bike rack are being installed with the support of Lancashire County Council’s Connecting East Lancashire initiative. This will encourage take up of the company cycle to work scheme. At the Haydock premises, a wild flower oasis has been created to encourage biodiversity and provide an area for the team to take a break and help maintain good mental health.

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Electric vans have been added to the GGM fleet
Planning support for horticultural industry

For the community of landcapers and garden designers, planning their days and weeks is great not only for productivity, but also for mental health. 2020 has been a rollercoaster and has meant the charity Perennial has been supporting business owners in the horticultural industry more than ever.

The Landscaper’s Circle has just launched an initiative to further a discussion about mental health in the industry and give back to Perennial, through the launch of ‘The Success Collection’.

The Success Collection features daily and weekly planners created specifically for landcapers and garden designers, with custom sections such as ‘materials to order’ and ‘this week’s projects’. With every planner bought, 50% of the profits go straight to Perennial to help their continued support to people in horticulture.

Says Charlotte Russell, co-owner at The Landscaper’s Circle on her decision to donate proceeds to Perennial: “I have always wanted to help develop a much-needed conversation about mental health in the industry and we finally found the right way to do it. Perennial are an amazing charity that we have worked closely with and love to support. Particularly as they help our members and community and when things get tough, we know who to turn to.”

Sprayer testing changes come into force November 2020

As part of the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD), pesticide application equipment (PAE) testing became a legal requirement in 2016. Any machine applying a professional pesticide must be tested by the specified dates and at regular intervals thereafter.

To explain this in a bit more detail, the change affects sprayers that are more than five years old and have a boom width over three metres, air blast sprayers, aircraft, and train sprayers. Currently a test is required every five years, but from 26th November it changes to every three years, so if your sprayer was tested for example in June 2018, the next test is due in June 2021.

For all other types of PAE, which includes boom sprayers three metres and under, weed wipers, slug pellet and granular applicators and a range of other machines, the requirements remain unchanged at 6 yearly cycles for retest.

Crop assurance scheme requirements haven’t changed so sprayers are still required to be tested annually. Regular testing is important in helping to ensure safe and accurate application of pesticides, protecting the environment and waterways, but also helping to safeguard the availability of products for the future.

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To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize head over to LandscaperMagazine.com for full details on how to enter. Competition closes Monday 30th November, 2020.
Distributed by Harry West Machines, Shropshire, the Bio-Chopper-Mixer Samurai 5 series is particularly suited to the needs of the operators collecting and reducing the volume of the green waste, coming from small and medium size users such as parks, gardens and streets. Thanks to its unique construction feature, this machine allows a homogenous dissecting and chopping operation, of wooden materials, giving the finished product some characteristics that make it suitable for the composting process.

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Witnessing inclement weather patterns over recent years, from the 2018 Beast from the East, which resulted in deep snow across much of the country to Storm Ciara that brought widespread flooding and high winds in February 2020, it is little wonder that outdoor maintenance teams look to the winter months with some trepidation as they prepare for the seasonal challenges.

From clearing paths of fallen branches, cutting back uprooted trees across open spaces to managing flooded fairways, there will be plenty of work to keep grounds teams occupied, who at the same time will be managing their time mitigating from such possible disasters.

Tree and shrub maintenance

There are multiple preparation techniques that can be utilised to protect plants. Mulching around trees, shrubs and plants protects from the cold and frost. Spreading of mulch across the surface of the ground will reduce impact from rain and frost striking the soil as well as coverage from the bitter winter wind, and will help control soil erosion. Ground mulching will also help to manage water loss as well as assisting to maintain a stable soil temperature around the roots of the tree or shrub.

Terrain Aeration, a company that specialise in deep aeration in order to open ground to avoid waterlogging and compaction, stress that soil compaction is a big issue over the winter months and sees the loss of healthy plants. By aerating the soil this allows the roots to respire, keeping the surrounding soil healthy. The process also allows water to percolate into the ground reducing the chances of waterlogged soil.

David Green, Managing Director at Terrain Aeration explains: “The soil loses air-spaces by compacting whether under its own weight or because it has been loaded by passing feet, vehicles or materials stored on it. “Healthy plants need healthy roots and roots that are dying back from an area that has become compacted and is without air spaces cannot thrive. Healthy plants also need a thriving community of living things be they bacteria, worms, insects, fungi or any other type of fauna and flora which all work to make soil nutrients available to the plant roots. This community needs oxygen to sustain it and without oxygen in the soil, the soil will sour. If we want our plants to thrive we must...
ensure that the air can penetrate into the soil and we do this by aeration.”

Another fruitful method for tree and shrub maintenance and protection is pruning. Pruning during the dormant season ensures that no fresh cuts and wounds will be exposed throughout the entirety of winter and for a short amount of time before the new growth begins. Also to prepare for the possibility of snow and ice tie branches of trees together, which may be more vulnerable to heavy snow fall is an effective method, along with removal of limbs prior to the winter period to ensure all maintenance practices have been put in place prior to the winter months arrival. Preparing at the arboretum

Located in Richmond, London, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Arboretum showcases a collection of 14,000 trees, which during the winter months especially, need extra attention and maintenance.

The arboretum has its own robust adverse weather policy group, who attend regular meetings before the winter period to ensure all maintenance practices have been put in place prior to the winter months arrival. The arboretum also stays connected with various RHS sites in order to ensure constancy across the garden areas. Tony Kirkham, Head of the Kew Gardens Arboretum expands: “We have a WhatsApp group of gardens that include the RHS, Windsor, Bedgebury, Pinetum and the Yorkshire Arboretum where we can check on what we are all doing to ensure consistency across gardens.”

Unusual weather patterns can provide stress and uncertainty for the team at Kew, however a management strategy is put in place to ensure they can manage these unusual, changing weather patterns. Tony adds, “We have a sound tree management policy and system which helps manage our tree collections. We lose more minor branches than entire trees falling over.”

As part of the tree management policy at Kew the team regularly assess the trees on site especially after a storm which sees them carrying out a negative survey, this deems wether it is safe to open after a heavy storm and if certain trees can be saved if not, felled. Tree storm proofing is also carried out which involves structural branch pruning which in turn reduces the probability of branch and debris falling.

Turf maintenance

Turfed areas from sports pitches to sweeping lawns need care and attention, too. In public places, resting a lawned area by temporarily reducing footfall to certain areas is an effective, practical method especially when wet and frosty, to avoid surface compaction. Clearance of the area from leaves, fallen branches and debris is also an important step to take, as it prevents debris trapping moisture into the turf, which in turn will encourage pest and worm activity.

Regular mowing and maintaining sports pitches and green spaces throughout the winter months, even if unused, is still a necessity, as advised by The Grounds Management Association (GMA), which states: “Grass is a natural, living product so regular mowing (never removing more than 1/3 of the plant) helps ensure that the field is healthy and playable. If it becomes water-logged, it encourages the growth of weak or weed grasses that can make the surface unplay for play. Frequent mowing also keeps the grass plant young and strong, therefore able to withstand game play and sustain a high-quality surface now and in future. “If the grass plant dies, it will lay on the surface and become thatch (dead decaying plant matter) which acts like a sponge, impacting the quality of the surface. Thatch will then need to be removed to rejuvenate the surface and avoid excess water gathering.”

Call the greenkeeper!

On the Sussex coastline, the 18-hole Littlehampton Golf course has put in place its own management measures to ensure the course stays protected during the winter months.

One of the main problems the club encounters in the colder months is wear and tear and lack of new growth on the greens. Because of lower temperatures, the greens don’t grow as fast, and so that the time left in between ‘play’ isn’t enough for the grass to recover. This has seen the club closing certain areas of the course over winter to ensure that each area is given enough time to recover. Shaun Manning, General Manager at the club explains: “We usually remove certain areas from play and put traffic measures in place. These days we have to be sure the winter has truly arrived as there is nothing worse than reducing the course and then having weeks of good weather. 80% of the time the plan will work.”

So with winter fast approaching, now is the time to get prepared. The GMA offers online training to help members achieve the best results in managing grounds and pitches in winter.

This autumn it is running a Level 2 online training course to support with the maintenance of Winter Pitches. The course will also touch on planning annual work schedules, which is essential to support grounds management and keep natural turf pitches safe and playable all year round.

As well as the online training courses the GMA also offers support for members following the aftermath of a storm or severe weather incident. Jason Booth, Director of Technical and Learning at the Grounds Management Association expands; “Through the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GaNTIP), the GMA supports all flooded clubs working alongside the NGBs. With flooding being more common now, the organisation has developed a series of advice sheets to assist clubs with the damaged that maybe caused, but also to advise on preventative measures for possible future flooding.”
Evo chipper seals the deal

GA Plant and Tool Hire in Swindon have become the first company to take delivery of a brand-new EVO 165P SUB-750 woodchipper from GreenMech. Delivering the performance required by domestic and small commercial contractors, the EVO also meets the specification for owner/director Angus Lacy-Hulbert when it comes to ease of maintenance, ensuring the machine is serviced and ready for tight hire turnarounds.

With a 3” chipper on their hire fleet previously, Angus spotted the gap for a larger, road-tow machine and sought advice from local arborists on the options available. “We naturally gravitated to GreenMech. Being British engineered and backing up good product with local service and support is an ethos we like to follow ourselves,” explains Angus, who established GA Plant and Tool Hire five years ago. A demonstration of the new 6” SUB-750kg EVO 165P sealed the deal and it was delivered by their local dealer, GA Groundcare, in September 2020.

“One of the major plus points was the ease of maintenance – the EVO has centralised greasing points which keeps the ongoing maintenance quick and simple. We also purchased the blade sharpening unit which means we can sharpen the blades as and when required, in-house, dramatically reducing downtime between hires. Being sub-750kg was critical for our largely domestic client base, delivering powerful performance in a package that can be towed on a standard car license.”

Within a week of delivery, the EVO 165P SUB-750 was out on its first hire – a domestic customer with 12 conifers to process. “Incredibly, the client completed the whole job in under an hour! They returned the machine with the biggest grin, complimenting it not just on performance but how simple and user-friendly it was to operate.”

The GreenMech EVO series sets a new standard for torque, bite and throughput to deliver exactly what is demanded by today’s industry professionals. Originally launched in road-tow format, the EVO 165D was joined by the fixed-track EVO 165DT in Autumn 2019 and then by a higher 45hp Limited-Edition option. The newest SUB-750 machine combines all of the proven EVO performance with a powerful yet economic 37hp B&S Vanguard petrol engine.

Angus concludes, “Together with performance, back up support is also incredibly important for us – our machines ultimately make no money if they’re out of service. Ashley at GA Groundcare is just down the road and is always on the end of the phone, even at weekends, with helpful support and advice if we need it.”

DuraPost

Create beautiful and durable fencing with DuraPost

DuraPost is a sustainable, strong and sleek fence post system. Available in a range of styles, colours and with matching accessories to customise your design, DuraPost is perfect for both modern and traditional gardens.

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Fuel with green credentials

Health and safety is at the heart of operations for Halifax based Green Valley Arborists (GVA). Working on commercial vegetation clearance and landscaping projects, including some in environmentally-sensitive areas, requires Director Luke Kendall to look at all elements of operations – from the safety of their operators to the impact their equipment has on their surroundings. That’s why 12 months ago GVA made the switch to Aspen Alkylate Fuel across their entire range of petrol-powered equipment.

“As the company grew and work for associations including The Environment Agency started coming our way, it became apparent that the benefits of Aspen Fuel aligned more and more with our approach,” explains Luke. Being virtually free from sulphur, benzene and solvents, Aspen Alkylate Petrol is 99% cleaner than regular pump fuel when comparing the level of hazardous hydrocarbons. With these ingredients removed, the odour and infamous ‘blue haze’ produced is minimal, reducing the impact the machinery makes on both the operator and the environment.

“Previously we would have to send one of our team to the petrol station to fill it up which is all time, labour and expense. When you then factor in that it needs to be mixed with 2-stroke oil, and the hazards associated with that, the costs begin racking up. Being ready mixed, Aspen 2 is quicker, easier and safer for our operators to use and gives us consistency in performance, helping our equipment to run more efficiently.”

Together with Aspen 2 in their smaller tools such as chainsaws and brushcutters, Luke and the team also use Aspen 4-stroke petrol in some larger equipment – eliminating the usage of pump fuel completely. “We purchase Aspen by the pallet, in new sizes giving users the flexibility to specify their fuel requirements. To meet the ever-growing demand from commercial customers, Aspen Fuel have introduced two new package sizes to their range of 2-stroke and 4-stroke units, new for 2020 are 25L and 60L options. These new sizes give users the flexibility to specify their fuel quantity by the container, pallet or drum that best suits their usage, storage and transportation requirements. Not having to mix the fuel reduces the risk of spillages, contamination or harmful exposure to the skin. The operator can open the container, pour the fuel using Aspen’s spill-free cap and put the lid back on. Once the can is empty, as these are made from the same type of plastic as regular milk cartons, they can simply and safely be recycled.”

To help make their job easier whenever I can.”

Stumpbusters celebrates 25 years of franchising

Stumpbusters, the No.1 stump grinding operation in the UK is celebrating 25 years as a franchise operation.

The firm of stump grinding contractors was established in 1991 and sold its first franchise in 1995. In 2006, Darren Taylor bought the Dorset franchise and followed swiftly by three more, before eventually buying the entire franchise operation in 2013. It is now part of the “Taylor Made Franchising” group of franchises.

Stumpbusters franchisees grind out free stumps from a variety of locations, from golf courses and large site clearances, to parks and private homes. They also hold national contracts with organisations such as the National Trust.

When Darren purchased the business in 2013, he quickly grew the franchise base and negotiated the sale of the company’s first master franchise in Holland. Stumpbusters franchises operate across 41 territories, with some still left for sale in Cornwall, Oxford, Kent, North West of England and Edinburgh. Reflecting on the franchise’s anniversary Darren comments: “I’m enormously proud that Stumpbusters is still thriving 25 years after it first franchised. We have some franchisees who are on their fifth and sixth five-year agreement renewals, which is testament to the strength of the brand and the rewards they are reaping from their businesses.

“Things have changed immeasurably since I purchased my first territory in 2006. In the early days we could only import the big equipment from America. Now, not only can we source small, high-powered machines here in the UK, but we have also designed and built our own 38hp stump grinder, of which we have six now working successfully across the network.”

With access often being an issue, Stumpbusters are also the sole importers of a small, lightweight stump grinder that can be carried through a home if necessary. “Having bought the UK dealership in 2016 we are now the sole importers of Alpine Magnums to the UK. Naturally, our franchisees are at an advantage having this piece of equipment, which they buy them from us at a significantly discounted price – helping them to gain maximum returns on their franchise fee. Having been a Stumpbusters franchisee myself for many years, I know exactly the issues they are facing out there every day and am delighted to bring them new pieces of equipment to help make their job easier whenever I can.”

Right: Darren Taylor, owner of Stumpbusters

ARBORICULTURE
Foamstream is an important role to play fighting the coronavirus. Firstly, it helps local municipalities and other landowners decontaminate public places, so they are safer for people to use and enjoy. As lockdown restrictions ease, and as people are increasingly able to enjoy public places again, it is vital they are safe for people to be in. Foamstream helps by destroying coronavirus cells preventing their transmission.

Secondly, many businesses in the hospitality, sports & fitness industries, for example, are unable to open due to concerns about coronavirus. As a result, many companies are going out of business and experiencing challenging times. By controlling coronavirus, Foamstream helps businesses re-open their doors sooner, and keep them open, improving their chances of survival, assisting the global recovery.

Foamstream is a breakthrough technology. It is significantly faster and easier to use than many of the current manual sanitisation practices, like disinfectants. It’s approved for organic use, and it’s non-toxic, making it the first viable, green solution for use to make public places safer.

**WHY SHOULD YOU USE FOAMSTREAM?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Benefit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It’s low pressure</td>
<td>We treat at ambient pressure which avoids the kind of damage often associated with pressure and power washers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>It’s applied below boiling point</td>
<td>We treat below boiling point which avoids de-plasticisation of EPDM rubber, making it suitable for use on the majority of other artificial surfaces.</td>
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<td>It’s simple to use and to apply</td>
<td>Operators can get to work very quickly and save time and inconvenience by not having to cordon off areas pre, during or post treatment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>It’s suitable for use on all surfaces</td>
<td>The simplicity of the Foamstream process makes it incredibly versatile which is why it can be used on a wide range of surfaces and facilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is it EPA/Health Canada/EU/HSE approved?</td>
<td>No it isn’t, because it doesn’t need to be. Used alone, our foam will not kill any virus cells, so it falls outside the scope of requiring approval. It’s only when the foam is used with our machinery and hot water that virus cells will be destroyed. However, our device and methodology is registered with those agencies, meaning Foamstream can be used without restrictions. This is comparable to UV light technologies, which are also registered but will not be found on the approved list of technologies.</td>
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Foamstream has an important role to play fighting the coronavirus. Firstly, it helps local municipalities and other landowners decontaminate public places, so they are safer for people to use and enjoy. As lockdown restrictions ease, and as people are increasingly able to enjoy public places again, it is vital they are safe for people to be in. Foamstream helps by destroying coronavirus cells preventing their transmission.

> Foamstream has been the feather in our cap. I am so happy to have it as part of our grounds control but importantly for cleaning and sanitizing play equipment in the playgrounds.

Foamstream’s multi-functionality is great. Not only can we use it for weed control but importantly for cleaning and sanitizing play equipment in the playgrounds.

“Foamstream has been a lifesaver. It has meant that we can completely remove chemicals from our city.”

Foamstream is a breakthrough technology. It is significantly faster and easier to use than many of the current manual sanitisation practices, like disinfectants. It’s approved for organic use, and it’s non-toxic, making it the first viable, green solution for use to make public places safer.
Bespoke Wildflower mix brightens landscape

A wildflower meadow at the heart of a brand-new retirement village in Alcester, Warwickshire has been praised for its outstanding, long-lasting visual impact. For the contractors, HFN Landscapes, the project was fraught with challenges – difficult ground conditions and high magnesium soil required a bespoke mixture, created by DLF Seeds.

When Contracts Manager David Smith started work on the Great Alne Park project in February, he faced what could only be described as a 20,000 square metre mud bath! “Phase one, the construction of the homes was complete, when we then came in to carry out the soft landscaping – this included allotments, a croquet lawn, the individual apartment gardens as well as a large wildflower area which was the centrepiece of the whole complex,” explains David, who has been in charge of HFN’s soft-landscaping projects for two years. “We used ProMaster 25 in a lot of the transition areas on the site, then when it came to the Wildflower meadow, we provided the architects’ specification alongside the soil analysis to Paul Hadley at DLF.”

DLF produce a range of native wild flower mixtures to suit different soil types, however high magnesium was identified, which can contribute to deterioration of clay soil structures, reducing infiltration rates and causing an environment not conducive for effective germination. With this in mind, Paul formulated a bespoke wildflower mixture including species that can tolerate a mixture of environmental conditions such as Knapweeds and Buttercups, together with a number of indicator species including Wild Marjoram, more akin to alkali soils. To deliver an initial boost of colour in the meadow’s nursery year, a selection of Cornfield Annuals were also incorporated.

“There is no doubt that Paul’s knowledge gave us a mixture that not only met the architects vision, but exceeded what we hoped to achieve in its impact and longevity; especially given the fluctuating hot and wet weather conditions and the added complications that COVID restrictions have had on our work,” says David.

Fine turf to sports turf with Headland Amenity

With 12 years of greenkeeping experience under his belt, groundsman Carel Fourie has recently turned his hand to pitch maintenance at Leicestershire’s Holwell Sports FC. And he’s made quite the impression, scooping the United Counties League Groundsman of the Year title for 2019/20. Assisting Carel with his transition from fine turf to sports turf has been Alex Hawkes of Headland Amenity, who has overseen the construction of a nutritional programme that has boosted the health, appearance and playability of the Welby Road football pitch.

“What started out as an advisory role, and carrying out the occasional spot treatments, turned into me being appointed as the club’s first permanent groundsman three years ago,” explains Carel. “While I have done a lot of spraying and built up knowledge on a range of Headland products for golf, getting to know what would work for football was a real learning curve.” Following soil sampling and analysis by Alex, a programme was introduced based around Multigreen® temperature-controlled release fertiliser.

With field longevity of five to six months, Carel applies Multigreen® 28-3-15 in early summer and follows this up with an application of the 15-0-22 formulation in September. “Despite our heavy clay profile, Multigreen® gives us a long-lasting source of Nitrogen, that can be supplemented with other products for targeted treatments.” While Carel uses a range of Headland products in his nutritional programme, worth particular note are a tank mix of Elevate Fe®, Xtend® and Clipless NT® which is applied every six weeks through the summer to boost the visual qualities, together with a combination of Turfcomplex® and TriCure AD™ which has proven to successfully nurse the pitch through periods of dry weather and drought.

“I utilised the time during lockdown to conduct some heavy renovation work which included hollow coring and overseeding, which germinated really well largely
Gorgeous, robust and very richly coloured, Treasure Chest has proven itself time and time again to be an absolute winner for long flowering impact on normal fertility soils. Colour combinations change almost weekly as the year unfolds making this one of our most varied and interesting meadows. The species selection in this meadow offers an absolute haven for wildlife, from early pollination through to late autumn seed heads.

**Treasure Chest - Specialist Meadow Turf**

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The transition from the main growing season into the cooler, wetter months bring many changes to a turf maintenance programme on the Fairways. For Stratford Oaks Course Manager James Cleaver, October marks the switch of liquid fertiliser programmes over to monthly applications of the 20-20-30 Enhanced Plant Health (EPH) tank-mix from Headland Amenity.

Discussing his drive towards non-pesticidal turf management on his course James says: “Trying to achieve a sward that is healthy and strong enough to resist disease not only gives you better quality turf surfaces but reduces the need for costly fungicide applications. The Headland 20-20-30 tank-mix of Liquid Turf Hardener, Turfite® Elite and Seamac® ProTurf Fe, and more recently with the addition of Mantle, has been a staple in the winter-feeding programme at Stratford Oaks for a number of years.”

He continues: “This tank-mix is easy to apply and gives us healthy growth and a stronger, denser, more resilient sward. The inclusion of the Seamac® ProTurf Fe (citrate chelated iron with Seaweed) delivers fantastic colour on our greens which is always pleasing for the members throughout the winter months.” The monthly applications over the winter of 2019/20 contributed towards a significant reduction in disease activity, meaning James and the team only required a single fungicide application - representing significant financial savings when compared to previous seasons.

To further increase the efficacy and effectiveness against disease occurrence, specifically Microdochium nivale, James will supplement the 20-20-30 tank mix with two applications of PPT114 – Headland’s water-soluble micronutrient formulation featuring Manganese, Zinc and Copper, alongside Harpin Protein Elicitor – between October and February. “Our Regional Technical Manager Andy Lane recommended we incorporate PPT114 to enhance our EPH programme and that really seems to have made a difference. He’s my go-to for all product and technical advice, all backed up with the facts from the numerous trials that Headland conduct.”

The tried and tested proactive plant health approach will be in place for James until the new growing season arrives in March, when he will switch to another Headland soluble tank-mix of Elevate Fe®, XTEND® 46-0-0 and TriCure AD™ across the fairways, tees and approaches.

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**Headland EPH programme reduces costly fungicide applications**

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Seed for pitch success

Andy Richards, grounds manager at Haileybury School, Hertford, says that choosing the right grass seed is the first step to producing the best possible sports pitches.

Recently celebrating his one-year anniversary at Haileybury, having previously worked at Shrewsbury School, Andy Richards relies on Limagrain’s MM brand seed to get his pitches tip top at the private school.

“I introduced Limagrain’s MM50 and MM60 seed mixtures at Shrewsbury six years ago and they made a huge difference to the pitches,” he said. “I recommended the MM range to so many other schools and clubs across the country from Wales to the South Coast because it is so reliable, and the recovery rate is better than anything I have ever used.

“I’m now using the mixtures here at Haileybury and I’m hoping that with a bit of time, we can match those highly regarded pitches at Shrewsbury and go one step further – in fact I’m confident that we can better them eventually.”

Introducing Limagrain MM seed was one of Andy’s first actions when he took the reins at Haileybury and although he had every faith in the mixtures, it was not plain sailing to start with.

“In the time that I’ve been here, we have faise mowed all five cricket squares, taken off 20mm of thatch and organic matter, and re-seeded with Limagrain’s MM50. The results were very good; the grass was healthy, they played well, the Director of Cricket was pleased with them and aesthetically they looked brilliant.

“However, there was an underlying issue in the sense that the squares were not constructed correctly to start with. Therefore, we started the process of relaying them from scratch and then reseeded again with MM50. Now we are in a position where we can kick on and improve the squares even more.

“In my mind MM50 is the best seed mix for cricket and fine turf, there is nothing else that can touch it or even compare to it.”

This hard-wearing MM50 mix has rapid germination, very fine leafed appearance, high shoot density and is tolerant to very close mowing, along with high disease resistance. All these attributes together produce a fantastic sward that has great colour all year round. It is also widely praised for its excellent and rapid recovery.

When it comes to his winter pitches Andy relies on Limagrain’s MM60; a 100% Ryegrass formula which is perfect for renovation and divot repair, has a high degree of disease resistance, fantastic aesthetic qualities and offers extremely fast germination:

“We have overseeded with MM60 on all of the pitches and the grass coverage has improved by around 40% in the 12 months I’ve been here. It offers fantastic colour and is the perfect mix for rugby and football,” said Andy.

With both MM mixtures at his disposal, Andy feels that he allows him to create the best possible sports pitches – something which he believes is a vital ingredient in the private school experience.

“Sport is an important aspect of the school’s offer and we want to do everything we can to give the pupils the best surfaces to play on; Limagrain’s MM seed will be integral to this”.

“I am a firm believer in starting with the best seed – grass is what we are all trying to grow and that is what sport is played on. Everything else will fall into place afterwards.”

“My advice is to start with the best you can and in my opinion MM seed is the best.”

During seed... 14 days later... One month later.

Nothing compares to MM seed says Haileybury Grounds Manager Andy Richards.

Winning formula

Nestled in the picturesque Malvern Hills, against a stunning backdrop, the 18-hole parkland Worcestershire Golf Club offers challenging play for golfers at every skill level. This, the oldest course in the county, has been managed by Steve Lloyd for the past six years. Steve oversees a greenkeeping team of five full-time members of staff, a mechanic and a summer casual. He claims that the robust and highly skilled team plays an integral role in the well-groomed fairways and meticulous greens, but also admits that he relies on products he uses from Agrovista Amenity.

“I’ve been working with Agrovista Amenity for the past three years, ever since Ray Hunt (Amenity Specialist for Agrovista Amenity) began coming to see me,” Steve explains.

“Through Ray I had the opportunity to find out more about the company and products and it was very impressive. I carried out some trials and thought that it was a good fit.”

One of the first products Steve started using from Agrovista Amenity was Humimax – a liquid humate product derived from a naturally occurring source. It operates both in the soil and the grass plant, and the micronised formulation is highly efficient for foliar absorption, making it especially useful for tank-mixing.

Steve mixes Humimax with Biomass Sugar – a product which stimulates growth of both leaf and root. It is a unique natural formulation of sugars, macro nutrients and trace elements, approved as a biostimulant within the UK and used on many high-profile golf greens and sports pitches throughout Europe.

As part of the tank-mix, he applies Humimax at a rate of 10 L/ha and Biomass Sugar at 20 L/ha and he explains how this formula has made a difference to the greens.

“We apply this tank-mix once a month consistently throughout the growing season and we’ve found that it’s given us a fantastic colour, but more importantly, good plant health. In fact, we’ve actually been able to reduce our nitrogen input by approximately 20%.

“We find that this mix works particularly well when applying it about 15 days after a feed – it keeps a good density to the sward without getting any flushes of growth. It’s a perfect formula for summer and the last application will normally go down at the end of September. From then onwards we switch over to our winter nutritional programme.”

Steve is about to enter his second winter with Agrovista Amenity’s Bullet Phosphite after being impressed with his first taste of the product last year. Bullet Phosphite is a super-concentrated form (37%) of stabilised phosphite (PO3) derived from a blend of ammonium and potassium phosphate which is taken up quickly and mobilised around the whole plant.

“This unique product provides protection for new and existing growth by assisting the plant in periods of stress, thereby increasing metabolic responses to pathogens. It is also a potent stimulator of plant root growth and unlike a lot of other phosphites, this formulation contains zero aluminium phosphate.

“With the reduction in chemicals and fungicides, Bullet Phosphite has become a major tool in our armoury, because it helps us with our integrated pest management programme aimed at minimising the risk of disease during the winter period,” says Steve. “We apply it at a rate of 20 L/ha and combine it with a turf hardener and a little bit of seaweed – just to strengthen things up in the colder months.

“Fundamentally, since we’ve been using this product as part of our IPM programme, we have seen very little disease and along with our other cultural practices, it has helped us to keep the greens as clean as possible.”

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Established in 1985, Inturf started out with the equivalent of 250,000 square metres of cultivated turf in East Yorkshire and only modest equipment and facilities. Thirty five years on and Inturf are probably the best in the business at producing consistent, top quality turf ‘all-year-round’. In addition the company offers excellent high levels of customer service. Through continued investment in staff training, state of the art equipment and developing known practices, Inturf are implementing strategies for growth and reaching objectives... this year seeing a decade of year on year growth.

The entire Inturf family, which is three generations-in, shares a determination to consistently grow ‘the best turf on earth’, and to do so in a way that fully respects our natural environment and our future green responsibilities. The turf has always been grown naturally, without the use of plastic netting. The company continues to build long term relationships with staff, customers, and suppliers, in an honest and transparent environment, so that in each aspect of the business can work in harmony and with the same ethos.

Inturf are focused on understanding the customers needs and delivering on an honest and reliable service. Inturf believe that it is important to have a clear vision and a set of values in order, not just to succeed but to excel! Ultimately, the aim is to not only be the best but to be the best by far and to do this consistently here in the UK and in Europe, providing the best service.

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ICL's Riptide makes an impact

Exclusive to ICL, Riptide is the number one ranked creeping bentgrass variety on the STRI sports Turf Consultancy’s lists. It is ideal for seeding new areas or when used for interseeding as part of a course renovation programme. This fine-leaved, densely-shooting, creeping bentgrass establishes quickly, especially in spring, growing upright but low to the ground with high tiller shoot density and keeping its bright mid-green colour right through autumn and winter.

In fact, Riptide has gained a wide following throughout Europe and has been adopted by several UK courses due to its adaptability in a wide range of growing conditions.

Ed Stant, Course Manager at Trentham Golf Club in Stoke-on-Trent, was looking to incorporate a new seed for a new project and discovered Riptide.

“Having taken the decision to rebuild the short game green in March we sought advice from our STRI Agronomist Paul Woodham,” explains Ed. “Rather than turfing or seeding, we took cores from the 18 course greens during greens maintenance before deciding to over-seed with ICL’s creeping bent Riptide.

“Over the past 3 months Riptide has filled in beautifully and is really starting to come into its own,” continued Ed. “During early morning dew you can see the creeping bent beginning to outcompete the Poa dominated cores and establishing well.”

Creeping bent as a species for golf greens fell out of favour with many course managers due to varieties proving difficult to manage or the results from over-seeding were just disappointing. New varieties such as Riptide have sparked new interest. The ability to establish quickly and aggressively colonise greens is creating outstanding results, bringing greens back into play quickly. The real beauty of Riptide is its lighter green colour aspect, enabling excellent integration into UK and Ireland greens.

Riptide provides the opportunity to create excellent greens surface with lower inputs of fertilization and disease management. High tolerance against Microdochium patch and Dollar spot reduces the frequency for fungicide applications.
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The new 82V range offers true petrol rivalling performance, with industry leading power output from products including chainsaws, trimmers, and brushcutters. Cramer offers the most comprehensive dedicated commercial cordless range in the market. From chainsaws and hedge trimmers, to telescopic pole pruners, twin bladed lawnmowers and sweepers. The range has everything for the commercial user, except emissions.

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A retired Physical Education teacher, Nigel Mortimore has been maintaining the pitches at Topsham Rugby Football Club, Exeter for the past seven years as Head Groundsmans. The site, which includes two full size rugby pitches and two smaller pitches for the junior teams, will often host more than 600 people in attendance on a matchday.

When Nigel first started the role, he had little experience in groundsmanship, so he was therefore keen to get up to speed as soon as possible, and using an SISIS Quadraplay has been helping him to create pitches that opposition teams envy.

“I joined the RFU’s Rugby Groundsmen Connected scheme, which along with Devon RFU, has been invaluable in gaining advice and support,” explains Nigel. “I also got in contact with the groundsman at Exeter University and I worked alongside him and his team to see how they maintain their pitches.”

After learning the fundamental skills of groundsmanship, Nigel’s attention soon turned towards new maintenance machinery. The SISIS Quadraplay had previously caught his attention after he attended a Groundsmen Connected seminar at his club, hosted by former RFU head groundsman, Keith Kent.

“Keith brought a range of SISIS equipment with him and that was when I first saw the Quadraplay in action – I immediately knew that this machine was what we needed,” says Nigel.

The SISIS Quadraplay multiple-purpose, single-pass maintenance incorporates a mounted frame for up to four implements such as grooming rakes, spikers, slitters, rollers and brushes. The implements can be fitted to the mainframe in any order and can be independently adjusted to achieve the desired effect. Compact, robust, versatile and with the ability to carry out up to four operations simultaneously – the Quadraplay makes life a lot easier for many groundsmen.

“It is used pretty much every day depending on conditions,” says Nigel. “If the surface is nice and damp, we will go out and slit it and we will do that in different directions on various days. Slitting the pitches has really helped with the drainage here. Prior to having the Quadraplay we were forced to cancel games when we had torrential rain but now, we don’t have that problem.

“The brush puts a lovely stripe on the pitch, which is important for matchday presentation. The tines are also brilliant, and we tend to fine and brush it particularly at the end of the season. This helps to take off the peaks and put them into the troughs for a consistent playing surface.

“Having the ability to carry out four tasks with the Quadraplay is extremely beneficial,” continues Nigel. “The adjustment is very easy, and it is incredibly simple to connect it to the back of our tractor.”

“The quality of surface has improved no end. The players are getting a good footing on it and that in turn improves the game of rugby - the better the surface the better the play. A lot of the Topsham players have commented on how much they feel it has improved.”
Game, cut and finish for tennis club

Having seen them in action on the world-famous Wimbledon courts, The Lensbury Club in Middlesex are one of a growing list of clubs taking delivery of an INFINICUT® mower for use on their grass tennis courts. Along with a set of UltraGroomer™ cassettes from the TMSystem™, Grounds and Gardens Manager Peter Craig says the improvements in the quality and appearance of the six courts hasn’t gone unnoticed by the club’s members.

“We started to see some famous venues using the INFINICUT™ mowers and I was lucky enough to see them in action first-hand on the courts at Wimbledon which only further sparked my interest,” Peter explains. Taking delivery of the 22” Fixed Head INFINICUT® shortly after its launch at the end of 2018, Peter is delighted with his purchase.

“It gives such a fantastic quality of cut and finish – the definition of stripe is excellent and the HOC and bedknife adjustment systems could not be simpler. The fact that it’s battery powered and therefore more environmentally friendly has always been a major plus-point for me; but even more so now, with the courts at The Lensbury located very close to a residential road. In the past, this meant we were unable to use machinery before 8am but, because the INFINICUT® is so quiet in operation, we can get out and mow at 7am. This means we effectively gain five additional working hours a week, where necessary.”

Recently, the club also purchased a set of UltraGroomer™ cassettes from the TMSystem™ range for early and in-season verti-cutting. “We’re running those in our Jacobsen GP400 triple to remove any lateral growth and clean the surface up. We’ll use these as soon as we start getting some consistent growth in April/May, then will aim to cover all of the courts once a month after that”. The UltraGroomer’s are also in use on the site’s ornamental lawns. “Improving these areas was one of my key goals when I returned, and these cassettes have contributed towards bringing the lawns up to the standards we’re achieving elsewhere.”

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This versatile mower also benefits from a differential lock and mulching insert included as standard.

The 80cm cutting width, 240 litre collecting box and impressive Kawasaki engine give it the cutting performance and raw power to impress while operating.

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**£458.34 + VAT** deposit

**£5,500 + VAT** cash price

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or put us to the test and contact us for a free onsite demonstration on 01295 680 120
**Mow perfect**

After two unsuccessful mowers, landowner Dr Ueli Zellweger has finally found the ride-on mower he was looking for to help maintain the ‘most beautiful spot on earth.’

Dr Ueli Zellweger, a retired veterinary physician, found his slice of paradise in 1995 when he and his wife moved from Switzerland to a beautiful location in Exeter. Their magnificent house is surrounded by 15 acres of land which includes paddocks, a horse riding arena and a huge man-made lake, which were created by Ueli and his wife.

With so many acres of green space, it is vital that Ueli has only the finest turf maintenance machinery. However, finding a mower efficient enough to deal with the slopes, verges and tough terrain has not been straightforward – that was until he came across the Etesia Buffalo 124 HVHPX 4WD machine.

“I had two previous ride-on mowers before the Buffalo and unfortunately they just were not good enough,” said Ueli. “The first one would always clog up with grass cuttings and I would have to stop every so often to clear it. The second one did not cope too well with slopes and I kept getting stuck. “I asked my local garden machinery dealer, Tom Williams, to give me the best and most powerful machine he had. He was quick to recommend the Etesia Buffalo 124 and after I saw it demonstrated, it didn’t take me long to make a decision.”

Fitted with a 124-cm overlapping cutting deck and a powerful 23-hp two-cylinder Briggs and Stratton engine with catalytic converter as standard, the Etesia Buffalo has a high hourly mowing output of up to 15,000 sq m per hour, and an unequalled weight-to-power ratio.

The efficiency of the cutting system allows the operator to work faster (up to 12 km/h) and to improve productivity and output - the Buffalo excels even in wet conditions. Furthermore, this unique ride-on mower is fitted with a built-in grass collector with a capacity of 600 litres, and the hydraulic emptying system is controlled from the driver’s seat up to 1.8 metres.

Says Ueli: “I like the versatility of being able to change the height of cut depending on the situation and the operator controls are very user friendly. There are two levers on the right-hand side – one is for emptying the grass box and one is for raising it. Everything on this machine is so easy to operate.

To complement Ueli’s Buffalo, he and his wife also rely on the Etesia Duocut Battery NACTS pedestrian mower. This battery-powered walk-behind mower is environmentally responsible, compact, rugged and efficient. It can easily handle collection, mulching and mowing without the need of any additional attachments.

“Tere are smaller areas that you can’t get to with the ride-on mower and this is where the Duocut comes in – it is fantastic at doing the tight edges or small pathways. It is powerful and light, smooth and silent,” said Ueli.
Green waste recycling

The Zago Eco Green Composter offers a simple, reliable and economic means of green waste recycling. Because these machines operate at a very low noise and nuisance level, they are favoured by many local authorities for use in urban areas and estates. They grind, mulch and mix bio-degradable products, from grass mowings, roots and soil to ten inch diameter tree loppings, pallets, waste paper etc.

The volume of material is significantly reduced and can be reloaded and mixed with other products before being applied to the ground or biomas.

The machine offers simple, reliable and economic solutions such as:
- low running cost per tonne - one man operation
- static or transportable
- low noise and nuisance level - 79 dB(A) at operators position
- flexible machine that can mix a range of products
- significantly reduces the volume of material
- robust construction, with independent chassis!
- Heavy duty blades with two bolt fixing
- Adjustable counterblades and wear plates ensure outstanding durability with an efficient cutting system.

- Optional heavy duty loading cranes with rotating grab or bucket
- patented mixing system is made up of four augers. All rotate in the same direction which significantly reduces the horsepower requirement.
- proven track record

For more details contact King Feeders UK on 01260 223273

The versatility of GORE-TEX and why HAIX’s forestry range is suitable all year round

Specialist functional footwear manufacturer HAIX understands that arborists need to have absolute confidence that their feet will stay comfortable, dry and protected from whatever environment they work in. That’s why the high performance forestry footwear range contains an array of features to make them suitable for year round use – including incorporating the waterproof, breathable GORE-TEX membrane.

In cold and wet conditions, the GORE-TEX membrane enables feet to stay dry from the outside and inside by preventing water from penetrating into the boot while also allowing sweat to gently escape through the breathable layers. The GORE-TEX layer allows sweat to evaporate out of the boot, stopping feet from becoming uncomfortably hot or wet, and is six times more breathable than the values outlined in EN ISO standards 20345/20347.

To ensure there is no weakness or vulnerability in products featuring the GORE-TEX membrane that may compromise performance, every product is stringently tested by GORE engineers in the company’s own laboratories, in a state-of-the-art chamber that can recreate up to 95% of the environments on the earth’s surface. These include Everest’s frigid conditions, Death Valley’s scorching sun and the stiflingly humid temperatures of the Amazonian rainforest. A rain tower can also simulate up to 3 inches of rainfall per hour in temperatures of 5 – 25°C.

All HAIX boots featuring a GORE-TEX membrane are carefully designed to withstand the extremes of forestry work. This means they have a longer lifecycle, reducing the need for replacement, balancing cost efficiency with a high degree of protection.

In the HAIX range, forestry boots containing GORE-TEX include the Protector Forest 2.0, the Trekker Mountain 2.0 and the Protector Pro 2.0, with each boot designed to support wearers year round.

With GORE-TEX in the inner lining to provide waterproofing and breathability, the Protector Pro 2.0, Protector Forest 2.0 and Trekker Mountain 2.0 also feature the unique HAIX Climate System®, encouraging air circulation with every step through the vent holes at the top of the boot to keep feet cool. Both also feature sun reflect, which reduces the heating effect of the upper leather from direct sunlight, helping with temperature regulation to ensure wearer comfort.

All three boots have also been awarded the coveted test mark KWF Level-Standard, meaning they have been tested to demonstrate that they have reached important safety standards and can be worn safely by professional forestry workers over a period of several months. It’s a practical test that takes all four seasons into account and is conducted on a broad range of terrains.

By combining smart material choices like GORE-TEX membranes with innovative production processes and integrating wearer feedback, HAIX’s forestry boot range provides flexibility year-round.

To view HAIX’s full range of forestry footwear visit www.haix.co.uk/forest/
Virtual networking

Have you relied on the trade shows and face to face meetings as a way of generating business and making connections? As COVID continues to disrupt how we run our businesses, now is the time to diversify, to continue generating enquiries, creating brand awareness and making important connections says Paula Warman.

Here are 5 ways to keep ahead, in front of potential clients and in touch with potential partners:

1. **Online networking and meetings**
   - These have become a regular occurrence for many businesses since the UK lockdown in March. For some it has made networking even easier - no travel, no cost and in the comfort of your own home office space. Online meetings have been invaluable in keeping in touch with people across the industry, making new connections.

   Many landscapers and designers have begun to offer a virtual service to their clients utilising online meeting software such as Zoom or Skype. It has made offering services further afield easier and enabled businesses to continue trading when restrictions have caused disruption.

   While some trade shows have postponed, and are now contemplating plans for 2021, others have gone virtual this year – still offering a chance to meet suppliers and listen into seminars online.

2. **Webinars**
   - As a result of the UK lockdown many businesses were forced to go online and utilised webinars to get their message across and build their businesses. Could this be an option for your business too? If you are a supplier of products you can utilise a webinar format to show the benefits and features of your product to an interested audience and in doing so elevate your positioning to an expert in that field. Webinars are a great way to engage with potential customers and on the flip side, attending webinars enables you to expand your knowledge which in turn will grow your business.

3. **Social Media**
   - People are interacting more online now, so now is the time to become more prolific on social media. First look at improving your platforms, tweak your bios and time to become more prolific on social media. First

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Landscaper suppliers Green-tech have supplied the materials for the new rooftop garden of the Maggie’s Centre Cancer Charity, situated in the grounds of St. James’s University Hospital, Leeds.

Designed by award-winning landscape designers Balston Aguim the centre was inspired by Yorkshire woodlands and features native English species of plants, alongside areas of evergreen to provide warmth in the winter months.

BALI registered contractor Swinburne Horticultural Services Ltd, who have worked with Green-tech for many years, undertook the roof garden build and all the landscaping works.

Inspired by the charity’s founder Maggie Keswick Jencks’ love of gardening, the centre at Leeds is roofed by three overlapping gardens which step down and overhang to shelter communal areas. The challenge was to span and enclose the level changes and reinstate the site’s greenery. In this way, the hospital does not lose its last green space – it is lifted up, filled with woodland plants and made more accessible and inviting.

During construction Green-tech supplied 270m$^2$ of Green-tree Roof garden intensive substrate which equates to 150 dumpy bags and gt Roof Drain which provides a lightweight continuous drainage layer across the roof structure. It collects and stores water to irrigate the plants during low rainfall periods.

300 tonnes Green-tree 12mm premium top soil was supplied for the general landscaping areas, along with 44 tree anchoring kits, Mona irrigation pipes, compost and bark mulch.

In total 23,000 bulbs and 17,000 plants were planted which all help to provide a tranquil environment; a calming space for all to take time out and enjoy the nature around them. Visitors are encouraged to participate in the ongoing care of these.

Hampshire-based Wildflower Turf Ltd have partnered with luxury lodge holiday specialists, Darwin Escapes, to create a stunning wildflower haven at the newly opened Rivendale Lodge Retreat.

Set in the heart of the Peak District with views overlooking the Alsop Dale, the luxurious new lodge resort is situated within acres of Derbyshire countryside.

With conservation a key component of the resort’s development strategy, Wildflower Turf Ltd was commissioned by Landscape Architects and Environmental Consultants RPS Planning and Development to lend their extensive wildflower expertise to the redevelopment project.

Consideration of the natural setting was of utmost importance, and the addition of extensive wildflower meadows around the site has significantly enhanced both the aesthetics and biodiversity credentials of the holiday park.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, during spring and summer of this year Wildflower Turf Ltd provided the project with 8,800m$^2$ of a modified mix of their Landscape Wildflower Turf alongside a further 3,500m$^2$ of a bespoke Wildflower Turf blend. The bespoke mix turf was carefully designed by the Landscape Architects in discussion with the Peak District National Park Authority ecology and landscape teams. The bespoke calcareous grassland will serve to enhance the botanical interest of Rivendale by adding locally common, UK-native colour and diversity to the landscape as well as providing a habitat for bees and other local wildlife.

As well as considerable wildflower plantings, the location also includes a number of new wildlife ponds, hundreds of native trees and a new “bat barn” to further conservation and protection of the local wildlife.

Since opening in mid-September, Rivendale has already proven extremely popular with holiday makers and is a welcome new addition to the Peak District. The self-contained luxury lodges are particularly well-suited to meeting the increased appetite for UK ‘staycations’ whilst reducing COVID-19 risks.
Regional conferencing online

Online conference programme outlined bringing greenkeeper learning to the safety and comfort of BIGGA members’ homes

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has led the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) to rethink how its members will access local and regional education in 2020, with the association launching a new initiative known as the National Regional Conference. Traditionally BIGGA’s five regions – Scotland and Northern Ireland, Northern, Central England, South West and South Wales and South East – host their own gatherings for BIGGA members to meet up and hear talks from some of the most influential people in the industry. However, restrictions on social gatherings and the fact many greenkeeping teams are stretched to the limit due to busier courses and reduced staffing means that these in-person events aren’t able to take place through this autumn.

BIGGA has already announced its popular Continue to Learn education programme, usually held at BTME each January, will become an online event, and the regional conferences have now followed suit.

The National Regional Conference, so called because it will be accessible from anywhere, but will also retain some of the great features of a regional conference, will take place on 10 November 2020 from 10am to 1pm and registration has now opened on the BIGGA website.

The programme for speakers is:

Seven things I’ve learned about turf around the world
Presented by Dr Micah Woods, chief scientist, Asian Turfgrass Center

A fast-paced look at seven things that can be learnt from turf around the world:
1. Choosing the right grass is really important
2. The textbooks aren’t always correct
3. Where’s the most difficult location to grow good grass?
4. Greenkeepers must be expert irrigators
5. Plant nutrition is easier than it’s made out to be
6. Could sand topdressing be overdone?
7. The growth rate is more important than I thought

Simple steps to encourage wildlife on the golf course
Presented by Dr Marie Athorn, Business Conservation Advisor (R&A), RSPB

Golf courses can play an important part in the conservation of rare and protected species with fantastic green spaces that offer significant opportunities to provide desperately needed sanctuaries for wildlife. This session will help you to consider some simple low cost, low resource ideas that you could do on your golf course to make a difference.

From Lockdown to the Rose Ladies Series
With Calum Wark, golf course manager, JCB Country Club

When Justin Rose and his wife Kate announced the Rose Ladies Series, a one-off Ladies European Tour event, shortly after golf reopened following lockdown, the greenkeeping team at the JCB Country Club in Uttoxeter had their work cut out for them – to get the golf course in shape for a behind-closed-doors, COVID-19 safe, televised tournament – all with one month’s notice!

The renovation of Loch Lomond
Presented by David Cole MG, director of golf course and estates, Loch Lomond Golf Club

Since winter 2017/18 the team at Loch Lomond and golf construction contractors Golfink have been working on what is considered to be one of the biggest renovations in British golfing history. Taking place over three consecutive winters, in one of the wettest locations in the UK, 16 holes have been rebuilt, a new irrigation system installed, a full rebuild, extension and new forward tees added, bunkers rebuilt and the renewal of the drainage infrastructure. This was followed by a sand cap and re-grassing plan across the golf course. The final two holes are planned to be completed this winter (if COVID-19 restrictions allow).

2019 – Parkstone’s busiest season on and off the course
Presented by Grant Peters, course manager, Parkstone Golf Club

To say that the Parkstone greenkeeping team had an exceptional 2019 might be a bit of an understatement.

In this session you will hear about their experiences including the development of their new maintenance facility, delivering the Ladies European Amateur Championship and managing one of the busiest courses on the south coast.

Head to the What’s On section of the BIGGA website and select BIGGA’s National Regional Conference for more information and to book a spot.
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