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DEERE TO LAUNCH ELECTRIFIED GREENS MOWERS

The first models from John Deere's eagerly anticipated electric greens mower range will be launched in the UK and Ireland in 2023, marking an important milestone in the company's history of innovation.

Two machines are being added to Deere's existing walk-behind greens mower offerings, packed with the same quality components and technology that existing customers have become familiar with.

But there's one key difference; the diesel engine has been replaced by a 58-volt, 3.2kwh lithium-ion battery

The two models – the 185 E-Cut and 225 E-Cut – were announced in America last year and have been put through their paces on courses across The States and Europe for the past 12 months.

Greenkeepers working on courses in the UK and Ireland will be able to order the machines later this year.



The new electric walk-behind greens mowers will be popular additions to the petrol powered machines

Meeting demand for alternative approaches

Battery-powered innovations in the golf and professional sports turf markets have been moving forward apace for the past few years.

Near-silent operation, a better environmental profile and significant reductions in the risk of petrol or oil leaks and spills are among the reasons why decision-makers consider switching to batteries.

Those with on-site energy-generating capacity can also reduce their reliance on brought-in fuel, while those without solar, wind and other renewables at their disposal can also make a judgement on which fuel source suits their operations.

Evidence of John Deere's success in the battery-powered market is evident by the number of customers choosing the TE Gator, an all-electric, hardworking utility vehicle.

But the launch of the 185 and 225 E-Cut models is a major step forward for the company, as it launches its first battery greens mowers.



Benefits of battery

Virtually silent operation opens up the operating window where early morning or late evening noise is a concern, especially in residential areas or municipalities with noise regulations.

The 185 and 225 E-Cuts perform to the same exacting standards as the existing walk-behind machines. They have an independent floating cutting unit mounted out front, exactly like the 180 and 220 E-Cut Hybrid walk-behinds seen on many courses today. They are intended for courses that have the labour available to walk-mow greens, or for those who prefer not to use a triplex mower.

They will be used in areas that are highly contoured and traditionally mowed on foot, such as greens and approaches. They can also be used on tees as needed.

The battery provides power to controllers, which then provide the right power to the electric motors that are controlling the gear transmission and the reel.

Similar to other John Deere Golf products, the TechControl display is the main operator interface with the machine, and is programmable by a supervisor to control maximum mowing and transport speeds, as well as frequency of clip.

On a single charge, the 180 and 220 E-Cut can cut an estimated 50,000 square feet of grass. This compares favourably to other mowers in the category, some of which offer 30% less productivity.

With the advanced TechControl Display, supervisors can specifically dial in their frequency of clip based on reel speed and ground speed, and the machines offer 10 handlebar height positions, plus a fore-aft adjustment for maximum comfort and ease when operating and turning.

Key features of the 185 E-Cut and 225 E-Cut

- 58-volt, 3.2 kwh lithium-ion battery
- Off-board battery charger
- Electric reel drive
- Electric traction drive
- Passcode-protected TechControl display
- Adjustable frequency of clip
- Clean-up pass mode
- Onboard backlapping
- Dual aluminum drive rear traction drum
- Operator presence system
- Enclosed roller drive differential
- Foam wrapped, 10-position no-tool height adjustable handlebar with two fore-aft positions

Industry exclusive three-wheeled hybrid mower launched

Not all electrical developments in John Deere's mower range relate to Lithium battery power.

Turf professionals have seen the company's advances in mower hybridisation for years, but the latest achievement sees the five 7" reels powered by brushless electric reel motors on the 6700A E-Cut and 7700A E-Cut for the first time.

The 7700A is Deere's most popular fairway mower; a four-wheel mower with five quality cutting units and TechControl Display which allows you to guarantee consistency on every cut. The three-wheeled chassis on the 6700A is also highly sought-after, for its excellent manoeuvrability and after-cut appearance. With this hybrid development, Deere becomes the first manufacturer to have QA7 hybrids on both three-wheel drive and four-wheel drive chassis, including an industry exclusive on the 6700A model.

How does it work?

The electric reel drive system is powered by a 200-amp alternator, which supplies power to the reel motor controllers, which then supply power to the electric reel motors.

Similar to other John Deere golf products, the TechControl display is the main operator interface with the machine and is programmable by a supervisor to control maximum mowing and transport speeds, as well as engine RPM.

This hybrid solution minimises 90% of the risk of hydraulic leaks by eliminating over 150 hydraulic leak points.

There are fuel savings of up to 30% by operating at reduced throttle when mowing compared to PrecisionCut fairway mowers. Noise levels are also reduced by up to 3dB at reduced throttle.

The alternator, controllers, and motors are designed to allow the machine to perform rigorous verticutting applications.

The 6700A E-Cut and 7700A E-Cut will be available to order this year.





Great Expectations: Presenting World-Class Football Pitches at ST GEORGE'S PARK

For the grounds team at St George's Park, maintaining a world-class venue is a 365-days-a-year, 24-hours-a-day passion.

Opened in 2012, St George's Park is the home of England football, serving as the primary training centre for England's Men's, Women's, and Youth football teams.

Located six miles from Burton upon Trent in Staffordshire, the park is home to 14 pitches and sprawls across 330 acres with 150 acres actively maintained by a 15-strong team.

Andy Gray, Head of Grounds and Estates, is in charge, while his 10-strong team takes care of the pitches and a further four work on the wider estate.

"The sheer size of the estate is the biggest challenge," says Andy, who joined The FA from Southampton FC. A key part of his job is to foresee issues that will crop up in the future and put a strategic plan in place to meet these potential challenges.

"I'm also responsible for making sure my team has all the tools they require to do their job effectively" he adds.

To help them in their quest to continue delivering world-class excellence, the centre has invested in a brand-new fleet of John Deere mowers, gators, and tractors to maintain the England teams' pitches and the wider estate.

The Pitches

"It's a high-pressure environment because you're constantly trying to meet everyone's expectations and when you have a small team on both sides it is hard," says Dan Oliver, Assistant Head of Grounds.

Adaptability and responding to the UK's unpredictable weather patterns is key. "The weather is the biggest thing," adds Dan. "There are peaks and troughs, depending on how wet or warm it has been."

With major Premier League and European teams, plus sides from further afield, making the journey to train at St George's, Dan and the team feel the pressure to deliver a world-class experience.

"We constantly compare ourselves to other venues," says Dan. "A lot of the players will be coming from excellent facilities, so we do our best to mirror what they're used to, and hopefully deliver more. This should be a step up."

The Estate

Management of the wider estate covers a range of tasks from woodland management to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. Matt's estates team is made up of four people, including himself. This equates to an approximate ratio of one person per 25 acres to actively maintain daily.

The team's existing equipment lease deal expired in January 2020, leading to a re-evaluation of what was required.

"That fleet was the same one that was set up in 2011," Matt says.

"The ride-on mowing equipment didn't suit our estate's undulating terrain. The nature of the site means that you're never sure what you're going to come across and because of the soil makeup the ground is often wet."

After an extensive demonstration process of the machines available to them, the team decided to go with John Deere because of the extra support the brand can provide.

"One thing that really impressed me from the start was the support John Deere gave us during the transition when the old fleet was going out and the new kit was still being built," Matt says. "As it was transferred in, we still had access to whatever equipment we needed."

"For us, one of the most important things was what would happen if something broke down. Our arrangement with John Deere means we can get answers quickly and get equipment back up and running."

The team's new John Deere fleet comprises three compact tractors in the form of a 2036R and two 4066R models, two TE and three HPX Gators, three 2750 E-Cut triplex mowers, two X950R riding mowers, one 7400A TerrainCut and an 8000A mower, one ProGator and a HD200 sprayer.

All the equipment was supplied by John Deere dealer Farol through Area Sales Managers Jacob Shellis and Tom Spencer. With their support, full training was given to the workforce on how to set up the machines to operate with maximum accuracy and performance.

The fleet is fully connected, and all machines are remotely monitored by Farol under John Deere's PowerGard protection plan. A maintenance agreement means work is carried out at scheduled times according to the service manual. This ensures performance is maximised and reduces the risk of breakdowns. The deal is in place for five years.

Nathan Page, one of the operators at St George's, says: "A big difference is the 2036R and 4066R tractors. They are all-weather, comfortable, and capable of pulling everything we need them to."

His colleague Michael Bristow adds: "The main thing for me was the training when the new kit arrived. We have been shown the right way to operate it all. The ride quality is also really good which is important when you're working on these machines all day."

"A big difference is the 2036R and 4066R tractors. They are all-weather, comfortable, and capable of pulling everything we need them to."



Kit list St George's Park

- 2036R Compact Utility Tractor
- 4066R Compact Utility Tractor x2
- TE Gator x2
- HPX Gator x3
- 2750 E-Cut Riding Triplex Mower x3
- X950R Diesel Mowing Tractor x2
- 7400A TerrainCut Trim & Surrounds Mower
- 8000A E-Cut Hybrid Fairway Mower
- ProGator 2030A
- HD200 GPS PrecisionSprayer

Supplied by: Farol

LEICESTER CITY FC

chooses John Deere technology



Leicester City FC bought the first of the new environmentally friendly John Deere sprayers

Based at Leicester City Football Club's new state-of-the-art training facility in Seagrave, north Leicestershire, the club's Sports Turf Academy aims to inspire the next generation of sports turf students by offering an elite training environment, with access to the latest technology and expertise.

The Academy is built around four distinct pillars – Education & Training, Technical Services, Tournament Support, and Trials & Research – to support the development, diversification and professionalisation of the sports turf industry.

The 185-acre complex at Seagrave has 21 playing surfaces in total, including 14 full-size pitches – one indoors in the King Power Centre – and two show pitches for use in selected matches by the club's Development Squad and Academy. There is also a nine-hole private golf course, for use by players and staff.



These are all now being maintained by a new fleet of 32 John Deere sprayers, mowers, compact tractors and Gator utility vehicles supplied by local dealer Farol Ltd at Hinckley, which will also be supported by the dealership's brand-new outlet at Newark.

Machines include two GPS PrecisionSprayers based on the ProGator utility vehicle, 8000E and 2750E hybrid electric ride-on cylinder mowers, 7700A PrecisionCut cylinder and 7400A TerrainCut rotary ride-on mowers with TechControl display, a 1600T wide-area rotary mower, X950R rear-collect law tractor and Z997R zero-turn rotaries, 2036R and 3038R compacts, and TE electric and XUV 855 plus 855 S4 Gators.

Leicester City FC bought the first of the new environmentally friendly John Deere sprayers to be delivered to a non-golf customer in the UK, as part of the package agreement.

"The Sports Turf Academy is designed to be a hub of innovation and professional development," says John Ledwidge, Leicester City FC's Head of Sports Turf and Grounds.

"Our aim is to be world leaders in the training and education of the current and next generation of sports turf and grounds staff, while applying that learning to live working environments. As well as creating a world-class facility at our new training ground, we aspire to be world-class in the way we operate.

"Adopting this new precision technology from John Deere will help in our aim to be as efficient and environmentally sustainable as possible in everything we do. There were many reasons for choosing the sprayer, the chief one being accuracy. It means we can apply exactly what is required without over-spraying or overspending."



The training grounds and golf course are maintained to the highest standards by 18 pitch staff, 10 garden and landscaping staff, and four greenkeepers, led by John Ledwidge and senior sports turf and grounds manager Callum Allsop. There are also four staff based in the well-equipped workshop, including two apprentices, with the machinery fleet monitored by workshop manager Chris Minton and his deputy Colin Barkby, using the TurfKeeper web portal.

"The final choice was then presented to and approved by the club's board of directors, including communications, finance, operations and the procurement team. All involved were impressed by the efforts and lengths that John Deere and Farol went to before the deal was signed – ultimately the decision was a very easy one for us to make."

"Knowing that we needed to make a very significant investment in new equipment, we went through a robust, rigorous and transparent tender process."

"Aside from the basic transaction, it was just as important for us to be able to establish a long-term relationship with the chosen supplier. It became clear after visiting John Deere's UK HQ at Langar, where we were given a very comprehensive presentation by the company and the dealership, that their values and aspirations aligned very much with ours.

"My deputy Callum, working closely with Chris, was instrumental in bringing all the tender documentation and figures together, looking particularly at machine usability and serviceability. All the grounds and workshop staff completed feedback forms, so everyone was invested in the process and contributed to the final decision.

The 185-acre complex at Seagrave has **21 playing surfaces in total**

14 full-size pitches **2** show pitches **21** playing surfaces **9** hole golf course



Kit list
Leicester City FC

HD200 GPS PrecisionSprayer x2
8000 E-Cut Hybrid Mower
2750 E-Cut Riding Triplex Mower
7700A PrecisionCut Fairway Mower
7400A TerrainCut Trim & Surrounds Mower
1600T Wide Area Rotary Mower
X950R Diesel Mowing Tractor
Z997R Zero Turn Mower
2036R Compact Utility Tractor
3038R Compact Utility Tractor
TE Gator
XUV855 S4 Gator x2

Supplied by: Farol

Accuracy and efficiency drives adoption of

GPS PRECISION SPRAYERS

The HD200 GPS PrecisionSprayer was also a stand-out purchase

There may be significant differences in how groundscre professionals manage sports pitches at a private school compared to the tees, greens and fairways of a popular golf club.

But the objective of doing a job as precisely and efficiently as possible is one they certainly share.

While daily tasks differ, the philosophies at the prestigious Lord Wandsworth College in Hampshire and The Leicestershire Golf Club are very similar.

Both have set long-term strategies around reducing their chemical bills and strengthening their environmental profile while, at the same time, aiming to improve the efficiency of their operations.

And, in the past year, both have installed John Deere HD200 GPS PrecisionSprayers to maintain their considerable huge areas of grounds.

The 757-litre capacity PrecisionSprayer is based on Deere's ProGator heavy-duty utility vehicle chassis and is packed full of technology such as AutoTrac, which guides the machine for the operator, and automatic section control to turn on and shut off individual nozzles. This means spraying greens becomes far more accurate as there is no overlap or non-target areas sprayed with expensive chemicals.

At both sites, the HD200 is already making its mark with operators – demonstrating the benefits of automation, improving accuracy and beginning to show how cost savings can be made.

Lord Wandsworth College

Lord Wandsworth College, based in Hampshire, is one of the only independent schools in the country to own a John Deere GPS sprayer. It's an investment which Alistair Cotton, Grounds and Garden Manager, says was hard to justify on the chemical saving alone, but one that takes into account the overall improvement in performance and the ability to evolve other practices using the technology.

"Not only does it improve the spraying, but it also makes everything else better too – the overall process is better because of it," Alistair explains. "We've put the infrastructure in for GPS on the three series tractor as well so we can use it for fertiliser applications and other things."

"The team has been really pleased with the new kit – with John Deere, it doesn't matter what machine you're in, it's all the same excellent quality and ease of operation."

The college's deal with John Deere also included 7700A fairway mowers, a 9009A TerrainCut mower, two 4066R tractors, an 8900A triple mower, a 3046R compact tractor, alongside five electric TE Gators, which will also contribute to the college's sustainability efforts.

"The school was passionate about cutting carbon emissions even before the current issues with power prices," Alistair says. "Opting for electric TE Gators was just one element of that."

Out of the total 1,200 acres at the college, Alistair's team is responsible for 150 acres which includes 14 winter pitches ranging from full size rugby and football to touch rugby and seven-aside football pitches. There is also a full-size and half-size AstroTurf pitch, and, in the summer, there are six grass cricket squares, two artificial cricket grounds, and a grass 400m running track.

Change of approach at The Leicestershire

The HD200 GPS PrecisionSprayer was also the stand-out purchase for The Leicestershire Golf Club, which has revolutionised the way the Leicestershire's ground team applies herbicides, fungicides, and fertilisers.

Steve Hardy, Course Manager at the Leicestershire, estimates that he is now spraying at least 30% less chemical, purely due to the accuracy of the machine – his budget for disease control has already been reduced to reflect the change.

"The sprayer is getting a huge amount of use. Just on greens, we're spraying once a week with a wetting agent, a fertiliser, or a growth regulator," he says. "In peak season it will be out working most days."

"This is our first year using the sprayer and compared to the other clubs in the area we came out pretty clean. A lot of that will be down to good planning but the chemical going down at exactly the right rate in exactly the right place has to have had an effect too."

"Using automated spraying records is great," he says. "They are generated as soon as a task has been completed."

"With the option of downloading them immediately from your iPhone, this takes a lot of time away from the admin side of things and ensures complete compliance."

The Leicestershire's six-strong team of greenkeepers are happy with their new tools, and the two trained sprayer operators have adopted the technology quickly.

Steve says: "There is plenty more to be getting on with here, but the new machinery is a huge step forward. The committee is very proud of it and my team is very happy."

"It has solved the problems we faced in the main season and now we can move on to our next priority, which is irrigation."

Also included in the deal were four 2750 PrecisionCut greens mowers, two 7500A fairway mowers, a 9009 TerrainCut for roughs and surrounds, and a HPX Gator for picking up on the driving range and general course transport.

Alongside accuracy and convenience, Steve says he appreciates the time saving.

Kit list Lord Wandsworth College

HD200 GPS PrecisionSprayer
7700A PrecisionCut Fairway Mower
9009A TerrainCut Rough Mower
4066R Compact Utility Tractor x2
8900A PrecisionCut Fairway Mower
3046R Compact Utility Tractor
TE Electric Gator x5

Supplied by: Hunt Forest

Kit list The Leicestershire

HD200 GPS PrecisionSprayer
2750 PrecisionCut Riding Triplex Mower x4
7500A PrecisionCut Fairway Mower x2
9009A TerrainCut Rough Mower
HPX Gator

Supplied by: Farol



OnLink drives change of philosophy and efficiency at

WENTWORTH



close eye on technological advancements in the industry is “par for the course” at Wentworth Club.

Anything that can give the greenkeeping team an edge is considered.

But, as with any new innovation, it has to deliver meaningful benefits for the team for it to be adopted and integrated into daily operations.

In 2019, when Wentworth Club went out to tender for its next machinery fleet, it chose John Deere knowing that helping to develop a digital course management system was part of the offer.

“When we signed with John Deere we indicated that we would be keen to be a trial site and work alongside them and OnLink to be part of improving it as a system,” Golf Courses and Grounds Manager Dan Clarke says.

The team started using the OnLink system in spring 2021. On a day-to-day basis, Stefan Carter, Head Greenkeeper on the West Course, uses it to plan his team’s activities

“I plan 99% of the jobs the day before they need doing,” Stefan explains.

“When we first started using OnLink, all the jobs fell into the ‘miscellaneous’ category but as we’ve built it over time every job now has a task and we’re in the process of assigning the vehicle transport vehicle down to the nitty gritty of different instruments.”

Assigning and describing tasks the day before allows Stefan to issue clear instructions and answer potential questions in advance, dramatically reducing the number of phone calls he takes from staff needing to check details.

“Everything that I can possibly think of that might be an issue is nipped in the bud, leaving me more free and able to do other things,” Stefan says.

Before, tasks would be written down on paper, or by phone or message. OnLink has professionalised this system, while leaving less room for potential misunderstandings.

“If you give someone a list of jobs, the chances are they will remember the first thing, maybe the last thing and forget everything in-between,” Stefan says.

“Now I can do the job board in OnLink and everyone can read it when they’re finished so they know what they’re doing next.”

Accountability

As well as saving Stefan time and ensuring fewer mistakes are made, OnLink has also improved accountability.

Rather than needing to ask when a task was last completed, or who the last person was to use a certain machine, the information is now all stored within the app.

“Everyone needs to do a pre-start check on whatever equipment they’re using, so that way we should avoid the situation of something going wrong and it not being reported,” Dan says.

“In an ideal world, you should be able to see that a certain person used it on Tuesday, and then it was reported as being broken on the Wednesday.

“In terms of the mechanics side of things, there is a lot more accountability.”

The team has always been interested in pushing boundaries and trialling new technologies on site.

Communication

One of the main advantages OnLink has delivered for the wider team is clear communication and record keeping.

“We moved away from the whiteboard and we’re now looking far more professional,” Stefan says.

“Now we’ve got a 65-inch TV displaying the job board with everyone’s picture on there. So even new starters coming in know exactly who they’re working with.

“That is a big step into the 21st century.”

Although record keeping took place before OnLink, it was nowhere near as streamlined or professional.

“We would have a logbook where someone, at the end of every day, would physically copy over the jobs that were written on the whiteboard,” says Stefan. “A piece of paper would be put in a folder, that was tucked away in a cupboard, with an idea to refer back to at a later time, which realistically never happened.

“Now it’s so easy – a couple of clicks show you what we did last year, on a particular date, in a specific place. Everything is convenient and quick.”

For Head Mechanic David Hughes, OnLink allows him to forecast and prioritise jobs that need doing, while recording scheduled maintenance and breakdowns or accidental damage.

“That will allow me to see how much of the budget has gone towards accidental damage and how much has gone towards scheduled maintenance,” he says.

When a member of the team uses a piece of equipment, they confirm on the app that they have carried out their before use check.

“If you give them ownership of that equipment, they will look after it,” David says. “OnLink has saved me a lot of man hours checking machines.”

And considering that the team currently has around 500 pieces of equipment, every second counts.

“Without this platform, it would be unmanageable,” David says.



Focus on innovation

Dan reports that the wider team has been impressed with OnLink.

“It’s an exciting bit of technology that’s not commonly used yet and access to it is another reason why a greenkeeper might want to work at Wentworth,” he says.

The team has always been interested in pushing boundaries and trialling new technologies on site.

“We consider ourselves to be in the top 1% of golf clubs in the UK,” Dan says. “We’re the only club in England to have installed the Sub-Air system, which is connected to green drainage to help pull the moisture through.

“We were one of the first to bring electric machines on site and we were early adopters of moisture readers and taking data off the golf course to help us make management decisions.”

Dan believes this embracing of innovation gives Wentworth the edge over its competitors.

“We’re always looking at the newest things coming into the industry and seeing if they could be helpful to us,” he adds. “It all comes down to better informed decision making and efficiency.”

The app has further features the team is currently exploring, such as the link to sprayers.

“The sprayers are all GPS enabled so they can communicate with the OnLink system,” Stefan says.

“We are working closely with the OnLink team in the USA to further get to grips with the system, but having the sprayers linked to the app would be a great way for Dan to keep on top of purchasing. Moisture tracking is another feature that we’ve just started using.”

Feedback

As part of the trial, Dan and the team have a monthly meeting via conference call with the John Deere team in America to provide them with feedback.

“We also have a wish list of things we think OnLink could add,” Dan says. “Whenever we suggest something, the team will go away and if it’s a possibility they will update it for the next meeting.”

Having access to a system that is progressive and evolving all the time means the Wentworth team can help perfect the OnLink system for the UK market.

“Initially, everything was Imperial and we use both, Imperial and Metric, so they took that feedback and moulded it specifically for the UK,” Dan says.

“The biggest thing for me is anything that can make things a bit quicker, as I predominantly use it as a time saving tool,” Stefan adds.

“Anytime I’ve thought of something that could improve the system a little bit they’ve been fantastic – they’ve taken on quite a lot of feedback from us and made changes to the system.”



SUSTAINABILITY

becoming even more important to turf professionals

The word 'sustainability' has evolved to become a catch-all phrase which can relate to many elements of the professional turfcare industry.

From protecting and enhancing the biodiverse environments around the fringes of a golf course to the machines used to maintain the grounds of a stately home, decisions made around the day-to-day running of businesses in the turf sector are being increasingly influenced by sustainability targets.

Sustainability is not just about creating wildlife habitats or reducing carbon footprints – it is a complex network of aims and outcomes encompassing many less obvious topics such as profitability, social responsibility, staff, professional reputation and more.

For a number of years, turf customers asking John Deere to tender to supply fleets of machinery have requested a full, detailed plan of John Deere's sustainability goals.

At the same time, a perfect storm has brewed where businesses operating in the turf arena are being challenged to reduce inputs, lower costs, increase efficiency and enhance the environment.

Chris Meacock, John Deere's Golf and Turf Division Manager, said: "Safeguarding the environment underpins everything we do at John Deere, from our global operations and our products to our customers.

"Our commitment to responsible environmental practices is demonstrated by the solid progress we've made toward stringent eco-efficiency goals."

"In addition to addressing environmental sustainability and the responsible management of natural resources, these goals also support our growth and business objectives."

As a global enterprise, John Deere is able to help its customers meet their sustainability objectives while also being able to demonstrate its own path towards a more sustainable future. In fact, they share many of the same objectives – around carbon emissions, recycling, clean water and staff safety, for example.

But the manufacturer's huge advantage is as an innovator, allowing the company to deploy new technology and connect machines which can help the whole industry take major steps forward.

Chris said: "Our customers and key stakeholders benefit by becoming more productive, profitable, and mindful of their impact on the world around them.

"Initiatives such as our acquisition of Bear Flag Robotics and Kreisel Electric carry this mission forward and accelerate our transformation from automation to autonomy. This evolution includes "sense-and-act" technologies that enable more precise, more productive, and more sustainable outcomes.

"We are also utilising data like never before, linking behaviours to solutions such as the John Deere Operations Center which includes more than 315 million engaged acres worldwide.

"That connection is at the heart of our equipment – making it run more efficiently while providing real-time insights and putting us closer to our customers and their changing businesses."

Chris says John Deere will continue to focus on improving its own sustainability credentials while also providing turf professionals with the tools to bolster theirs.

He said: "Whether it's through the electrification of machines, the hybridisation of components, enabling more precise applications of chemicals, or linking machines together to deliver more efficiencies, the product range John Deere has now and will have in the future will undoubtedly reflect the journey to a more sustainable future that we are all on."

John Deere's 2022 Sustainability Goals

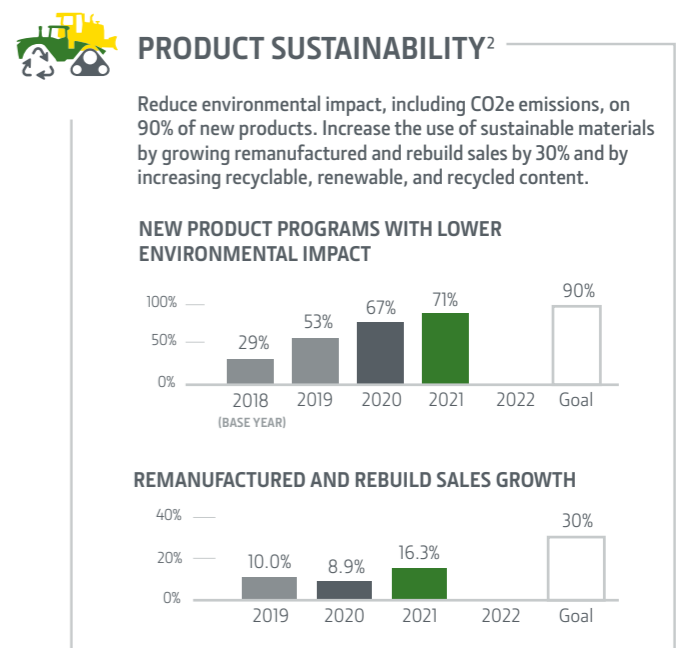
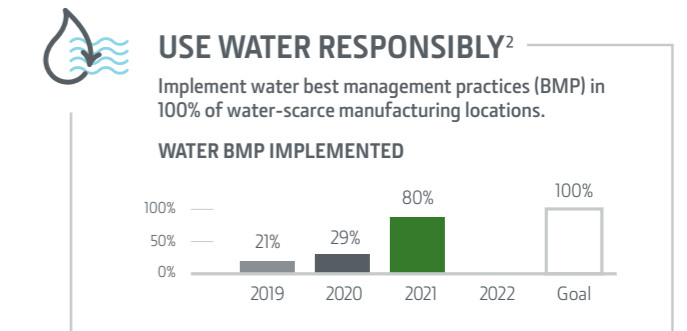
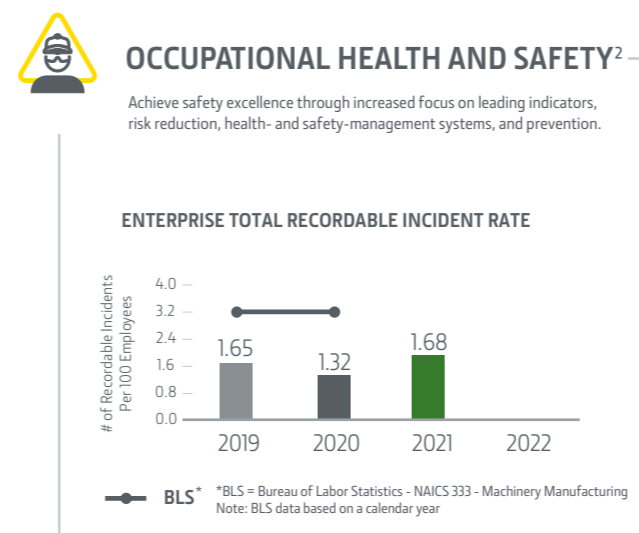
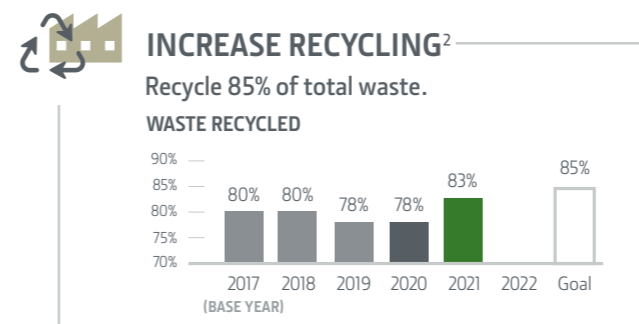
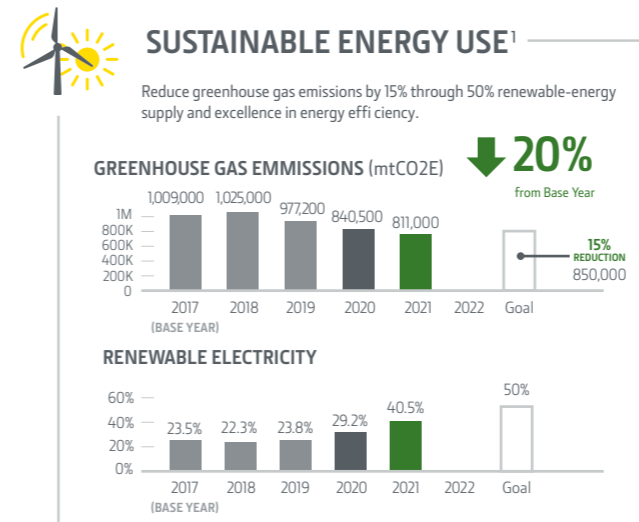
Occupational safety – achieve safety excellence through increased focus on leading indicators, risk reduction, health & safety management systems, and prevention.

Sustainable energy use – reduce GHG emissions by 15% through 50% renewable electricity supply and excellence in energy efficiency.

Responsible water use – implement water best management practices in 100% of water scarce manufacturing locations.

Increase recycling – recycle 85% of total waste.

Sustainable products – reduce environmental impact, including CO2e emissions, on 90% of new products. Increase the use of sustainable materials by growing remanufactured and rebuild sales by 30% and by increasing recyclable, renewable, and recycled content.



"We are also utilising data like never before, linking behaviours to solutions such as the John Deere Operations Center which includes more than 315 million engaged acres worldwide."

Chris Meacock,
John Deere's Golf and Turf Division Manager

HARTPURY MAXIMISES EFFICIENCY

after switching to John Deere



Embracing electric and improving efficiency were two of the standout reasons why Hartpury College and University turned to John Deere when it needed a new fleet of machines to help maintain a varied and challenging site.

Located in Gloucestershire, Hartpury University's 360-hectare campus has been best known for its agricultural and land-based subjects, but in recent years the site has developed cutting-edge sports facilities, alongside the world's largest equine educational facility.

The grounds team made the decision to switch providers when the challenge of maintaining the site proved too much for their existing kit.

"The machines were fine, but we thought they would save us time, when in reality they were costing us more time and the efficiency wasn't there," Matthew Newman, Grounds and Sports Turf Manager at Hartpury, says.

Both saving time and maximising efficiency are essential on a site with so many different demands. With eight grass pitches for football and rugby, two synthetic pitches, a nine-hole pitch and putt, a golf range, a short game practice area, and a multitude of amenity grounds, the challenge of maintaining the site calls for the very best equipment.

"Organising personnel to cover the site is a challenge as it's so big," Matthew says.

"It's not easy because we're dealing with nature. But we need to provide an excellent service so that our students' experience is exactly what it should be.

"They need top quality pitches to play on, and we want the grounds to look the very best they can, because that's how we advertise the college."

"The choice of kit was based on covering what both the sports and grounds teams need because the machines do need to interchange," Matthew explains. "And we based it on how we could support both the environment and maximise efficiencies."

Tied into a deal with another machinery manufacturer, Matthew didn't think they would be able to change the fleet until he consulted Phil Taylor, Turf & Commercial Area Sales Manager for the Tallis Amos Group, the local John Deere dealer.

"We went to Tallis Amos and the relationship blossomed. We have a great association with them," says Matthew.

"This is by far the best relationship I've had with a manufacturer or supplier over the past 10 years and hopefully it will continue."

Matthew is also enthusiastic about the new kit they're now using on site.



**Kit list
Hartpury University**

TE Gator x6
**8800A TerrainCut
Surrounds Mower**
**4066R Compact Utility Tractor
(Galaxy Turf Tyres)**
**4066R Compact Utility Tractor
(Standard Tyres + 440R
Frontloader)**
**Z994R Zero Turn Mower
(60" Cutting Deck)**
**220SL PrecisionCut
Greens Mower**

Supplied by: Tallis Amos

Presenting a picture-perfect course at KILLARNEY

At Killarney Golf and Fishing Club, presentation is everything

With breath-taking views out over Lough Leane and the undulating Killarney National Park beyond, players come from all over the world to experience the club.

It's a club steeped in 129 years of history, and with such rich heritage and high expectations, the greenkeeping team needs to maintain the highest possible standards to satisfy the 500-plus golfers who could arrive to play at the complex during its busiest days of the year.

Enda Murphy is in charge of the 18-strong team responsible for presenting the course and is in his 30th year of working at the club. He became Head Greenkeeper in 2013 and takes immense pride in maintaining a course that will live up to members' and visitor's expectations.

"It's all about the location here – when you're out on the course on a beautiful spring morning there is no better place," he says. "When every hole is neat, tidy and looking sharp, that's what it's all about and what we strive to achieve."

He adds that he has 1.7 metres of annual rainfall, a herd of 40 Irish Red Deer, and a constant procession of players to contend with, plus the environmental responsibility of maintaining a course so close to the iconic Irish lakes.

Last year Killarney's members' council put pen to paper on a new fleet deal to replace its ageing mowers and other course machinery.

"We were working on fairway mowers that were 10 to 15 years old and the repairs were starting to cost more than what the machines were worth, so a change was definitely needed."

For cutting they purchased two new 7700A fairway mowers with rear roller power brushes, two 2750E hybrid greens mowers with tender conditioners and 14-blade reels, and two 2750PC mowers for tees and surrounds.

For full course maintenance the new fleet also included a 2030A with ARC HD200 sprayer, three TS Gators and a 4066R compact tractor.

"A big factor in the decision was that we have a dealer on the doorstep in Seamus Weldon, so parts, sales and servicing is right here which is really convenient," Enda says.

So far Enda is delighted with the new fleet and so is his team.

"When you're going out and everything is working it's just a pleasure to do the job.

"You can really notice the difference in the quality of cut and the reliability of the new machines. We now want to get into a rhythm of replacing them every five years, ideally."


**Kit list
Killarney Golf and Fishing Club**

**7700A PrecisionCut
Fairway Mower x2**

**2750 E-Cut Riding
Triplex Mower x2**

**2750 PrecisionCut Riding
Triplex Mower x2**

**1570 TerrainCut Front
Rotary Mower**

**9009A TerrainCut
Rough Mower**

**2030A Gator w/ ARC
HD200 Sprayer**

TS Gator x3

**4066R Compact
Utility Tractor**

Supplied by: Seamus Weldon

*The club also opted for a new **1570 front rotary mower** with a 72-inch deck and a **9009A** for tackling the rough.*





New lease of life for machinery fleet at

CHORLEY GOLF CLUB

Chorley Golf Club got its 125th year anniversary year off to a good start by updating its machinery fleet.

The course sits in 127 acres between Bolton and Preston, allowing players to enjoy views that stretch as far as the Lake District and North Wales while working their way around the 18-holes.

With healthy membership numbers and a high number of visiting players, Head Greenkeeper Tony Grayson and his team work hard to meet expectations every day.

"I try to produce the best course I can every day, as we have so many competitions," he says. "It's all about the presentation of the course."

Living up to the manicured greens and fairways seen on televised competitions is no mean feat in the North West of England, where consistent rainfall and clay soils present a major challenge.

"The ground is very quick to get wet but also quick to dry as we are on a couple inches of topsoil and thatch on the fairways," Tony says. "The bunkers are really difficult to maintain in bad weather because the clay contaminates the sand."

Keeping the course in top condition requires attention to detail, and the team can afford little machinery downtime. A breakdown can threaten to overwhelm the team so when they were handed the keys to a brand-new shed just before the first Covid lockdown, the impetus was there to invest in new machinery.

Tony says: "It has been difficult to invest in machinery because of the previous sheds in terms of their security and the environment – you don't want to be keeping machines in damp conditions."

"We had an ageing fleet and the reliability, particularly of our previous rough mower, was going down. When you've got the grass growing like mad and a rough mower down, it's difficult to manage."

The team's new shed now stores a 7500 fairway mower, a 9009A TerrainCut rough mower, an 8000A E-Cut hybrid fairway mower, a XUV86SM Gator, three 220SL SL PrecisionCut walk-behind greens mower, and two 2500 greens mowers.

Tony says: "Looking at other brands, I found that John Deere, as well as being at the top, was offering value for money too. The machines are now specific to our course and environment so we can go out with more confidence, getting a nicer cut."


Kit list
Chorley Golf Club

- 7500A PrecisionCut Fairway Mower
- 9009A TerrainCut Rough Mower
- 8000A E-Cut Hybrid Fairway Mower
- XUV86SM Gator
- 220SL SL PrecisionCut Walk Greens Mower x3
- 2500 Greens Mower x2

Supplied by: Balmers GM

Armed with a new machinery fleet, Tony's sights are now set firmly on future proofing the course – and the reliability of the new machines will be crucial to ensuring this work can happen.

"Our industry isn't without its challenges but investing in the machines has really given our greenkeepers more pride in their work, and the machines are doing a fantastic job at presenting the course in the best light."

MUNICIPAL COURSE

maintains the highest standards

Widely considered to be one of the best municipal courses in the country, a new John Deere fleet was a key part of efforts to improve facilities at Normanby Hall Golf Course in North Lincolnshire.

Adjoining Normanby Hall Country Park near Scunthorpe, the beautiful 18-hole, par 72 golf course is set in 117 acres of mature woodland and parkland.

Significant investment has been made here over the past year by North Lincolnshire Council. Improvements to the course have included new tees, pathways and drainage, the installation of a three-bay covered driving range with additional practice facilities, and refurbishment of the clubhouse – as well as a new John Deere course maintenance equipment fleet supplied by local dealer F G Adamson & Son at Langworth.

Normanby Hall Golf Course Senior Greenkeeper Michael Burgin attended the first John Deere sponsored TPC Sawgrass volunteer programme in 2015, as a member of the Florida course's maintenance team preparing for the Players Championship.

Michael has been back to TPC Sawgrass as a volunteer every year since and, as he says: "Ever since my first trip there, I said this is the equipment that I want to be working with."

The golf course is now maintained by a new fleet which includes a 2550E hybrid electric triplex greens and surrounds mower, a 7700A PrecisionCut fairway mower, a 9009A TerrainCut rotary rough mower, a 2030A ProGator with Dakota top dresser attachment, HPX 815E and TE electric Gator utility vehicles and a 3046R compact tractor.

"Having been promoted from Assistant Greenkeeper four years ago, I inherited a lot of equipment that was on its last legs and the repair bills were mounting up," says Michael.

"The Council's new management team had committed to maintaining and improving the course and its facilities, and ultimately investment in a new machinery fleet became a key part of this commitment.

"We went through a formal tender process in the end before reaching a final decision. Adamsons and John Deere won it by a country mile, ticking all the boxes for lead times, value, service and parts backup – all the criteria were more than met.




"We already had some older John Deere machines, including compact tractors, and had established an excellent relationship with the dealership, so Adamson's Depot Manager Simon Fountain and I looked at various options and we came up with a list of what we needed.

"The after-sales service from Simon and the dealership has also been phenomenal. Whenever I call, they're always available to sort out anything I need straight away.



"We've now gone back to over 350 members and picked up more than 100 since we reopened in March. I believe this is primarily because the course is in such good condition now, and word's gone round."

"It's come on phenomenally, we've definitely been able to step things up to a higher level since we received the new machines."


Kit list
Normanby Hall Golf Course

- 2550 E-Cut Riding Greens Mower
- 7700A PrecisionCut Fairway Mower
- 9009A TerrainCut Rough Mower
- ProGator 2030A Gator
- HPX815E Gator
- TE Gator
- 3046R Compact Utility Tractor

Supplied by: F G Adamson & Son



SLEAFORD GOLF CLUB

seeks higher standards

With much of Sleaford Golf Club's private members course designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, purchasing equipment that enabled an environmentally-friendly approach was key.

Set in the heart of Lincolnshire, the course is home to some of the most important calcareous grassland areas in the county. Nick Lawson, Chairman of the club's management committee and also Greens Chairman, has developed a passion for wildlife and environmental management.

"We're delighted to be working with Natural England and to play our part in maintaining the biodiversity of our environment, while ensuring that a natural evolution of the course is maintained," he says.

Part of this evolution has seen the introduction of the club's first John Deere course maintenance equipment fleet supplied by local dealer F G Adamson & Son at Langworth.

The new machines include a 2750E hybrid electric triplex mower, a 7700A PrecisionCut fairway mower, a 9009A TerrainCut rotary rough mower, a ProGator 2030A utility vehicle equipped with an HD200 amenity turf sprayer, and TH 6x4 Gator utility vehicle.

The combination of new hybrid electric and programmable TechControl mower technology and advanced sprayer controls now enables the course to be managed in a more environmentally friendly manner, while also saving costs.

Nick has been a member at Sleaford Golf Club for over 30 years and was persuaded to join the management committee so that the course could benefit from his financial and accountancy experience.

Together with Director of Golf Nigel Pearce, who has been at Sleaford for 20 years, and new Course Manager Brian Sharp, they embarked on an investment programme to improve the overall maintenance regime and bring everything back up to a higher standard after several years of decline.

"We had inherited an old five-year lease contract, so the new management committee set a good budget pre-Covid to replace and upgrade the machinery fleet," says Nick Lawson.

"This was put on hold during lockdown, but we consider the golf course to be the club's primary asset. As soon as we were able to, we asked Brian for his wish list and then arranged a number of machinery demonstrations by the different manufacturers to see what worked best for us.

"We then went to tender, with John Deere and Adamsons giving the best presentation and their all-round choice of machinery was just a little ahead of the others, so we signed the deal with them. We need flexibility with regards to finance to take advantage of the latest technology and different machinery wear rates, so in time we may have to adjust our budgets accordingly."

Nick Lawson adds: "By offering more flexible membership and guest options, our numbers are picking up again now. There's been a net gain since the beginning of lockdown, and we're confident things are now moving forward for the club."



**Kit list
Sleaford Golf Club**

**2750 E-Cut Riding
Triplex Mower**

**7700A PrecisionCut
Fairway Mower**

**9009A TerrainCut
Rough Mower**

**ProGator 2030A Utility
Vehicle w/ HD200 Sprayer**

TH 6x4 Gator

Supplied by: FG Adamson & Son



**Kit list
Dunblane New Golf Club**

**2750 E-Cut Riding
Triplex Mower**

**7700A PrecisionCut
Fairway Mower**

**9009A TerrainCut
Rough Mower**

**ProGator 2030A Utility
Vehicle w/ HD200 Sprayer**

TH 6x4 Gator

Supplied by: Double A

OUT WITH THE OLD...

Dunblane New Golf Club has seen improvements since choosing John Deere for their new fleet

Course Manager Wes Saunders took delivery of 11 new machines from local dealer Double A, as part of an ongoing landscaping and maintenance programme designed to maintain the enduring quality and appeal of the course at Dunblane New Golf Club to members and visitors.

The latest fleet comprises two 2750E triplex and three 220E walk-behind hybrid electric greens mowers, two 7700A PrecisionCut fairway mowers, and 9009A and 7400A utility TerrainCut rotary mowers.

These were purchased using a tailored John Deere Financial agreement with six-year PowerGard Protection plans for full maintenance and servicing, allowing the club to have a fixed

machinery budget with no extra costs. This is the first part of a replacement programme that Wes and Double A's Golf Key Accounts Manager John Bateson are working through together, with tractors and utility vehicles next on the list this year to complete the fleet.

Originally hailing from Sydney, Australia where he completed his greenkeeping apprenticeship at Elanora Country Club, Wes Saunders has 27 years' experience working on golf courses across the world. After leaving his home country, he spent several years in the US and Canada before joining Dunblane New Golf Club six years ago as Course Manager.

"I first put a proposal to the club two years ago to update the equipment fleet, but the timing wasn't quite right for the finance, so the idea was postponed for a year," says Wes.

"The board then agreed what we could spend on a monthly basis, and we held a competitive tender with the main manufacturers, bringing in various machines for demonstrations and assessment by the greenkeeping team.

"We made the decision based on whether the kit was fit for purpose, our likes and dislikes, serviceability and previous history with the suppliers. We chose John Deere not just on price but also on the key aspects of quality and reliability of the equipment and, most importantly, the strong relationship with the Double A dealership and their parts and service backup.

"All the machines were in place by the end of April this year, and everything's working a treat now."

"Overall, I am very pleased with the performance of the new machines. We have quickly seen improvements to the course as well as labour savings with the extra control provided by the new mowers' advanced technology features."

TOP 100 COURSE

chooses John Deere machines for fleet upgrade

One of the finest golf courses in the UK has made a significant investment in its future with the purchase of a fleet of machines to support the greenkeeping team.

Trevose Golf and Country Club, near Padstow in Cornwall, is currently 66th in the coveted top 100 rankings and prides itself of the presentation and playability of the par-72 Championship links, nine-hole Peter Aliss designed Headland course, and neighbouring nine-hole Short Course.

Course Manager, Neil Ivamy, and his staff are responsible for maintaining the high standards set at the club, which has a rich history since being founded in 1925.

That includes ensuring his greenkeepers have the best tools at their disposal, and a recent deal struck with John Deere dealer Masons Kings has seen a new fleet of 10 machines including mowers, utility vehicles and a compact tractor which have been brought into the club's machinery shed.

The new kit represents a change of manufacturer for Neil's team, but he says they are very happy with their decision.

"We chose the John Deere range as it was a proven and high-quality product and we have received excellent support – not just through the purchase process, but also through their proactiveness and machinery training.

"Having a local dealer and support staff who are always available to help us with any questions or queries has been invaluable and the service team has been excellent in providing any product support requirements.


"The feedback we have been getting from players and staff has been excellent and having a local dealer that supports us like Masons Kings have has been fantastic in our transition to John Deere."

Trevose's team now runs a 9009A wide area mower, a 4066R compact tractor, a TS Gator, and three HPX-815E Gators. The club's greens and tees are now cut with four 2750E E-cut triplex mowers.

Sean Williams, Assistant Greenkeeper and the man with the responsibility for machinery maintenance, said he is happy with the move to John Deere kit.



He says: "The functionality of the machines, such as setting up the cylinders and future maintenance, is easy and has saved me hours of time. You can use the tech control system to set the same quality of cut, regardless of operator."



Kit list
Trevose Golf and Country Club

**9009A TerrainCut
Rough Mower**

**4066R Compact
Utility Tractor**

TS Gator

HPX815E Gator x3

**2750 E-Cut Riding
Triplex Mower x4**

Supplied by: Masons Kings

"It has always been important to us to use the best machinery and equipment for our course."



John Deere Gator joins James Martin's vehicle collection

Renowned chef and television presenter James Martin has become the proud owner of a new John Deere Gator.

Supplied by John Deere dealer Hunt Forest Group from its Chilbolton branch in Hampshire, James now has a 4x4 road legal utility vehicle which is perfect for his outdoor pursuits.

The XUV865M model has a towing capacity of 907kg and a maximum load weight of 454kg – perfect for heavy or bulky loads. Additionally, it reaches a top speed of 31mph.

Ed Smales, Turf & Construction Sales Director at Hunt Forest Group, says: "It was great to see James and help facilitate him with a machine suitable for exploring the great British countryside that he is such an advocate of.

"The XUV865M Gator is perfect for James to get around the Hampshire countryside. Featuring on-demand 4WD and the highest ground clearance of any of our crossovers, the vehicle frees the driver to focus on what's ahead and venture to places other models can't in tricky conditions."



James was very pleased with his new purchase, giving it a ringing endorsement in his own personal way.

"It's a proper piece of kit," he says.

Jack Fairhead wins John Deere X127 mower



When Jack Fairhead heard he'd won a brand-new X127 ride-on mower worth £3,500, he couldn't believe his luck.

With approximately half an acre of garden and lawns to maintain, Jack had previously relied on his neighbours' goodwill to cut his grass.

He was considering what type of ride-on mower he could buy when he entered the John Deere competition in the spring.

"I've never won anything before, and now I've got one of the best mowers on the market," says

Jack. "I'm going to enjoy many seasons of mowing with my new John Deere."

His X127 mower features cruise control as well as a hydrostatic transmission and side-by-side pedals, which enable the operator to change direction without raising a foot.

John Deere Territory Manager Marcus Morris says: "Mr Fairhead was clearly delighted at taking delivery of his new mower. We're very pleased that our competition has found such a worthy winner."



Karlswood Stables invest in John Deere horsepower

Based in County Meath in Ireland, Karlswood Stables has been a labour of love for owner and Olympic show jumping medallist Cian O'Connor.

The state-of-the-art equine facilities extend to 20 stables for Cian's own horses, and another 24 are currently under construction for livery.

With the grounds extending to 68 acres, the Karlswood team needed a reliable line-up of machinery and equipment to maintain the and keep the grass well-trimmed. Karlswood Farm Manager Derry McIntyre contacted Noel Bennett at local professional turf dealer Dublin Grass Machinery with a shopping list of the equipment required.

The machinery supplied includes a new John Deere 4066R compact tractor, 1600T wide area rotary mower, X950R commercial rear-discharge, rear-collect diesel lawn tractor and an electric TE Gator utility vehicle.

Derry chose John Deere because of the brand's reliability and ease of use.

"As this is a brand-new complex, we have a lot of lawn and grass areas that have to be kept meticulously presented to maintain the high standards synonymous with Karlswood," he says.

BETTER DATA, SMARTER DECISIONS

PRECISION TURF TECHNOLOGIES

The turf- and grounds-care maintenance world is changing fast. Environmental considerations and operational efficiency present increasing challenges to you as a greenkeeper, turf keeper or professional landscaper. John Deere Precision Turf Technologies connect machines, grounds, and labour in real-time to help you make better decisions and run a more profitable and sustainable business.



JOHN DEERE

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE