



Welcome

A solid red horizontal bar with rounded ends is positioned below the word 'Welcome'.



The Story So Far

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The Factory Today

The factory covers 14,000 sq. ft. of floor space
and 1,500 sq. ft. of office space
Self-contained on a 2 acre site with potential for expansion



But things weren't always so!

2 years in South Africa / 10 years in Canada Billy Warke came home to Ireland and with his family expanded a lawnmower service business into the hire trade.



1985

Coleraine Lawnmower Services



1998

CLS Equipment

*A lady left a Lawn Aerator back from hire in a state of distress because her husband was in casualty with a heart attack from pushing it!!
Time to take a serious look at powered aerators!*

Research and Development



It became apparent that 2 different types of aerator mechanisms existed; Plunge Action & Roll Over type.

The Plunge machine uses a crankshaft to drive the tines into the ground in rapid succession, giving closer hole spacing and consistent depth. The Roll Over works like a spiked roller giving irregular depth and wider spacing.

The Plunge Action was far superior but complicated and expensive so the engineering challenge was taken on.

First Prototype



The first prototype is completed and taken for testing.

Production Commences

The first Assembly line!



A tin roof to keep the rain off!

First Production Models

The first 3 Production Models are completed just in time for their debut on the Ledu stand at the Kings Hall, Belfast, 1989



*Its been a hard slog ...
but they look great*

The debut attracts local press

First Groundsman Sold

GROUNDSMAN Gi
LAWN AERATORS
MANUFACTURED IN N. IRELAND
Patents Applied For

Distribution & Sales
C.L.S. Equipment
41 Mountsandel Road,
Coleraine, N. Ireland, BT52 1JE
Tel: (0285) 42518

Sales & Service
William L. Warke
Tel: (0285) 42518
After Hours: (0285) 67080

Northern Bank Limited
42 HIGH STREET
ANTRIM BT41 6AP
NORTHERN IRELAND

31/8/1989 95-02-02

Pay C.L.S. Equipment or order

One thousand four hundred £1495-00 Stg.
and sixty five pence only.

D. McLe.

200252 950202 91113755 02

The first ever sale of a Groundsman Aerator was made on Monday 14th August, 1989. It was a model 345 assembled for it's debut at Balmoral Show the same year. Photo copied as a reminder of those hard and difficult times.

I will endeavour to make it the first of many world wide.

W L Warke
(W L WARKE)

The first machine was sold through CLS Equipment before Groundsman Industries commenced trading.

The Mill



The Mill, Seymour Street (1992)

The tin shed served its purpose gallantly but Groundsman was growing.

Commercial premises were rented in 1992, consisting of a 4,000 sq.ft. bay in an old grain mill.

Welding / Fabrication – Back Left

Machine Shop - Front Left

Assembly - Front Right

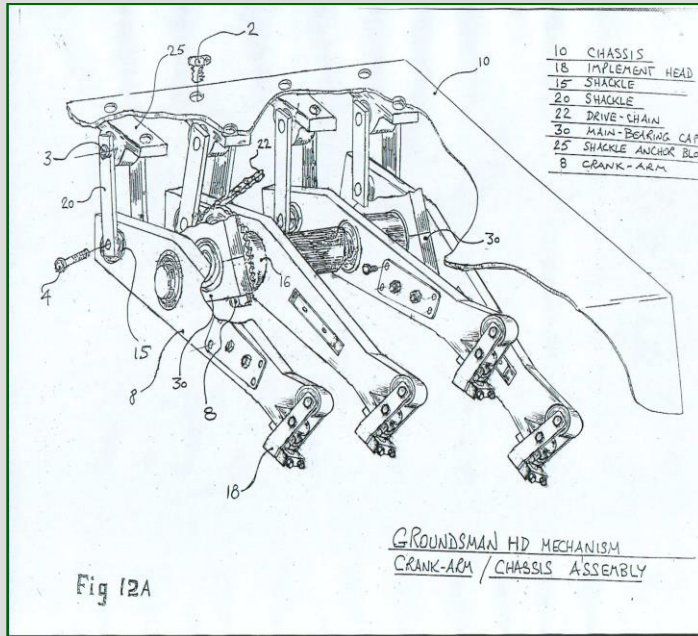
English Debut

The Pedestrian Aerators were shown for the first time in England in 1992 at SALTEX Exhibition in Windsor. This is where Billy met Dave Meharg of Synergy and an excellent friendship and working relationship began.

The following year the Tractor Mounting Aerator Model was launched at the same exhibition.



1993 The new Groundsman 8120 CTM attracts some attention



The Box-Arm, heavy duty aeration mechanism was developed and introduced as standard across the range, except the small machines where it is optional.



*A Further 2 bays of The Mill
were rented, increasing floor
space to 10,000 sq.ft.*

Flexblade Core Collector



*Traditional Windrow
Attachment*



*Groundsman
Flexblade Collector*

The Groundsman Flexblade Core Collector was launched in 1997.

It was Runner-up for Best New Sportsturf Product Award.

This implement was central to the 166% growth in Tractor Mounting sales in the 2 years following its launch.

It has rendered the traditional Windrow attachment redundant.

Flexblade Core Collector



*With the
Flexblade
Collector
fitted*

*Without
the
Collector*



Turf Cutter TC300

1999 and plans to develop a range of Turf Cutters. The project began the following year. 3 Prototypes were produced and the first production Model was dispatched in September 2001.



*Turf Cutter Prototypes:
1, 2 & 3*



*Ready for despatch. The first
TC300 Turf Cutter*

Test Ground

**A TC300 cuts turf
on the most aerated
piece of ground in
Ballymoney!!**

**Groundsman factory
at The Mill.**



Photographic memories of exhibitions over the years



*1987 – Billy at Coleraine Show
for the debut of CLS Equipment*

*1996 - Dave prepares for the rush,
when the doors open, at BIGGA,
Harrogate*



Exhibitions

..... more memories



*'I'm knackered, says Dave
and we havn't even started!'*



*'It's OK lads, says Gordon,
I'll set it up for you!'*

..... and still more memories



Saltext, Windsor 1997

Billy hoping that someone will look at his new Core Collector at its launch!



Saltext, Windsor 2002

Getting better at this, 5 O'clock and they're in the pub already!

All in a Days Work

Portstewart Golf Club



Waoh! that Bernard Finley is impressive. He moves the bunker position every week, as well as the pin, said Billy as he sets off on foot to find him!!



Turf Aerators and Core Collector patents have been granted in the United Kingdom, Europe, North America and further afield.

Turf Cutter patents have been applied for.

1972	Coleraine Lawnmower Services
1987	CLS Equipment established
1988	Pedestrian Aerators development
1989	First Groundsman machine is sold
1990	Groundsman Industries commences trading
1992	Groundsman move to rented commercial premises
1993	Tractor Mounting Aerator introduced
1996	Box-Arm H.D. Aeration mechanism introduced and premises triple in size
1997	Flexblade Core Collector is launched
2001	Turf Cutter range introduced
2003	Move to new factory facility

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