



WHEN Sussex cricket club, Glynde & Beddingham CC wanted to update its 50 year old roller, help was on hand from an environmental waste company

Got a new Roller?

THE purchase of a motorised heavy roller was high on the wish-list for Sussex cricket club, Glynde and Beddingham - and when the club got round to purchasing an Autoroller back in 1969 for £200, it was a massive sum for a small club running just one team.

"However," says club chairman Roger Martin, "if we were to progress we had to have top-class wickets - and decided that we could no longer rely on a member's car towing a farm roller!"

In recent years, the club has grown to running four sides and has expanded its facilities thanks to financial support from Virador Waste Management, a national company who had established a major land-fill site locally.

"Virador look to support local communities in areas where they operate due to



the increase in lorry traffic that occurs as a consequence," says Roger, "and the cricket club has benefited, along with other projects in Glynde, to the tune of £70,000."

A large

slice of that money has been used to build new changing rooms and a net complex to support the increasing number of teams - and after the summer, the Club decided to revitalise their cumbersome Autoroller by having it completely re-powered and renovated by the current manufacturer, Autoguide Ltd based near Calne in Wiltshire.

The whole refurbishment package costs in the region of £5,500 if carried out in-house - as in this case - by Autoguide's engineering team. Of this, over £4,000 has been donated from the Virador fund.

Out has gone the old temperamental JAP engine (above) as has the arm-sapping gear-box and steering system - and in has come a Robin 9hp diesel engine, full hydrostatic transmission, power steering - and much to everyone's delight, electric key starting.

According to Autoguide md Richard Robinson, these Repower Kits for old rollers are becoming increasingly popular, given that they can produce a roller that is virtually 'as new' for under half the price of buying a new machine.



"The work can either be carried out by the customer's own engineer, or in-house at our factory," says Richard Robinson.

Now fully renovated, the Autoroller which was originally made by the Autoroller Company at Norton St Philip near Bath in 1956, will be on its way back to Sussex in the New Year ready for some heavy action ahead of the 2009 season.

"I would imagine that we'll now have a queue of volunteers wanting to drive it," says Roger Martin, "which will make a change!!"

