

Greenkeeping

Keeping the industry on course • November 2017

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HORTICULTURAL HORTON

The course manager of the multi-purpose Horton Park GC, **Simon Adby**, explains what goes into maintaining a venue featuring five different types of golf courses



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EDITORIAL ADVISORY PANEL



DR RUTH MANN
BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, MBPR
Head of research
at the STRI
www.stri.co.uk



PETER JONES
MSc, MBPR, RIPTA
Golf course consultant and
former course manager
www.pja-golf.co.uk



NOEL MACKENZIE
BSc (Hons), MBPR
Turf agronomist and former
greenkeeper
www.sportsturfconsulting.com



JONATHAN SMITH
BSc (Hons) MA
Chief executive of the Golf
Environment Organisation
www.golfenvironment.org



STUART ORMONDROYD
BSc (Hons), MBPR
Head of Agronomy at the
STRI
www.stri.co.uk



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LAURENCE PITHIE MG
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DR KATE ENTWISTLE
CBiol, MIBiol, MBPR
Turfgrass pathologist and head
of The Turf Disease Centre
www.theturfdiseasecentre.co.uk

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• Editor: Alistair Dunsmuir • Chief Sub Editor: Tania Longmire • Art Director: Alan MacKenzie-Morris
• Associate Publisher: Steve Eaves • Production: Tom Burnett-Godfree • Database Manager: Giedrius Slegieris
• Publisher: David Rose • Chairman: Anthony Hawser

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Popular greenkeepers' fungicide to be withdrawn

The European Union has announced it will ban a fungicide and nematicide that is used by a number of golf clubs.

All products in the UK that contain iprodione will be withdrawn from the market due to environmental protection concerns raised by the European Food Safety Authority.

In terms of golf, Chipco® Green and Interface®, sold by Bayer and used by many greenkeepers, both contain iprodione.

It also comes just a few months after the number of turf fungicide groups available to greenkeepers was increased for the first time in years to six, but it will now drop back to five.

Steve Bishop, Bayer professional



product manager, said that the industry can expect an update in the coming weeks with regards to timescales for the sell-out and usage periods of these two products.

"We have a large regulatory team based in the UK who'll keep the industry informed on all of the latest updates," he said.

Earlier this year, Bayer launched Exteris™ Stressgard®, with the

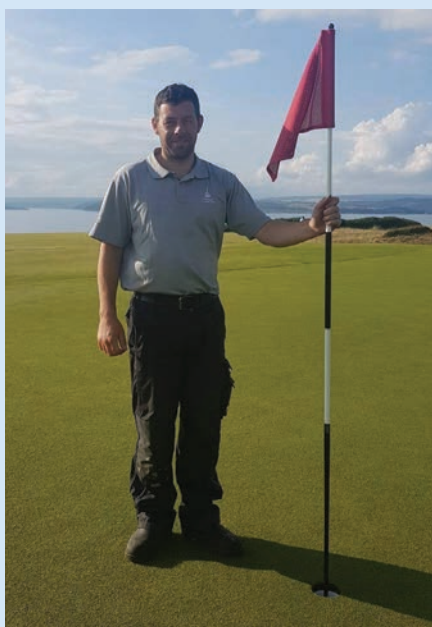
new turf SDHI fluopyram.

"Unfortunately the loss of iprodione will reduce the available turf fungicide groups back to five, meaning that rotation strategy remains a critical element of integrated disease management," explained Steve.

"With other chemicals also due for assessment, a further reduction in the total number of products on the market, and therefore the number of available groups for rotation, for turf disease control is not out of the question.

"This is why we're constantly investing into the research and development of new chemistry, to continue to deliver solutions to our customers well into the future."

Castle Stuart appoints new head greenkeeper



Castle Stuart Golf Links in Scotland has appointed James Hutchison as its new head greenkeeper.

James, who joined Castle Stuart as a greenkeeper during its construction in 2007, has been deputy course manager since the four-time Scottish Open venue opened in 2009.

He replaces Chris Haspell who is leaving Castle Stuart to take up a new post within the industry. Senior greenkeeper Stuart Hawker is the new deputy head greenkeeper.

During his time at Castle Stuart, James helped create the famous links overlooking the Moray Firth while safeguarding the environment and the rich wildlife it supports.

James has worked on all four Scottish Opens at Castle Stuart and has played an integral role in developing the course.

A nine-handicap golfer and Scottish shinty international player, he previously spent 12 years at Boat of Garten Golf Club, including six years as deputy course manager.

James is also expected to be in charge of the Castle Stuart greenkeeping team that will work on a second championship course,

which is being planned in partnership with the Arnold Palmer Group.

James said: "This is a huge and exciting challenge for me. It was fantastic to work at Castle Stuart from the construction phase, and being able to do the same on a second course is such a massive opportunity.

"What makes the job so enjoyable is creating and developing a course that works with the environment and provides a visual experience as well as being playable by golfers of all abilities."

The club's general manager, Stuart McColm, said: "James has been an integral part of the Castle Stuart team almost since we cut the first turf and the time is right for him to take us into the next phase of our evolution.

"Chris's departure has left a strong agronomic and environmental platform, one that James and I are passionate about and determined to improve upon, in our pursuit of increased customer satisfaction as well as sustainable environmental stewardship."

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The BTME exhibition has already sold out

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) in January 2018 has completely sold out, its organiser has revealed.

This was achieved with 100 days to go to Europe's largest turf management exhibition.

Within two months of BTME 2017 in January, more than 65 per cent of exhibitors booked their spot to return, and when there were three months to go until the event returns in January, every available space within the Harrogate Convention Centre was booked up.

A waiting list has been set up to register interest from any companies that have not secured a space.

Over 140 exhibitors have signed up for BTME 2018, which will take place from January 23 to 25, 2018. The event will feature the biggest names in the turf management industry.

BIGGA business development manager Jill Rodham said: "Following the incredible success of BTME 2017, we have been



delighted that so many companies signed up to return to the next exhibition.

"BTME continues to grow year on year and we're delighted to welcome so many new faces, who will be making their BTME debut in 2018.

"Each year we're thrilled at how the turf industry makes the pilgrimage to Harrogate to rekindle old friendships, build new relationships and showcase the latest innovations and developments for the benefit of BIGGA members."

More than 4,500 attendees are expected through the doors of the Harrogate Convention Centre. Coupled with the Continue to Learn education programme, which features more than 250 hours of greenkeeper education, and the Golf Business & Industry Convention (GolfBIC), BTME 2018 is set to be one of the busiest ever.

You can get the latest information about the exhibition by following @BTME_Harrogate on Twitter.

Tickets for BTME, Continue to Learn and GolfBIC can be booked online with links available on every BTME event page on the BTME and BIGGA websites.

Visit btme.org.uk/education/seminars/ for more information.

Credit option for machinery wash system launched

The company that bought the ClearWater wash system is launching credit options for golf clubs for the first time.

Acumen Waste Services, which bought the brand from Highspeed earlier this year, said golf clubs will be able to spread payments and can order immediately, meaning they can meet their legal responsibilities of pollution prevention.



"This will be great news to those striving to improve their wash-off facility and stay legal but have been unable to fund the total cost immediately," said spokesman David Mears.

"Legislation states that you are breaking the law by washing hydrocarbons [oils, grease, petrol, diesel and so on] into the ground, leaving yourselves and the business open to prosecution or civil sanctions. All these substances are classed as hazardous substances and it is an offence to cause or knowingly permit discharge of such pollutants into the groundwater."

The offer from ClearWater is three-pronged:

1. A competitively priced full biological wash-off water recycling system,

2. A cost saving 'self-install' option with ClearWater carrying out commissioning; usually saving £2,000 to £3,000 on total costs,

3. The offer of credit options, helping make compliance that much easier.

"Recent orders have seen more choosing self-install, around 65 per cent, carrying out the civil work themselves, to reduce project costs dramatically. This has enabled a number of golf clubs and others in turf maintenance to act sooner than was thought possible," he added.

"With the credit options now in ClearWater's armoury, they certainly have ticked all the boxes; enabling you to stay on the right side of the law sooner rather than later!

"There's another bonus for many too: ClearWater is a Water Technology List (WTL) approved system and, as such, businesses can write off 100 per cent of their total investment against taxable profits in the year of purchase under the Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme; showing even further savings – over £3,000 is not untypical on an average project."



'Continue to Learn' for 2018 unveiled

The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) has unveiled what it calls the most extensive education programme for the turf industry in Europe.

Continue to Learn at BTME 2018 will feature more than 250 hours of education with guest speakers such as Micah Woods from the Asian Turfgrass Center

and to attend education that will benefit them in their career. The Young Greenkeepers Conference will take place on Wednesday 24 January at the Majestic Hotel.

Other new subjects include: turf conditions and optimal efficiency; how to motivate your team; fungicide fundamentals; how to think differently for improved performance; the



and Dr Mike Fidanza from Pennsylvania State University.

Continue to Learn encompasses events for course managers, deputies and all levels of greenkeepers. Workshops and sessions also cater for golf club managers, directors of golf, golf club owners and committee members.

More than 4,500 attendees are expected to descend upon the Harrogate Convention Centre and The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate for the four-day series of events.

Continue to Learn at BTME 2018 introduces a new conference specifically for young greenkeepers, to provide them with the opportunity to meet and network with other greenkeepers

brilliant manager; principles of turf grass nutrition; using and understanding MLSN guidelines for nutrient recommendations; developing the nature of golf; fairy rings; and drought – doesn't have to mean a brown course!

Continue to Learn at BTME 2018 will take place at the Harrogate Convention Centre and The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, from Sunday 21 to Wednesday 24 January 2018.

Tickets for this year's event can be booked online with links available on every BTME event page on the BTME and BIGGA websites.

Please visit btme.org.uk/education/seminars for full information.



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Sand and deliver

Repairing a damaged bunker after heavy rainfall is expensive and time-consuming. Richard Allen believes this is a problem that is going to get worse but there is a cost effective way to solve it – and it begins by understanding why bunkers suffer ‘washout’

Rain. More precisely ‘heavy rain’ has been the centre of my attention for over 28 years as a civil engineer, specialising in drainage and flood defence design. For the past seven years, as I have adjusted my career to serve the golf sector, I have found the knowledge I gained to be very useful, particularly in the field of bunker design and construction.

One of the most physically demanding and frustrating jobs for the modern-day greenkeeper is the repair of damage to bunkers after heavy rainfall. A quick trawl through relevant discussion groups on social media will clearly demonstrate this phenomenon. The same searches will also reveal the increasing array of products which claim to have all the answers. Most of these products would represent a significant investment for golf clubs, so it is well worth examining the likely causes before looking for solutions.



The revetted edge at Bloxwich Golf Club. If high and steep sand faces are essential, then an appropriate liner should be selected. It is still risky to go steeper than 30 degrees with most types of sand

What is bunker washout? It sounds simple and it is, with a little explanation of basic soil mechanics. Dry sand, due to the friction between the rough surfaces of the individual sand grains, can usually stay stable on slopes of up to 30 to 35 degrees. Damp sand, where

there is some moisture in the voids between the grains, can be even more stable. The adhesive forces caused by water molecules add more stability. The Olympic Club in San Francisco has bunkers with sand sloping at an incredible 60 degrees, due to dampness introduced by the liner (in this instance Capillary Concrete) and sub surface drip lines. When however, the inter particle voids become completely full of water, all the friction between adjacent sand grains is lost, and the sand turns into a mobile liquid, quickly flowing downhill, resulting in the familiar rivulet patterns seen on bunker washouts. The sand voids become full of

water when the intensity of rainfall exceeds the rate at which the sand can drain, or when the terrain around the bunker sheds surface water flow across the bunker edge and onto the sand.

The impact of washout is not simply the hard work and man hours needed to replace the sand onto steep slopes. If the rainfall is



Washout on one bunker at Potters Bar GC after 43mm of rain in six hours – and inset how the EcoBunker at the club looked at the same time



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particularly heavy and continues after an unprotected sub-soil is exposed, fine silts and stones can be mobilised, which then flow, mixing with the bunker sand. After a few cycles, the sand can become so contaminated that it is unsuitable and has to be replaced at additional cost. With many sand quarries now exhausted in the UK and abroad, bunker sand is not going to be getting any cheaper. Granted, the sand expense is a concern, but are there any other reasons why and how golf clubs should be taking a close interest in washout issues? In my opinion

there are three more very good reasons, which I have listed in my order of importance:

1. Increasing frequency of short, high intensity rainfall events,
2. The modern ('retro') design philosophy demanding increasingly visible sand faces and
3. Golfers' expectations.

Increasing frequency of high intensity rainfall events

'It's a well-known scientific principle that

warmer air holds more water vapour,' wrote John Abraham in *the guardian* earlier this year. 'As the earth warms, as long as there is a source for evaporation, increasingly heavy rainfall is a certainty'. In order to design any surface water drainage network it is important to understand rainfall patterns and predict pipe flows for a range of 'design rainfall events'. I learned how to calculate from first principles (unfortunately my career started before computer aided methods!), for example, that if 18mm of rain fell in one hour in Merthyr Tydfil, that was a five-year return period. However more recently it has become apparent that the data gathered over the past decades and meticulously documented in design guidance by HR Wallingford and others, to predict rainfall intensity, is now almost certainly out of date. As a 'stop-gap' measure, for example, the Environment Agency recommends that calculated flood predictions are increased by 20 per cent to cater for the effects of climate change.

My experience of bunker washouts is a case in point. All of us know that in the hotter parts of the world rain can fall with incredible intensity. As a result, golf course construction (including bunkers) is quite different in Florida and other similar areas compared to the UK. But what happens if high intensity rainfall becomes more common in the UK? On our website is a video taken at Potters Bar GC, where I visited, by chance after a heavy downpour during the previous night. Approximately 43mm of rain fell in six hours. This was roughly a once-in-every-three-years event. The trouble is that the club claims it is getting similar rainfall events, three or four times each year, requiring major repair work each time. This illustrates something that I think a lot of those involved in golf maintenance have noticed: The frequency of high intensity rainfall events in the UK is certainly increasing. If this is the trend, then bunker maintenance will become more difficult and more expensive in the future, unless appropriate resilient design measures are put in place.

'Retro' bunker design

I'm a fan of the courses designed by Mackenzie, Colt and what has become known



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► bunkers



as 'Golden Age' architecture. Many of the architects of that era, in their bunker strategies, strove for highly visible, natural looking bunkers. There are plenty of beautiful old photographs circulating on Facebook and Twitter. We have all seen recently some very exciting bunker restoration projects with the trademark elaborate edging and dramatic high sand faces. I am sure that in every instance an appropriate specification and design has been used, but my concern is that if this relatively expensive design trend continues, some golf clubs, not blessed with high budgets may be tempted to 'cut corners' and regret their decision later.

It's worth remembering that rainfall patterns were different in the 1920s compared to today. We know this. We have the records. We know that climate was cooler in the UK and scientists will agree that cooler air cannot hold as much moisture. Therefore, high intensity rain and bunker washouts were less common.

Furthermore, there was better availability of cheap and willing labour in those days, so bunker repair was easier. One more point: it's widely accepted that golfers' expectations were different then.

Golfers' expectations

Like it or not, most golfers today expect

consistent sand, good lies in bunkers and the ability to play straight at the flag. As all those involved in maintenance will know, this is extremely difficult and expensive to deliver. With the pressure on golf courses to retain members and attract more visiting income, it would be a very brave golf club that took a 'take it or leave it' approach to bunker conditioning.

Alternatives

I will conclude this article on a positive note by suggesting a few cost-effective design measures based upon what I've learned over the past few years.

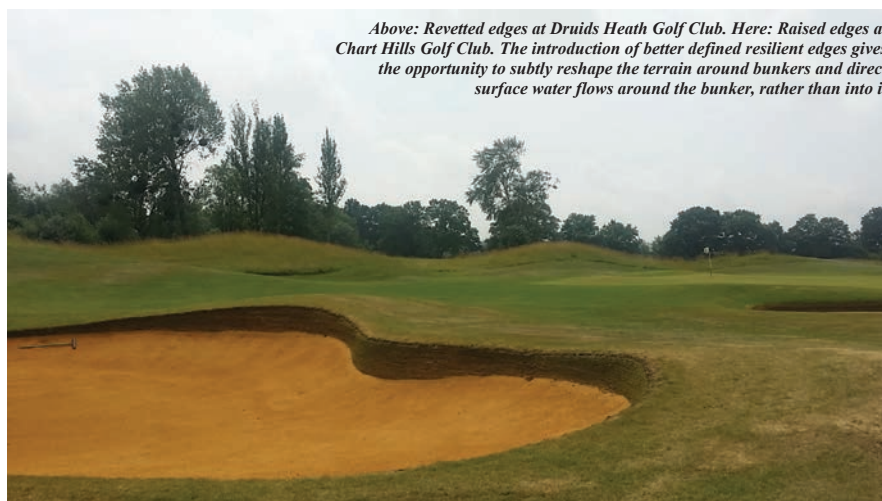
Firstly, if high and steep sand faces are essential, then an appropriate liner should be selected. There are several good products on the market, but even with liners in place, unless you have extra measures in place (such as drip lines) it is very risky to go steeper than 30 degrees with most types of sand.

Secondly, why not consider reducing the maximum slope on the sand to 15 or 20 degrees? This can be very easily done by increasing the face height of the bunker to 300, 400, 500mm or more. This is a highly effective method, and courses where we have done this, for example Potters Bar, Royal Winchester, Chart Hills and Druids Heath (to name but a few) have seen washout eliminated on those bunkers. This can be done sensitively using revetting, and to add to resilience we recommend synthetic turf. There are some purists who dislike revetting away from the classic seaside environment, but I disagree. When installed with sensitivity these features can add great value to all types of golf course.

Thirdly, the introduction of better defined resilient edges also gives the opportunity to subtly reshape the terrain around bunkers and direct surface water flows around the bunker rather than into it.

Golf is responding to the challenge of washouts (and climate change in general) and it has been really exciting for me to see how the industry does give innovation and new ideas a fair chance.

Richard Allen is the CEO of EcoBunker



Above: Revetted edges at Druids Heath Golf Club. Here: Raised edges at Chart Hills Golf Club. The introduction of better defined resilient edges gives the opportunity to subtly reshape the terrain around bunkers and direct surface water flows around the bunker, rather than into it

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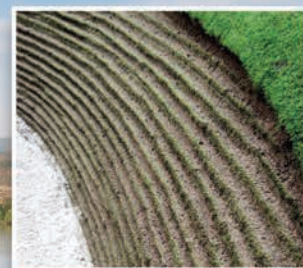
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Kirk Richmond, Course Manager, Tiburón GC

► seeds, turf and fertilisers buyer's guide

GripClad

Dunstable Downs Golf Club is a James Braid design set in a stunning location on top of the downs with widespread views over the Chilterns. On many of the tees and a number of greens, railway sleepers have been used as steps. Whilst adding to the links feel of some of the holes and blending naturally into the environment, they can present a potential slip hazard in winter weather, particularly with the recent advent of soft-spikes and moulded soles.

Following the success of an initial trial with



GripClad non-slip treads, the club is now proceeding with a programme to fit the treads to all remaining steps.

George Little, head greenkeeper, said:

GripClad



"Previously we would sand the steps every winter, which was labour intensive, looked untidy, brought sand onto the greens and was not particularly successful. These treads come cut to size, are easy to fix and should be maintenance-

free, and the time spent applying sand can be more usefully employed on the course. Also, the treads can be taken up and re-used whenever we need to replace worn steps."

Web: gripclad.co.uk/industries/golf-industry

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(Barry Eagle)



Germinal

Amenity grass seed specialist Germinal is to establish its own research station to spearhead a new programme of trials and development work geared to helping UK greenkeepers get the very best from their golf courses.

The 11-acre facility, located near Melksham in Wiltshire, will be managed by grass trials specialist Dr Joanna Matthews, who will leave her post at NIAB to join Germinal in January.

Germinal GB managing director Paul Billings believes the development will create an unrivalled knowledge hub that will enable professional sports turf and amenity grass specialists to improve the performance and aesthetics of their green spaces.



"In a competitive market where only the best cultivars and seed mixtures will suffice, having a bespoke R&D facility will allow Germinal to showcase market-leading varieties, test innovative ideas in UK conditions, and demonstrate at a local level alternative grass seed species or turf management systems that we are bringing in from around the world.

"The research station will be integrated with our amenity breeding programme at IBERS Aberystwyth University and will provide facilities for Germinal to collaborate with many other industry partners on projects of great significance and benefit to the wider industry.

"We already have plans for over 40 projects at the site, which will include trialling new

amenity varieties, and proving, in real world conditions, the benefits and advantages of site specific traits such as tolerance to shade and disease resistance under stress. We'll also be collaborating with leading amenity nutrition manufacturers to trial a range of slow and phased-release fertilisers and specialist liquid and granular fertilisers."

Dr Joanna Matthews joined NIAB in 2013 and brings to Germinal a valuable combination of practical grass trials knowledge and progressive plant science experience.

Web: www.germinal.com/amenity

Turfdry Drainage Systems

Turfdry Drainage Systems has just installed a comprehensive new drainage system Shirley Park Golf Club in south London.

The 11th and 16th greens at the club were back in play in record time after the IOG 'Contractor of the Year' award finalist installed the system in late September 2017.

Following re-turfing of the drain lines by Turfdry's team, combined with care and attention from greenkeeping staff, the greens were back in play within nine and seven days respectively.

This beats a 15-year-old record relating to the 10th green at Sunningdale's New Course, where re-turfing by the greenkeeping staff following installation of the unique Turfdry Drainage System using Hydraway Sportsdrain, enabled the green to be successfully returned to play in less than three weeks.

The Turfdry Drainage System is installed on several greens on the Old and New courses at Sunningdale GC, which is one of over 70 UK golf courses on Turfdry's list of satisfied clients.

Turfdry has a long and successful relationship with Shirley Park Golf Club, dating back to 2001, before current course manager, Richard Evans, was appointed.



The initial contract was to design and install fairway drainage with the Turfdry Drainage System using Hydraway Sportsdrain, and this proved so successful that further works were carried out in 2002, just after Richard's appointment. Richard was immediately impressed by the Turfdry Drainage System and, by 2005, had decided to have the system installed on two of the club's worst performing greens, the 3rd and 13th.

Reviewing the impact of the drainage works, Shirley Park's general manager, David Roy, stated that: "By analysing rainfall data we have proven that the drainage works designed and installed by Turfdry has slashed the number of course closures. The works were carried out in a clean, tidy, prompt and efficient manner and Turfdry would be our first port of call for any future works."

Indeed, the measureable impact of drainage improvements has seen Turfdry return to the club in 2009, 2010, 2014 and now again in 2017. Whereas in previous years turf reinstatement following greens' drainage had been done in-house, this year was the first time that the club had employed Turfdry's own turfing team to undertake the works. Richard Evans was impressed by both the turfing team's speed and expertise, as well as the immediate impact of the drainage systems.

"A real quality finish from the team ... it absolutely poured down a couple of days after you left and water was rushing from the outfall – always a good sign," he said.

Turfdry's managing director, Melvyn Taylor, established the company in 1995, as a specialist sports turf drainage company. Whilst drainage – particularly its unique and impressive Turfdry Drainage System using Hydraway Sportsdrain – remains at the core of the business, the firm is also highly regarded for its design and construction of natural turf sports facilities.

It was the firm's largest ever such project – the £750k feasibility, design, and construction of sports pitches and amenity grassland within the historic setting of Concord College in Shropshire – that led to Turfdry's nomination for the 2017 IOG 'Contractor of the Year' award. www.turfdry.com/turfdry-drainage-system



Rigby Taylor

Origin's Amenity Business has announced its acquisition of Linemark UK, the country's leading innovator and supplier of pitch line-marking paints, machines and accessories.

Linemark UK joins Rigby Taylor and Headland in providing technically advanced and innovative solutions to turf management professionals.

Linemark UK has been the exclusive supplier of line-marking products to Rigby Taylor for 10 years, working closely with the company to bring to the industry Impact, the market-leading, ready-to-use paint, which has won many awards including the Queens Award for Innovation and the Queens Award for International trade (Export).

This paint is now sold to over 43 countries worldwide and used by international, national stadia, Premiership pitches and sports grounds across a range of sports surfaces.

Other paints include the Duraline range for both natural turf, synthetic and hard surfaces together with Preline, the only MAPP-approved paint for initial marking.

Commenting on the acquisition, Chris Clark, Rigby Taylor's executive chairman, stated: "Pitch line-marking paint and its application is an important market sector for the company. With Linemark UK joining the Origin family, we consider that Rigby Taylor will consolidate its leading market position and continue the high level of innovation and development for the benefit of our customer's both now and in the future."

Tony Holt, managing director of Linemark UK, commented: "This is fantastic news for Linemark UK as it looks to build on its successes and create, alongside Rigby Taylor, an exciting future within the Origin organisation."

Linemark UK and Rigby Taylor pioneered the introduction of an Integrated Paint Technology System to sports pitch line-marking, matching for the first time innovative paint formulation chemistry, advanced spray nozzle technology and application performance.

The result was the introduction of Impact paints, which brought to the industry the highest level of line-marking performance ever achieved.

Web: www.rigbytaylor.com

Toro

Constant evolution is what sees Roehampton Club remain one of the best multi-sports clubs in the UK. Every year for the last three years there has been a major development at this attractive club in south west London. As it embarks on its next, which is a £3.5m investment on refurbishing its outdoor pool and adding new studios to the gym, one thing that remains the same is the club's relationship with Toro machinery, recently confirmed again with the signing of yet another five-year exclusivity agreement.

Roehampton Club has a rich and illustrious history with its origins in polo and croquet rather than the four core sports of golf, tennis, squash and health and fitness it is known for today. Then as it is now though, Roehampton is at the heart of London sporting society.

The priority for course and grounds manager, Peter Bradburn, who heads up a team of 20 is to maintain the high standards on the golf course, tennis courts, croquet lawn and gardens. With its Toro fleet set to grow by up to 75 per cent under the new agreement to include machines suitable for all three surfaces, the Club has once again chosen Toro, after conducting a thorough market testing exercise.

"I've been involved in the building of golf



► seeds, turf and fertilisers buyer's guide

courses all around Europe," Peter says. "And although the country – most recently Cyprus (Elea Estate Faldo design), Turkey (Maxx Royal Montgomerie design) and Italy (Palazzo Arzaga Nicklaus design) – changes, Toro has always been a constant. In fact, many projects I have worked on were intentionally undertaken because they involved working with Toro as you can rely on the quality of Toro's equipment, aftercare and service.

"This agreement encompasses all the turf-based facilities we have here, the management of which requires a multi-disciplined approach".

Included in the first order under the new agreement comes the Groundsmaster 4700-D and the Greensmaster 3250-D for the 18-hole parkland golf course, which in 2015 was accepted by the World of Leading Golf for the quality of the course. The reason behind choosing the GM4700-D is the greater width of cut it offers. Peter says: "We've changed how we manage the roughs by opting for a machine that can deliver a wide cut each time. This improves our timings working around the course, meaning we get things done more quickly."

Improvements have also been made to the way the fairways are managed. Groomers have been added to the new GM3250-D, which Peter and the team have found enables a better quality of cut in damp conditions. "We can cut in all weathers using this machine", he says. "And being able to get straight out on the course in the morning regardless of the dew, and start cutting, improves the day's productivity."

Being the course and grounds manager of a multi-sports venue involves, says Peter, "wearing many hats!" There are four croquet lawns at the club, all at international standard and reputed to be the best in the UK. Hosting the Croquet World Cup and International Open Championships each year and regular internal and external tournaments, it is essential all four lawns live up to expectations. Peter explains: "Cutting on the croquet lawns is low at 3mm to create a billiards table finish. The Toro Greensmaster 1600 pedestrian mowers fitted with 11-blades deliver a 3mm cut without losing the velvety finish our players like."

For the 30 tennis courts, of which ten are grass, Peter has brought in Toro's Greensmaster 1000 pedestrian mowers. "Tennis is a very different surface to manage to golf and croquet. A good, consistent bounce is required and to achieve that the courts must have a high clay content and the grass plant must be well established with a dense root mass to stabilise the ground similar to that used for the cricket field, otherwise the wear caused by play traffic would disintegrate the surface very quickly. The GM1000 mowers offer a precise but gentle cut, ideal for this surface."

Rubbing shoulders with the other 'greats' in the area: The Hurlingham Club, Queens Club and the All England Lawn Tennis Club, Roehampton Club is set apart by being the only one to offer golf for its members. It is ranked one of the best sports clubs in the country and Peter and the club's greenkeepers who skilfully maintain all grass surfaces with Toro machinery take great pride in that. *Web: reesinkturfcare.co.uk*

AquaMaster

The sight of floating fountains and aerators in lakes on UK golf courses is becoming increasingly common.

Providing a strong visual impact, whilst carrying out the important role of improving water quality management, these products form part of the golf course scene in Britain today.

In recent years, products from AquaMaster, the industry leader in floating fountains and aerators and in subsurface aeration systems, have been fully introduced to the UK market. Both the reliability and range of products available has made AquaMaster the preferred choice in many applications here.

The key requirements for good lake management are, the creation of the best possible interface between the water and the air, and good top-to-bottom mixing and circulation.

Floating aerators increase the water / air interface by producing a spray and by creating a ripple effect which increases the surface area of the water providing a



greater amount of oxygen transfer from the atmosphere. In addition, they create strong mixing by drawing water from the deeper parts of the lake. This action has two important effects; typically, the water in the bottom of the lake is colder than that at the surface and, as the cooler the water the higher level of dissolved oxygen it can hold, bringing this cooler water to the surface increases the levels of oxygen throughout the lake. The second result of the top-to-bottom mixing is the breaking down of the natural layering that occurs in lakes. This is known as the thermocline and water doesn't readily move between the layers. This restriction in mixing allows the top layers to become warmer, reducing the dissolved oxygen capacity and preventing any oxygen in the top layers reaching the bottom of the lake. Oxygen at the bottom of the lake is essential in the breakdown of dead organics that naturally accumulate in any body of water. The effective breakdown of this organic matter via digestion using aerobic bacteria is critical for the maintenance of good water quality and a healthy lake.

AquaMaster have a comprehensive range of floating fountains and aerators, many of which are well suited for golf course applications. The high quality manufacture and simple servicing of AquaMaster units make them the first choice for many golf club operators and managers across the world.

Having been installed on golf courses for nearly 40 years, AquaMaster is a proven solution provider for golf course lake water quality management, whilst also providing great visual fountain effects.

If a floating fountain is not suitable for a

lake application, the other method of oxygenating and mixing is to use a diffuser system. This comprises of a shore located compressor connected via weighted air tubes to a series of diffusers sitting on the bottom of the lake. The stream of air bubbles rising to the surface creates induced circulation and causes a ripple effect at the surface with similar results to those seen with a floating unit.

The UK distributor for AquaMaster products is Netafim UK, a subsidiary of the world's largest irrigation company. Netafim UK have a wealth of experience in this type of product application and in its technical support. Choosing AquaMaster sourced via Netafim UK and its dealer network will provide many years of effective and reliable aeration.

Web: www.aquamasterfountains.com

DLF / Johnsons Sports Seed

Bowood's championship golf course near Chippenham is set in 2,000 acres of glorious parkland and is renowned as one of the finest courses in Wiltshire. To introduce some biodi-



DLF / Johnsons Sports Seed

versity into the greens, course manager Jaey Goodchild began an all bents programme on the course's 18 greens three years ago. To give them the best chance at success, Jaey put his trust in the highest rated cultivars, employing the J All Bent mixture from Johnsons Sports Seed.

"The decision to go for an all bent overseeding regime wasn't one that was taken lightly" explains Jaey. "A huge amount of work went into solving any agronomic issues and preparing the ground before we could consider introducing the seed." A dedicated aeration and topdressing programme was conducted to tackle issues with thatch, creating an environment which would give the seed the best chance to establish. "Once we were happy the

ground was ready we looked into mixtures and cultivars. With it being such a commitment, we wanted a mixture with the highest rated cultivars."

In addition to using the STRI turf grass booklet as a guide, Jaey used his first-hand experience to make his decision. "Prior to joining Bowood, I worked at Richmond Golf Club and there we built a USGA trial plot where we would trial various varieties. One variety that sticks in my mind is Manor – it performed very well, especially in the colour it produced. That, coupled with its high performance in other trials means it's a must have for me."

Johnsons J All Bent mixture contains 60 per cent Arrowtown, the top rated browntop bent, and 40 per cent Manor. "This year was our fourth year of overseeding with J All Bent and we're all very pleased with the results it's delivering. The main benefits for us are the performance characteristics, particularly early in the season when the poa is struggling, plus these varieties provide us with fantastic fineness of leaf and colour. The overseeding approach, together with our cultural management programme is helping the bent species outcompete the Poa annua, helping us achieve our goal of switching to bent dominated greens."

Web: www.dlf.co.uk

Textron Golf

The Duke Golf Club, an exclusive members-only club located in Nistelrode, Holland, has invested in 15 E-Z-GO RXV ELiTE golf cars with Textron Fleet Management GPS (TFM GPS). Local dealer Van der Pols made the delivery.

Marcel Arts has been the general manager at the club for 13 years, after starting his career as a chef at the golf club 25 years ago. Commenting on the purchase of the new golf cars, he said: "Our clientele is mainly business people. We pride ourselves on creating a special, exclusive atmosphere, and part of that is to have the latest technology and the best products available on the market. We only have 18-holes here, but we make sure that the standard is first class.

"We chose the E-Z-GO ELiTE golf cars with TFM GPS because they allow us to offer premium services such as ordering food around the course, which is delivered by one of our

three butlers. Players can also fill in scorecards and see maps of the course with all the information they could possibly need. We are now able to protect the course by geo-fencing areas where we do not want the golf cars to go. This obviously saves us time and money in repairs, and keeps the greenkeeping team happy!

"The ELiTE technology is fantastic. We no longer have to maintain the batteries; they last so much longer, and the drive is much smoother and more comfortable than before. Of course, the lithium power batteries are much more efficient which also saves us money, but most importantly, our members are extremely pleased with the new golf cars."

E-Z-GO has teamed up with Samsung to offer SDI lithium technology on the new ELiTE golf cars. The vehicles come with a five-year, unlimited-amp hour warranty and charge in



half the time of leading lead acid competitors, offering unrivalled cost-saving efficiency.

Andre Andrade, director of International Golf Sales for Textron Golf, said: "We are pleased that The Duke has reaped the benefits of the new ELiTE lithium technology, and the advantages of the innovative TFM GPS. This is an exciting time for E-Z-GO, and Textron Golf more broadly; we are developing market leading products that are proving themselves to be the future of golf. We thank The Duke for their custom, and we will continue to strive to develop innovative, sustainable products to bring to market."

The Duke is a business club with a golf course and currently has 700 members, comprised of 150 corporate companies. Holland's first and only five-star+ hotel on a golf course is currently being built on-site; it will open in September 2017 and will offer a choice of 20 suites to guests.

Web: www.ezgo.com/Home/Golf/Fleet/ELiTE

► Greenkeeper profile

The greenkeeping team at Horton Park Golf Club



Horticultural Horton

Horton Park Golf Club in Surrey is much more than just a golf course. The modern venue has two footgolf courses, an adventure golf course and a nine-hole course, as well as its 18-hole venue. *Greenkeeping* spoke to its course manager, Simon Adby, about what these extra non-traditional golf facilities mean for him and his greenkeeping team

Horton Park Golf Club in Surrey has everything the modern golfer would want. An 18-hole 'Millennium Course' featuring the longest Island green par three in England, a nine-hole academy course, an 18 hole 'Jungle Island' adventure golf course and two footgolf courses.

This is great fun for the club's members and visitors, but it also means a huge workload for the club's course manager, Simon Adby, and his team.

Greenkeeping caught up with Simon to find out about the work involved maintaining all these courses, plus what tips he has for creating a pristine venue.

Greenkeeping: What was your path to greenkeeping and how long have you now been at Horton Park Golf Club?

Simon Adby: As the son of a course manager and growing up in accommodation on site, there wasn't much to do apart from spending time on the golf course. As a teen I had grand delusions of becoming a tour pro (scratch handicap at 16) on leaving school I was offered a part-time position at Ifield Golf Club to supplement my golfing aspirations; it quickly dawned on me that my love for golf could also be fulfilled as a greenkeeper and this was the career path I would follow.

After spending five years as an assistant

greenkeeper split between Ifield, Walton Heath and Wisely, gaining my level 1, 2 and 3 in greenkeeper and sports turf management, I was appointed in my first head greenkeeper's post at Thorney Park Golf Club with a brief to fully construct and grow-in a new golf course.

After four successful years I was to move just a mile down the road to the newly constructed Richings Park Golf Club. In 1997 I undertook a new opportunity working for Mobil Oil in Nigeria at Quaiboe Golf Club, this was an opportunity that would change my life giving me the funds to buy my first home.

In 2000 I returned to the UK to take up



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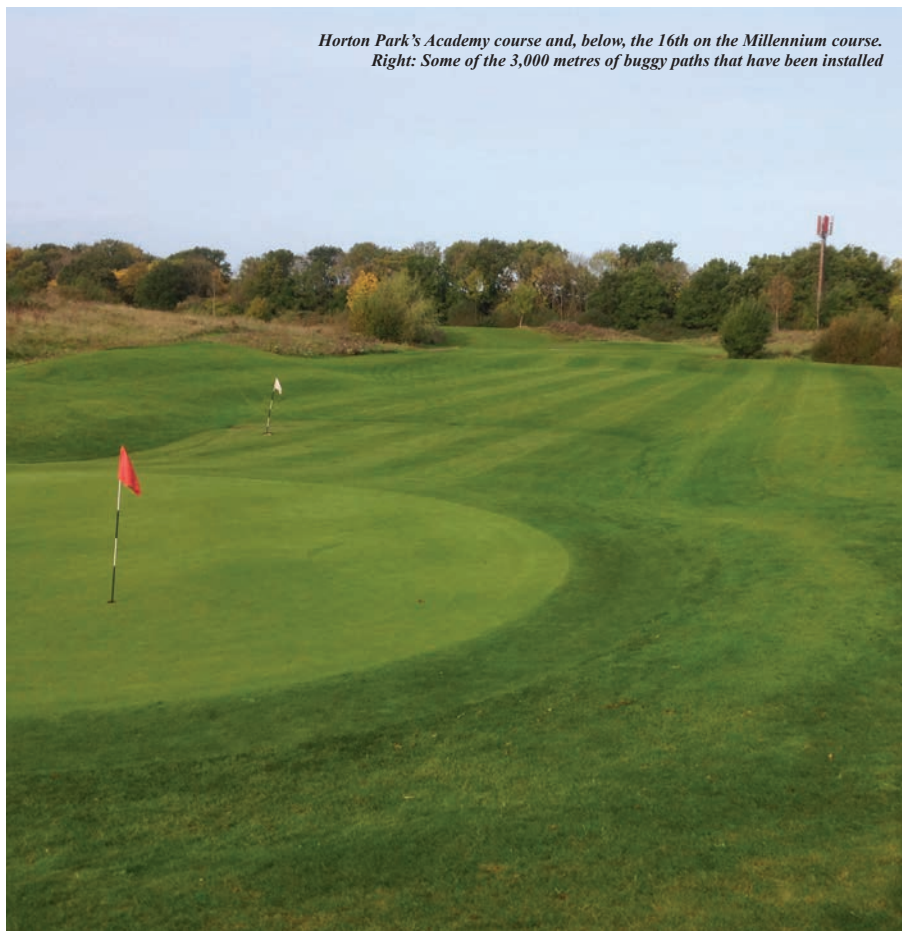


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► Greenkeeper profile



*Horton Park's Academy course and, below, the 16th on the Millennium course.
Right: Some of the 3,000 metres of buggy paths that have been installed*

the course manager's position at Rusper Golf Club. After a successful few years and over a pint in the clubhouse, the proprietor (my boss), Tony Blunden told me he wished to retire next year and asked me if I would be interested in taking on the club in a lease format.

This was a massive decision that would change my life forever, I spent a total of 16 very happy years there and it was only due to the untimely death of Mr Blunden that I was forced to leave due to the termination of my lease by his son and daughter-in-law.

As a past director of my own company at the ripe old age of 46 I did wonder whether my time as a course manager was over as it was increasingly common for a club to appoint a young deputy, however after a nerve racking and vigorous interview process, I was appointed course manager at Horton Park Golf Club.

stereotypical golf club. I like to think of it as a golf facility, it's very relaxed and friendly. How many golf clubs do you know that have a kiddies' playground next to the clubhouse. The owner of the club, Richard Haygarth [current chairman of the UK Golf Course Owners' Association] is very innovative in bringing new ideas to Horton with the aim of growing the game and increasing participation numbers and ultimately revenue

I'm very much an old school greenkeeper and a hands-on manager as the challenges can range from fixing a Chinese life-sized animatronic gorilla on the adventure golf course to the AMS driving range robots. Keeping everything running smoothly on a day-to-day basis is very challenging but keeps you on your toes.

Greenkeeping: How big is your team and how do you maximise the team resources to ensure best maintenance?

Simon Adby: We have a very small and compact team at Horton. We are only five strong, including me, Aaron Jewell, deputy head greenkeeper, Mick Payne, greenkeeper / mechanic, Richard Anderson, first assistant greenkeeper, and Callam Leftey, assistant greenkeeper.

I have a dedicated, reliable team who strive to keep the course presented and maintained to a high standard. It's imperative that we all cross fertilise on tasks as everything would come to a grinding halt if we didn't.

Greenkeeping: What would you say are the biggest challenges you currently face and how does this impact on the daily maintenance?

Simon Adby: Horton is anything but your





Greenkeeping: You have an 18 and a nine hole course, a driving range, an adventure golf course and two footgolf venues to manage and maintain. How do you plan the workload and allocate staff in order to manage and deliver to such a high standard?

Simon Aaby: Routine is the key. We have a set weekly routine which we try to stick to and it's just a case of tweaking it for the situation or season.

Greenkeeping: The courses are built on a very heavy clay base. How does this impact on the maintenance throughout the year and what horrors can it throw at you?

Simon Aaby: The heavy clay soil profile has the normal problems: too soft in the winter and too hard in the summer. We do suffer more than most with casting worms; with the removal of carbendazim this is only going to get worse.

Greenkeeping: There are big plans for the buggy paths: what are you doing and why, what materials are you using, who is undertaking the work, when are you looking to complete and how will this benefit the members, course and club moving forward?

Simon Aaby: During my first winter, which was extremely wet, we were simply unable to get from one end of the site to the other, let alone cut anything. So we set about a plan to install a basic full buggy route through the whole course. This will enable us to keep buggies for hire for all 12 months of the year with the added advantage of enabling us to get machinery around the site without making a mess.

We are in the process of purchasing a new fleet of buggies for 2018. These will have a GPS system fitted so we will be able to set

them to paths only during adverse weather conditions. This work would ordinary been done in-house but we simply don't have the time at the moment with other ongoing projects so this work was contracted out. AMG Golf Course Renovations was appointed to install 3,000 metres of pathways.

This involved digging out to a four inch depth and two metres wide, this was backfilled with 40mm of recycled crushed concrete, then the main traffic areas were rolled, greens to tees, and topped. This is my first dealing with Andy at AMG and I have been really impressed

with his attention to detail and finish. The new paths look like they have been there since day one and sympathetically flow through the course.

Greenkeeping: You have some bunker renovation planned. What is the reason for this, what will you be doing, what product will you be using and what are the future objectives for bunkers across the course?

Simon Aaby: During the winter of 2016 we took a look at the performance and aesthetic qualities of the current bunkering and came to



► Greenkeeper profile

the conclusion we needed to address them. We have a relatively bland site; we needed something different to give us a bit of wow factor, but also wouldn't give us a maintenance headache.

I had read a few articles in *Greenkeeping* regarding the EcoBunker and its recycled edging, and after many conversations with Richard Allen at EcoBunker, and a visit to other customers, we have taken the first steps into having the system installed in our two practice bunkers, this November. If this proves successful with our customers we hope to continue the programme to the whole course during the winter of 2018.

Greenkeeping: How long has the club had adventure golf, what maintenance regime does it demand and do you think it has had a positive impact on the club?

Simon Aaby: The adventure golf course was installed in 2013. The daily maintenance is

very minimal with a blow and safety check, the water features are monthly treated with an algaecide and dyed. All the planting, mainly bamboo, is minimal maintenance so it is just a small amount of pruning and a bit of routine weeding. We like to add a new feature to it on a yearly basis to keep it fresh and evolving. I am from a very traditional golf background but I can see what a massive impact the adventure golf has on getting the whole family into golf as well as the financial benefit to the club.

Greenkeeping: What height of cut do you use across the course?

Simon Aaby: In summer, the greens are 3mm daily, the tees and aprons are 10mm three times a week, the fairways to 14mm three times a week, the semi rough at 21mm twice a week and the rough is cut every two weeks.

In winter, the greens are cut to 5mm two to three times a week dependent on growth, the

tees and aprons twice a week, the fairways once a week and the semi rough once a week, and the rough when needed.

Greenkeeping: What aeration programme and methods do you prefer to use for the course? How often do you undertake this and what equipment do you use?

Simon Aaby: Our two maintenance weeks are booked a year in advance which has pros and cons' you have a fixed date but can get hampered by the weather.

During these two weeks we will verti-drain greens with three-quarters of an inch tines to a depth of 15 inches, followed by solid or hollow tining. Dependent on organic matter levels in the top 50mm we would anticipate applying 70 tonnes of RH28 sand each week.

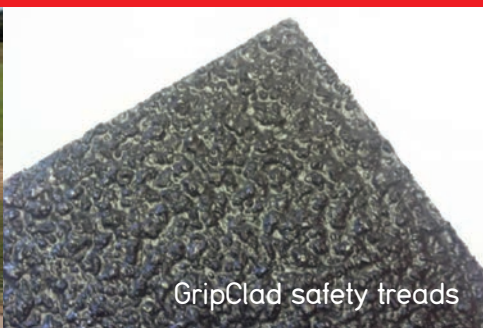
Greens get Sarrel rolled weekly and further solid tining is done bi-monthly with 8mm tines. The tees and aprons are verti-drained twice a year and the fairways verti-drained once a year.



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► Greenkeeper profile

Buggy path construction on the 6th hole of the Millennium course



Greenkeeping: Footgolf has been in the news for a good while now and it's another string to the bow for Horton Park. What are your views on footgolf, does it contribute well to the club and how does it impact on you and the team by way of turf maintenance?

Simon Adby: It has no impact on our maintenance as it's all laid out in our rough. We looked at our tee time bookings mid afternoon and found they were very low, so we decided to introduce footgolf. This has had no negative impact on our golf tee time sales as they can still start from the 10th tee, the extra revenue is a plus for the club but time will tell whether it will be long lasting or just another fad.

Greenkeeping: What irrigation system do the courses currently use and in which areas, and, in light of the ever increasing prices of water, what measures are you taking to address efficiency and effectiveness of use?

Simon Adby: We have a two core wire system linked to a Tonic Rain Master controller and Tonic translator, two Grundfos pumps both fitted with Hydrovars and we have twin valves at each green controlling four sprinklers. All tees and aprons also have single valve and sprinklers fitted. We take moisture meter

readings weekly during the growing season so we only use the appropriate water volumes.

Greenkeeping: Horton Park will be introducing 'Cosmic Golf' in 2018. What is this exactly, what will it bring to the club and how will it impact on you and the team?

Simon Adby: Cosmic Golf is a US concept launched by founder and 'chief glowmeister', Rob Peterson. There will be a total of nine targets on the range that react when hit by a ball, the targets will flash and make a noise so it makes the range experience much more interactive.

Every Saturday night the range light will be dimmed and we will use glow balls to have a different sort of experience for our customers where the emphasis is on having fun.

Our challenge will be sorting the glow balls from the regular range balls in time for opening on Sunday morning.

Greenkeeping: Is there other work planned for the driving range?

Simon Adby: Cosmic Golf is just the first stage; then we will be improving the netting and installing AstroTurf to the out field. We are also in discussions with Trackman and Pro-tracer about installing their software to

“FOOTGOLF HAS NO IMPACT ON OUR MAINTENANCE AS IT’S ALL LAID OUT IN OUR ROUGH. IT HAS HAD NO NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR GOLF TEE TIME SALES AS THEY CAN STILL START FROM THE 10TH TEE. THE EXTRA REVENUE IS A PLUS FOR THE CLUB – TIME WILL TELL WHETHER IT WILL BE LONG LASTING OR JUST ANOTHER FAD”

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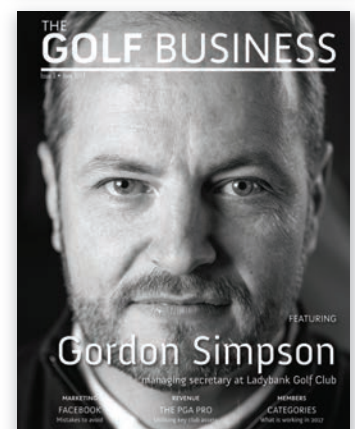
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► Greenkeeper profile

The Academy course



introduce more games onto the range and appeal to a wider audience.

Greenkeeping: You have an excellent greenkeeping team who are passionate about what they do. What drives you all and how do you support one another to get the best for the course?

Simon Adby: I still have the same team I started with, we are a small passionate close-knit team with lots of humorous banter, we are all driven to give our members and customers the best possible experience.

Greenkeeping: What machinery fleet are you currently using?

Simon Adby:

5 x John Deere 220 pedestrian hand mowers
1 x Toro 3400 Triflex greens mower
4 x John Deere 2500b greens mower
1 x John Deere 2653b mower
1 x John Deere 7700 tractor
1 x Toro 4300D rough mower
1 x John Deere 1600 wide-area mower
1 x John Deere tractor and loader
1 x Kubota 3060 tractor
2 x John Deere Gators
1 x Wiedenmann Terra Spike
1 x Toro ProCore aerator
1 x Graden; plus a 400 litre sprayer, a three tonne digger, GreenTek cassettes, Sarrel rollers, verti-cut units, three Sweep n' Fill brushes, a GreensGroomer brush, and from Bernhard an

Express Dual 3000, a Rotamaster and a Rapid Facer.

Greenkeeping: How do you personally engage and communicate with the membership?

Simon Adby: We run a quarterly newsletter and I am constantly in communication via email with club captains and committee members. We also use social media (Facebook and Twitter) and all staff are encouraged to engage with the members and customers.

Greenkeeping: As you travel around the facilities and course daily, what are you most satisfied and proud of?

Simon Adby: When I was appointed one of the questions I was asked during my interview was what can I bring to Horton, my reply was to make a difference. We are not the best course in the UK and never will be but if we can present all areas of the site to a high standard it will enhance the members' and customers' experience. I have been very fortunate in my career with lots of highlights from constructing a golf course to working in Africa, to running a golf club in its entirety.

Greenkeeping: What changes do you think need to be made to benefit the industry sector and profession of the greenkeeper?

Simon Adby: From a personal note I think the NVQ system is a little weak, it's really just a government quota to create a qualified

"IN WHAT OTHER INDUSTRY WOULD YOU HAVE A COMPLETE NOVICE [COMMITTEE MEMBER] TELLING A QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL HOW TO DO HIS JOB? IT'S JUST BONKERS!"

workforce and isn't a true apprenticeship. The infrastructure of many members' clubs is flawed – in what other industry would you have a complete novice (elected committee member) telling a qualified professional how to do his job ... it's just bonkers! But from the other side of the fence, greenkeepers need to remember the members' and customers' experience is what matters, so it's all about balancing the expectations of your employers and customers, which is easier said than done.

Greenkeeping: What advice would you give to young greenkeepers wanting to advance?

Simon Adby: One of my old bosses once said to me if you always do the best you can nobody can ever ask more of you. A statement I have taken with me in all walks of life, I would also say try to gain as much experience as you possibly can and always strive to do your best.

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The www.greenkeepingeu.com website provides news, technical features and jobs for anyone interested in greenkeeping at golf clubs – and it is optimised for phones and tablets

www.greenkeepingeu.com

Greenkeeping

Demand for disc golf is on the rise – and golf clubs can profit from this. Flickr / Neff Conner

‘We need to think laterally’

One way golf clubs can make more money is by using the land they own more creatively – by providing shorter and alternative forms of golf. Howard Swan reveals this is easier than you might think – and the rewards could be innumerable

We’ve heard for a long time how our beloved game is not progressing, not growing, not thriving – both in terms of participation and financially.

We hear it is not developing because it takes too long to play in the modern world of increasing family and work-time pressures, so those who might want to swing a club simply can’t afford the time to do so. Or it is too expensive; or it is non-inclusive; or it is not welcoming enough; or it is too traditional; or not attractive enough to the young ... some, if not all, might be true.

However, most of us on its inside will argue that it is the tradition, the history, the sportsmanship, and the behaviour associated with the sport that makes it great.

It is, of course, a difficult game to play. Maybe those who are wanting to begin on the path to hitting the little white pill need to have the learning process made less onerous. But a simpler form of the game is just one potential solution.

As an industry, we can’t simply shrug our collective shoulders and say ‘we need to work harder to get more people into golf’. How about

the argument that we need more – or different style – facilities? More ranges; shorter courses; beginners’ courses; and less focus on 18 holes being the accepted norm ... Topgolf is a good example of how a derivative of the sport can drive people into the more mainstream version.

Leisure industry consultant John Ashworth, an executive member of Golf Consultants Association, has assessed the performance of the golf marketplace and sees the need to change, so that some recovery is made and financial sustainability is achieved. He said: “The business model of too many clubs focuses exclusively on golf – and golfers are typically male of middle age and above. For them, golf is a pastime for midweek mornings – if they are retired – or weekend mornings, if they are in employment.

“It is no surprise that those are the times when a club’s course and clubhouse are busiest – nor, that at other times, there is a notable absence of activity. Making the game of golf itself more attractive – quicker or easier to play, for example – to a wider audience can only ever be a part solution.

“Stick to your knitting’ is a mantra that may

appeal to the traditionalist, but only in exceptional cases will it ensure the future financial viability of most golf clubs. With clubhouse buildings, acres of outdoor open space, car parking, on-site catering and so on, clubs could do much more to broaden their appeal to a wider market and breathe new life into their facilities.”

In recent years we have seen the advent of ‘adventure golf’ and feature golf parks, street or urban golf, disc golf and, perhaps, most successfully, footgolf, as people try to see how the game can be made more appealing to a wider population and families.

Footgolf’s financial performance is pretty impressive. Most existing facilities which had the chance – with a par-three course, for example – had put a footgolf course alongside the ‘regular’ layout and great numbers of players have flocked to try it.

In many ways, however, a stand-alone course offers better opportunity. Take the FootGolf Chester example: nine holes which were recently opened as one of many which owner Bell Developments is looking to lay out.

Mike Bell, a director with Bell Developments,

has been able to witness just how impressive the take-up has been at the new course and how the demand continues to impress.

He said: "We opened the doors in May 2016. We had designed and built – in a remarkably short time – a nine-hole par-three course which has turned out to be the perfect size, with a great mix and variety to attract our footfall, and we are expecting it to be playable all year round.

"We believe an average footballer being able to reach every green off the tee makes it ideal for all abilities, hence our holes vary between 30 and 80 yards. Since opening we have welcomed more than 15,000 players of different ages. From kids' parties to OAPs; stag and hen dos; corporate team-building events; and schools."

One of the leading owners in the UK marketplace, Burhill Group Limited (BGL) – which has 10 golf centres and 22 facilities – has focused much of its developmental activity on establishing a wide range of golf-related attractions on each site so creating a stepped provision to meet the changing and increasing demands of those who play or wish to play the game. Adventure golf parks, ranges and academies, short courses, and footgolf courses are all essential parts of the BGL evolution, sitting alongside more conventional nine and 18-hole golf courses.

Colin Mayes, chief executive at BGL, said: "One of the overriding issues is no matter which way we look at golf, it is a game of skill that takes time to learn and to make progress with. It is also fundamentally a game of fun best enjoyed in the company of others.

"So taking these fundamentals BGL's focus will be on great facilities, but with special attention to those who want to learn the game and develop their skills. They will attract



the complete beginner and will probably involve some form of golf putting course that can be played by the whole family. Again the focus will be having fun with a golf ball and a putter.

"The facilities will have a family focus and a real 'open-for-all' policy – comfortable places in which people are happy to spend their leisure time. Above all it needs to be a place that puts customers having fun and enjoying themselves very high on its agenda, thereby making it a place they want to return to."

Some, of course, may consider some of this sacrilegious to the pure, traditional form of the game. But, in order to make this great game of ours more successful, played by more and enjoyed by more, of any age, of either gender, without intimidation and with real feelings of welcoming and embracing newcomers, we need to change.

We need to think more laterally, become more flexible and adapt to the present marketplace – and that is what will help us succeed in the next 10 years

Howard Swan (pictured) is a golf course architect from Swan Golf Designs and chairman of the Golf Consultants Association. For more information, visit www.swangolfdesigns.com

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Trilo

Back in 2012 Vanmac BV, manufacturer of the Trilo range of blowers and vacs, invited UK journalists to visit its modern facility in Amersfoort, The Netherlands. Five years on, the invitation was extended again and the business model now in place is a true testament to the vision and direction envisaged back in 2012.

Trilo is now a worldwide company with sales in over 40 countries. In 2012 Trilo began a concerted period of 'product re-think and re-design' to combine the introduction of modern manufacturing strategies to enable the introduction of even more competitively-priced products (blowers, verticutters, vacuum units / vacuum sweepers and flail collectors).

Product redesigns have centred around commonality of major components of the products to enable cost reductions needed. In turn, this has led to many more options that the end user can specify on a given machine. Having achieved all that it set out to do in 2012, the company now needs to gear up for the next period of growth. Just started a week before the UK editors took the tour, a €1m building and refurbishment of the production facility began. No section of the factory has been overlooked. A comprehensive re-layout of the production flow will be the result with automatic picking of minor parts coming in as well as new painting booths and offices – all to be completed by first quarter 2018. When finished, Leo expects to see efficiency improved by 25 per cent and lead times down to two to three weeks.

Web: www.trilo.com



AMG Golf Course Renovation

Andy Greenslade is now specialising in the skilled area of golf course shaping, renovation and construction.

Operating as AMG Golf Course Renova-

tion, managing director Andy combines his career experiences and expertise as greenkeeper, course manager, general manager and Crown Golf UK's course construction manager to offer a highly professional and bespoke renovation service.

Working with leading specialists of technology and product suppliers in the industry, Andy ensures best quality and standard of work is met at all times.

As an exciting addition to AMG's services, Andy also offers computer aided design technology (CAD) packages which have proven to be extremely popular and beneficial to project planning as well as being a useful tool for engaging members / customers during project renovations.

AMG Golf Course Renovation has been extremely busy throughout the year carrying out projects such as bunker renovations for Chichester Golf Club, constructing a new putting green at Milford Golf club, an overflow car park with on course shaping at Upminster Golf Club and constructing new academy greens, tees and fairways at West Essex Golf Club.

The most recent project undertaken by AMG is the exciting installation of 4,000m of buggy path to Maple Leaf Golf's Horton Park Golf Club in Surrey. This is in preparation for the introduction of a new fleet of GPS controlled buggies and to enable year round buggy use.

"AMG were very professional and detailed throughout the whole project. Andy maintained great communication and ensured the quality of work was kept to the highest standard. Great work and look forward to working with AMG in the future," said Mike Bush, group course manager at Crown Golf.

Email: andygslade@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 07710 775666

Kubota

Mulchrone Brothers is gaining significant traction in the west Ireland groundcare market following the recent extension of its partnership with industry-leading manufacturer, Kubota UK.

Over the last 40 years, the family dealership has been an established name through-

AMG Golf
Course Renovation



out the mid-western counties of Ireland, renowned for providing first-class machinery and aftersales support to both the domestic and professional markets. Having supplied Kubota's agricultural solutions for 14 years, it was an obvious step for the dealership to start offering groundcare machinery following an increase in customer demand.

Speaking of the partnership, Dominic Mulchrone, co-owner of Mulchrone Brothers, said: "Continuously adapting to the ever-changing requirements of our customers, whether they may be local authority or private farmers, is crucial to our success. Having supplied Kubota's wide range of agricultural machinery for many years, we know first hand the durability, reliability and sustainability that its vehicles offer."

Regional customers can now purchase a range of Kubota's groundcare machinery including the L Series, B Series and STW Series compact tractors, along with the RTV range.

Kubota's high-powered GR1600 ride-on mower has already become a best seller for the dealership due to its manoeuvrability and reliability, along with its G2120 counterpart, together with the professional G/F Series range.

Adrian Langmead, groundcare business development manager for Kubota UK, said: "This announcement is all about strengthening our product and service offering in this key region. Kubota's partnership with Mulchrone Brothers goes back nearly 14 years based on the quality of our machines and the first class service Dominic, Joe and their staff provide."

Web: www.kubota.co.uk



SISIS

Aeration is a key process to improve drainage, reduce turf compaction and thatch build up. With three models in the SISIS range, with different working widths and varying maximum depths to suit any tractor and most applications – the Multislit, Maxislit and Megaslit are tractor mounted deep slitters which offer deep, clean penetration with minimal surface disturbance.

The Multislit is available in 1.2 (Multislit 1200) and 1.5 (Multislit 1500) metres wide options featuring a choice of interchangeable slitting tines to suit different ground conditions. This machine produces excellent underground cultivation (working depth of six or eight inches) due to the angle of the tines and spiral design of tine shaft which assist penetration. Recommended tractor power requirement is 15 to 25hp.

The SISIS Maxislit is a 1.8 metre wide tractor mounted deep slitting aerator suitable for golf course maintenance, with deep, clean penetration. It can also be used for football, rugby and cricket pitches, with a working depth of seven or nine inches. The Maxislit comes complete with a set of heavy duty tines. Recommended tractor power requirement is 25 to 35hp.

The SISIS Megaslit is a tractor mounted deep slitting aerator which gives deep, clean penetration – ideal for golf course fairways. This machine can also be used for football, rugby and cricket pitches. It has a working depth of nine or 12 inches. The 2.5m wide deep splitter, featuring 32 heavy duty tines, achieves maximum underground cultivation due to the angle of the tines and spiral design of the tine shaft assists penetration. Recommended tractor power requirement is 40hp and comes complete with a set of heavy duty tines.

These machines are simple in their design and low maintenance. Their thin sharp blades cut through the turf and root zone leaving only a slit on the surface while giving a deep optimum sub soil disturbance.

Regular slitting encourages strong, healthy

root growth of the grass plants, improving tolerance to drought conditions and promoting more rapid recovery after damage in play – that's why SISIS deep slitters are used on golf courses around the world including The Belfry. Web: www.sisis.com

Toro

The 27-hole private members' club, Portmarnock Golf Club, has updated its previous irrigation system with a Toro Lynx control system and 1,220 Toro Infinity Series Sprinklers across the site. Irrigating the challenging course is now easy thanks to round-the-clock access to course conditions via apps synced to the new Lynx control system.

Portmarnock Golf Club not only offers golfers a stunning view of Velvet Strand beach, but the William Chalmers Pickeman, George Ross and Mungo Park designed course makes the most of the natural terrain to keep players on their toes. Links manager of ten years Gary Johnstone also thrives on the challenges presented by the course, saying it: "keeps the job interesting."

So when the club's cable network started to degrade, leaving the old irrigation system unreliable, those at Portmarnock Golf Club saw it not as an obstacle but an opportunity to update the system to suit the course down to a tee.

Gary explains: "We looked at all the irrigation products on the market over a two-year period to find out which company had the best products to suit our needs, and Toro was the clear winner."

He continues: "Local contractor Aquaturf Solutions installed our Toro irrigation system and carried out the work over six months with minimum disturbance to the course, in a very professional manner."

According to Gary, setting up the new system was simple: "With Lynx, it's easy to set up specific irrigation programmes to meet the needs of Links turf."

Gary's favourite aspect of the new system is the accessibility: "The control system is easy to

operate and can be accessed anywhere via apps, allowing us to monitor the course' water needs at all times. This gives us greater control over our irrigation management, as real-time adjustments can be made to give turf the right amount of water."

The 1,220 Toro Infinity Sprinklers installed course-wide have impressed too: "The Infinity sprinklers have so many good points: their ease of operation, that you can access the top of the sprinkler for repairs, and they are future proof," says Gary.

"Before, it was difficult to keep the course up to championship standard with our failing irrigation system. Now irrigation is easy thanks to Toro and we can focus on the challenges ahead, such as hosting the Amateur Championship in 2019, knowing the grass plants will be healthy and play will be great."

Web: reesinkturfcare.co.uk

Dennis

With over 50 games a season taking place at the Huish Park Stadium, Yeovil Town FC's head of grounds Richard Allsworth believes that his new Dennis G860 is the ideal mower to maintain such a heavily used pitch.

Richard has been head of grounds for Yeovil Town FC for the past four years and, along with one other member of staff, tends to the pitch at the main stadium, the first team training ground and the club's academy facilities.

"With league and cup games, along with the youth FA Cup and academy games we have at least 50 matches here throughout the season. Plus, this season the ladies team will be playing their home games here so that's probably another nine games. It is busy but it has to be in these leagues – it's a necessity in order to generate income. Yes, it can make things difficult but I came from the Memorial stadium which shared rugby and football (Bristol Rovers FC and Bristol Rugby)."

It was at the Memorial Stadium that Richard first started using the Dennis G860 mower, and based on his experience; there was only

► machinery and equipment buyer's guide

one mower he had in mind when it came to purchasing a new one.

"There is absolutely no contest when looking at mowers. I like the familiarity of having used one for nearly 20 years. It's always been a fantastic mower and over the years has been subtly refined – it's a little bit quieter, a little bit smoother and I like the fact that the box lifts off so you can empty it easily. Essentially it is one unit that you can do lots of jobs with and it doesn't take much time when adjusting the height of cut or changing cassettes."

As Richard says, the Dennis G860 comes complete with an interchangeable cassette system in which the user has the option of fitting eleven different types of heads including scarifiers, verticutters, brushes, spikers, and slitters as well as six or eight bladed cutting cylinders.

As part of his maintenance programme, Richard relies on the 8 bladed cutting cassette to get the pitch ready for matchdays. He'll carry out a double cut on a Thursday, followed by a double cut on a Friday and ensure that grass is at a length of 27mm before kick-off.

He also reported excellent results from the verticutting cassette, which he uses at both the stadium and the training ground.

"I absolutely love the verticutting cassette for grooming the pitch. I tend to use the verticutter once a month before I put down a liquid feed just to clean it out - so that I can expose the leaf, and expose the soil to keep it clean – which is necessary when so many games are played on it.

"I always do it more often in July to really thicken up the turf especially about a week and a half before the first game. It just helps me see exactly how thick the sward is and to give it a chance to fill out.



Dennis

"We also have real problems with poa annua on both the stadium pitch and the training pitches as there are meadows and silage nearby so it just blows in. Just as the poa is starting to come through I'll go over it with the verticutter cassette just to try and control it – it works really well."

With the G860 offering so much versatility in just one machine it is easy to see why they are used not only by professional grounds-men at FIFA World Cups or prestigious sporting stadia, but also by clubs in lower divisions and volunteer grounds-men who tend to local clubs and grass roots pitches. In fact, Richard believes that the G860 proves a cost effective solution for all types of various grounds-men.

"Could I afford to go and get a mower for verticutting and a separate mower for scarifying? Probably not - therefore the G860 offers you the perfect solution.

"It's light, it is manoeuvrable and it gives a definite stripe. It's great for presentation and we are presenting the club's image - the G860 is the perfect mower for this."

Web: www.dennisuk.com

Charterhouse Turf Machinery

Any machinery that can save labour and time is a welcome investment for any club, especially the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club in Kent, which has such a packed schedule of maintenance and play. In March this year it took delivery of a Rink DS3800 bulk topdresser from Charterhouse Turf Machinery to help. The club has been the host of many high-profile events since its formation in 1892. This year is no exception with course manager James Bledge and his team hosting the largest amateur foursomes tournament, the Halford Hewitt, in April and then in July the final qualifying event for The Open.

"Though a team of nine sounds like quite a big team, the golfers expectations are really high so with our maintenance regime, time is of the essence. When it comes to topdressing we have a small topdresser which we use on the greens but this involved two guys filling it by hand – a hugely tiring task. If we wanted to do all the greens and approaches, that's 33 tonnes of sand shovelled by hand!"



One of James' closest friends, Lee Strutt at the Royal Automobile Club, purchased a Rink DS3800 last year and organised with Charterhouse to transport it to Royal Cinque Ports for James to demo. "I'd commented on it when I'd visited the RAC and having it to try just confirmed that it was exactly what we needed. With this we can fill our smaller unit and topdress all the greens in under four hours, getting out and round without being caught by play. I worked out how this equated to time and labour savings and that really sealed the deal."

The Rink DS3800 is the largest model in the Rink range offering a spreading width of up to 15m, spreading thickness of up to 15mm and a hopper capacity of 3.8m³. It's also available with an optional cross conveyor which James uses to feed the smaller topdresser and also for work on the course's bunkers.

"This unit is big and beautiful – here it's all about productivity and getting the job done quickly and efficiently. The Rink has also freed up my guys who I can now put to other uses elsewhere. All of this made the purchase a no-brainer and it really has been a great addition to our fleet."

Web: www.charterhouse-tm.co.uk

Textron Golf

Hogs Head Golf Club, a brand-new course located in County Kerry, Ireland, has chosen equipment from Textron Golf (Jacobsen®, E-Z-GO® and Cushman®) to maintain its surfaces. The course replaces Skellig Bay Golf Club and has been built in the picturesque town of Waterville, with golfer's able to enjoy spectacular views of the Irish coast and Atlantic Ocean. Local dealer Broderick Grass Machinery demonstrated and delivered the new machinery.



The machinery purchased by the club includes three LF577 fairway mowers, one AR522 rough mower, one AR-3 rotary mower, two GP400 greens mowers, two Eclipse 322 greens mowers, 10 Greens King mowers for tees and greens, a Jacobsen Truckster, two ISEKI tractors, 20 E-Z-GO RXV ELiTE Freedom golf cars and a Cushman Hauler PRO.

David Daly is the golf course superintendent at Hogs Head Golf Club. Commenting on the opening of the new course, and the equipment purchased, he said:

"This is a very exciting time for everyone involved in this project. We started construction in March 2016 where we used 150,000 tonnes of sand to cap all playing areas with eight inches of sand. The course will play firm, fast and dry all year round. It has been an eye-opening experience, but the results speak for themselves.

"We chose equipment from Textron Golf because Jacobsen was recommended by Michael Murphy at Waterville Golf Links, and I have used the machines in the past and they have always been very good. The technology on the Eclipse is the best you'll find, and it also provides us with a fantastic quality of cut. I am also very impressed with the LF577; it now takes us half the time to cut the fairways than it used to on the old course.

"A crucial part of the decision-making process was the relationship with the dealer and the back-up support we would receive. This is where Brodericks, and our local dealer Pat Geaney, really made our minds up for us."
Web: www.textron.com

Durabunker

Welsh based company Durabunker recently completed the first phase of a major bunker renovation at world 'Top 100' venue The Club

at Nine Bridges on Jeju Island in South Korea, in preparation for the first ever PGA Tour event played in the country recently.

Working with vice president of PGA Tour Design Services, Steve Wenzloff, and course architect David Dale, the original designer of the golf course, the Durabunker team made four separate trips to the site to lead and guide the bunker renovation element of the project.

David Dale commented: "We've been impressed everywhere we've seen it done. We did extraordinary due diligence before finalising this decision. The playability and appearance of the synthetic bunker faces is exactly what one would expect from revetted bunkers. Considering this product is virtually maintenance free, maintains design integrity and prevents sand contamination – there's a lot to like."

Rhydian Lewis, co-inventor of all design patents for Durabunker, commented: "When I first began working on the development of the product at my home club, Maesteg GC, in 2009/10, it was little more than an idea that we wanted to explore. I could not have imagined that within a few years our company would be working with the PGA Tour. Having qualified construction specialists, as well as greenkeepers with over 15 years bunker building experience, helps us provide a first class service to complement our product. Our experience working with architects such as Nicklaus Design and Gil Hanse (designer of the Rio Olympic Course) is also allowing us to add a design element to our contracts, offering added value to every project."

Other PGA Tour venues such as Tiburon GC (host venue of LPGA Tour Championships) and Conway Farms, which recently hosted the BMW Championship, have also commissioned Durabunker and have followed many UK and European courses in opting for synthetic bunker edges.

Web: www.durabunker.com

MTD

You may be thinking that John Ledwidge, groundsmanager at the King Power Stadium, has achieved 'pitch perfection' with the immaculately striped pitch he is now renowned for. However, John is always looking for the

tool or technique to help them up his game – and now he has three Cub Cadet Infinicut™ 34" mowers to do just that.

"When I arrived in Leicester we needed kit, and we needed it there and then. Following years of hard work and investment into the club we're now in a position to refine what we do" explains John. In June 2016, as part of a five year plan to refine and upgrade their machinery fleet, John added the 'Infini's' from MTD to his portfolio.

"We had used them on demo for a number of months and were continually impressed with both the build quality of the units and the quality of the cut they produced. Mower design doesn't seem to have changed in forty years, but this is a 'state-of-the-art' product and over and above what we'd been used to. We spoke to Vinny and John at MTD who were happy to adapt the machine to totally suit our specific requirements and all this together made it a no-brainer for us."



They use the Cub Cadet Infinicut™ units solely on the stadium pitch, although they are intending on swapping the cassettes in their triplex mowers over to SMARTCut's to maintain the cut quality throughout the facilities surfaces. "The 'Infini's' give us the option to slow the unit down to deliver the fineness and accuracy of cut we need."

Another plus point for John was that it can be driven purely electrically, especially as battery power technology continues to improve. "Petrol driven types, with their noxious fumes and high levels of noise and vibration, seem to be on the way out with battery power being the way forward for the industry. Using the Cub Cadet Infinicut™ all but eliminates both noise and fuel emissions and offer a financial reward as well."

Web: www.advancedtt.com

► A day in the life

Steve Lloyd

is course manager at **The Worcestershire**. Established in 1879, it is the oldest club in Worcestershire and one of the oldest in England



• **What time do you arrive at the club?**

I arrive at 5:40am year-round.

• **Can you describe your morning routine?**

The first thing I do when I arrive at work is have a cup of tea and a catch up with the lads to see if there were any issues from the afternoon before. Based on this, we then discuss the plan for the morning's tasks.

• **How many people are there in your team and is it a fair number for your collective workload?**

In total, there are seven of us at the moment, including myself. This is a pretty good staffing level for the workload, however as most course managers would agree, there is always room for more.

• **Do you share tasks?**

Yes, I do share tasks around the team. We try to have all the team trained to do every job so we have flexibility if someone is on holiday. This means I can just change things around to stop a task from becoming boring. I've also got two apprentices so it's very important

that they have the chance to get hands on with all of the different tasks.

• **How do you motivate your colleagues?**

I try to motivate the rest of the team by involving them in the conversations we have when we are looking to improve or make changes to the course. I always encourage them to go out to other courses and network, to help their own personal development.

• **What's your favourite season of the year and why?**

That's a bit of a difficult one to answer for me ... I really enjoy winter as that's when we undertake project work.

This is when we get to improve the weaker areas of the golf course and make significant changes to the infrastructure. However, I equally enjoy the spring time, where we start to see the recovery following the

“WE NOW SEEM TO GET MORE APRIL SHOWERS IN MAY THAN WE DO IN APRIL ... WE HAVE TO ADJUST OUR MAINTENANCE SCHEDULES AND MAYBE THE GOLF CALENDAR ALSO NEEDS TO REFLECT THIS CHANGE”

winter projects and transform the golf course into competition playing conditions.

• **What aspects / functions of your job gives you the greatest satisfaction?**

Following on from the last answer, I enjoy planning the course-wide changes and improvements.

• **And what part of it gives you the least satisfaction?**

Just the normal issue of dealing with certain members that don't listen to the reasoning behind why we've done something!

• **Have you attended any courses recently?**

Due to my current workload, and a number of ongoing projects, unfortunately I have not had the time to attend any courses recently.

• **How would you improve the greenkeeping industry?**

I would try to continue to educate golf members on the reasons behind

why we do what we do to maintain golf courses, and the values of this work which helps to deliver quality playing surfaces.

• **What seed mixtures and / or cultivars do you use for your greens, tees, fairways and roughs?**

For our greens and tees we use a bent / poa mix and are currently overseeding with Johnsons Sports Seed J All Bent mixture.

For tees, fairways / approaches and roughs its predominately ryegrass though on the fairways / approaches we also use fescue.

At the moment, we're overseeding with Johnsons J Tee mixture.

• **Has a golfer ever deliberately directed a ball at you?**

Not that I am aware of ... so if they have tried, they failed!

• **Have you ever had any mishaps with lakes on the course or had to undertake a rescue of a daft golfer?**

No, thankfully, no rescues of any golfers, we've only really had issues with runaway golf trolleys on a couple of occasions!

• **What is the most interesting animal you have seen on your course and how do you do support wildlife?**

We have several muntjacs that make an appearance on parts of the course now and then. We have also established quite a few wildflower areas around the course which have proved to be very popular with butterflies and bees.

• **Are you seeing any evidence of climate change?**

I don't know if it is climate change, but I certainly think the seasons have shifted by around a month. April now feels like March and we seem to get more April showers in May than we actually do in April! The biggest effect work-wise is that we have to adjust our maintenance schedules to these timings and going forward maybe the golf calendar needs to reflect this change too.

• **What advice would you give to a young greenkeeper starting out today?**

The best advice I could give to a young greenkeeper today is to listen and learn as much as possible from as many greenkeepers as possible. There are so many amazing opportunities to volunteer at various events and clubs around the world so take advantage of them when they come around.

• **How do you spend your leisure time?**

Strangely enough I tend to spend a lot of my leisure time working! My eight year-old twin boys love going to the club to rake bunkers, so we're often found there on the weekends!

Other spare time is spent with the family, playing a bit of golf and I've recently started football coaching for under nines – that's the latest frustration!

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Location: Ansty, near Coventry, UK

Salary: Negotiable

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Contact Jonathan Smith on
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First Assistant Greenkeeper – Ansty GC



Location: Ansty, near Coventry, UK

Salary: Negotiable

Website: www.anstygolfclub.co.uk

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Qualifications and experience required:

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