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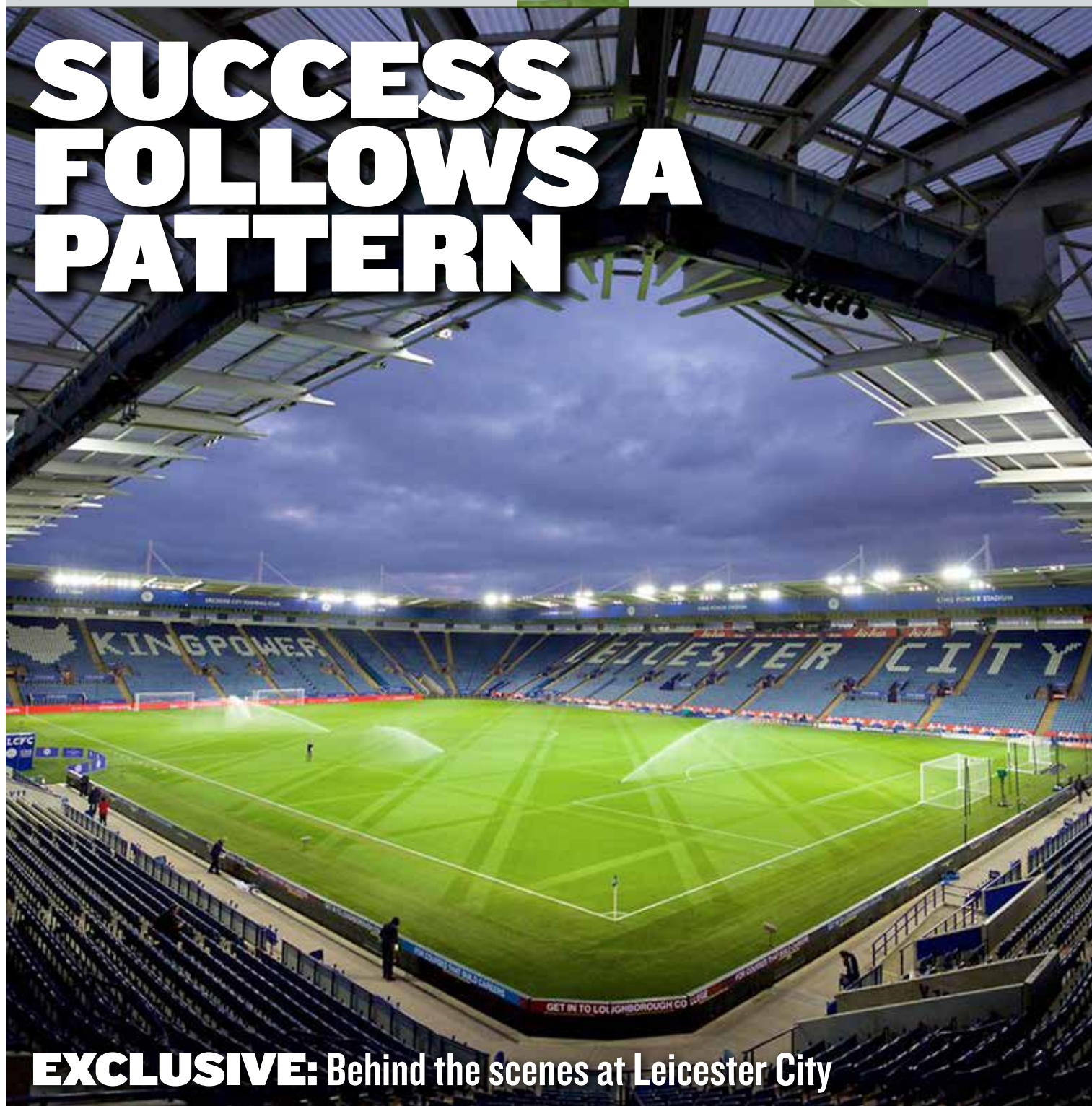
Rigby Taylor, page 32



## The FA's PIP bears fruit

Progress, page 19

# SUCCESS FOLLOWS A PATTERN



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# TURF MATTERS

## Year of sporting glory

We are coming to the end of a very full sporting year – Euros, Olympics, Ryder Cup to name but three of the blockbuster events we've had and that doesn't every factor in the annual events which keep us all enthralled and this year this has included a second British winner of Wimbledon and the astonishing achievements of Leicester City, the relegation favourites who won the league!

All have provided memories which will last us many, many years and most of them – I don't count the Olympic cycling, rowing and swimming – have been created on sports surfaces prepared by talented and committed professionals.

It does require mentioning because if everything goes well these Head Groundsmen rarely get a mention. Invariably the only time their name gets a mention is when something goes wrong. I have often equated turf professionals as being the sporting equivalent of a Womble – creeping out when no-one is looking, doing some great work and then disappearing again with nothing more than personal satisfaction to keep them warm at night.

For many that "under the radar" approach to their careers is exactly what they want but to receive the credit they deserve someone has to stick their head above the parapet and become an advocate for the industry. We are lucky in the sports turf industry that there are many articulate and passionate people who do take the chance to highlight the skills and great work which goes on but we could do with more.

Someone who has done more than his share is John Ledwidge, Head Groundsman at the aforementioned Leicester City. You can read about the work that John and his team did at Leicester to prepare the pitch for Jamie Vardy and his mates to create history.

**Scott MacCallum, Editor**

 You can follow me on Twitter @TurfMatters

COVER PHOTOGRAPH: **Leicester City's King Power Stadium**

Distributed every two months to sports turf professionals, independent schools, universities, local authorities and buyers of turfcare machinery and products.

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Saltex is here and you're all welcome – pages 28-31

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# Foundations laid, now Turf Matters is growing

You are currently reading issue number 17 of Turf Matters, which is significant as it means that we are coming to the end of our third full year. Since January 2014 we have thoroughly enjoyed being able to feature some of the finest examples of sports and amenity turf management

to be found anywhere in the world, and hopefully you have found our offerings to be of genuine interest and useful to you at your own place of work.

Over those 17 issues we have brought you behind the scenes secrets from prestigious venues like St George's Park, Gleneagles, Murrayfield, Twickenham, Aintree, Wimbledon, Royal Troon and Hackney

Marshes, as well as looking at the diverse skills that Head Groundsmen require to produce first class surfaces for a wide range of sports at some of our finest schools and universities.

The foundations for Turf Matters, as a publication, have been very firmly laid, but now is the time for us to build upon the excellent work that has been carried out to date.

So I am more than delighted to announce that the next phase in the development of Turf Matters is about to begin. November will see Sinead Finnin begin work as full time Sales Executive for Turf Matters, bringing her extensive sales experience to not just the written publication but to a brand new top quality website, one which we believe will soon become the go-to website within our industry sector.

Plus, Sinead will also be working on commercial opportunities in a new E Newsletter which will enable devotees of Turf Matters to receive news, information and special offers on a much more regular basis than have been the case since our launch nearly three years ago.

Over the past 12 months, we have been working hard on updating our mailing and email databases to ensure that Turf Matters will be seen by more people on a more regular basis. In 2017, we will be launching new services to both the reader and our advertisers, taking Turf Matters to the next level.

I'm very proud to say that I remain one of the only true journalists within this market, so Sinead joining the team will allow me, as Editor/Publisher, to concentrate on bringing more exclusive content to the publication.

As a more effective and wide-ranging conduit between the industry and its customers, and potential customers, we are sure that Turf Matters will become increasingly influential within the sports and amenity turf sector.

I hope that you continue to support Turf Matters as we begin our new chapter and that you will take full advantage of our new website and E Newsletter when they go live in January.

**Scott MacCallum**



## Wiedenmann Terra Clean sweeps to success

One of north east England's leading grounds maintenance contractors, Grounds Maintenance Specialists Ltd, has taken delivery of a Wiedenmann Terra Clean 160.

The Northumberland-based company which covers North and South Tyneside, Durham, Newcastle, Gateshead and Northumberland, has a sizeable portfolio of education establishments on its books, with a growing emphasis on artificial

maintenance.

"We have almost 200 school clients all of whom expect a first rate service. Increasingly customers are aware that lifting litter is only

part of what needs to be done and they appreciate that with 20 years' experience we are in a good position to advise," said Julian Acton, GMS Director.

"Some of the more elite surfaces have around a million filaments per square metre and under the terms of their carpet warranty have to be carefully maintained on a regular basis. Pitch owners are recognising now that if a synthetic pitch is 'cared for' then it more likely to achieve its allotted life span.

"Many stand-alone sites aren't always in a position to maintain their own pitches. In some instances they have nowhere to store machinery or can only afford limited kit. As a contractor we have different machines for specific tasks and are used to devising bespoke programmes where we pick litter, redistribute the infill and deep clean the pitch. At this time of year, leaves and other wind fall get in between fibres and

if not removed, their build up can lead to problems with drainage or encourage moss and algal."

The Terra Clean 160 is the fifth Wiedenmann machine in the GMS fleet and will serve as a sweeper, cleaner and collector. It has a cyclone filter system which draws and removes dust cleverly inspired by the engineering solutions pioneered by trucks operating in sandy deserts.

"We wanted this particular machine because it combines both a sieved separation system with a dust cyclone extraction system to filter and remove minuscule deposits. The exceptional deep cleaning capability targets powdered rubber crumb. These tiny, fine particles can cause havoc to a pitch because they seal the playing surface and compact the yarn. Once this happens ball roll and playability is compromised so regular deep cleaning is vital," said Julian.







## John Deere mowers multiply to meet demand

In a 'normal' year John Clarke, Courses Manager at Woburn Golf Club, has a greenkeeping staff of 40, of which 12 work on the Marquess golf course. When the club hosts a professional tournament, as it did this year with the 40th Ricoh Women's British Open, the greenkeeping staff numbers rise to 80 for the tournament course alone.

"There is a huge amount more preparation and maintenance needed before and during the event," said John, who is in his ninth year at Woburn.

The club has a long association with the Ricoh Women's British Open, as it first hosted the championship in 1984. This year marked Woburn's 10th staging of the event, but its first as a major championship, since the Open had become an official LPGA major tournament in 2001. It was also the first time it was played on the 7213 yard Marquess course, rather than the

6983 yard Duke's course.

The pressure to maintain the high standard of the playing surfaces also saw a substantial increase in the number of John Deere mowers used on the course. Additional machines were provided by John Deere and dealer P Tuckwell Ltd, Maulden, whose support at the event also included the provision of tractors and other equipment.

"We normally have two 7500AE hybrid electric fairway mowers on each of our three courses, but during the championship we had 10," said John. "Deere and Tuckwell set these up to our specification for reel size, number of knives, roller type, clip rate and tyre selection, so the cut quality was the same across the board.

"This is a lightweight, fine cut mower which gives a perfect cut on our grass species. The Women's Open was held in July after a wash-out of a June and we had little time to

prepare the course, but the 7500AE is a confidence booster – it is a high quality mower that treads lightly and gives a great cut in all conditions.

"In addition to the specification of the machines and the setting up, Deere and Tuckwell provided a 24 hour service and stock a large selection of parts.

During the championship the 7500AEs all cut in one direction so there were no visible stripes.

"We didn't want to detract from the Marquess' inherent attributes. The course is the club's 'Jewel in the Crown' – without striping the undulations on the fairways and the greens stand out, and players and spectators can better appreciate its natural features. We didn't alter the cutting height of 10mm for the championship, but we did increase the frequency from three to four times a week to three to four times a day on the run in," said John.

## Synthetic turf machinery unveiled



The FA's St George's Park recently played host to a Charterhouse Turf Machinery press briefing for its range of synthetic turf machinery.

Redexim's Synthetic Product Specialist, Curtis Allen, gave an update on the range of machinery originally launched in 2006.

He explained how the range now spans 35 products covering the three main areas of synthetic maintenance; Brushing, Cleaning and Rejuvenation. The majority of new product developments, explained Curtis, had come from industry advancements and customer demands.

One machine being demonstrated by Curtis was the RTC brush. This is a combination of a tractor unit and brush for convenience and ease. This unit allows the operator to quickly and effectively brush surfaces as part of a regular maintenance regime.

The RTC brushes fold away to allow storage and access through gaps as narrow as 90cm.

Also shown were the Verti-Top cleaning unit and a sneak preview of the new Pedestrian Verti-Top which is currently in the UK for testing.

# Trinity Hall goes for Dennis for quick renovation turnaround



Andrew Myson, Head Gardener and Facilities Manager at Trinity Hall in Cambridge, is the proud new owner of the Dennis S500 Plus dual-purpose machine which features both interchangeable spiker and slotter reels.

Founded in 1350, Trinity Hall is the fifth oldest surviving College in the University of Cambridge and former students include the likes of Oscar-winning actress, Rachel Weisz; political journalist and broadcaster, Andrew Marr; former Prime Minister of Australia, Stanley Melbourne Bruce, as well as, theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking. The College has also seen

20 Olympians, including 15 medal winners. As you would expect, the College's gardens and sports facilities must be of the highest quality to cater for such a high calibre

of student. The College is also somewhat of a landmark, as Andrew explains.

"The most important part of my job is that I maintain the gardens and sports grounds to the highest possible standards in order to produce pleasant surroundings for the students to live in and to play on.

"The College also sees many visitors on a daily basis – the general public have access to it and we also have lots of conferences, weddings and various other events. Therefore it is imperative to keep the sites excellently presented and that can, at times, put pressure on us."

Andrew, and his six other members of staff, certainly have their work cut out in maintaining the College's four sites, so it is essential that he works with the best possible equipment. It is for this reason that he chooses Dennis.

"We have purchased Dennis and SISIS equipment previously and even though that was a few years ago the machines are still going strong and have never encountered any problems at all. The after-sales service is second to none as well. Whenever we may need new parts

we simply make a call and it's dealt with very quickly – it's all very swift and efficient.

"The Dennis and SISIS equipment has a great reputation and it is obvious that the machines are well made. I didn't even have a demonstration of the S500 PLUS because I had previously seen a couple in action and heard lots of good things about it from others who have the machine."

The S500 Plus is ideal for bowls, cricket, golf and other fine turf and ornamental lawn areas, this dual-purpose machine has a 510mm operating width complete with interchangeable spiker and slotter reels. The spiker reel punches through the 'surface pan' allowing air, water and fertiliser to penetrate the root zone, while the slotter reel creates ideal seed germination pockets thus reducing seed wastages. Using the optional seed box attachment will ensure grass seed is dropped onto the ground at the prescribed rate and brushed into the pockets.

"The main reason for purchasing the S500 PLUS was the ability to have a quick turnaround of the renovation of lawns. If we have a damaged area of lawn or an area that we need to thicken up, we can prepare it, slot it with the S500 PLUS, apply the seed, put on some topsoil and keep it irrigated. It just gives us the potential to get seed in the ground more quickly and more efficiently. We'll also be using it on sports fields such as football repair in goal mouth areas and any other over seeding. To be honest, it does everything we expected it to do – it's very easy to use, simple and straightforward to set-up.

"When we make any purchase there are a few factors we have to consider such as operator comfort and length of time using the equipment, so it is good to see a machine such as the S500 PLUS manufactured with those considerations in mind.

"The reality is that when you use it – it's a pleasurable machine to operate."

**'We'll also be using it on sports fields such as football repair in goal mouth areas. To be honest, it does everything we expected it to do – it's very easy to use.'**



# Five green installation is first of its kind



Following a successful funding application to Sport England, the historic Houghton-le-Spring Golf Club has launched a major new five green Huxley Golf installation – the first of its kind in the UK.

Huxley designed and supplied five all-weather greens to complement an existing natural green over the spring and summer of 2016 in readiness for autumn and winter play. Each green measures approximately 525 sq. yards but each is quite unique, embracing the characteristics of the natural landscape.

Huxley Golf Green Turf was used to create the greens, surrounding which natural grass was seeded. Three hole positions, ranging from 45 to 70 yards, were incorporated into each green. To complete the Club's new facilities on offer, a Huxley Golf double-bay practice net was installed close to the clubhouse for warm-up and practice.

Huxley Golf's Area Manager, Hugh Fraser, worked in partnership with the Club's greenkeeping team on the installation. "Moving over 500 tonnes of soil, substrate and hardcore and working with a 1:6 gradient, this installation was quite a challenge, but one that we all relished because we knew we were creating something quite brilliant! My challenge in designing the area was to both counteract and utilise the slopes. In doing so, we've created five greens that are challenging in their own right and yet together they create a harmonious look in keeping with the wonderful surrounding landscape."

Neil Fowler, Projects Manager at Houghton-le-Spring Golf Club, was delighted with the results.

"We would like to thank Huxley Golf for giving us a short game area to be proud of. We would have no hesitation in recommending Huxley Golf to other prospective clients who are looking for a similar service. I was particularly struck by their hard work and professionalism in guiding my own team to create a fantastic and unique new facility here at Houghton-le-Spring. We are delighted with the result and extremely confident that it will help our Club go from strength to strength by attracting new members and visitors who, after all, simply can't play on anything like it anywhere else in the UK".



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# Cricket club's pitch now one of best in area, thanks to Campey

Campey Turf Care Systems has provided invaluable support to Langley Cricket Club as their pitch has gone from not fit for purpose to one of the best in the area, following outfield drainage and development work on the square.

As with most clubs, hosting matches is vital for Langley Cricket Club, as it provides them with a means of revenue. With the old outfield as it was there were regular call offs, and a lack of training space made it very difficult to establish a youth section within the club.

The club realised the importance of being able to maintain the new surface once the first phase of work had been completed in October 2015, with the second phase starting in the middle of September.

After consulting Managing Director of Campey Turf Care, Richard Campey, they purchased a Sisis Comibrake, Turfman, Trio Rotorake, Dragbrush, Sarel Spiker, and Raycam Dragmat, which Langley Cricket Club Grants Officer Matt Stevens explained has kept the surface in fantastic condition, contributing heavily to the growth of the club.

"It's absolutely crucial for us to properly maintain all the work that's been carried out," he said.

"What we've done in conjunction with Richard and our groundsman is to identify the equipment needed to maintain that standard.

"This season the groundsman has been able to use all the right machinery to provide us with a very good playing surface, and we just wouldn't have been able to produce that standard of surface without it.

"Campey's has supported the project fully and as a result the grant



Campey Turf Care MD Richard Campey, left, and Langley CC's Matt Stevens

fundrers have been assured that the club has made some very good decisions in terms of equipment and what materials to use. And being able to provide such a positive report back to them, has really helped us."

With postponed matches and training the motivation behind the project, Matt wanted to make sure that this wasn't just a quick fix.

A main focus of carrying out the improvements was to build the youth set-up, and have the ability to carry out regular sessions to allow that to happen. "We were finding because our drainage had been in place for circa 40-50 years that it wasn't fit for purpose, and a lot of games were being cancelled due to the weather," Matt explained.

"As a club we have to host games to survive, so we took a stance and said we needed to do something about it.

"A lot of our junior practices take place on the outfield and we've only had two practices called off this year because of the weather. Ordinarily with the poor summer we've had, the count would have been eight to ten sessions. We've only started our junior section in the last two-years, and this project has enabled us to go from just six kids to now having over 50.

Before the second phase of work has even begun, Langley have seen a financial benefit through being able to host more games, and an infrastructure benefit through their youth cricket system.

Matt is keen to attribute the current growth of the club, to the work that has taken place, and with particular mention of the advice and assistance he received from Richard. He hopes the second phase of work will help the club grow further.

## Wentworth Golf Club opt for Classen sod cutters

Following consultation with golf construction specialists MJ Abbott Limited, renovation work has commenced at Wentworth, removing the turf and reseeding 18 of the greens and the putting green.

Over the years the MJ Abbott service portfolio has expanded to incorporate golf course construction, reconstruction and remodelling to complement their

landscaping and civil engineering specialist services. Adrian Abbott, Technical/Sales Director, specified six new Classen sod cutters for the removal of the turf on the greens at Wentworth in preparation for the reseeding. The new Classen machines feature short length and an integrated rear swivel wheel, making them more compact and manoeuvrable.

"We compared a number of sod cutters and the Classen came out on top as being more suitable for the fine turf areas. We found them altogether lighter than their competitors, while delivering a cleaner cut. We're very pleased with the results."

The blade on the Classen sod cutter is placed at the centre of the machine to ensure a more consistent cutting depth, with 20 cutting strokes per second.



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Head Groundsman  
Leicester City FC*

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# Phone app brings irrigation control into 21st century

As anyone who has gone through the process will know from start to finish choosing and installing an irrigation system can be a lengthy one. It can be complicated, fraught with issues and disruptive to the course and its members, but it doesn't have to be.

For Ramsdale Park, which has recently invested in a Toro Lynx control system with Flex 35 series sprinklers, it was a job made easy thanks to Toro UK distributor Reesink Turfcare and installer North Staffs Irrigation.

John Evans, Course Manager at Ramsdale Park, in Calverton, on the outskirts of Nottingham, tells us about his experience.

"We have two 18-hole courses here and needed a new irrigation system across both. The old one had PVC pipework, poor pressure, was prone to leaking and was generally taking us a lot of time to maintain and keep in reasonable condition to irrigate the courses correctly."

The process, which comprised of two phases, 130 new sprinklers, a new pump and all new pipework began in 2013 with the decision to use Toro.

"Toro is one of the preferred suppliers for the Burhill Group, which Ramsdale Park is part of; we use Toro machinery and other clubs in

the group also have Toro irrigation systems," said John.

But despite the size and scale of the project and while it obviously couldn't fail to impact on life at the course, peace of mind came from Reesink Turfcare and North Staffs Irrigation.

"You can never completely remove the stress that installing a new irrigation system brings to your course but working with the guys at Reesink and North Staffs Irrigation certainly made my job easier. They were very helpful and always on the end of the phone for advice. Choosing a system, installer and distributor are big decisions and I feel confident we made all the right ones. The system is reliable, efficient and easy to use and the process, which took two years, was as smooth as it could have been."

Plus, it's making the club big savings.

"It is 72 metres from the pumps to the highest point on the course and 27 of the 36 holes are at roughly the same height as the pumps so we have pressure regulators in key areas to ensure we have an even amount of pressure throughout the system, this means it's a far more efficient way of watering than before. Proof of that comes from its first full season in 2015 when we achieved a 40 percent

reduction in water usage."

John's job is now so much simpler and even improved his home life...

"The operation of the system whether from an app on my phone or the computer saves so much time; I can turn the system on or off from home should I need to, in seconds. Previously I would've made a trip into work in the evening or at weekends, I can now control water application wherever I am. One Friday I set the irrigation to apply 1.5mm for the weekend, based on the weather forecast, unfortunately it was wrong! We had a scorching weekend so literally at the press of a few buttons I doubled the percentage of water put down. It is so convenient."

**'Choosing a system, installer and distributor are big decisions and I feel confident we made all the right ones.'**

# Wisley's double celebration

This year, The Wisley Golf Club, near Leatherhead, celebrates its 25-year anniversary; an anniversary mirrored by a 25-year relationship with Toro, which is now set to continue thanks to a recent renewal agreement.

As one of the world's most revered private member golf clubs, originally designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jnr, The Wisley has maintained its fairways with Toro since it opened in 1991.

Now, as the Surrey-based club enjoys its quarter of a century celebrations, its Toro fleet is set to grow having just signed a new five year agreement with turfcare specialists and Toro distributors Reesink Turfcare.

"The club has always had a good relationship with Toro in its 25-year history," said Director of Greens, John Lockyer, who heads up a 39-strong greenkeeping team.

"We're currently deciding what our first order under the new agreement will be, but it is likely to be mowing equipment and sprayers."

With a high agronomic profile, having previously worked for the STRI and Roehampton Club, John joined The Wisley 18 months ago to



drive high standards on the greens and fairways; a feat he has been able to achieve with help from Toro machinery.

"I have a 26 year-career in greenkeeping, through which I've managed many different fleets, but I still come back to Toro," he says.

Although the club has a long history using Toro, John says he and

his team still assessed the competition when the time for renewal arose.

"We looked carefully at competitive machines and did trials to ensure we're getting the best in for the job. We found Toro to outperform others with what they could offer in terms of cost, performance, reliability, support network, and depth of product range," he explained.

## SISIS Osca is pitch perfect for the 'Accies'

William Watson, Head Groundsman at Hamilton Academical FC, believes that his SISIS Osca has helped the synthetic pitch at the Superseal Stadium stand up to the rigours of an extensive amount of playing time.

William, who started as an apprentice groundsman at the 'Accies' eight years ago, now finds himself in the top seat. Throughout his time he has witnessed the club promoted to the Scottish Premier League and seen the pitch transform from a synthetic surface into natural grass and then back to synthetic once more.

Hamilton Academical along with Kilmarnock FC are the only two clubs in the Scottish Premier League to have synthetic surfaces, and the surfaces are not only played on by the first team but is also used by the youth teams. But as William explained, the amount of playing time can take its toll.

"We have six or seven hours of

play each day on this pitch and quite honestly it's a lot for the pitch to take. It can bring challenges with that amount of play - some of the areas can compact a little sometimes especially in the goal mouths. Fortunately though, we've got the correct equipment in place to ensure we have no major problems."

The TigerTurf surface, which was custom built for the club, was installed to the required FIFA 2 star standard and to help William keep it in excellent condition he relies upon the SISIS Osca. The SISIS Osca is a tractor mounted powered oscillating brush with a 1.9 metre working width and is equally effective when used on synthetic turf with sand or rubber infill.

"We've had the Osca for six months now and I'd say that it is the best piece of kit we've got here," says William. "We'll use it approximately four times a week - which some people may think is a lot, but for the amount of play we

have here, it's what we need. It works well in helping to get the pile to stand back up and I can honestly say it's made a massive difference to our maintenance programme.

"With the Osca you can get in deep without actually damaging anything - it's just perfect."

With the pitch at the Superseal stadium having been awarded the FIFA 2 star rating, a series of stringent field tests are carried out to ensure that the quality never falters. 'Ball roll' is one of the tests in which the distance that the ball rolls over the surface is measured and according to William, the SISIS Osca has helped him pass these tests with flying colours.

"In Scotland we receive random tests four times a year where they turn up out of the blue. I'm confident that with the help of the SISIS Osca we will continue to pass the tests all the time that we are using this machine."





# The Bayer Turf Solutions team

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# Tea Break Teaser

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1. Who plays their home matches at Cappelow Park?
2. What is the name of Brighton and Hove Albion's stadium?
3. Who calls Proact Stadium home?
4. What is the name of West Bromwich Albion's ground?
5. Which rugby team plays at Scotstoun?
6. Where do Hampshire County Cricket Club play their home games?
7. Which football club plays at the DW Stadium?
8. What is the name of Partick Thistle's ground?
9. Who calls the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium home?
10. Where do Leicester Tigers play their home games?
11. Which club plays its matches at Anfield?
12. Where do AFC Bournemouth play their home matches?
13. Who calls Liberty Stadium home?
14. Where do Brentford FC play their football?
15. Who play at Gayfield Park?

■ *Answers on Page 35.*

# Sustainable savings at the Island Golf Club

From Preston to Paris to Ostend: Dave Edmondson's 20 year greenkeeping career spans the prestigious Saint-Nom-la-Bretèche, Royal Ostend and, as of 2012, The Island Golf Club in Donabate—where today, he heads up a team of eight lads, as Links Superintendent.

Known for its epic, amphitheatre like sand dunes - "The best course in Ireland, you've never heard of" - draws around 35,000 rounds of golf every year, particularly from international tourists attracted to its rugged beauty and true links conditions – for many, both an exciting novelty and a luxury.

We asked Dave to explain how a links club, which prides itself on its fine surfaces, manages to keep everyone happy, despite its location on an isolated peninsula-like spur of land.

"We get a lot of play, even in winter. Also, springs are challenging. We get north easterly winds that can kick around for six or seven weeks, holding growth back. We're a way away from the natural water table too, so we dry out much faster than the majority of links courses," explained Dave.

"We get round this by using a lot of quality seed with drought



resistant cultivars. In our case Barenbrug's BAR FESCUE, which includes the number one-ranked slender creeping and Chewings red fescues, Viktorka and Barlineus.

"We also use wetting agents to hold a bit of moisture in our sandy profile—a couple of applications a year on fairways and monthly applications on greens, tees and surrounds between April and September. Also, the local water has very high bicarbonate and PH levels, so we treat it to get better results. We keep our irrigation system dialled in, though we tend not to need to use it too much."

On his maintenance programme, Dave is confident that he gets

the best possible results.

"Every spring, we put about 200kg of BAR FESCUE into the greens, then continue to drip seed it in on a monthly basis, to keep that seed bank topped up—and to keep adding more desirable grasses into the sward.

"We'll do that through August, and then carry out overseeding during maintenance week. We usually solid tine with a 10mm tine to 10mm depth, broadcast the seed; astro drag mat it into the surfaces, then give it a heavy top dressing and another astro drag mat. Then we roll it. Irrigation comes next; where we apply one or two ml of water every night, until we get seed germination. It's a great method to get seed planted and then established in to the existing turf grass canopy."

Eamonn Maguire, of Greentech Sportsturf Ireland, Barenbrug suppliers to the club, has helped Dave reach the level of quality he has.

"Over the last four years, Dave has been changing the botanic species golf course. The overall aim is to establish a more sustainable botanical composition. This is being







achieved using BAR FESCUE on the greens surfaces. By making the greens fescue dominant, a truer putting surface is being achieved and the inputs required to maintain these surfaces are greatly reduced.”

Dave is keen that the knowledge and experience he has picked up is used by others in similar positions.

“Try to do your overseeding at the optimum time for seed germination. Likewise for surface recovery. High quality seed is an investment for golf clubs, so why plant it outside optimum germination and establishment periods?”

“It’s important to make members aware of your goals, long term. Scheduled maintenance windows in the club fixture list—where essential works such as overseeding, aeration and topdressing can be carried out—are fantastic. Recovery will be better and results improved. It’s amazing how quick surfaces can be reinstated after carrying out works in ideal conditions,” he advised.

“As we know, fescue grasses provide true links playing characteristics. But from a sustainable standpoint, they also require less water, less fertiliser, less chemicals, and less intense management and disruption. But more importantly, by using BAR FESCUE, we know the course is going to perform to standard, without question.”

“When I first started, they were doing four fungicide sprays a year on the greens. However, as we continue to increase desirable fescue populations, we just don’t get any disease on the green.

“We use very little herbicide and minimal fertiliser. We now apply 35kg per hectare of nitrogen on greens, per year. And we don’t have to use a great deal of water, because we’re growing drought resistant grasses. So we can let the course dry out a little bit, and members get to enjoy true firm links conditions.”

On the subject of mowing Dave is also worth a listen.

“We mow the fairways once a week in the summer – once growth slows down. This makes for big savings on wear and tear to machines, and of course fuel. With less intense management, my team can concentrate on other tasks that help to raise the standard of the overall facility.”

He is also quick to credit Barenbrug for their assistance during the last four years.

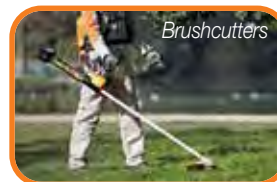
“I’d like to emphasise the importance of technical support for greenkeepers. Barenbrug does a lot of research and seed trials and the wealth of information they hold is huge. The best way to make the most of it and make it relevant to you, is to get in front of the people doing that research. Dr David Greenshields and Phil Dick visit us a couple of times a year, and their advice is invaluable. It’s a great free resource—and I urge people to take advantage of it.”

# High on Power... Low on CO<sub>2</sub>

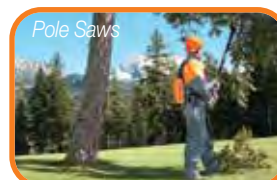
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# PIP starts to see fruits of success

A year on from the launch of The FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) the four year, £8 million scheme with the aim of improving 2000 grassroots level pitches by 2019 – it's clear that a host of football and sports clubs, as well as state schools, are seeing the fruits of PIP's success.

Clay Cross Town FC is one such club to benefit. Volunteer Head Groundsman, Lee Watson, describes himself as the "happiest man in the world" after he successfully received consumables and machinery through The FA PIP.

The club's Mill Lane Ground was established 27 years ago and hosts around 65 to 70 games a year, plus training for the Clay Cross Town FC home team and an under 9's squad. The club, changing their name from Parkhouse FC in 2012, has a main pitch and one training ground. Bringing in money is the biggest challenge for the club, which includes renting the pitch out to other teams such as Chesterfield, with Lee ordinarily only having a

maintenance budget of £1000 a year.

Lee's been in the industry for nine years and took over after the previous Head Groundsman retired at the age of 80. He dedicates 25-30 hours a week to the club, also assisted by his step children, while still holding down a full time job!

Lee's hard work and dedication has seen him awarded 2015 National FA Groundsman of the Year, Derbyshire County FA Groundsman of the Year in 2016 and he's just been shortlisted for the Volunteer Sports Groundsman of the Year at the upcoming IOG awards.

"In this job we face so many challenges, and not just those at pitch level – the main one being bringing money into the club. We have a tote, café and the gate money which really only covers overheads and fees. We survive on a week to week basis," explained Lee.

Because of this, Lee tries his best to avoid postponing games but with limited resources, it has been a necessary evil in previous years.

"Everyone wants to play and every game cancelled means lost revenue but playing causes me two to three weeks of repair work to get the pitch play-ready again, and we just didn't have the resources to cope."

He first heard about the FA PIP at the 2015 IOG Industry Awards and then attended a workshop held in conjunction with Derbyshire

County FA. "At the event, it was evident it's about more than just products and machinery, it's the start of a network. I had the chance to interact with other groundsman like myself, and speak with industry experts and suppliers where I received so much guidance and advice. Keely Brown at Derbyshire FA was great and supported me through the application process."

Lee's submission was successful and he was the recipient of Delta and Fine Turf fertiliser, R14 rye grass seed, a spreader and chemicals from Rigby Taylor; an Allett C34 Mower & Redexim Multisport from Charterhouse Turf Machinery, the programme's approved suppliers.

"Now we're in the programme not only do we have access to a wealth of advice and support but there's also the obvious benefit of improvements to our surface. It's come on leaps and bounds. It drains so much better, the coverage has improved and we have tackled the weed invasion we previously had from the neighbouring fields. Considering before the programme we didn't conduct renovations or even apply fertiliser because we couldn't afford to, the players now call the surface a carpet it's so good!"

The improved facilities have seen the pitch in use more frequently which Lee hopes will kick-start improvements at the club which will in turn bring in more money and all the other associated benefits.

Those interested in the scheme should contact their regional FA to find the next PIP workshop, facilitated by Charterhouse Turf Machinery, Rigby Taylor and the IOG.

**Above: The pitch at Clay Cross Town. Below: Lee Watson with step-daughter and assistant Groundsman Ashleigh White, Phil Dewhurst from Rigby Taylor and Curtis Allen of Charterhouse Turf Machinery**







# SALTEX

**Amenity.** This sector is huge at Saltex with many groundsmen working within it and companies servicing it.

**Birmingham.** The new Windsor and host to Saltex since 2015

**Car parking.** Isn't it so much easier on concrete rather than muddy grass!

**Demonstrations.** Nothing better than learning first hand what a piece of machinery can do for you and you will return to your place of work with some great ideas to pass on to the powers-that-be.

**Exhibitors.** Over 260 of them will be at Saltex 2016 and they are enjoying the space that the NEC affords and that they no longer have to bring umbrellas and wellies as part of their regular kit.

**FA.** The Football Association which is now funding pitch maintenance to a much greater degree than before.

**Groundsmen.** It's all about you. Your annual get together and an opportunity to share experiences and ideas over a pint with friends and colleagues.

**Harrogate.** BIGGA's version every January which gives golf greenkeepers their education and social fix for the rest of the year.

**I.O.G.** The body which pulls it all together and which offers professional and amateur groundsmen alike business development and opportunities.

**Jeff Webb.** Yes I know it's Geoff, the IOG supremo who piloted the move to Birmingham, but I couldn't lose Groundsmen or Windsor from the A-Z.

**Keynes (Milton).** Home of the IOG

**Lee Nelson.** The star turn at the annual awards dinner and sure to have a word about the great work that groundsmen carry out around the country!

**Machinery.** If you want to see what will be helping you to carry out your job in the future the latest machinery innovations will be on display

**NEC Birmingham.** Saltex's new home and a purpose build exhibition centre which fits the needs of the show perfectly – even if it's not quite as attractive as Windsor Racecourse.

**Outdoor.** It may be an indoor exhibition these days but 2016 will see outdoor demonstrations – so stick your coat in the car!







**Peterborough.** Even before my time but Peterborough was the venue for Saltex many moons ago.

**Queues.** To be avoided if you plan ahead and pre-register.

**Rain.** Let it. It can rain all day if it likes, we might not even know.

**Sport.** Many many sports required groundsman to make it possible and recognition of this fact is vital in ensuring that sufficient resources go towards ensuring sport continues to play an important part in the lives of everyone

**The Thames.** Ah we all miss Old Father Thames and being able to take the water taxi to the racecourse on a sunny autumn morning.

**U**fdsmkbgkdfgjnbfdkbn fjdnb jkdfnb kjfdn bkfdnbkjdf

**V**fdbjhvkdbshivjkdnybcksdvb dksbv dsknvd skvds

**Windsor.** Many happy years were spent wandering furlongs trying to work out where was C27 or H3 from the almost indecipherable show map.

**Xcited** (allow me a little latitude here!) The people who are nominated in the annual Awards. Even being shortlisted is a huge career boost, but to win, means you've been recognised as a leading light in your field.

**Young Groundsmen Seminar.** A wonderful innovation in recent years proving that groundsmanship is a rewarding career for people of all ages.

**ZZZs.** Sleep will be required by everyone who has spend a full two days at Saltex 2016.



**SALTEx**  
.....  
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**PAGES**  
**28-31**





# Grounds on a mission



In a Turf Matters exclusive, Leicester City FC Grounds Manager, John Ledwidge, speaks openly about his iconic pitch designs, raising the profile of the industry and hits back against the criticism.





# man n







In one of the greatest sporting stories of all time, Leicester City were crowned champions of the 2015/16 Premier League title. However it was not just the players who received all the plaudits – the level of groundsmanship put into the pitch at the King Power Stadium certainly matched the efforts of the team itself. In fact, John Ledwidge and his team's pitch designs and artistry week on week, amazed both fans and media across the country and beyond.

Social media became a frenzy with delighted spectators praising the intricate designs – with some calling for John to receive a knighthood; one Twitter user posted a Tweet which read, "Forget Vardy, Mahrez and Kante – the Head Groundsman at Leicester is the real hero of their season"; another claimed that the groundsmen were a "group of artists

and the pitch had been their canvas all season"; while one disgruntled Manchester United fan believed that it was "Sad how the Leicester City ground staff have more creativity than the entire United team."

"It was a fairytale story for all concerned and we were part of that," said John.

"For me I felt that it presented an ideal marketing opportunity. We're on the biggest stage in the world in the Premier League, we're at the top of the league, and we're making this fairytale story so why shouldn't groundsmanship be part of that? We got a mention in the New York Times recently, and the fact that groundsmanship is being recognised within a published article about the club and its successful season – is great in my opinion."

It's hard to disagree with – without

groundsmen the players wouldn't have their stage to perform on in front of millions of adoring fans. It is also worth considering the amount of work that goes into these pitches to ensure that multi-million pound players can complete a 90-minute game on a safe surface. Holidays and time off is somewhat of a rarity in the groundsmanship industry. More than often, groundsman are the first to enter the premises in the morning dusk and the last to leave as daylight is fading. Then there is Christmas to consider – while most of us are wrapped up warmly in dressing gowns and slippers opening presents with our loved ones, the majority of groundsman will be out in the frost preparing pitches for the notorious Boxing Day fixtures.

Therefore, it seems only right that groundsmanship is commended and





**“My lads are a creative bunch and if the main core of the pitch is in good shape then I have no objections at all to patterns. It’s got people talking about the industry and that was always the goal.”**



recognised as part of the beautiful game. However, for all the positive comments about Leicester City’s pitch designs, there has also been crumbs of negativity – mainly from fellow groundsmen. Their main gripe was in suggesting that John has too much time on his hands and that perhaps the grounds team are over staffed. Others suggested that it might put unnecessary pressure on groundsmen to produce the same kind of pitch designs and there were some who even claimed that it could cause a hindrance to referees and linesmen.

“The pitch designs have had more negativity within our own industry which I found really surprising,” said John.

“I believe that the pitch has been in good condition and it consistently was throughout last season when we were doing the designs. My lads are a

creative bunch and if the main core of the pitch is in good shape then I have no objections at all to patterns. It’s got people talking about the industry and that was always the goal.”

“The goal isn’t about me and it isn’t about the football club – it’s about putting groundsman on more of a platform and you only have to look at the media coverage that we received to see that it did its job. What I didn’t want it to be was a “look at me” exercise, I wanted it to showcase what a groundsman is capable of. I saw the opportunity for us to market ourselves and market groundsman on the back of the team’s success, and surely that’s just forward thinking.

“People are quick to moan about salaries and this and that but if we don’t have a presence in the media and have people talking about us – then things will never change.”

**Top left:  
John and his  
assistant take  
delivery of  
their new  
Dennis G34D**

According to The Guardian, the average salary for a Groundsman is £17,061 per year, which some would suggest is incredibly low for the amount of work that goes into groundsman. Mark Perrin, former Head Groundsman of Crystal Palace, once said, “If I had £1 for every time someone asked me if I just watch the games and cut the grass, I’d be worth a fortune.”

Of course, ensuring that the pitch is playable remains the main task, including renovations each summer which is not helped by the club holding hospitality events on it as well as pre-season friendlies. Then there are also plenty of other integral jobs which include keeping the grass the correct length, watering and rolling it, and ensuring it doesn’t freeze or dry out. The job is as much about turf nutrition as it

# **“If all these little things help the cause then we will continue to go and put patterns on the pitch.”**

► is anything else. Groundsmen need to have the ability to know when and what fertiliser to use, aeration, microbial activity and grass seeds – to name but a few. Unfortunately Mark Perrin’s comment hit the nail on the head and perhaps more work is needed to show that being a groundsman is as much about being a scientist as he is a ‘grass-cutter.’

“We need to push ourselves more. Although patterns aren’t necessarily pushing ourselves more, because people have been doing it way before me and people will long continue to do it after I’ve finished my career, but the fact of the matter is that we have to think of ways to make people talk about what we do in a positive way,” argued John.

“Behind all the patterns, and what people may consider as showmanship, is a lot of hard work – a lot of pumping the message to a lot of people about groundsmanship and the patterns have opened the door for me to do that and to champion groundsmanship. In turn it has gained more respect, gained more professionalism and over time, hopefully it will put us on a platform where people are willing to pay us more money.”

“If all these little things help the cause then we will continue to go and put patterns on the pitch. Sometimes if we’ve had a lot of games then we might not have the time to do it, but if we can then why not?”

“I think some people think that I’ve made it harder work for them, but I always think it is how you look



at situations. Some people will say ‘we’re at a local authority or a school and we want a pitch like Leicester’s.’ For me, that isn’t a bad thing because then I’d go and say that ‘to get a pitch like Leicester’s you need to give me some more money,’ and therefore can you invest in some money for your department and if that extra money gets you drainage work or some feed then it’s had a positive effect.

“The bottom line is, we put a pattern on the pitch and people think it looks good which helps when you ask for more budget. If that’s what it takes to get the money then so be it. It’s worked here because year on year, we’ve had substantial investment. Since I’ve come in we’ve spent over £3m on constructing pitches at the training ground, we’ve spent over half a million on machinery and we’ve restructured the whole department, we’ve put a new organisational structure in and everyone’s had

a pay rise. So is it working? You ask yourself the question.

“I’m not saying it’s all because of patterns – what I’m saying is that all these things contribute to us being held in a higher regard. I don’t do it for me, I do it for the department and then in turn, do it for the industry.

“Groundsmanship in this country is held in very high regard all over the world, regardless of pitch patterns, but I think it’s been escalated by what we did last year and the media coverage we received. If the team hadn’t have won the league, maybe we wouldn’t have had as much coverage but even still I think there’d have been an escalation of interest.

“I think the problem is, that a lot of groundsmen don’t have that attribute of seeing an opportunity and seizing it and in turn raising the profile of the industry. When you’re portraying yourself in public you need to put the best foot forward so that





you create an image and a reputation for yourself and the industry that's going to make us better."

Some will agree, some may not, but one thing is certain – John is extremely passionate about the industry he works in. From facilitating educational days for school children to working alongside the Young IOG (Institute of Groundsmanship) board of directors in encouraging young people into the industry – John is a proud and pro-active groundsman.

It is inevitable that some will point to showmanship. If ever there was a case of a celebrity groundsman then John fits the bill – aside from a large social media following, the public are starting to point and recognise John as he walks the high streets of Leicester. Although autographs and 'selfies' are not, as of yet, part and parcel of his role, how much of this new found fame plays a part in John's pitch patterns?

"Of course there is always an

element of wanting to put myself and my team on the map – I'm ambitious and so are the guys I work with," says John. "Ultimately I am doing it for the greater good: it's not about me, it's about all of us.

"I think the more that groundsmanship evolves, the more we need to drag ourselves out the doldrums of years gone by and push ourselves into the 21st century. We need to realise that we've got to capitalise on opportunities that are put in front of us, and not sit there moaning about what everyone else is doing around us."



# A positive future for Saltex

When the IOG Board of Directors, and their CEO, Geoff Webb, made the decision to move Saltex from its long time home of Windsor Racecourse in early September to the NEC in Birmingham two months later in the year it could have been considered a gamble.

Yes, the last few years at Windsor had seen a noticeable decline in visitor numbers and exhibitors for a number of reasons, but as with many things the status quo would have been regarded as the safer option – let's tinker with the Show, see if we can ride out this downturn, and come back galloping in a couple of years.

But to take such a radical decision, which also included reducing the show to two days rather than three, showed courage and by the evidence of what was achieved in 2015 that brave move paid off handsomely. Saltex 2015 by most any measure was a success and laid the foundations for a positive future for this mainstay in the diary of this country's turf professionals.

The high ceilings and wide aisles of the Conference Centre were ideally suited to the large pieces of kit exhibited by the machinery manufacturers while the weather outside was a complete irrelevance.

This year will undoubtedly see more progress for Saltex with whatever inevitable wrinkles exposed during the first year at a new venue smoothed out and more familiarity with surroundings for exhibitors and visitors alike.

We look forward to an excellent couple of days.

**Scott MacCallum**



# SALTEX IS GROWING

SALTEX 2016's improved show features and unrivalled industry support are set to work together to create the most exciting groundscare event to date when the doors to halls 6, 7 and 8 open at the NEC, Birmingham on November 2 and 3.

## MORE EXHIBITORS

Over 280 exhibitors from a diverse range of grounds management sectors have confirmed for SALTEX 2016. The exhibition will see a plethora of exhibitors representing the likes of forestry, play, groundscare machinery, artificial surfaces, natural turf, landscaping products, pest control, line marking, waste management, sports equipment and many, many more.

## INCREASED EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Show organisers have commissioned an extra seminar theatre for SALTEX 2016 in order to expand the number of presentations across the two days. Learning LIVE will now see four purpose-built seminar theatres with state-of-the-art sound systems and screens featuring a greater depth of content and quality.

There will be a number of expert speakers from the UK and abroad focusing on issues that surround the industry and visitors can expect to hear from the likes of Alan Ferguson (St George's Park); Darren Baldwin (Tottenham Hotspur FC); Dougie Robertson (West Ham United FC); David Roberts (Liverpool FC); Jonathan Calderwood (Paris Saint-Germain FC); Tony Stones (Stade de France); Reece Watson (Arsenal FC); Weston Appelfeller (Major League Soccer team Columbus Crew); Jim Dawson (BT Murrayfield); Keith Kent (Twickenham); Neil Stubley (AELTC – Wimbledon); Steve Chappell (PGA Centenary Golf Course at the Gleneagles Hotel) and many, many more.

## NEW FOR 2016 – OUTDOOR DEMONSTRATIONS

Based on SALTEX 2015 post-show feedback surveys, show organisers have made the decision to bring back outdoor working demonstrations, which will take place on a grass area directly outside the SALTEX halls 6, 7 and 8 and will provide visitors with an opportunity of seeing a number of products in action.

## NEW FOR 2016 – PATHOLOGY & SOIL SCIENCE LIVE

The Pathology & Soil Science LIVE area will be located on the IOG Hub (stand number

C180) from 11am to 1pm each day and will allow visitors to look in detail at the symptoms of some common turfgrass fungal disease problems, as infected plants are magnified and displayed on a large screen. Turfgrass roots that are infected with plant parasitic nematodes will also be shown in order to demonstrate the way in which these parasites can affect root development and function. During this informal demonstration, short video clips will also be shown to allow visitors to see both fungi and plant parasitic nematodes in greater detail.

Pathology & Soil Science LIVE will be hosted by renowned turf consultant Alex Vickers and MD of the Turf Disease Centre Kate Entwistle.

## THE YOUNG GROUNDSMEN'S CONFERENCE

2016 will see the Young Groundsmen's Conference, sponsored by Rigby Taylor/Top Green and organised by the (Institute of Groundsmanship's (IOG) Young Board of Directors, integrated into the Learning LIVE programme on the show floor. The conference will be an ideal opportunity for young people looking to advance their career in the groundscare industry, and will offer information on educational opportunities, a guide to what some of the top grounds managers are looking for in a young recruit, and the chance to hear from industry professionals working at some of the most elite venues in the world.

## THE IOG INDUSTRY AWARDS

SALTEX will once again be combined with the IOG's annual Industry Awards dinner. Held on the evening of the first day (2 November) at the National Motorcycle Museum, which is near to the NEC, the event will be hosted by talkSPORT Radio's Mark Saggers.

## GETTING TO SALTEX

The NEC is situated eight miles east of Birmingham city centre; its central location ensures it is at the hub of the UK motorway network. Visitors from any direction can travel to The NEC site directly using the following motorways – M1, M5, M6, M6 Toll, M40 and M42.

The NEC is just minutes from Birmingham International Airport. Once you've landed you can either walk and follow signs to the SkyRail Link, which is free and has a travel time of 90 seconds, or get a taxi which you will be able to find outside of the passenger terminals.





## BAYER (A085)

Bayer (A085) Sustainable best practice is high on the agenda for the Bayer Turf and Amenity Solutions Team, and underlining its commitment to environmental best practice, the company will showcase two new solutions that promise to ensure more responsible use of chemicals.

The two new solutions Bayer will be displaying can be used in both the vegetation management and the sports turf sectors, and will be on show on their stand.

The first solution Bayer is showcasing is the easyFlow, which is designed to improve operator safety when tank mixing or filling, and is the first closed, contamination-avoiding, self-cleaning transfer system for liquid plant protection products on the market.

The second solution that Bayer is showcasing is the Phytobac - a closed system treatment disposal unit, similar to a bio-bed, that is used to safely dispose of chemicals and waste water from washing down spraying equipment. The system encourages best practise and will help golf courses to follow pesticide stewardship guidelines.

Visitors to Saltex will be able to speak to the Turf and Amenity Solutions team about these initiatives as well as other stewardship topics such as integrated pest and disease management, the best practices to employ to reduce resistance, and advice on selecting and using appropriate products

## DENNIS AND SISIS (E070)

The joint stand of Dennis and SISIS (E070) will feature a vast array of world-class turf maintenance equipment when the exhibition opens its doors.

Among the line-up from the British manufacturers is the SISIS Javelin Aer-Aid 1500, a tractor mounted vertical action air injection aerator.

Visitors will also get the opportunity to see two top performance pedestrian scarifiers in the form of the Rotorake 600HD and the Auto Rotorake MK5 - which comes with range of interchangeable reels. Two slitters can be seen with the Autoslit (pedestrian) and the Multislit (tractor mounted) which both offer deep, clean penetration with minimal surface marking.



Flying the flag for Dennis will be the G860 which comes with an extensive range of unique features and benefits. With the interchangeable cassette system; the user has the option of fitting 11 quick changeover cassette including scarifiers, verticutters, brushes, spikers, and slitters as well as 6 or 8 bladed cutter cassettes.

Dennis and SISIS' experienced and knowledgeable members of staff will also be on hand to offer valuable advice about specific turf maintenance programmes and all visitors to the stand will be able to get their hands on the new product brochures.



## ETESIA (C050)

Etesia (C050) will be launching a new weeding brush attachment on which is available for Etesia Hydro 124 models, for the safe removal of moss and weeds without the use of chemicals.

If you have weeds, algae or moss on your surface then prevention is preferable and regular sweeping will help to achieve this. The ten-brush MBR 124 gives users an environmentally-

friendly alternative to using harmful chemicals.

Etesia has always been at the forefront of green innovation. That is why today, to better respond to new legislation on the safe use of chemicals, the company embarked on the development of an ecological accessory.

Areas of use include: Driveways, car parks, paths and walk ways, roads and industrial parks.

Visitors to the stand will also be able to view a range of pedestrian and ride-on rotary mowers and the Attila range of brushcutters. New product brochures will also be available.

## ADVANCED TURF TECHNOLOGY (F041)

Advanced Turf Technology (F041) will be returning to the Show with a new location and bigger stand complete with their range of turf maintenance products. Following on from the 30" version of their popular INFiNiSystem, is the recently launched INFiNiSystem34 alongside a range of cassettes from their flagship product, the TMSystem.

The INFiNiSystem34 bring new performance to sports turf with much more functionality than any other wide pitch mower. The unique floating head mechanism offers a precision cut and results in fantastic panelling as well as reducing overall ground pressure - advantageous on semi synthetic pitches such as Desso Grassmaster - without affecting striping.

The ATT TMSystem consists of a range of 10 SMART cassettes which enable different maintenance activities to take place - aeration, brushing, de-thatching, scarifying, top dressing, grooming, levelling and mowing. For the sports turf market, the TMSystem unlocks the full potential of John Deere, Toro or Jacobsen fairway or triple greens mowers by using the appropriate chassis adaptor kit to replace OEM cutting reels with ones specific to applications.



## ICL (H030)

ICL (H030) will be featuring a number of exciting new products for both the turf and landscape/industrial sectors.

Leading the way in offering the very best in product innovation, ICL will be showcasing new products in their Vitalnova range of biostimulants and turf conditioners.

The ICL stand will also be featuring the new Landscaper Pro range. The range features the products that professional landscapers and gardeners can use to help meet the demands of modern day lawn and landscape management.

As well as showcasing a number of new unique products, the ICL technical team will be on hand to talk all things turf and landscape. Whether you are seeking advice on combating diseases, generally looking to improve your turf or landscape areas or have any other questions about your maintenance programmes then ensure that a visit to the ICL stand is on your agenda.



## DLF/JOHNSONS SPORT SEED (J100)

DLF/Johnsons Sports Seed (J100). Following its UK launch at BTME, the new ProNitro® coated seed will be the real highlight on the stand. Visitors will be able to witness a demonstrational video of ProNitro® in action and speak to DLF's technical product managers about any element of seed and turf management. They ▶

► will also be launching the latest in the ProNitro® range of Johnsons Sports Seed mixtures, J Nitro 4Turf.

Thanks to its rapid establishment, improved colour and enhanced disease resistance the 2016 formulation of Johnsons J 4Turf tetraploid ryegrass delivered successful results for Groundsmen around the country this spring.

DLF are also to proud once again be sponsoring the Groundsman of the Year award at the annual IOG Industry awards ceremony, held in conjunction with Saltex.

### COMPLETE WEED CONTROL (E053)

Complete Weed Control (E053) Visitors will not only be able to find out more about the company's extensive range of specialist services but will also be left astonished by a world-class magician and mind-reader.

With an extensive range of services available including



moss control, weed control and disease management it's no wonder that so many are turning to Complete Weed Control for a complete solution. The company has since reached new heights by launching a new service - Complete Grounds Maintenance.

As the winter months approach, visitors can also find out more information about Complete Ice Control - which was formed in response to the overwhelming need for a professional, reliable and trusted local gritting service to deal with snow and ice worries using the best tools and technology available.

Renowned magician and mind-reader Robert Fox will be performing live throughout the two day event on the stand.

### LIMAGRAIN UK (H037)

Limagrain UK (H037) will be showcasing its range of grass seed mixtures, including the market leading MM60 and MM50, on their larger stand.

MM is one of the most respected brands in the UK sportsturf and amenity industries and is relied upon at top sports grounds throughout the UK and beyond.

MM60 is a 100% Ryegrass formula and the UK's leading winter sports renovation mixture which is also perfect for divot repair.

MM50 is ideal for cricket squares, tennis courts, tees, fairways, outfields and even golf greens.

If you are seeking advice for your natural turf projects - no matter how big or small, then pay a visit to stand number H037 and speak to one of the Limagrain amenity specialists.



will be interested in finding out more about NemaFlo - a unique carrier to be used in conjunction with beneficial nematode products such as Sherriff Amenity's Sportnem-H and Sportnem T.



### BRANSON (K180)

Branson (K180) This year's Saltex marks the first 'Birthday' for Branson Tractors UK who launched the Branson range of compact tractors at last year's show.

Branson Tractors UK have now appointed 28 dealers throughout the UK with Jenkin's Garden Machinery of South Wales becoming the latest to take on the brand. Branson will be showing the latest addition to their growing groundcare range - the 60hp 6225Ch - based on their '25' series platform, this low weight, high horsepower machine is the perfect choice for turf professionals.

Within 12 months Branson Tractors have established their place in the groundcare compact tractor market; with high spec, professional tractors that will not break the bank.

### Kubota UK (G080)

Kubota UK (G080) is showcasing its extensive range of groundcare machinery accompanied by its industry-renowned engines.

Taking centre stage will be the ever-popular L-Series, mid-range utility tractor range, which offer the perfect blend of power, versatility and functionality.



### SHERRIFF AMENITY (E060)

Sherriff Amenity (E060) will be launching a number of new products, offering a range of special show offers and giving away free prizes.

The main attraction will be without doubt the launch of the company's new E<sup>2</sup> Pro range of liquid & soluble fertilisers as well as the launch of NemaFlo - a unique product to be used with beneficial nematode biological pest control product.

The E<sup>2</sup> Pro liquid fertiliser range is based on advanced formulation technology that provides rapid leaf penetration and quickly relieves nutrient deficiency symptoms.

A range of high quality water soluble fertilisers, E<sup>2</sup> Pro Soluble features five different products with a broad NPK analysis to cover a whole host of nutrient requirements.

Those experiencing unwanted pests in their turf such as Leatherjackets and Chafer Grubs,

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Customers wishing to purchase Kubota's high end L40 Series range at the show will be able to take advantage of the innovative extended warranty programme through Kubota Care.

The stand will also host a range of compact tractors, out-front mowers, and RTV's for visitors to explore.

Kubota UK's Engines division will also be on display with its leading WG Series; WG1605 and WG2503 spark ignited alternative fuel engines, V3800 industrial diesel engine, the V3307 diesel 'Power Pack' and D1803 Turbo common rail diesel engine.

## JOHN DEERE

John Deere is to launch its new 2R Series compact tractors to the UK and Irish markets at SALTEX 2016.

The company's joint display with regional dealers Farol, Henton & Chattell and Tallis Amos Group (TAG) will feature, for the first time at a UK show, a 2036R compact model alongside a new XUV 590i

Gator utility vehicle and new walk-behind rotary mowers.

The 26hp 2026R and 36hp 2036R compact tractors feature new ground-up designs and a host of innovative features. The 2026R is ideal for operating in more confined spaces, while the 2036R has a wider footprint and longer wheelbase, combined with increased tractor weight for better stability.



## REESINK TURFCARE (H010)

Reesink Turfcare (H010) is bringing its most comprehensive and biggest ever line-up to the Show.

Latest products, firm favourites and brand new launches, under-wraps for now, from Toro turfcare machinery, Toro irrigation controllers and sprinklers, Otterbine pond and lake aeration systems and TYM compact tractors, it will be a busy show for the company formerly known as Lely Turfcare.

The line-up from the Toro groundscape range includes the

heavy-duty Toro LT-F3000 triple, which launched at the show last year, the Groundsmaster 360 zero-turn mower with Quad-Steer all-wheel-drive steering, Groundsmaster 7210 rotary mower with the industry's toughest spindle assembly and the Groundsmaster 4000.

From Toro's irrigation range, the intuitive technology of the Lynx control system and Smart Access of Infinity sprinklers will be on show to demonstrate how two products can bring maximum performance with minimal effort.

New to the range and on show is the Otterbine Air Flo 3, the third generation of the brand's diffused aeration system range, which cleans water without affecting the surface.

Completing the line-up is the small but mighty TYM TS25 sub-compact tractor. A firm favourite with groundscape customers for their lighter maintenance and moving jobs.



## RANSOMES (H090)

Ransomes (H090) will be showcasing its latest addition to the MP Series of wide-area mowers: the MP653 XC.

The Ransomes MP 653 XC is the world's first and only wide area rotary mower with a 4.27m cutting width, increasing productivity by up to 25% over traditional 3.4m mowers. Designed and manufactured at Ransomes Jacobsen's European headquarters in Ipswich, the MP Series is primarily targeted at the municipal sector, and provides multiple options from a single design platform. You are invited to come along to stand H090 to see the new addition to the MP Series which replaces the venerable Ransomes HR6010 and the Ransomes Commander.

Ransomes is proud to be sponsoring the inaugural SALTEX College Cup, introduced by the IOG as a brand-new national student-led sports-turf challenge that will take place on the first day of SALTEX 2016.



# A 'break-through' in sports-turf drainage

Rigby Taylor Ltd has announced a team-up with Ground Water Dynamics (GWD) as their partner in a revolutionary new vertical drainage system for the UK sports, landscape and amenity markets.



GWD  
Drilling rig

Already, some major sporting venues have benefited including, Warwickshire Cricket Club (Edgbaston), Fulham FC, Ascot Racecourse, Silverstone Race Circuit, East Midlands Airport and others.

"The GWD system is totally different from anything else currently available," explains Peter Read, Rigby Taylor's Project Manager, it uses "An Energy-Passive Ground-Water Recharge Pump (EGRP) system that enables rain water to be captured 'at source' instead of simply moving the problem to another area."

The system is installed by drilling bore-holes up to 12 metres deep with minimal disruption and does not require trenches or major earth works. Each bore-hole is no more than 90mm in diameter and, after the insertion of the five-chamber EGRP device, the bore-hole is top dressed with a root zone mix.



Right:  
Peter Read  
installing the  
five chamber  
device

Left: Hole  
filled with top  
dressing and  
plug replaced



Close up of 90mm  
diameter hole



**Groundwater Dynamics rig set up at Edgbaston cricket ground**



Certain soil types, comprised of horizontal layers of clay & silt, can offer limited drainage capacity resulting in heavily saturated playing surfaces and localised ponding. Groundwater Dynamics' EGRP system addresses this problem by inserting the system vertically into the ground and, once activated, the unique five-chamber design with its mild vacuum connects these horizontal layers of soil and attracts groundwater laterally towards the device before taking it down to lower unsaturated strata and away from problem areas.

While the system costs approximately 15-20 per cent more than conventional drainage, it does not disrupt or take a surface 'out of play' the surface, requires no maintenance and the system has a life span of over 25.

Peter Read explains, "Most of the installations to date have involved installing in areas on a retrofit basis, where other drainage solutions have failed. However, GWD is now getting involved in the project design stage as, following a test drilling day where we measure infiltration rates, we are able to produce calculations showing how much rain water can be dealt with, and how to design an EGRP system which is bespoke to the clients drainage requirements."

EGRP requires no external energy source, creates very little disruption during installation and is environmentally sustainable. It is suitable for all soil types and provides designers, planners and landscape architects with the opportunity to manage surface water run-off, nuisance groundwater and localised flooding. Most importantly, rainfall can be dealt with at "source" with no requirement to link up with storm-drains or sewers – a feature which is becoming more prominent as planning authorities struggle with outdated public assets."

Another advantage is that clients can choose to spread the cost of installation over a number of years – where GWD returns each year to continue installing until the works are complete and the problem solved.

**Gary Barwell – Head groundsman, Edgbaston Cricket Ground**



Gary Barwell, Head Groundsman at Warwickshire Cricket Club (Edgbaston), has experienced first hand the benefits that can be had from installing a Groundwater Dynamics system, he commented:

"The system was installed during May 2013, within the timescales agreed in preparation for the ICC Champions Trophy. The playing surface was not damaged in anyway; this was prerequisite of the install and is a major positive for sports surface drainage, as other



**Portland Road Edgbaston, before**



**Portland Road Edgbaston, after**

systems would have meant huge disruption.

In terms of performance, any doubts I had about the system were immediately dispelled. We had two heavy rain spells in May where 12mm fell in the day and in June a further 14mm fell in half an hour. On both occasions the area flooded but normally it would have rendered the ground unplayable the following day. However with the GWD installation, the standing water and flooding was gone within hours and left the ground completely dry. This was an excellent results as it enabled the teams scheduled to practice to use the facility the next day."

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# Golfing Nobody's Blog

I thought I'd left no stone unturned. Every conceivable combination of events, no matter how bizarre, had been brain-stormed with my team and it was my firm belief that I'd prepared the best team that would ever leave the car park of our club.

You just can't imagine how proud and honoured I was when Binky Myler, our

2016 Club Captain, pulled me to one side and said: "Golfing Nobody. I've got a wedding next month so I can't lead the team in the Club match against Southwood. I know you are nowhere near good enough to play, but would you be non-playing Captain? It would get me out of a fix."

Now no-one had ever bestowed such an honour on me before and I vowed then to ensure that the Huckle Shield would not leave its position, in the glass cabinet, behind the door in the Spike Bar, if I had anything to do with it. After all Southwood

were our nearest neighbours and bitterest rivals. We'd held the Huckle for over 10 years and to lose it would be a huge blow. It would also mean we'd have an embarrassing space in that cabinet and we'd have to find something else to prop up the RAF Old Boys' Plate.

I immediately pulled my fourball together to devise a plan. I put Biffo in charge of assessing the form of our potential team. Frank looked into transport to get us the three miles to Southwood, while Melvin was sent out to look at the Southwood course, after all none of us had played

it for many, many years. Well why would we when we had a perfectly good course of our own?

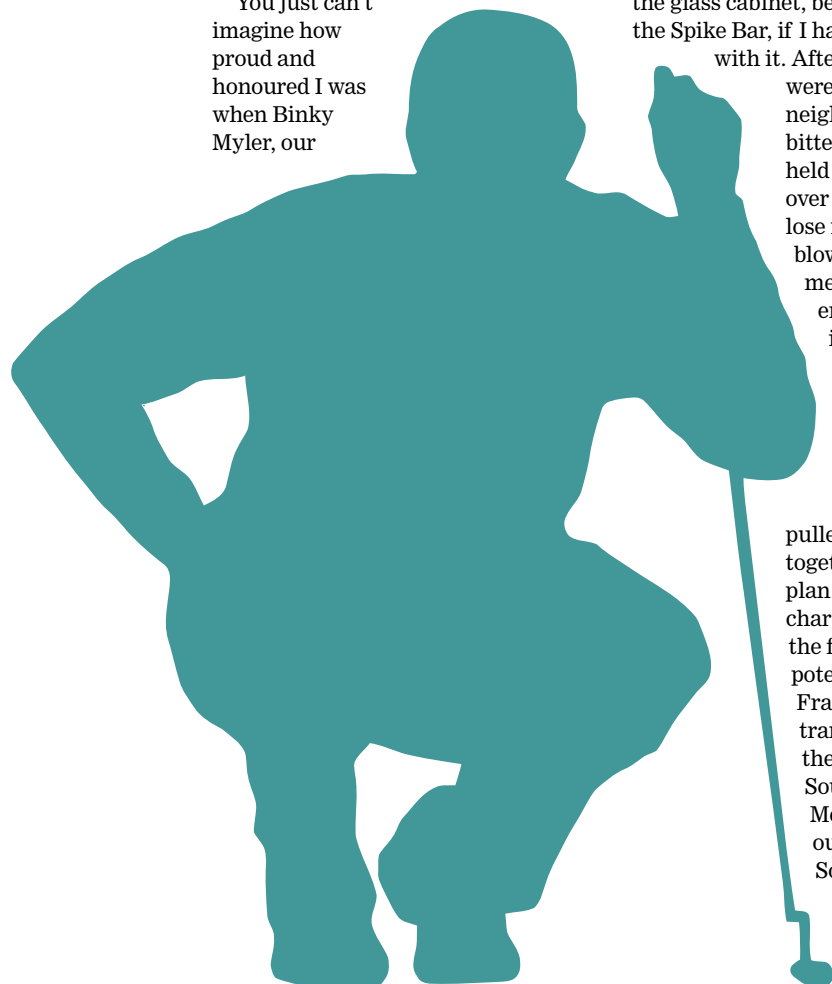
We reconvened the following week and Biffo explained that our category one players were very good, while the rest weren't quite of the same standard. Frank said that if we took our cars and folded down half of the rear seats to accommodate the bags we could get everyone there, but it would mean that he, Biffo and Melvin would have to play. Melvin said he couldn't get on Southwood as the wait for the 1st tee was over an hour, but that he'd looked at the 1st fairway and 18th green and didn't think that there was much to worry any team we might put out..

I'd already promised Barry Hargreaves a game because he'd come round and fixed the slate on my garage roof, and I knew him to be an excellent putter as he'd once holed a 30 footer to beat Frank and me. I wasn't too keen on rookies for such a key match so discounted Biffo's Cat One players. Anyhow I'd never really taken to some of the younger ones as they always seemed very sullen when we got out before them for our 5 o'clock pre-dinner nine holes every Wednesday.

Harvey Sumpter was another to be penned in – a Captain's Pick I suppose – as he'd come close to matching his handicap three Medals ago and he had been a stalwart of the Southwood match for many years. He'd always been quick to buy a pint for every new Captain in the run up to the match.

And so it was that I slept well in the lead up to the match knowing that I'd done everything to ensure a strong performance.

I couldn't have been expected to







# as seen on TWITTER



**Etesia UK** @EtesiaUK #LondonHeathrow is trialling the calming quality of #plants in its airport to relax stressed passengers

**CompleteWeedControl** @CWCLimited Did you know... #Caterpillars will eat almost any type of tree or bush, although they have a preference for hawthorn or blackberry.

**Landscape Juice** @LandscapeJuice Looking for staff? Post your job vacancy for FREE <http://landscapeengine.co.uk/post-a-job/>



**IOG SALTEx** @IOG\_SALTEx Check out this photo of groundstaff working at Old Trafford in 1966! #ThrowbackThursday

**Etesia UK** @EtesiaUK #SALTEx16 is just around the corner! Why visit our stand? You'll be able to view a range of pedestrian and ride-on mowers

**John Quinn** @jhnquinn What can I do to make next year's garden better and easier? - <http://bit.ly/2eaUE0c>

**Lantra** @LantraUK Don't miss Lantra Awards Ignite Managing Woods for Woodfuel, Gateshead, 26 Oct, covering crops, harvest & extraction <http://bit.ly/2dFPHjh>

**Top 100 Golf Courses** @top100golf Course rankings for #Austria are here <http://po.st/8YtQlK> - @austriatravel #golf



**John Quinn** @jhnquinn What can I do to make next year's garden better and easier? - <http://bit.ly/2eaUE0c>

**SEEDBALL** @seed\_ballTime to plant seed balls! Gardeners encouraged to grow wildflowers as bee numbers fall <http://ow.ly/Sk4gL>



Follow Scott MacCallum on Twitter @TurfMatters

## Tea Break Teaser answers

1. Greenock Morton FC; 2. Falmer Stadium; 3. Chesterfield FC; 4. The Hawthorns; 5. Glasgow Warriors; 6. The Rose Bowl; 7. Wigan Athletic; 8. Firhill; 9. Real Madrid; 10. Welford Road; 11. Stirling Albion FC; 12. Dean Court; 13. Swansea City FC; 14. Griffin Park; 15. Arbroath FC.

foresee that Melvin would have a dental emergency and couldn't play, or get his car load of fellow team members to the course. I had to make a double journey to get them there and grab young Harry Banstead, the retired accountant, who was on the practice range at the time, to play in Melvin's place. It meant I missed the start and my carefully considered order of play went out the window. My weakest players had all gone out first.

Barry and Harvey both capitulated pretty quickly. Barry didn't make a putt over two feet while Harvey spent most of his match looking for his ball in the rough, which incidentally looked as though it had been deliberately allowed to grow as a tactic to confound up... just in front of the tee. Biff and Frank both played to their usual standard and lost 6&5 and 7&6 respectively.

I must admit I was a little disappointed to learn that some of the Southwood member were laughing at our team, particularly on the par-3 10th, when most of the guys laid up. That wasn't in the spirit of the Huckle Shield

The only man to win was young Harry, who struck the ball beautifully and clinched his match on the 14th green.

I arrived back at our place mortified. News of the 11-1 drubbing had been texted to the bar by one of the Southwood lot. Binky was furious when he got back from the wedding but I assured him that our preparations were second to none and that no stone had been left unturned. I told him that even with the gift of hindsight I wouldn't have done anything differently.

*\*As told to Scott MacCallum*

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