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# TURF MATTERS

## Rising to the challenge

Well, it has been a successful few weeks for some of the country's top Course Managers and Head Groundsmen.

A few events spring to mind – the Cup finals both North and South of the border at Hampden Park and Wembley respectively; the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth; the Champions League Final, at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff and the Derby at Epsom.

Each was a monumental success – although I really do wish I'd backed the 40-1 Derby winner – and a credit to all those involved. So take a bow Stephen Bache, Alan Ferguson, Kenny MacKay, Lee Evans and Craig Williamson and their teams. You have all done your industry proud.

Another person who deserves much praise is Matt Merchant, Head Groundsman at Old Trafford Cricket Ground, who, mid season, and with virtually no notice, saw his ground converted into the venue for the Ariana Grande's One Love Manchester concert to remember those killed and injured in the terror attack less than a fortnight before.

Cricket takes second bidding in such circumstances and if the Old Trafford pitch coughed up the odd uneven bounce for the next match played, it would take a fairly blinkered player to make a big deal out of it.

Sporting venues are a prime target for terrorists and it adds another dimension to an already stressful existence for our turf managers.

Access to maintenance facilities on a Monday morning will have to be tightened up in much the same way as access through turnstiles on a Saturday afternoon. That in itself is going to require new disciplines and extra workloads. But it cannot be overlooked as maintenance facilities in our major stadiums could be seen as a security Achilles Heel if security were not tightened up.

It is, unfortunately, something we are going to have to embrace in modern day society.

**Scott MacCallum, Editor**

 You can follow us on Twitter @TurfMatters

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Top quality sports facilities at Shrewsbury School – pages 32-33

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Next magazine distributed August 2017

## STRI GROUP BOLSTERS ECOLOGY TEAM

STRI Group has expanded its UK regional ecology and environment operation by bringing in two new consultants.

Teneille Barwick joins the Institute after moving to the UK from Melbourne, Australia. She has a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science and started her career at an environmental consultancy in the energy sector in Canada. She was a wetland specialist for two years and spent a lot of her time avoiding bears.

She has also worked as a project officer for Conservation Volunteers in New Zealand. Teneille spent the last two years



working as an environmental consultant specialising in contaminated land.

Nicole Beckett has recently completed her degree in Physical Geography. Nicole has a passion for sustainability and environmental management and will bring a new and much needed service to STRI.

"I'm delighted to welcome both Teneille and Nicole. These appointments will add to the scope and diversity of the services we can offer. Teneille brings significant ecological and environmental skills having worked extensively in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the UK," said Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology and Environment.

"Nicole is a graduate who will increasingly develop her skills in sustainability and environment. This is a much-needed area of expertise particularly given the loss of chemicals within the turf sector. Her role will cover legislative issues, compliance and how golf and other sports fit within a rapidly changing environment."

SMOOTH:  
Derby County  
FC's Paul 'Tommo'  
Thompson,  
left, with  
Rigby Taylor's  
Mike Brear



# Pristine pitches for Derby County

Paul 'Tommo' Thompson, Head Groundsman at Derby County Football Club's Training Ground and Academy Centre, has been achieving "outstanding results" on a number of pitches thanks to Rigby Taylor's R14 100% perennial ryegrass.

R14 offers a host of advanced and unique specialised characteristics including rapid establishment and high tolerance to wear and disease, plus all-year-round colour and the fact that pitches recover very quickly.

Rigby Taylor's R seed range is pre-treated with

Germin-8 – a cocktail of speciality penetrating surfactants, nutrients, sugars and mycorrhizae to stimulate and support accelerated germination and emergence.

"I've never seen such excellent coverage, colour and density on the pitches, even in February," said Paul. "We started trialling R14 on the three first team pitches three years ago when I moved here (from the club's Pride Park Stadium, where I spent six years), for seeding at the annual renovations and for subsequent overseeding, usually around September/October. We've used it ever

since on these pitches – and subsequently on the Under 23 show pitch – because it's proved so successful. The coverage is fantastic and so is the wear tolerance."

Paul oversees a site that has a total of 15 pitches which includes 12 grass pitches and warm-up areas.

"We had the first team pitches re-laid in 2106, by SISGrass. These rootzone surfaces were ready for an upgrade – hence the new pitches – but we've continued our R14 programme and never looked back."

Paul and his team of six grounds staff – Deputy Head Daniel Tunnicliffe and groundsmen Daniel Elevy, Paul Hitchcock, Sam Morris, Curtis Neasham and Mike Vickers – follow a regular maintenance regime of aeration, fertilisation and treatments, as well as cutting routines to consistently present first-class surfaces across the site.

## POLARIS RANGER CREW BOOST

Dallas Burston Polo Club has taken delivery of four new Polaris Ranger Crew side by side vehicles. Dallas Burston, in Warwickshire, is an award-winning events venue and encompasses 600 acres of

indoor and outdoor space. It's also a major centre for equestrian eventing. Dallas Burston sourced their new Rangers from Polaris authorised dealer All-4 Ltd. of Nuneaton.



# Just like a pair of scissors: here's the new Echo head

Working in built-up areas can present hazards when cutting close to bystanders, cars or buildings. It only takes a few stones or loose objects to get thrown into the air and there is the potential of damage to property or even a risk to safety.

The new ECHO ASK-RW23D scissor head, a rotary scissor attachment suitable for most ECHO brushcutters, helps to reduce this risk. It works on the principle of a 20:1 reduction ratio gearbox and two contra-rotating blades that actually 'snip' the grass or brush - just like a pair of scissors. This means you have safer and more



precise cutting. Grass, weeds or brush simply drops where it is cut, making it an ideal choice to use when required to work near people, office windows or parked cars.

Versatile, it can trim up close to solid obstacles,

such as trees, walls and kerbs without kickback or damage. Edging golf course bunkers and trimming grass in shallow water are easily tackled. The flat bottom design enables the operator to place the cutting head close to the ground when uncovering hidden landmarks, such as drain covers.

The rotary scissor head comes with an 18 over 15 tooth blade kit, and an optional 28 over 24 tooth fine cut blade kit is also available for getting an even finer finish on grass and lawn edges. The cutting head is well-balanced, making it easy to manoeuvre and comfortable to use.

## Partnership secures land for green space

UK wide charity, Fields in Trust, in partnership with HAB Housing, is marking an innovative collaboration which will secure recreational land in perpetuity as part of a new housing development.

The semi-rural site is two miles from Winchester and is being developed with, allotments, wildflower meadows, play areas, a running circuit and a community orchard area. Once the development is complete and ownership transferred to the local Parish Council, this will complement the existing facilities in the adjoining Eversley Park, with its football pitches, playground and basketball and tennis courts.

There is an urgent need to build new homes across the UK. Fields in Trust believe that all communities, and particularly young people, should be able to enjoy healthy, active, outdoor recreation within walking distance of home.

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## ESSEX COUNTY GROUND OPTS FOR INFINICUT

After 20 years of service the Essex County Ground in Chelmsford decided it was time to replace their existing mower fleet. Head Groundsman at the club, Stuart Kerrison, wanted something 'technologically advanced' and, after some research and some recommendations from trusted industry colleagues, decided the Infinicut mowers from Cub Cadet were the smart choice. As the ground is surrounded by houses, the environmental benefits offered by the Infinicut was one of the first things that drew Stuart's attention.

"In the main mower design hasn't changed in 40 years. Petrol driven types prevail along with their noxious fumes as they're not fitted with catalytic convertors. Every mow means you're chucking out carcinogenic fumes along with high levels of noise and vibration. With the all-electric Infinicut they charge on a trickle feed overnight, with no petrol expenses and no nasty fumes emitted into the air. Running these mowers purely on the battery would all but eliminate the noise we produce when mowing," explained Stuart. What also drew Stuart towards the Infinicut was the range of cassettes available to carry out a host of maintenance procedures as well as the superior cut that the unit produced. They'd made their minds up but were then lucky enough to receive some additional funding from the ECB to enable them to purchase a fleet. In early 2017, they took delivery of one 34" Infinicut mower for use on the outfields and two 22" models for the squares along with some ATT SMARTUltraGroomer cassettes.



PROGRESSIVE:  
David Fearn is  
now Contract  
Manager with  
CLS Sports



# CLS increases its synthetic knowhow

Cleveland Land Services has further strengthened its CLS Sports division with the appointment of David Fearn as Contract Manager. David, 52, has 28 years

of experience in the sports surfacing industry, mostly devoted to the installation of synthetic turf areas, and has travelled extensively abroad under that remit.

Among his many projects are included construction of two athletics training tracks for the 2012 London Olympic Games as well as a host of installations within the independent schools sector.

As Contract Manager his role will span all facets of the project timeline from site surveying for feasibility studies to managing the process from contract award to completion and aftersales support.

"Working with the CLS Sports team has great appeal for me, particularly as it is a progressive, family-run business and I was keen to maintain the personal touch to the level I did in my previous post," said David.

CLS Sports Managing Director John Miller said: "We were seeking someone to help us develop synthetic surfaces and when I learnt that David might be available I lost no time in contacting him."

## KUBOTA PARTNERS WITH MPS

Kubota UK Engine Division has strengthened its strategic partnership with Mitchell Powersystems (MPS) after extending the distribution of Kubota's full range of engine solutions into two new territories. This latest announcement now means that MPS will distribute Kubota's complete range of oil and water cooled diesel and dual fuel engines in the North West of England and Northern Wales from its Sutton-in-Ashfield depot, as well as supply the South and

South East of England from its Romsey depot. Each branch will also deliver full support services and also spare parts to dealers and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) across a range of industry sectors. This means the company has terminated its relationships with Phoenix Power Services and Woodleigh Power Equipment. MPS Sutton-in-Ashfield and MPS Romsey will resume responsibility of these former Kubota UK Engine dealer territories with immediate effect.



# Hybrid mower for a hybrid golf course

Maesdu Golf Club has brought a Greensmaster TriFlex 3420 hybrid onto its unique parkland-links hybrid course in a bid to reduce fuel consumption.

"We opted for the TriFlex 3420 because its credentials when it comes to being environmentally friendly are well known. We believe it'll save us a huge amount of fuel in the long run, which will reduce our carbon footprint and be more cost effective. Plus, with the electric reel drive system noise pollution is reduced too," said Head Greenkeeper, Daniel Evans.

"What I like about the 3420 is that its DPA cutting units hug the contours of our undulating

greens, giving a consistent and high-quality cut. Maintenance is also made easier because the cutting units are 'quick change', and servicing is simple as everything is handily located with the engine at the back of

the machine."

Joining the 3420 in the club's latest order is a Reelmaster 3100-D and two Greensmaster 1000 pedestrian mowers. Maesdu continues to be a

Toro customer thanks to its 'reliability,'" revealed Daniel.

"It was time to replace and upgrade some of our long-serving machines, so we chose Toro for its reliability. After demonstrations from all competitive makes and models, we were particularly impressed with the three Toro models."



## ON A DEERE FOR DEMENTIA

HMP Kirkham prison officer Andy Maxfield from Inskip in Lancashire is aiming to break a six year old Guinness World Record by driving 874 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End on a John Deere lawn tractor, while raising money for Alzheimer's Society.

Andy and his daughter Kathryn, are planning to drive non-stop to break the record, which stands at four days and 23 hours. They will be using a standard 24hp X950R lawn tractor.

The 'Driving the Distance for Dementia' Challenge is due to set off from John O'Groats on July 25. Andy's approach to John Deere coincided with the company's decision to choose Alzheimer's Society as its charity to support this year.

"It was very good timing on his part!" said Turf Division Manager, Chris Meacock.

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\*Finance is restricted to business users only. Advertised offer based on a new Kubota RTV - X900 TW at RRP £13,300. Weekly payment profile of £77/week is not available and is shown for illustration purposes only. Actual rental profile is 2+22 monthly payments of £232.50. Subject to acceptance and affordability checks. Promotion valid until 31st July 2017. The finance product offered under this promotion is hire purchase. Full VAT is due on signing. An option-to-purchase fee of £100 (including VAT) will be collected with the final payment. You will own the equipment when all payments have been made. Alternative finance options are available, terms apply. An annual administration fee of £40 (plus VAT) applies. A documentation fee of £100 will be collected with the first rental. The interest-free offer is based on a maximum balance to finance of 60% of RRP. Rates and payments may vary to reflect changes in tax and cost of funds. Images are for illustrative purposes only. Alternative finance products available, terms and conditions apply. Kubota Finance is a trading style of BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions Limited. Finance is provided by BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions Limited, Northern Cross, Basingstoke, RG21 4HL. Registered in England No. 001225. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.



## SALUTED FOR KEEPING PITCHES IN TIP TOP CONDITION

Rigby Taylor, a co-sponsor of the EFL Professional Football Groundsman of the Year Awards, has congratulated the winners of this year's awards:

- Premier League  
– Manchester United
- Sky Bet Championship  
– Aston Villa
- Sky Bet League One  
– Sheffield United
- Sky Bet League Two  
– Carlisle United.

"We are very proud to be a sponsor of the awards as they recognise the tremendous advances made in sports pitch groundsmanship and pitch presentation.

"All the nominees produced

wonderful playing surfaces and those awarded first place in each of their leagues should feel justly proud of their team's performance," said Rigby Taylor's

Marketing Director, Richard Fry.

Pictured receiving their awards at Twickenham Stadium, from left: Rigby Taylor's Rodger Bowles; David Mitchell, Carlisle

United; Glen Nortcliffe, Sheffield United; Richard Fry, Rigby Taylor; Tony Sinclair, Manchester United; Karl Prescott, Aston Villa; and Phil Dewhurst, Rigby Taylor.





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Derrick Robertson, Barton Grange Landscape's  
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# Dennis praised by Doncaster Rovers

James Davison, Head of Grounds at Doncaster Rovers Football Club, has praised his new Dennis G34D cylinder mowers claiming they provide him with a finish worthy of Premier League standards.

It is fair to say that not one day is ever the same for James and his four members of grounds staff. Not only are they responsible for the Keepmoat Stadium – the 15,000 capacity stadium which is home to Doncaster Rugby League FC, Doncaster Rovers Belles and Doncaster Rovers FC, but they also tend to a 500 seater stadium containing a six lane running track for athletics and maintain Doncaster Rovers FC's training complex at Cantley Park.

"It is a unique set-up we have here. Most days you're not just coming in to mow the pitch – you might be trimming some trees or tending to the memorial garden – there's a number of varied tasks which we carry out on a daily basis," explained James.

With the pitch at Keepmoat in constant use by three sports teams, James and his team are kept busy and just last year their hard work was recognised when the RFL recommended them for the Institute of Groundsmanship's Grounds Team of the Year.

"We didn't quite win it, but we were highly commended. For the amount of games that are played on the pitch, I believe it



GREAT FINISH:  
Praise for Dennis  
cylinder mowers

is quite an achievement. We put a lot of dedication into what we do and have incredibly high standards."

According to James, it is for this reason that he chooses Dennis mowers when it comes to maintaining the pitch.

"When the stadium was first built we had two Dennis G860 cylinder mowers. Soon we will be celebrating the stadium's 10 year anniversary and throughout that time the G860s have always done a first-class job. I've never had any problems with them so why change a brand

when it does everything you want it to do?"

Based on his experience, James purchased two of the new Dedicated G-Series range of mowers, which have been designed and built following the same concept as the Dennis G860 machine. The mowers incorporate a large-diameter eight-bladed cutting cylinder to cater for a wide range of uses to leave a precision cut.

The handlebar design makes manoeuvring easy and the wide adjustment makes it comfortable for all cutting heights.

## Jacobsen goes for gold in Hanoi

Jacobsen was a gold sponsor at the recent 2017 Asian Golf Industry Federation (AGIF) Vietnam Management Education Seminar held at BRG Legend Hill Golf Resort on the outskirts of Hanoi, Vietnam.

More than 70 Superintendents, Course Managers, Workshop Managers and mechanics from 20 Vietnamese golf clubs as well as representatives from venues in Thailand attended the two-day event at the award-winning establishment.

The gathering was organised by the AGIF and supported by the GCSAA and CMAA.

The event featured a number of seminars on a range of topics including irrigation, grinding, communication skills, and dealing with low light conditions on the golf course. Jacobsen and its local Vietnamese dealer, Shiro Trading Co Ltd also showcased

and demonstrated a range of machinery including the Truckster XD, Eclipse 2 pedestrian mower and the LF570™ fairway mower.

"It has been another fantastic AGIF event at a spectacular venue in Vietnam. We are proud to supply the golf course here with Jacobsen equipment, and to be able to sponsor this event with the help of our local dealer has been a privilege. We are committed to continuing our support of AGIF, and the fantastic educational



opportunities that it provides golf course professionals in this region," said Regional Sales Manager Annie Boriraj.

SHOWCASED:  
Jacobsen kit  
in Vietnam

## PROTURF ANALYSIS FROM ICL

ICL has launched ProTurf 15-5-15 + 2CaO + 2MgO, a new analysis to join the popular range of ProTurf fertilizers.

Over the last few years, ProTurf has become the number one choice for turf managers who are looking to significantly improve the health and presentation on a wide range of turf types including sportsfields, stadia, golf courses and racecourses.

The ProTurf range was the first to utilise the mineral polyhalite, a naturally occurring form of potassium, calcium and magnesium.

The new analysis has been created as a result of customer feedback. ICL formulated the new ProTurf 15-5-15 analysis to provide an enhanced boost of nitrogen along with balanced levels of potassium and phosphorus.

**'WE ARE COMMITTED TO OUR SUPPORT OF AGIF, AND THE FANTASTIC EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT IT PROVIDES GOLF COURSE PROFESSIONALS IN THIS REGION'**



# Driving mower with a joystick



Etesia UK has launched the Bahia Joyride, left, a unique ride-on mower controlled by a joystick or via GPS for autonomous operation.

Working in partnership with FeBroLift GmbH, the Bahia Joyride is operated exclusively by a joystick: some of its features, such as automatic emptying of the grass box (optional) or start/stop of the machine and cutting deck controls are all controlled from the central joystick control unit.

"We started from a standard Bahia with a Briggs & Stratton, Kawasaki or Honda engine on which we installed a joystick control as well as a servo motor for the steering and another servomotor for the forward drive, which enables users

to control the machine with a simple joystick with all the controls within easy reach: blade clutch, initialisation to start and authorisation of mowing in reverse," said Les Malin, Operations Director of Etesia UK.

The Etesia Joyride retains all of the features of a standard Bahia model. The compact design is ideal for multi-tasking and easily adapts to every terrain, every grass cutting situation and every task. The pocket-size cut and collect mower, at just 0.82m wide and 1.98 m long, features an incredibly tight turning circle and is able to nip into every nook and cranny as well as being able to be easily transported in the back of a van or on the back of a trailer.

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## Four in a row at Mid Kent

Mid Kent GC Course Manager, Lee Sayers, has opted for his fourth Wiedenmann Terra Spike purchase in a row. The Master Greenkeeper at the Gravesend club already has an XP8, the deepest aerator in the Wiedenmann range, and previously two others.

"At the demo the quality of the GXi8 HD's finish was exceptional so it wasn't a difficult decision. We know that Wiedenmann aerators are strong and reliable but we wanted this one for its versatility," said Lee Sayers.

Every six weeks or so, the greenkeeping team of six at Mid Kent has a planned maintenance day. Until now their XP8 has been deployed everywhere, including tees and greens. At 2.1 m wide, weighing 1200 kgs and going down to 400 mm it has been hugely productive. However, the addition of the GXi8 HD means the heavier machine will be

allowed to concentrate mostly on fairways while the new one does both fine turf and fairways.

"We've managed well with the 65 hp tractor but ultimately a smaller tractor (50 hp) and aerator (900 kg) will get in and around the tees and greens more easily. Now every five to six weeks definitely on our green we'll be doing some kind of aeration. Three different sets of tines have been delivered so I will use all three regularly. It might be a 8mm tine going 60-70mm deep or 12mm tine going 250mm or on occasion a side eject hollow tine.

"I could have gone for something even smaller but 1.8m is a decent working width to cover ground fast and make the most of our window of opportunity so we get through all the greens in a day and a bit more elsewhere. When maintenance time is as precious, it suited me the best."



## IT HAS BEEN REALLY GOOD AT GETTING THE AIR INTO THE SURFACE AND CREATING CHAMBERS FOR THE ROOTS.

Rob Duff, Course Manager and Head Greenkeeper at St Ives (Hunts) Golf Course, has praised the SISIS Javelin Aer-Aid 1500 for helping him to combat a recurring thatch issue on the greens at the stunning course in Cambridgeshire.

With a history dating back to 1923, St Ives Golf Course entered a new and exciting era when it purchased a 230-acre site off the Needingworth Road in 2007. Transformation of the land began under the watchful eye of architect Cameron Sinclair and three years later St Ives boasted a stunning 18 hole Championship Links Course.

Featuring undulating fairways, strategically placed bunkers, excellent putting surfaces and sculptured surrounds; no two holes are the same and the course provides a test for golfers of all abilities.

The club is making a bold statement, which includes taking an environmentally friendly approach to the way it maintains the course. Take for example the fact that they don't use any mains water – instead the water is totally recycled.

Tasked with keeping the course to its exceptionally high standards is Rob Duff who occupies the dual role of Course Manager and Head Greenkeeper.

Having been part of the greenkeeping team at St Ives for a number of years, Rob was rewarded for his hard work when he was promoted to his current position in 2015. Upon landing the top

position, Rob revealed his first management decision.

"We had a problem with thatch in our greens because of the nature of the grass. It consists of velvet bent, which is naturally thatch grass and in some places we had approximately three inches of thick thatch. Therefore I decided that an aggressive solution was needed and this is why I starting using the SISIS Aer-Aid."

The Javelin Aer-Aid machine is a specially designed tractor mounted vertical action aerator. Not only does it aerate with a vertical action but it also injects air into the root zone at a fast working rate, creating thousands of fissures. The cam trigger mechanism ensures that the air is always expelled at the bottom of the tine penetration, enabling treatment to be targeted

precisely and consistently.

10mm diameter 'tipped' tines are spaced at 75mm (3ins) with depth of penetration, infinitely variable, to a maximum of 127mm (5ins). These air injection tines are specially designed to use the maximum air available from the compressor and produces clean, fresh, air at a constant rate of 88 litres per minute, while surface disturbance is kept to a minimum.

"To start with we used the Aer-Aid twice a month and now we normally use it monthly from March until the start of November. Since using the machine, we have significantly eased compaction and the main accomplishment has been the reduction in thatch from three inches to being practically non-existent.

"It's always going to be

an on-going battle because of the grass on the greens, so it is important that we continue to use the Aer-Aid as a preventative. It has been really good at getting the air into the surface and creating chambers for the roots. Root development has massively improved since we've been using it on a regular basis as has the density of the sward.

"I've been impressed with its versatility; I can use it as a spiker, I can change the depths of the tines, I can use solid tines or pencil tines, I can hollow core with it and I can inject air into the profile. It can do pretty much whatever you want it to do.

"It's a very robust machine, as all SISIS products are, and the back-up I receive is excellent.

"A quality product combined with first-class back-up is all you can ask for."

VERTICAL ACTION: SISIS Javelin Aer-Aid 1500 aerates and injects air

# Javelin makes a good point



# Ken Hare reaches settlement

Prospect, the union that represents grounds staff, football officials, cricket umpires and other sports professionals, has reached a mutually acceptable agreement for Southend United's groundsman, Ken Hare, who was sacked in January.

Ken was dismissed in January after Southend's home match against Bolton was postponed because the pitch was frozen.

He contacted the IOG which provided support and advice, as well as his trade union, Prospect.

Prospect National Secretary, Alan Leighton, represented Ken in the negotiations with Southend United's chairman, Ron Martin.

"The negotiations were tough, but conducted in a good and fair spirit with each side acknowledging the other's position in order to reach a mutually-satisfactory agreement," said Alan.

"The nature of the negotiations was typified by the kind offer of two season tickets for Ken as part of the arrangement. Ken gratefully accepted the offer and hopes to see Southend promoted in 2017/18."

The terms of the agreement are confidential, but Ken Hare commented that he was delighted with the outcome and would like to express his thanks

to Prospect, the IOG and also the club chairman, Ron Martin, for helping reach a mutually-satisfactory agreement.

"Without the support of my union, I would have had difficulty resolving this without incurring the cost and stress of it potentially being determined at an employment tribunal. I would encourage all my grounds staff colleagues to join Prospect and the IOG," said Ken.

"Employees in football clubs need the support of an independent friend in the workplace because problems can arise at any time.

"Prospect was able to

provide crucial professional advice and representation."

Alan also paid tribute to Ron Martin for being proactive and prepared to compromise and reach a mutually-satisfactory agreement.

IOG Director of Business and Membership, Tim Gray, added that Ken's case was a classic example of why the partnership between IOG and Prospect is so important.

"It shows why grounds staff should be members of both the IOG – for professional advice and development – and of Prospect, for employment advice and representation."

## Razor sharp and easy to use

Wycliffe Bowls Club Head Greenkeeper, Keith Freakley, and his assistant Raymond John Carter have both praised their recently purchased Dennis Razor Ultra 560 for its ease of operation.

For the past six years, Keith has been looking after the greens at Wycliffe Bowls Club, in Lutterworth, Leicestershire. As the club continued to grow and membership numbers soared, Keith brought in Raymond to take on the mowing

responsibilities in order to enable Keith to concentrate on other areas of maintenance.

In taking their procedures to an even higher standard, Raymond was presented with a brand new Dennis Razor Ultra 560 cylinder mower – which made for the perfect start to his new role.

"The Razor Ultra has made life a lot easier for me. I was already familiar with Dennis, having used one of their machines at my previous club. That was an older model, which still worked

a treat, but getting to use a brand new Dennis machine on my first day was just fantastic."

"It is beautiful to handle, always starts with the first pull, and it cuts nice and even across the blade when you're mowing. It also has a great roller to give you good runs on the green for that all important presentation."

"I think it's just perfect to use. It goes at a nice even pace and you can slow it down if you want to."

The mower has been developed specifically to meet the demands of fine turf such as bowling greens, golf greens and cricket pitches. With a 560mm cutting width, the Razor Ultra 560 incorporates many key features including an 11 bladed cutting cylinder, ultra-short wheelbase for undulating surfaces, tungsten tipped groomer, compact handle design for extra maneuverability, click height adjusters and stub free transport wheels for easy transport from site to site.

"As a greenkeeper I don't like anything too complicated – and in that respect the Razor Ultra is the best mower anyone could wish for. Before I purchased the machine I looked at other models but felt they were complicated to operate – I just couldn't get on with them at all."



## SPARTAK MOSCOW SWITCH TO SISGRASS

Russian football giants Spartak Moscow will make the switch to a SISGrass hybrid surface ahead of the 2018 World Cup.

In April SISGrass began installing at the stadium as Spartak Moscow joins a number of other Russian stadiums which are having a hybrid pitch transformation.

The Otkrytiye Arena, one of 12 stadiums that will host matches at the tournament next year, will become the fourth high-profile stadium in the country to receive a SISGrass makeover.

SIS Pitches has installed a new SISGrass hybrid pitch at the Luzhniki Stadium, the venue of the opening ceremony and the World Cup Final.

NEW WORLD:  
Hybrid surface for  
2018 World Cup





# School goes for Toros to secure ultimate finish for rugby festival



OVER THE LINE: Rugby festival will be a showcase for the school

Toro machinery is trusted to maintain many premier-league quality pitches, from those at Leeds Rhinos Rugby Club's Headingley Stadium to West Ham United FC's London Stadium, and has now been brought onto the superb sporting facilities at St Joseph's College.

The Ipswich-based school

purchased two Toros, a Groundsmaster 3280-D and a Reelmaster 5510-D, as well as a TYM T433 compact tractor to cover the 60-acre site and make the pitches look "professional" for its annual rugby festival.

St Joseph's College Rugby Festival is a 30-year-old event, which brings the country's top 16 rugby playing schools and colleges together every October in one of the biggest school tournaments of its kind. The event will be streamed live and, with all eyes on the pitch, there is pressure to get the turf "spot on", said head Groundsman, Peter Hamilton.

"We'll be cutting the pitches every day in the lead-up to the Rugby Festival, and with

the 5510 I can even cut the pitches in two directions the day before so they look as good as a professional rugby pitch. The machine is so fast, but also delivers beautiful results. The 5510 cuts the rugby pitches at 30mm and always gives a clean, professional finish."

St Joseph's rugby first team train and play hard and up to 70 cricket games take place in a season on the school's grounds. With such heavy use, it's important to maintain the sports surfaces.

"The 5510 has seen us halve our cutting time, and setting it up is easy. Another thing I love is its low fuel consumption, which I didn't expect."



## COUNCIL CHOOSES PORTABLE

East Cambridgeshire District Council has invested in the portable Toro T4240 to manage a multitude of sites. The council's team leader, Tim McCreddie, opted for the T4240 because it was one of the 'lightest' mowers he came across. "Danny Lake [Reesink representative] has been particularly helpful throughout the process. It's reassuring to know that the company will go the extra mile for its customers."

# Cabrio: finest in trial, finest on course.

Cabrio is the UK's first Ultra Fine Ryegrass – with the highest fineness of leaf rating on the BSPB's 2017 list it has out-performed all other perennial ryegrass varieties.

It is the ideal cultivar for golf tees, fairways, green surrounds and other fine turf areas, and is available in selected Germinal Grade A mixtures.

Available as seed from Germinal, or ask your turf supplier for turf grown from Cabrio Ultra Fine Ryegrass.

Cabrio: nothing else compares.



**Germinal.**  
germinal.com



# GreenMech realigns its dealers

GreenMech has continued its dealer realignment programme by replacing T H White with new dealers, New Forest Farm Machinery and GA Groundcare, while existing dealers, Burden Brothers Agri Ltd, will be extending its coverage area. All existing warranties relating to GreenMech chippers, sold by T H White, will be supported by these new dealers.

Based in Ringwood, New Forest Farm Machinery will be providing sales and support throughout the Hampshire and Dorset regions. With over 25 years of engineering experience, New Forest Farm Machinery will be adding the GreenMech brand to



their range of professional groundcare equipment.

Taking over the areas of Wiltshire, Berkshire and Gloucestershire will be GA Groundcare. This Wiltshire based business specialises in professional and commercial Groundcare, as well as Arboricultural Equipment,

and will be changing woodchipper suppliers to represent GreenMech.

Finally, Burden Brothers Agri Ltd will now be servicing new and existing customers in Surrey, adding to their established areas of Kent and Sussex.

"We are very pleased to have

joined forces with a number of new dealers in the South West. All have proven track records for providing quality sales and customer service and we look forward to the opportunities this will offer new and existing customers," said Sales Director for GreenMech, Martin Lucas.



LOOKING FORWARDS: new dealers for GreenMech

# Ben and Dennis (and Sisis) expand partnership

Ben Burgess Grounds Care Equipment, an existing Dennis and SISIS dealer for Norfolk, has increased its area partnership after it was announced that the East Anglian grounds care retailer will now be distributing the two brands' leading range of turf equipment to the areas of Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and South Lincolnshire.

The company has been serving the Norfolk and Suffolk farming community since 1931 and has supplied grounds care equipment since 1962. The company has gone from strength to strength throughout that time and now boasts six depots consisting of a large sales force specialising in various fields of expertise, highly trained technicians, dedicated parts teams and a comprehensive hire department.

With the grounds care side of the business seeing exceptional growth throughout the years, the company has enjoyed a long partnership with Dennis & SISIS according to Ben Turner, Group Grounds Care Manager for Ben Burgess.

"We've worked with Dennis &

SISIS for a number of years. We have many of their machines in some key locations throughout our region and carry out service work on them for some incredibly big names. The product range is exceptional and we've been very successful in distributing the equipment such as the Dennis G860 – which is a very solid and reliable product synonymous with the Dennis brand. I don't think there are many clubs or sports and playing fields round here that don't have a SISIS Quadraplay – which is a very versatile piece of kit."

When the opportunity arose for the company to increase its offering of grounds care equipment and services, Ben believed that it made perfect sense to venture into new territories with the distribution of Dennis & SISIS products.

"We had the opportunity to take on new trading areas and we were very keen to be able to offer the full package of grounds care equipment to our professional customers. Dennis & SISIS are a key part of that and they've been with us for a long time as



we've developed over the years.

"They have offered us the opportunity to prove what we can do and our partnership continues to grow. We are both dedicated to offering an incredibly high level of service to our customers."

Grounds care professionals in the areas of Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and South Lincolnshire can receive an insight into the range of Dennis & SISIS equipment when Ben Burgess hosts a number of open days throughout 2017.

OPPORTUNITY: Ben Burgess Grounds Care Equipment staff



# Tea Break Teaser

## OUR QUIZ CELEBRATES ALL THINGS WELSH



1. Name the two English clubs Gareth Bale played for before moving to Real Madrid.
2. Name the Welsh cyclist who is also the girlfriend of George North.
3. In which year did Cardiff City win the FA Cup?
4. Rugby legend JJ Williams' son Rhys, is an athlete who competes in which individual event?
5. Who is the record try scorer for the Welsh rugby team?
6. Who were Wales' opponents in the first ever match in the Millennium Stadium?
7. The legendary John Charles played over 100 times for three different teams. Leeds United and Juventus were two of them. Name the other.
8. Lynn Davies won Olympic Gold in the Long Jump at which Olympic Games?
9. Who holds the record for the most Welsh football caps?
10. In which year did Ian Woosnam win the Masters?
11. Who is the Welsh World Champion Triathlete?
12. How many goals did Ian Rush score for Liverpool during his two stints at the club? [To within the nearest 20]
13. How many fights did Joe Calzaghe win in his professional career, with no defeats?
14. Which Welsh sporting legend boasted the nickname "Dracula"?
15. Which Welsh cyclist became the first to become Road Race World Champion and Olympic Gold Medalist in the same year?

■ Answers on Page 43.





# DROUGHT of the blue



**Laurence Gale  
takes a look at  
the implications of  
the recent dry spell**

**A**s a practising gardener/groundsman, I cannot remember having experienced such a dry winter and spring as we have experienced this year. It is likely that 2017 will go down as one of the driest springs on record, indeed, a recent report in The Telegraph states that water companies have warned that parts of UK could see a drought this summer after the driest winter in more than 20 years.

Having spoken to many of our leading industry groundsmen, they themselves have, also not experienced such a dry winter/spring period. In some parts of the country many cricket grounds are witnessing many new batting records being set in April, resulting from the exceptional dry weather

Lack of rain over the autumn, winter and early spring has left some rivers and reservoirs, particularly in the south and west, with dwindling levels. With weather experts warning that there is little sign of rain to come, many farmers and gardeners are desperately watering their crops as the ground dries out. Until now water companies have played down talk of hosepipe bans, but as the dry weather continues the public has now been warned that restrictions could be on the way in some areas unless reservoir levels are replenished by prolonged rainfall.

Kent and Sussex are almost entirely dependent on groundwater from rain. A spokesman for Southern Water said: "The winter of 2016-2017 was drier than average, particularly in the



# INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY WITHOUT SACRIFICING QUALITY OF CUT



*Jacobsen's LF577 lightweight large area reel mower offers industry leading productivity and functionality using smart controls and simplified maintenance to maximise performance.*

- **Power and productivity** - Kubota is the engine of choice for the Jacobsen LF577 with its 47 hp diesel engine. And with seven 17.8 cm (7-inch) diameter TrueSet™ cutting units, productivity is increased by almost 40%, when compared to five-reel machines - without sacrificing the renowned Jacobsen quality of cut.
- **Smart and savvy** - The InCommand™ control system provides passcode protected, programmable maximum transport and mow speeds, active monitoring and full-text diagnostics that identifies faults plus maintenance reminders that are automatically displayed on-screen at scheduled intervals.
- **Agility and appearance** - Superior traction comes from Jacobsen's SureTrac™ four-wheel drive system, which provides excellent grip on hills and side slopes and the Classic XP reels provide a superior after-cut appearance.

To see for yourself how the Jacobsen LF557 and LF577 series can improve productivity on YOUR course, call 01473 270000 for a demonstration.

Visit [www.jacobsen.com](http://www.jacobsen.com) to find your local dealer.



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► months leading up to Christmas. This means there are lower water levels across our regional water sources.”

Water companies say work has started with farmers to reduce the impact of the continuing dry weather as summer approaches. Environment Agency officials have admitted that the dry weather could lead to drought management measures for some regions.

Britain has experienced parched weather in the six-month period between October and March – the driest since 1995 and 1996, according to the Met Office. According to long-term forecasts, the next three months will also be dry, making water restrictions likely.

Nowadays, irrigation is an important and integral part of the turf grass management industry, especially as the demand for better quality playing surfaces has increased. This demand has been largely due to extensive televised coverage of major sporting events. Seeing immaculate aesthetically presented golf courses, football, rugby pitches and horse racing courses has increased the expectations of the players and viewers.

Most, if not all, professional sporting facilities have irrigation systems of one sort or another. Without them they would not be able to prepare and maintain their playing surfaces.

Irrigation is essential for a number of reasons:

- for plant survival and growth
- for soil formation
- for soil strength
- for chemical transport
- for managing playability
- for presentation.

Water is influential in all chemical, physiological and biological processes of plant growth. The soil/plant water relationships is critical to the sustainability of any grass plant. Having an understanding of these relationships is critical. All grass plants are a continuum of water movement. Over 90% of the plant's water requirements are transported through the plant from the soil profile, via the roots and stem tissues into the leaves and out into the atmosphere. Knowledge of these relationships is important when designing and operating irrigation systems. The main aim is to achieve a water balance within the soil profile ensuring that the grass plant is able to access available water from the soil.

Technology has moved on, and we now see a wide range of irrigation systems from stand alone, self-travelling or boom sprinklers to computer controlled high tech pop up gear driven or jet sprinkler systems able to deliver precise amounts of water. Today many of the top golf courses have what is called wall to wall irrigation systems designed to irrigate greens, tees, approaches and fairways, enabling the course

manager to have full control of his watering requirements.

These systems do use a lot of water, albeit more effectively, so consideration needs to be given to the resource available. Is it mains, borehole, well, river or lake water? In most instances an abstraction licence will be required to obtain this water even though the source may be on club owned land. Irrigation constitutes a major user of water resources at times, and in places, when resources are often at their lowest, such as the summer. Incorrect use of irrigation can lead to a waste of water and, in turn, can cause other problems such as increased drainage water, often resulting in the leaching of nitrates into watercourses with the possibility of pollution.

In recent years the Government has brought out a number of laws and regulations regarding the use of water resources. Irrigation can impact upon the environment in two main ways; by depleting the surface and ground water resources and, secondly, by encouraging

**LEACHING OCCURS WHEN THE SOIL IS WETTED BEYOND FIELD CAPACITY AND WATER DRAINS FROM THE ROOT ZONE.**





the leaching of nitrates from the soil to the ground water. Water used to irrigate crops and turf will often not return to the water course but will be taken up by the plant and returned into the atmosphere. Thus, during dry periods, water ground supplies can be severely reduced. Leaching occurs when the soil is wetted beyond field capacity and water drains from the root zone. This drainage water contains nitrate in solution which will eventually be carried to the drainage ditches or ground water. The main risk periods for leaching are in the spring when nitrogen has been applied to the crop, and in winter when nitrate remains in the soil after harvest, and drainage is at its maximum.

So, what can you do to save water and ensure we are using water more efficiently?

- Only water essential crops and plants
- Water at night to reduce evapotranspiration.
- Ensure your hoses and sprinklers are not leaking and wasting water when in use.
- Choose an appropriate sprinkler / watering system to suit your needs.
- You can use timers to control water usage
- Use recycled water where possible
- You can mulch shrub beds to retain moisture
- Only water newly laid lawns, Lawns are quite resilient and can cope with dry periods. Mulching helps conserve water.



On bare ground about sixty percent of the water can be lost through evaporation. A 75-mm layer of mulch will help hold onto the water so the plants can use it.

When watering, a thorough soaking to wet the soil to a depth of 150-200mm is much better for plants than light frequent watering. Between 20-30 litres of water applied to one spot under the canopy of trees or shrubs should thoroughly saturate the root zone in that location.

Again, when watering lawns and sports pitches, apply enough water to thoroughly soak the soil to a depth of 50mm, an efficient irrigation program on turf should not begin until the lawn grass shows signs of moisture stress. Symptoms include a dull and bluish-green colour

and leaf blades folding. The most efficient time to irrigate is between sunset and sunrise because of less evaporation, less wind and lower temperatures. Early morning is the next most effective time to irrigate while midday is the least efficient.

Also avoid fertilising drought-stressed plants.

Fertilisers are chemical salts and will actually dehydrate roots when water is in short supply.

If you need to apply a pesticide, make certain the plant is not wilted at the time and spray during early morning or late afternoon.

You should also avoid unnecessary pruning of plants during drought. Pruning encourages new growth which has a high demand for water.

# Jacobsen and E-Z-GO at forefront of battery powered equipment



Jacobsen and E-Z-GO have been at the forefront of battery powered equipment in the turf maintenance and golf sector for many years, from the E-Z-GO RXV golf cars to the Jacobsen Eclipse 322. Now, E-Z-GO has introduced a range of ELiTE vehicles, activated by Samsung SDI lithium technology, offering zero-maintenance batteries with a five-year unlimited amp-hour warranty and increased energy efficiency.

The E-Z-GO ELiTE vehicles are a case in point to illustrate how battery power has evolved and the benefits it can bring. Launched into the UK market at the beginning of 2017 it has represented a major step forward in golf car technology delivering exceptional value to golf course operators.

New ELiTE Series vehicles are powered by hundreds of Samsung SDI lithium cells that are loaded into a single battery pack. The battery pack is controlled by an advanced Battery Management System that monitors efficiency, temperature, state of charge and the health of the batteries. These batteries are used to safely and reliably power electric cars, e-scooters, power tools and many other electrically powered vehicles, equipment and appliances.

The vehicles are powered by zero-maintenance lithium batteries that don't require watering, terminal post checkups and cleaning like traditional lead acid batteries do. This is good news for businesses and individuals operating golf cars, as there is less downtime and maintenance to be carried out on the vehicles.

Charging time is significantly reduced, and ELiTE vehicles allow courses to "opportunity charge," plugging vehicles in for quick charging

sessions between rounds that can rapidly restore significant levels of energy to the battery system, as opposed to the lengthy recharge cycles required by lead-acid batteries.

The batteries in ELiTE vehicles have also been developed to be lighter than traditional lead acid batteries. ELiTE Series vehicles batteries are half the size and a fraction of the weight of lead-acid batteries, with the aim of reducing turf damage and soil compaction due to vehicle weight.

Jacobsen and E-Z-GO are brands under the umbrella of Textron Specialized Vehicles, so when Jacobsen began development of its latest diesel-electric hybrid and all-electric greens mower, the Eclipse 322, it was a sensible move to consult the design engineers at E-Z-GO. Much of the technology in the battery-powered Eclipse 322 is taken from the E-Z-GO RXV, another stalwart machine in the evolution of battery powered equipment. The automatic braking system and the main drive axle of the Jacobsen Eclipse 322 are shared with the RXV in particular.

All the systems and functions on the Eclipse are powered by electricity, the only difference is whether the electricity is produced 'on the go' as with the diesel-electric hybrid machine or stored in a battery pack as on the all-electric version.

Once you use electricity to power the machine, you can then use reasonably sophisticated electronics to control the functions on the machine. On the Eclipse the transport speed between greens can be set, as can the cutting speed when on the green; this can be locked in by the course manager using a PIN passcode, which cannot

be overridden by the operator.

Again, using electronic control, the steering in transport mode reacts much the same as a car, but when cutting mode is engaged, the ratio changes and becomes more responsive allowing the operator precise control.

However, the major benefit is the machine's ability to control the number of cuts per metre when mowing. This ability to precisely control the frequency of cut (FOC) is unique to this mower and, like the transport and mowing speed control, it can be locked in by the course manager ensuring that every green is cut to exactly the same specification.

This is achieved because it is now possible, for the first time on a ride-on mower to control the relationship between reel speed and the forward movement of the mower. On a standard hydraulic-powered greens mower, the reels rotate at approximately 2000 rpm. The faster you move across the green, the cuts per metre reduce; conversely the slower you move, the number of cuts per metre increase, because the reels are spinning at a constant rate.

Now, with the reel motors and traction motors electrically driven, it is possible using electronic control, to slow the reels as the machine's speed decreases and then increase reel speed as the speed across the green increases, therefore maintaining the number of cuts per metre.

Why is this important? It means that for the first time the course manager can guarantee his members that each and every green will be cut to exactly the same specification, ensuring consistency across all 18 putting surfaces.

EFFICIENT:  
Sophisticated  
electronics







# Hybrid duo brings results that don't cost the earth

**T**o meet the demands of turf professionals across the UK wishing to reduce their carbon footprint, save fuel and cut operating costs, Toro's hybrid mower duo have been through years of thorough testing to deliver this while ensuring high performance remains unparalleled.

The two mowers under the spotlight are the Greensmaster TriFlex Hybrid 3420, the first machine to earn the EnergySmart label from Toro, and the Reelmaster 5010-H hybrid fairway mower – well-known as the industry's first fairway mower with a true hybrid drive system.

Hybrid-electric vehicles combine electric motor and engine-based power

sources, and the two Toro mowers are no different: both are propelled forwards by 24.8hp Kubota diesel engines, but their cutting units are battery powered rather than hydraulic.

This results in a reduction of fuel consumption, making an investment in a Toro hybrid mower not only cost-effective in the long run but more eco-friendly too. In fact, the 5010-H can save users up to an impressive 20 percent on fuel.

Such fuel-savings are down to the model's unique PowerMatch technology, which couples the power from its diesel engine with its self-recharging 48-volt battery pack in order to produce the power

needed for traction and cutting, depending on mowing conditions.

Therefore the 5010-H is capable of being very powerful, but only when necessary, which saves fuel and money.

While both mowers' all-electric cutting units are as productive as hydraulically powered units, another benefit is that they produce less noise pollution.

In addition, taking away hydraulic units from the machines removes 100 potential leak points. There is no frustration like oil leaking onto freshly mowed turf. With hybrid mowers this risk is completely eliminated, meaning the duo are kinder on turf as well as the environment.

**High on Power...  
Low on Co2**

Pellenc Tools  
now available  
with a  
**3 Year  
Warranty**

Also available...



One Battery, Multiple Options



**“They are extremely lightweight with low noise and vibration levels. Pellenc ticks all of our boxes.”**

Peter Anderson, Machinery Maintenance Engineer at RHS Wisley

The Ultra Lithium Battery provides constant power and an operating range display, which indicates the remaining power level in real time. This provides between half a day and a full day of work depending on the type of tool used.

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## Need to be conscious of environment

**S**ustainability has always been a hot topic with sports facilities, though it may have slipped onto the back burner recently. However, it has come back strongly of late along with the increasing desire for clubs and facilities to become environmentally sustainable. With a daily need to cut turf, where no better to look to cut CO2 emissions than with the choice of mower? Eco options within the mower market are thin on the ground, but the all-electric CubCadet Infinicut brings a three-fold benefit with reduced noise and operating costs being added to the low CO2 emissions.

While turf conditions change every day, in the main mower design hasn't changed in 40 years. Petrol driven types prevail along with their noxious fumes and high levels of noise and vibration. In comparison, utilising a battery powered mower will lower all those problem features and offer a financial reward as well.

Conceived to be such a mower, the Cub Cadet Infinicut, has been shown to operate with a significantly reduced carbon footprint against a petrol one at approximately 2.4kg per litre of petrol.

A recent study at a football ground, that previously used a petrol mower, found that fuel costs per mow were £3.52. Based on 10 cuts per week, for 49 weeks of the year, the total fuel expenditure worked out at £1,724.80 per mower.

Mowing the same pitch with the all-electric Infinicut 30" model instead could save the club £1,592.50 a year per mower.



As reported on our news pages, Stuart Kerrison, left, Head Groundsman at Essex County Cricket Club, has taken delivery of three Infinicut mowers to use on his square and outfields.

"We'd thought we'd check them out. One thing that attracted us straight away was the environmental benefits they offered."



## Pellenc's healthier, safer and still high performing alternative

**BLOWN AWAY:**  
John is impressed  
with his Pellenc kit

**J**ohn Ledwidge, Grounds Manager for 2015-16 Premier League champions Leicester City FC, (above) believes that his new range of Pellenc battery powered equipment offers his staff a safer, healthier and higher performing alternative to petrol powered products.

From a team that spent the majority of the 2014/15 season close to the bottom of the table and among the favourites for relegation for the 2015/16 season, a combination of hard work and talent saw them transformed into Premier League champions.

Arguably, the key ingredient in that success was team-spirit and that applied to everyone at the club – from the manager and players through to the employees who do a magnificent job on a daily basis behind the scenes. It is safe to say that Leicester City FC is a tightly-knit family, so when the opportunity arose to provide a healthier and safety working environment for his grounds staff – John wasn't about to dismiss it.

"As a manager it is imperative that I consider health and safety as well as the comfortable use of machinery for my staff. For example, heavy vibrating tools can bring about White Finger. Then there are the petrol fumes to consider.

"The Pellenc equipment had been recommended to me on a few occasions so I felt that I needed to see them in action. To be honest, I was a little

sceptical because I wasn't sure if you would get enough power out of battery products compared to a petrol engine. However, a full demonstration ensued and every one of us tried every product. We were all blown away and were exceptionally impressed with just how powerful they were. By our own admission I think we were a little ignorant as to just how far advanced battery powered products had become."

John went onto purchase a range of Pellenc equipment, including an Airion blower, a Helion hedge cutter, a Selion M12 chainsaw, a Selion polesaw and the Rasion Smart rotary mower – which are all used at the King Power Stadium and its surrounding areas as well as at the club's training ground.

"We have been over the moon with all of the products but the one we use the most is the Airion blower. Not only do we use it for clearing leaves and debris but we also use it to 'blow off' our machinery. Everything that goes into our store has to be clean and dry so that we haven't got any water sitting on any of the products. For that reason we use the Airion blower on the highest setting, which knocks all the water out of the bearings or joints.

"The engineering behind the Rasion mower is simply fantastic."

The Pellenc products were supplied to Leicester City Football Club by Etesia's dealer Platts Harris.





# **INFINICUT**

*THE PERFECT CUT. EVERY TIME.*

The Infinicut line of precision mowers was designed to be user-adjustable to match the conditions of any given day. From the dynamic return floating head mechanism to the variable clip speed, height of cut adjustment, moveable bedknife and swappable dual power source, the Infinicut provides more functionality than any other pitch mower. Combine that with today's highly technical approach to pitch construction and unpredictable microclimates, the Infinicut ensures a healthy turf while providing an unrivaled quality of cut.

[www.cubcadetturf.com](http://www.cubcadetturf.com)

 @Infinicut

**Cub Cadet**



## TYM product range a popular choice

Since Reesink Turfcare began importing the TYM product range in 2012 it has quickly become a popular choice for greenkeepers looking for a well-specified product, delivering superb value for money.

In the mid-duty range of TYM Tractor's comprehensive offering is the T353 and T654, both of which make excellent choices for greenkeepers wanting a powerful, fuel-efficient work horse for their golf course.

### T353

The T353 is nicknamed a 'multi-tasking marvel' thanks to its ability to be able to switch from one task to another or from one operator to another. It features a robust 35hp 4-cylinder liquid-cooled Mitsubishi engine, dual element air cleaner and independent rear and mid PTO selection allowing for use of various implements including mid-mounted mower. The T353 is also easy to use with an excellent turning radius and maximum traction, too.

### T654

Thanks to an all-new 67hp Deutz engine with improved emission standards, the T654 has more than enough horsepower for a wide range of jobs. The full-size utility tractor accommodates a many attachments from front-end loaders, mowers, cutters to rotary tillers. It's a good powerful all-rounder with digital instrument panel, independent auto-PTO function, spacious cab design and 24F/254R mechanical transmission as standard.



# Kubota UK paves way to help school launch farm



DOWN ON THE FARM: Helping children with behavioural difficulties enjoy learning

Pupils at Wells Park School, a residential primary school for five to 11 year olds with social, emotional and mental health difficulties, are transforming an area of land into a brand new farm with the help of a compact tractor donated by machinery giant Kubota UK.

The new initiative is part of the school's commitment to help children with behavioural difficulties enjoy learning.

Kubota recognised the importance of what Wells Park School are trying to achieve and donated one of its B Series compact tractors.

"At Wells Park, our vision is to give children who may not have suited mainstream schooling the opportunity to learn in different ways," said head teacher, Matthew Surman.

"The children will be completely hands-on in creating the farm, which will be a massive achievement for each and every one of them."

The farm will include the cultivation of vegetables all year round and the farm will also carry pigs, goats and sheep. This important project aims to make the school more sustainable, with all the food produced being used for school dinners and evening meals as the majority of pupils at Wells Park board from Monday to Friday. Any surplus food produced will also be sold locally to help support other school projects.

"We are absolutely delighted by the support from Kubota UK. Having a major global brand like Kubota recognise what we are doing helps make this a reality."

Kubota UK's Shannon O'Connor visited the school to talk to pupils about the agricultural industry. Kubota presented each pupil with branded hats and goody bags, while the children also presented Shannon with a special paper mache orange tractor they had made.

"This is a superb project and one that Kubota UK is proud to be involved in. Giving these children the opportunity to be involved in farming goes a long way in developing their self-esteem and learning in a new way that ultimately we hope will benefit their long-term futures. If just one child decides to enter the agricultural industry as a career based on what the school is doing, this would be a brilliant achievement, it's all about giving them a flavour of what this fantastic sector is all about and letting them take something from its roots to fruition," said Shannon.

Ten-year-old Wells Park School pupil, Sam Bristow, said: "At my last school, we got to visit a farm, but here we get to be a part of it. I love farming and wouldn't have the chance to do this and here we do. We are all really grateful to Kubota for donating the tractor, it's amazing and shiny and is going to help us a lot."



## Latest from Iseki



### TLE Series

Ransomes Jacobsen, the Ipswich-based distributor of Iseki tractors and mowers, has introduced the first product in the new series of TLE tractors, ideal for golf

course and grounds maintenance applications.

The TLE3400 is Iseki's new Premium Economy tractor. The tractor is powered by a 38 horsepower 3-cylinder diesel engine, which operates at 2600rpm. Like all Iseki diesel engines, these power plants have been designed to provide high output and torque with reduced emissions.

The single piece bonnet provides easy accessibility to the engine compartment and as such, the battery, radiator, dipstick and filter are all able to be easily maintained. The operator platform is spacious and ergonomic; all main operating levers are mounted within easy reach and are colour coded for clear distinction. The heavy rubber platform mat reduces vibration and provides superior grip.

The Iseki TLE3400 features a three-speed hydrostatic transmission system. Speed and direction can be controlled effortlessly using a single pedal, allowing an increase or decrease in speed within the range selected. A choice of agricultural or turf tyres are available as standard.

The TLE3400 also features power steering, a fuel capacity of 43 litres and a lift capacity of 1000 kg at the link ends. A front loader is available as an optional extra and a range of attachments can be used, making the TLE3400 suitable for a myriad of applications.



### Iseki TG6490 IQ

The Iseki TG6490 IQ features the popular IQ Dual-Clutch transmission system that offers the control of a manual with the convenience

of an automatic. There are 8 main gears and 3 ranges, providing versatility for any task. Gears can be changed by simply moving the gear lever through the straight shift gate- there's no need to use the clutch. The IQ Dual-Clutch transmission system is particularly useful for tasks where control and precision are required, such as golf course and pitch aeration.

The Iseki TG6490 IQ is powered by a four-cylinder Iseki engine developing 48PS. Like all Iseki diesel engines, these power plants have been designed to provide high output with reduced emissions. Adding to the efficiency of engine power, the TG6490 IQ also has an impressive life capacity of 1,700 Kg.

The tractor is available with ROPS or an air-conditioned cab. A front loader joystick, 3 speed PTO, electronic position and draft control, up stop PTO and linkage up in reverse are all standard.



## John Deere compacts herald innovation

John Deere launched its new 2R Series compact tractors to the UK and Irish markets at SALTEX 2016 last November.

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.

Both models are designed for comfort and reduced operator fatigue during long working days, with ergonomic controls, a tiltable steering wheel and cruise control. The 2036R also offers a premium air suspension seat and the industry exclusive CommandCut mower deck lift system. Both tractors are also available with a choice of open operator station or cab, offering good all-round visibility.

"Our customers are looking for efficient, durable and easy-to-use solutions that allow them to do more work in less time with less effort," says Jared Lowe, John Deere's product marketing manager for compact utility tractors. "When designing the new 2R Series models, we focused on improving machine stability, comfort and implement attachability to meet those needs."

The 2R Series tractors improve productivity through several easy-to-use features. The all-new CommandCut system for the mid-mounted rotary mower deck on the 2036R provides quick and accurate cutting height adjustment with the turn of a dial and the nudge of a lever.

Both models also have Twin Touch foot controls, which simplify the selection of speed and direction of travel. An eThrottle feature allows the machine to automatically increase or decrease engine speed as required, while standard cruise control keeps ground speed consistent.

Fully independent ptos allow front, mid and rear-mounted implements to be attached at the same time and combined in different ways, to increase the equipment's versatility. AutoConnect mid-mounted mower decks are easy to attach and remove for higher productivity, while new QuikAttach 120R and 220R front loaders are designed specifically for the 2R Series, for maximum performance.

Additional benefits are provided by the new John Deere designed and manufactured front hitch options. The 2036R also features an electric lock-out valve so that the operator can easily lock the hitch in the transport position with the flick of a switch from the tractor seat.

Intuitive maintenance features include extended fluid service intervals and improved access to the engine compartment. Standard service indicators alert the operator when maintenance is required, such as when the air filter needs to be cleaned or replaced.

In addition, the engine oil dipstick has been moved to a more convenient location, making it easier for operators to check oil levels. Onboard diagnostics and Service Advisor connectivity also allow service technicians to quickly and easily monitor the health of the machines.



# Legacy bears

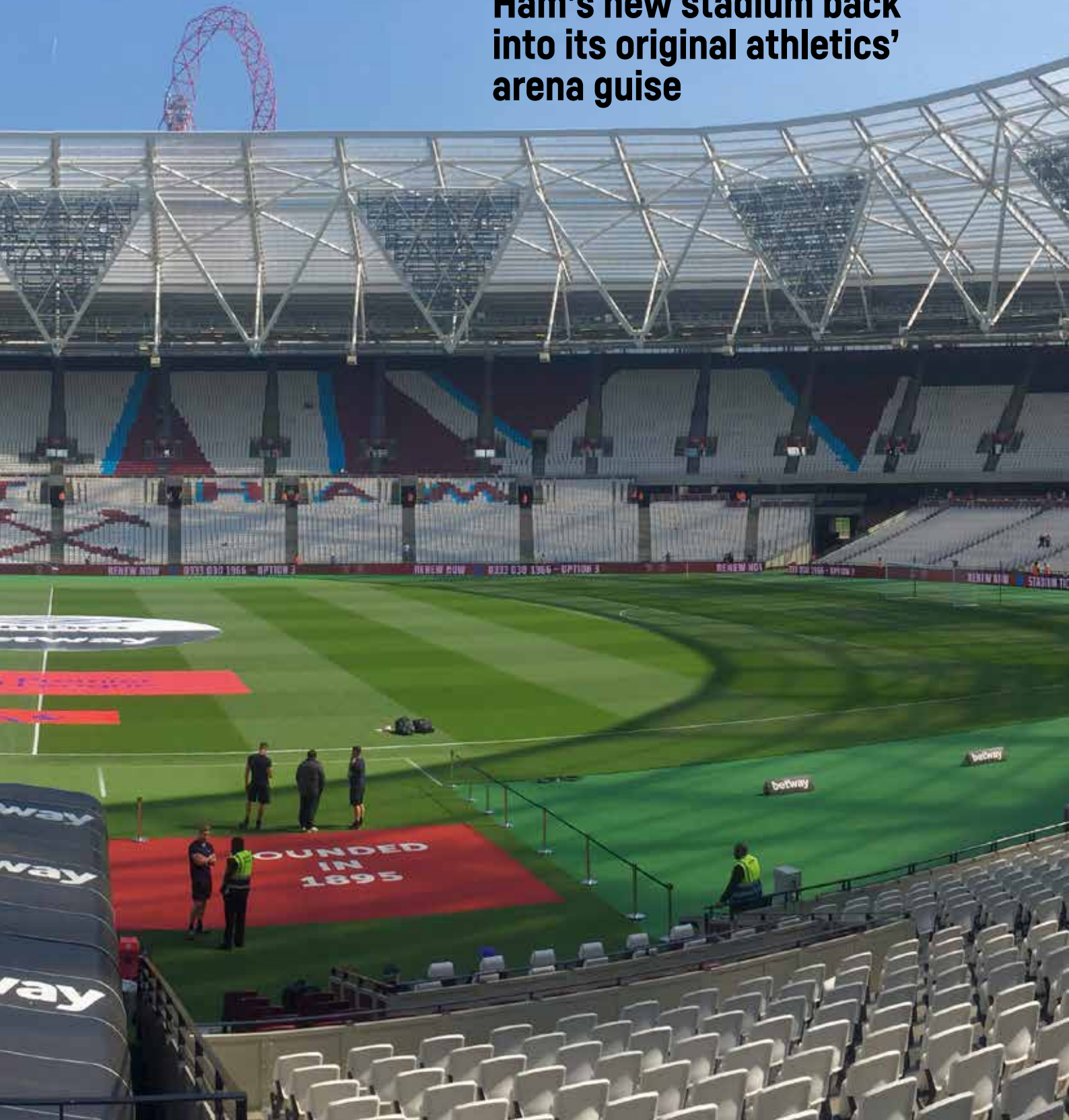




# fruit



**Scott MacCallum catches up with Greg Bolton as he works on transforming West Ham's new stadium back into its original athletics' arena guise**







**IT WILL ACT AS OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE DEMONSTRATING THAT THE STADIUM CAN SWITCH SEAMLESSLY BETWEEN ITS REGULAR USE, AS HOME TO THE BUBBLE BLOWING HAMMERS FANS AND THEIR TEAM, TO THAT OF A WORLD CLASS ATHLETICS VENUE.**

**T**he word heard most frequently in relation to London's iconic Olympic stadium was "Legacy". It was perhaps the key single element in clinching the 2012 Olympics for London. Lord Coe's impassioned speech highlighted the desire to ensure that the youngsters of the UK would be inspired to put on their plimsols and run, coupled with sustainable plans to leave London with world class sporting arenas and left a lasting impression.

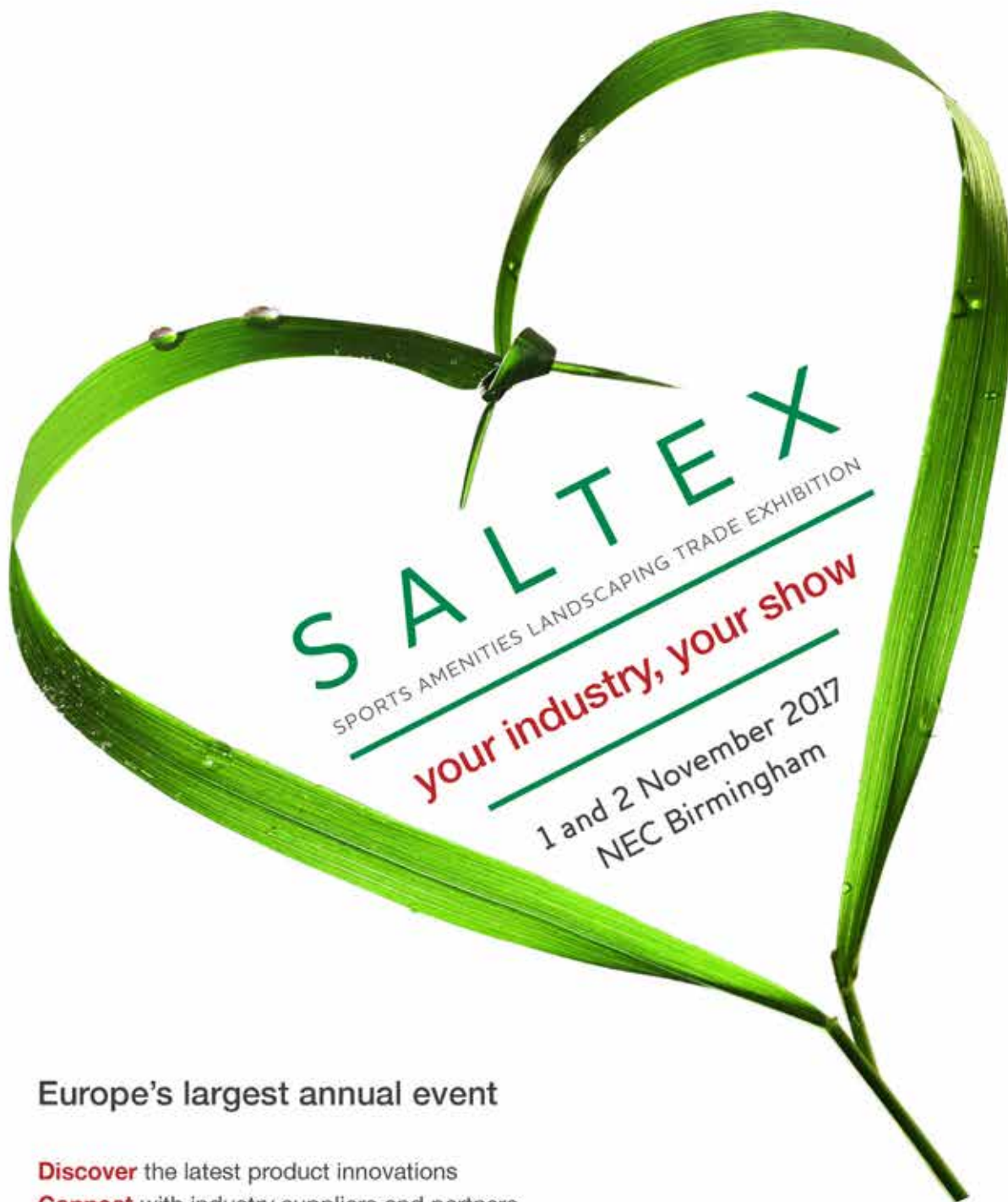
Achieving "Legacy" is something which has tested many of the modern Olympic host cities, some of them to the point of failure. Athens, Beijing and even, the newest Olympic city, Rio, have struggled to find a use for their main athletics stadiums and they have become nothing more than symbols of huge financial

burden with no on-going purpose.

London was always going to be different, and when the first starter's gun "Bang", or field event throw, is made at this year's IAAF World Athletics Championships, in August, it will be the defining moment in a successful "Legacy" for the London Olympics.

Yes, there have been events held at the Stadium since 2012, not least the annual Anniversary Games and Rugby World Cup matches in 2015, but this will be the first major event to have taken place since the stadium – now known as the London Stadium – became permanent home to West Ham United. It will therefore act as overwhelming evidence demonstrating that the stadium can switch seamlessly between its regular ►





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- use, as home to the bubble blowing Hammers fans and their team, to that of a world class athletics venue.

It will also mark a successful conclusion to the dilemma which exercised minds from well before the Olympic bid had been won – should London's Olympic Stadium be built as a bespoke athletic stadium, which would then be converted to a football stadium, or built as a football stadium but initially configured as an athletics venue.

Eventually, it was Lord Coe's desire and promise, to retain an athletic track as the Legacy, which carried sway.

The man charged with ensuring a smooth transition from footballs and goal posts to shot putts and javelins is Greg Bolton, Head Groundsman at the Stadium.

So does the desire to fulfil that legacy

occupy the minds of Greg and his colleagues?

"Very much so. We have a duty to make this stadium multi-purpose and multi-functional throughout the year and we are actively making the most of the stadium, extend that legacy and make it a facility which everyone can come and enjoy," said Greg, as he took time from his hectic schedule to talk with Turf Matters.

As with so many of the magnificent stadiums this country now boasts the need to maximise usage does bring added turf maintenance complications. Greg, part of a five-strong team at the stadium – the newest member recruited from the local area as part of that legacy drive – has split his renovation programme into two to accommodate concerts from Depeche Mode, Guns N' Roses as well as a Robbie Williams concert which doesn't take place until the end of June.

"The window to enable us to do what we need to do is a lot shorter than it would normally be but it is something which we view as a challenge and are tackled head on. We have already stripped off the surface and after Robbie Williams we will take the power rake over it to remove the remaining debris. We will then put on 100 tonnes of top dressing and reseed using germination sheets. As soon as the seed has come through we will be straight on with the machines to get it leaf coated to get it to kick on as quickly as possible," revealed Greg.

It is fair to say that modern day technological advances and techniques have made possible what would once have given the most sound sleeping of Head Groundsmen nightmares and it does mean that extraordinary things can be achieved.

"As groundsmen in professional sport we now have all the tools at our disposal to do the job. Grow lights and fans to move the air around mean that we can achieve a great deal in a tight window. It is a massive challenge but if we use the technology that we have at our disposal we can make it happen,"

said Greg, who is delighted that the stadium's operating company – London Stadium 185 – are keen to ensure the best possible playing conditions. The 185 is a tribute to the number of medals achieved by Team GB's athletes during the London Olympics and Paralympics.

"They are extremely pro-pitch and very supportive of what we are trying to achieve. It was a major part of the legacy that the stadium be used more widely and we all understand that and embrace that. There are various stakeholders involved with the stadium and it is our job to please all parties."

So does the turf cope with a complete change in the trauma to which it is subjected?

"We are in a unique situation in that as a grounds team we have been together for just over a year and experienced the Anniversary Games last year for the very first time and witnessed the javelin, discus and the shot putt going into the field of play.

"It creates damage but it was damage which we felt we got back pretty quickly to be fair. We'd been pro-active and had already pre-germinated seed to put down and recovery came through a lot quicker and speeded up the process. We did bring in additional hand tools as well to help although we've now invested in some bigger, more robust pieces of equipment to relieve compaction," said Greg, who works closely with the West Ham Head Groundsman, Dougie Robertson, off whom he regularly bounces ideas. Bruce Elliott, at Crystal Palace is another man Greg, turns to as a sounding board.

The one athletic discipline Greg and the team haven't yet experienced, however, is the one which is generally regarded to have the biggest damage to turf.

"The only thing we have yet to come across is the hammer, which is probably the most destructive, but we still feel that we are equipped to deal with it."

In many ways the field events at the IAAF World Athletics Championships will be played out on the highest

**THE ONE ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE GREG AND THE TEAM HAVEN'T YET EXPERIENCED, HOWEVER, IS THE ONE WHICH IS GENERALLY REGARDED TO HAVE THE BIGGEST DAMAGE TO TURF. "THE ONLY THING WE HAVE YET TO COME ACROSS IS THE HAMMER, WHICH IS PROBABLY THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE, BUT WE STILL FEEL THAT WE ARE EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH IT."**





possible specification turf ever, as the DESSO pitch installed at the beginning of last season for West Ham will still be in place.

"Since 2012 the sport of athletics has evolved significantly and it has moved on from surfaces which were just glorified dart boards to the level we expect for all our major professional sports events today. Last year the DESSO had just been laid and was still naturally a lot softer but after a full season of play it will have bedded in and I don't expect the impressions made in the surface will be as great as we found them last year."

The major differences outside of the field of play, and the IAAF livery, as opposed to that of the

Olympics in 2012, come with the floodlights and the seating.

"In 2012 the floodlights were pitched at a different angle to what they are now while the lower seating is now retractable."

As per Lord Coe's vision, the track is permanent, but covered with a membrane and astroturf during the football season to protect it from those football boots. The lower seating is then retracted, widening the arena and revealing the legendary track which provided the stage for those extraordinary achievements by Mo Farah, Jessica Ennis, David Rodisha and Usain Bolt.

That seating was perhaps the most innovative of the adaptations which were required to sustain that legacy, and while eye watering expensive they do ensure the truly multi-use benefits of the stadium.

Despite being a Home Counties boy Greg didn't attend the London Olympics and it is something which he does regret.

"I'd have loved to have visited the stadium during the Olympics and seen it in 2012 to see just how much it has come on since then," said Greg, who added that the stream of Guided Tours around the Stadium

show just how much the stadium means to the general public, not to mention those Hammers fans.

Being in charge at such an iconic venue is something which means a lot to Greg.

"It is an incredible arena and I'm incredibly proud to be working here and heading up the grounds team," he said and he is really looking forward to August and those World Championships.

"After an Olympics you can't get bigger than a World Championships and it is a massive summer for us, as we also have the Anniversary Games and the Para Games as well."

Although he will have a great many commitments Greg has planned in time to be out on the field of play seeing how his turf reacts first hand and being available to nurse it back to full health.

"I'm very involved and will want to get out there. I just need to keep out of the way of those javelins and hammers!"

It will be a pivotal summer for the London Stadium and by playing host to the World Athletic Championships, the other athletic meetings, as well as those rock and pop stars, it will already have started to create that legacy Lord Coe was so insistent upon.

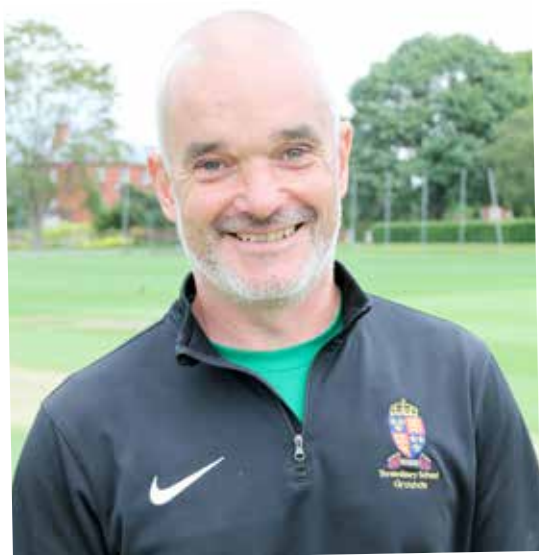




# Top marks for Shrewsbury



## Laurence Gale pops into Shrewsbury School to discuss sports facilities with Andy Richards



PROUD: Grounds Manager Andy Richards

A recent visit to Shrewsbury School, enabled me the opportunity to call in and catch up with Andy Richards, the Grounds Manager. Like most independent schools they have a firm belief that sport is part of a balanced education and therefore encourage every pupil to engage and participate in all types of sports and pastimes, which is why these independent schools always invest heavily in

their grounds and sports facilities.

Shrewsbury is a leading school in many sports. Pupils compete internationally, particularly in rowing and cricket, where in recent years the school has produced a crop of county players, with the likes of Joe Leach, and Ed Barnard, who play for Worcester, and Ruaidhri Smith and David Lloyd who play for Glamorgan.

Since Andy's appointment seven years ago, he and his team of 11 have continued to improve the quality and playing characteristics of the playing

surfaces at the school investing in new machinery, products and services.

All of the pitches are within the main school campus, set out on two tiers, known affectionately as the Top Common and Bottom Common. On the 120 acre site, there are nine full-size grass pitches and two synthetic surfaces. Top Common has a full irrigation system, which enables Andy to provide first-class playing and training surfaces all year round.

Top Common also currently provides the best specified and maintained



playing surfaces for 1st team football and cricket. With the cricket season in full swing, most of the daily routine work is centred on preparing and repairing cricket pitches.

Cricket is a very popular sport at the school. There are five cricket squares; the 1st team square has 19 tracks and the 2nd team, 13. The three other squares have five to six tracks each. The school can be hosting anything up to 35 games of cricket every week during the season, making a total of around 260 plus matches to plan and prepare for, and that does not include the cricket festivals that Andy has to accommodate.

The process of producing a good playing surface, nearly always begins with the amount of work done during end of season renovations. Andy usually starts his cricket renovations during the first week of August, the scope of work last year changed dramatically with the school's purchase of a 1.8-metre-wide KORO Field Top Maker, from Campey Turfcare.

Having his own KORO allows a greater flexibility of when, he can carry out work on his grounds using this machine along with the ability to be more precise in what he wants in terms of clearing off surface vegetation.

After mowing the squares down to 5mm, he then sets the Koro at -2mm, removing the surface vegetation, he then sets the Koro at -3mm, which effectively takes off about 15 tonne of old loam material from the five squares of which he then re-uses to top-dress his net areas.

He will then use a SISIS TM1000 scarifier to help cut in some grooves for the new grass seed to key into, this is done three times in different directions, applying a third amount of the seed on each pass. He will then finally top-dress the squares with Super Surrey Loam and apply some pre-seeding fertiliser.

As for grass seed Andy now uses Limagrain MM50, which he says has been fantastic, giving him better wear and recovery. With a mix of 40% Malibu Perennial Ryegrass, 30% Venice Perennial Ryegrass and 30% the new Alison Perennial Ryegrass has given him the results he was looking for, especially in terms of its recovery rate after play.

Once the renovations have been completed, it is a case of nurturing the seed and maintaining a winter height of cut of 20mm. The squares are then aerated using a Charterhouse Vertidrain 7316 in November and then again in early January. Needle tines are used inbetween times using a Toro Procore.

Pre-season work usually starts in February/March depending on



the weather beginning with the use of the Dennis FT mowers, moving onto the Dennis G760s and Premier mowers, before using his Auto roller, un-ballasted 1.5 tonne and then full-ballasted at 2.5 tonne.

Andy is keen to point out the importance of communicating with the Directors of Sport/ PE staff and coaches, he invariably talks to them on a daily basis to ensure he can produce the appropriate level of pitch quality they want. Once Andy has determined their needs he will then decide on the appropriate level of pitch preparation required, which can often vary from five to 21 days.

As for ongoing maintenance, the square is maintained at 12mm and gradually brought down to match play height of between 4-6mm depending on needs and level of play using three Dennis FT510 cassette mowers. He also uses a Dennis G760 and Dennis Premier Mowers for cutting and maintaining the squares and outfields.

Dennis have also made him some bespoke verticutting units, providing reels with closer and one with wider spacing between blades, thus giving Andy better control on the amount of material he can remove from the surface without causing too much surface disruption.

From the end of July through to September is the busiest period for Andy and his staff. Not only do they have to cater for a change over from cricket to winter sports and complete the end of season renovations on the cricket tables, he also has to accommodate a raft of football and cricket usages during the school summer holidays,

IMPRESSIVE: Quality equipment keep the sports facilities in shape

which brings in some valuable additional revenue for the school.

Without doubt the ability to invest in new equipment and resources and adapt maintenance regimes has been the catalyst for the improvement of the pitches at the school during the last seven years.

Not one for resting on his laurels, his next project is to start improving the quality of the outfields, no doubt in the coming years, these will improve year on year, now he has his own Koro Field Top Maker and Vredo Compact seeder. This autumn Andy will be fraise mowing off his Outfields and re-sowing with a MM22 seed mixture to improve the performance of the outfields.

Andy cannot express the benefits enough of having his own Koro and Vredo seeder on site, their use for renovating pitches are invaluable and will only lead to the continuing improvement of the playing surfaces at Shrewsbury School.



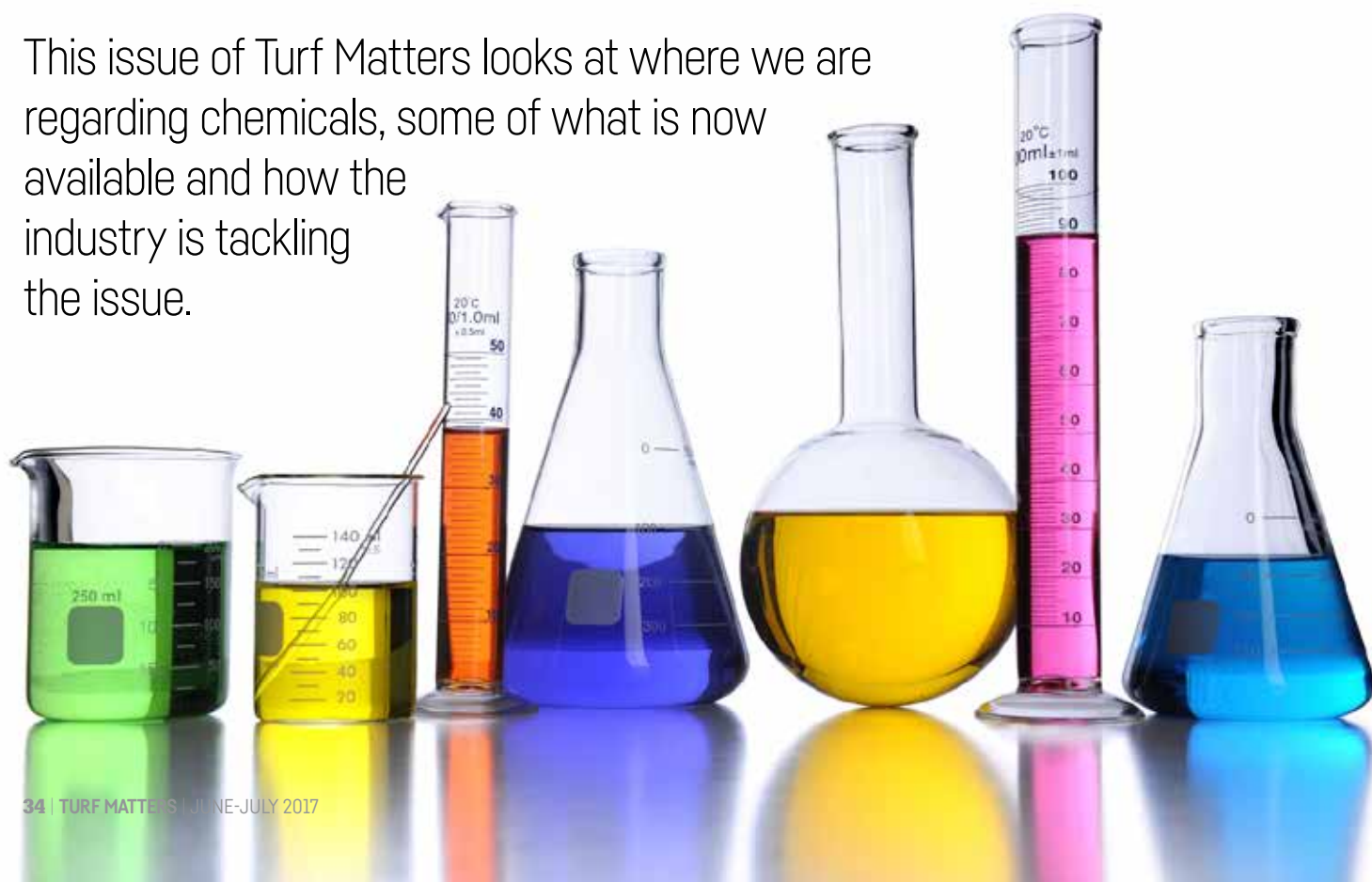


# Fighting the good fight

Chemicals have been a significant element of any turf professional's armoury since prepared surfaces became the norm for organised sport and, like every other facet of life, they have evolved from products which were downright dangerous to anyone within touching distance to some highly sophisticated, safe and effective applications.

While many have been removed from the lists of approved products new, more environmentally sound, replacements have come along and the doomsday scenario of having nothing to fight pest and diseases hasn't materialised.

This issue of Turf Matters looks at where we are regarding chemicals, some of what is now available and how the industry is tackling the issue.





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# Chemicals: Where are we now?

**BY REBECCA GORTON, AGRIGEM**

There seems to be a very sombre tone among many parties involved in the sports and fine turf industry where pesticides are involved. Many of you may feel like you have been left with a limited arsenal in your chemical store after a few years of what seems like only having products being withdrawn and few new ones coming to the market.

With the loss of so many active ingredients over the past few years, pest and disease control may seem like quite a challenge for anybody managing an amenity playing surface to a high standard year-round. With labelled options very limited or none existent, our thoughts must move towards alternative methods of control which will undoubtedly include nutrition management, physical methods and more timely maintenance throughout the year.

For some this may potentially incur more costs in hiring or purchasing specialist machinery, extra labour and the list could seem endless when trying to obtain the same result as you would obtain from a single pesticide application. Unfortunately, with so many withdrawals of key actives used in this industry, we are going to have to not only strive to push



new technology's and embrace more modern pesticides made from natural ingredients, but to also look to times before we had the actives we have recently lost. What we may see as old fashioned practices could once again be at the forefront of a greenkeeper's and groundsman's maintenance regime.

Experts are currently doing a lot of research into the use of elemental Sulphur, which has been being used extensively in agriculture for a few decades for both adjusting soil pH and also for its nutrient qualities. This research is showing some promising links towards disease resistance and deterring unwanted pest damage. We also know from experience that Iron and Copper worked very well as a moss

killer and a fungicide, and while we can no longer sell them as such, their use as turf hardeners, acidifiers and general nutrients should not be overlooked. Something we all need to, as an industry, get involved with, is trialling and testing these products so that we can truly understand the benefits that they have to intensively managed and used sports surfaces. Agrigem are keen to be involved in and support any such trial work you wish to carry out to further develop new methods.

Chemical manufacturers, it may seem, are very slow in replacing lost actives. However, with the registration process taking years of research and development before a product is even available to test, it is not surprising

## Stewardship update: All Pistol bottles now supplied with low drift nozzles

All bottles of the barrier acting, total herbicide, Pistol® from Bayer, are now being supplied with two low drift sprayer nozzles and a stewardship checklist attached. The addition of the low drift nozzles forms part of the new authorisation for Pistol® which was officially re-registered by the Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) under the new registration MAPP17451 in 2016.

The new authorisation confirms that newly authorised Pistol® bottles, supplied with nozzles are registered through to 2020. Any individuals already carrying old label stock, will have until the end of February 2018 to use them up.

"The new nozzles mean that

amenity professionals using Pistol® will have a more targeted spray pattern and chemical drift will be minimised, so the product only affects the target area and there is less wastage," says Dr Colin Mumford, of the Bayer Turf Solutions Team.

"As an independent organisation, the Amenity Forum fully supports product stewardship and the importance of choosing the correct nozzle so that the product is applied exactly where needed for effective and economic impact," says independent chairman of the Amenity Forum, Professor John Moverley OBE.

"Pistol is an essential product for the control of annual and perennial weeds and grasses on soft and gravel

surfaces. And without such updates to the packaging, we could see even more products removed from the market, so we aim to ensure that our products are stewarded correctly and we always encourage best practice," says Colin.

A key benefit of Pistol® is that it has a long lasting, systemic and residual mode of action. Once it is applied, its effectiveness will continue, as a barrier is created on the upper profile of the soil that will remain throughout the season, controlling germinating weeds and preventing their establishment.

The herbicide can be applied with a knapsack sprayer, and the nozzles are universal, so will fit to the user's existing equipment.



## THE USE OF WETTING AGENTS CAN HAVE A DRAMATIC EFFECT ON THE HEALTH OF A PLAYING SURFACE AS YOU CAN REGULATE THE MOISTURE IN THE ROOT ZONE WHILST KEEPING THE SURFACE DRY.

that the launch of a new product does not come along very often. This is something that we need to bear in mind when planning a maintenance regime; there are not going to be new products to help us out every year.

While we have already mentioned some nutrients, it is vital that all fertilisers are applied in balance and in the correct form. There seems to be quite a mindset that for instant green up, you need to apply high rates of nitrate fertiliser. What the reality is that when a nitrate fertiliser is applied to a well irrigated surface, what isn't lost through leaching or gassing off is taken up by the turf regardless as to if it actually needs it or not. This then leads to excessive top growth of lush soft grass that is far more susceptible to disease. Use of controlled release fertilisers such as ProLoNg, where the nitrogen is held as ammonium in the soil means that this does not happen and the turf is generally far healthier and remains a consistent green throughout the year. It is also very important not to underestimate the use of natural fertilisers such as seaweed extract and also looking

at applying the plants building blocks in the form of amino acids.

Something else to look at is moisture management. The use of wetting agents can have a dramatic effect on the health of a playing surface as you can regulate the moisture in the root zone whilst keeping the surface dry. There are also many physical aspects to moisture management from the mechanical drainage aspect, right through to looking at how surrounding structures or plants and trees may alter the airflow across the surface and hence how quickly it will dry out. Ideally irrigation wants to be done first thing in the morning and then the leaf blades will dry quickly and there will not be the damp and humid microclimate in the leaf canopy that is going to incubate disease.

In summary, although it may seem like doom and gloom for the groundsman or greenkeeper, the reality is there are a lot of options out there, but they are going to require a far more integrated approach than has been used over the recent years with changes needed to mindset and hence to pest and disease management.

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# Vitalnova Blade: A proven

Biostimulants are substances and microorganisms applied to plants and rootzones to enhance plant growth, and rootzone microbial activity. Historically the diversity of biostimulant products available was limited but in recent years a plethora of new products have come to the market in response to an increase in demand and interest. The value of the global market has grown annually by over 10% each year for the last decade, and more and more products are marketed as biostimulants. In this increasingly crowded marketplace the Turf Manager needs to carefully consider the products selected to form part of their turf maintenance programme.

While biostimulants can never replace macronutrients there are many reasons why a Turf Manager would include them to support their annual nutritional programme. In recent years, the Turf Industry has taken a greater interest in soil biology and the benefits a healthy soil can have for the overall health of turf. The focus of many professionals has changed from 'turf growth' to overall 'turf health' with the aim of achieving greater levels of surface consistency, establishing better control of playing qualities and reducing disease occurrence.

With claims of improving rooting, encouraging microbial activity, increasing organic-matter breakdown, improved disease and drought resistance, amongst other things, biostimulants appear to be the 'silver bullet' supplement that modern professionals need. However, whilst it has been generally perceived that biostimulants have beneficial effects on turf health, evidence has often been anecdotal. There are a few well-researched products available, which have the advantage of having 'proven' themselves and have supporting independent evidence of how they work and the benefits they can provide.

These products will provide the most consistent and reliable turf response.

Vitalnova Blade is a carefully formulated biostimulant for turf developed by ICL to boost microbial activity and encourage better rooting, amongst other things. It is a product that combines seaweed and carbohydrates to provide a readily available source of carbon together with a range of micronutrients, amino acids and bioactive molecules. Consequently, regular applications of Vitalnova Blade through the growing season have been independently proven to stimulate soil biology and plant growth to enhance the benefits of a conventional fertiliser programme.

Independent research for Vitalnova Blade has demonstrated an increase in soil borne microorganisms as well as improved rooting. Plots treated with Vitalnova Blade showed a doubling of indigenous mycorrhiza levels as well as up to a 50% increase in beneficial bacteria levels when compared with untreated control plots. Such increases in fungal and bacterial activity increase soil nutrient re-cycling to help release 'locked-up' nutrients and enhance growth.

Furthermore, the same trials showed

**IN THIS INCREASINGLY CROWDED MARKETPLACE THE TURF MANAGER NEEDS TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE PRODUCTS SELECTED TO FORM PART OF THEIR TURF MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME.**





# biostimulant

a 40% increase in rootmass compared with the untreated control plots. With a greater rootmass the turf's ability to take up nutrients and water is increased to give a stronger, healthier plant and minimise stress which leads to better pest and disease resistance. The small quantity of macronutrients included within Vitalnova Blade (5-6.5-3.5) also help to enhance the benefits of routine fertiliser inputs by supplying a direct source of readily available nutrients to support overall plant health.

"Vitalnova Blade is a well-researched biostimulant for turf surfaces. The components have been carefully formulated for the best results. We have independent trials data that shows it can improve turf rooting and mycorrhizal association. In my opinion it is a great product for feeding your soil biology and all round turf health," said Dr Andy Owen, ICL International Technical Manager.

Formulated for use on golf course greens, tees, fairways and sports fields, Vitalnova Blade is designed to be used during the growing season (April – September) with the first application being made once consistent growth has been achieved. It is best applied monthly at between 20-30 l/ha and makes the perfect tank-mix partner for Greenmaster liquid fertilizers and Seamax Seaweed where the aim is to optimise turf health and recovery and maintain a natural colour. It can also be tank-mixed safely with Primo Maxx where a growth regulator is required although the application rate may need to be altered depending upon the frequency of Primo Maxx application.

When used regularly on sand-based surfaces, whether fine turf or sports field turf, the significant improvement Vitalnova Blade offers in microbial activity and the associated increase in nutrient recycling, coupled with

the improvement in rooting most users see really does amplify the benefits which can be gained.

On sports fields where the time available for renovation is short and the pressure to regain sward cover is high, apply Vitalnova Blade alone or in conjunction with a good wetting agent to increase the rate of establishment and speed up canopy closure. Apply at 30 l/ha once the seed has popped and germination has started. Further applications can be made once the 2nd leaf stage has been reached and then it is recommended that these continue on a monthly basis and in conjunction with Greenmaster Liquid and Seamax to optimise turf health.

Designed to boost microbial activity, improve root growth and manage stress Vitalnova Blade is a biostimulant that will enhance your routine fertilizer programme. It is available now from ICL-Specialty Fertilizers.

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# Helping Alfreton Golf Club deliver a first-class course, all year round

"We're only an 11-hole course – we'd love to be able to expand – but we think we've got the best small course in Derbyshire!"

Head Greenkeeper, Andy Fenn, pictured, doesn't hold back when describing Alfreton Golf Club and while he admits that his is a biased view, visitors to the course undoubtedly also agree with his sentiments.

Andy has been at the traditional parkland course, established in 1892, for almost 20 years, after a lifetime in volunteer groundsmanship that began in his late 20s as a player at his local cricket club then part-time at Alfreton Town FC before joining the golf club as assistant head greenkeeper. He was appointed Head Greenkeeper in November 2015.

"Before I joined the club I would play here so I knew the course," explained Andy.

After he took over the lead role, it is fair to say that the course has



continually progressed – "and with the initial greens team of two full-

time and one part-timer becoming three full-timers, including myself, we've been able to drive up standards on the course".

He's done this by not only applying all those years of experience and by rethinking the maintenance regime, but also by marrying the team's extensive skills set with top-of-the-range amenity supplies from Rigby Taylor.

"Throughout, our actions have been ably supported by the committee and the Greens Chairman, Roger Foster."

For example, Andy has instigated changes to the cutting regime with the mowers now in action on every weekday, as well as cutting once over each weekend, with the greens being maintained at 7mm in winter and 4mm in summer, while the tees are kept at 15mm and fairways at 20mm. Two John Deere 220Hs are used as pedestrian greens mowers; and three Ransomes mowers (a Duplex 2, a Fairway 305 and an AR522) are applied to other areas.

Rigby Taylor's R seed range is pre-treated with Germin-8

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"We have in place a stringent routine of aeration and scarifying, to minimise thatch levels. On a clay-based site such as ours, there's no rigid timetable for aeration. Also, it is weather dependent so we can't aerate even if it is slightly too wet – and we have to time it for when the conditions are right, normally spiking to four inches deep then applying around 40 tonnes of sand."

Andy confirms that the use of Rigby Taylor products continues to play a key role in the way the course is presented and how it plays.

"We've been dealing with Rigby Taylor for a number of years and we adopt a wide-ranging programme including fertilisers such as Microlite Activ8 conventional release granules, as well as chemical treatments that include the Fusion, Foremost and Rayzor fungicides, TriMate stress relief and recovery agent, and the Breaker Biolinks wetting agent.

"These are not the cheapest products on the market but in my view they certainly represent excellent value for money. They give us the results we need and, of course, the local sales representative Mark Robinson also provides a lot of back up and support."

"We take soil samples every year and with Mark we establish an annual programme of treatments. There's no doubt that the course has improved because of this. I believe that it's all about striking the right balance between nitrogen and biostimulants for turf health, and achieving a consistent playability with no peaks and troughs in the way the course plays or in the presentation of the turf.

"With regard to the latter, our use of Magnet Dynamite chelated iron gives excellent results in terms of turf colour, and Spike potassium-silica treatment is used for 'standing up' the turf.

"This is exactly what we need because our members expect to be able to use a first-class course all year round. We have to deliver that."

With a background in cricket and football, he also highlights that "grass science is transferrable, especially in terms of the fertilisers used and

20/20/30 tank mix

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the diseases faced", but he admits that golf course maintenance is probably the most testing "since there are variable surfaces to be maintained simultaneously".

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# GOLFING NOBODY'S

# Blog.

The name fuddy-duddy could have been invented for me. I thought that as I watched that golfsixes thing that was played near St Albans a few weeks ago. All razzamattaz, walk on music and fireworks, and aimed at retaining the interest of the most ADHD of children, I was left totally bemused.

Now as you know I am a golfing traditionalist – I've only just departed from my plus 2s and my steel spikes – and the notion of trying to finish of a match in six holes just seems wrong. I say that because it is

normally around the six hole mark that I've shaken off the rust and conjured up my first bogey and looking forward to the odd makeable par putt. If I was already back in the clubhouse by that time, nursing a whitewash, I'd be wondering if it had been a worthwhile exercise getting out of bed that morning.

As I say I'm a traditionalist and as a traditionalist I do believe a round of golf shouldn't take more than three and a half hours max – for a fourball. If that were to become the norm any need to jazz up our wonderful game would be removed and we

could all be home in time to help with the shopping instead of still being on the 15th green watching a partner attempting to plumb bob a putt.

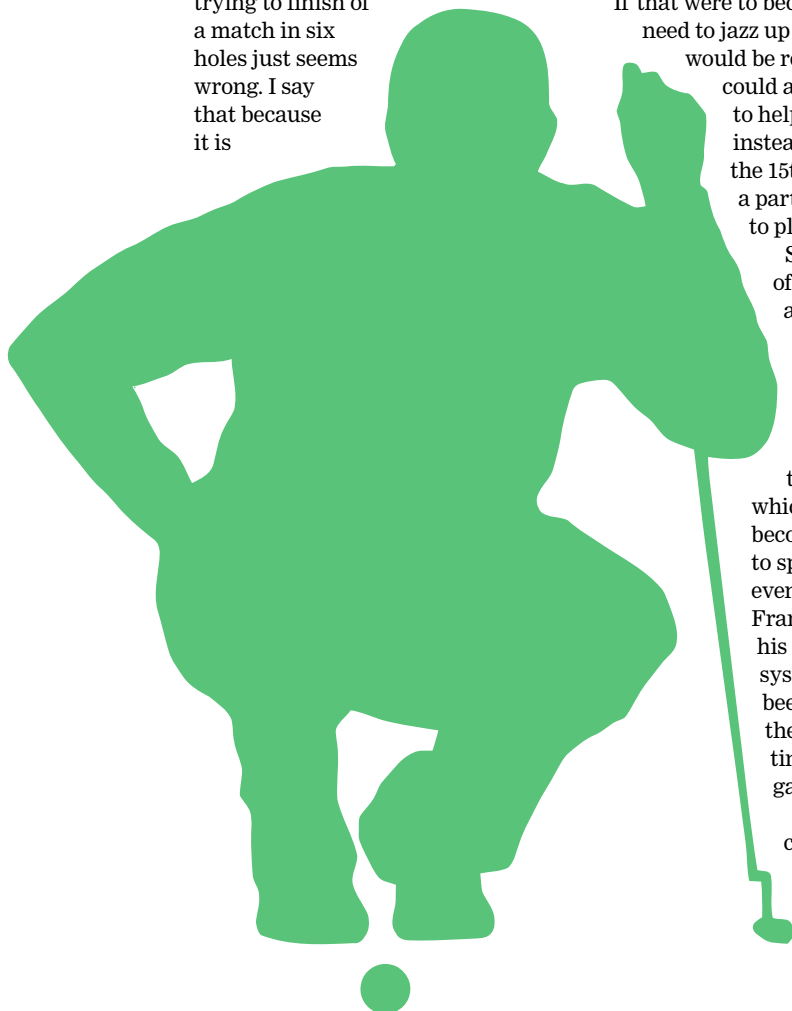
Slow play is the nub of the entire matter and is, in all honesty, not overly difficult to police. Shot penalties for the pros and the same for us warriors of the Monthly Medal - which could also easily become Stablefords to speed things up even more. When Dr Frank came up with his Stableford scoring system he should have been knighted and the need for any other tinkering with the game set to one side.

But in truth the concept of jazzing up sport got me thinking. It has worked for 20twenty

cricket, I suppose, and snooker World Championships are no longer contested over 145 frames, so I've looked at a few options for other sports.

How about Formula One where half the field go clockwise and the other half anti clockwise? We all face on-coming traffic during our day-to-day driving so why should it be different for the top guys and it would certainly test their reflexes. Then tennis. How about not having ball boys or girls and only four balls to play with. Seeing Andy and Novak chasing about trying to track down a ball which has gone over the fence or under one of the stands would spice it up, particularly if the same time was allowed between shots. How about football? How about both penalty taker and goalkeeper blindfolded and spun around before taking the kick? Rugby. Instead of someone having a rest for 10 minutes if they've been yellow carded get them to run around the pitch five times – the faster they go the quicker they'll be back, but also the more tired they will be. The Marathon. A draw should be made before each race to allocate a fancy dress costume. Isn't it bizarre that the best runners get to run in shorts and a vest while those slow coaches are trying to complete the same task dressed as Fred Flintstone or a rhino? Skiing. Racing must be carried out in the same pair of salopettes which have been in the back of the wardrobe for 15 years and which only come out for one week a year, no slackening of the waist band to be allowed.

Sometimes I think I'm wasted writing this Golfing Nobody's Blog. I should be employed by IMG as a sports' visionary!







## as seen on TWITTER



### Community Golf | @communitygolf1

What a team (75% female) and what a day! @LETgolf #thisgirlgolfs day saw lots of girls have some fun! #thisgirlcan #getintogolf #girlsgolf

### Emirates OT | @EmiratesOT

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### Kelly Saddleton |

@MotherOfGolfers

I'm excited about @SprowstonGolf's 'learn golf in a day' with the ladies I met on the @Getintogolf taster! Roll on July 8th! @ThisGirlCanUK

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### Tea Break Teaser answers

1. Southampton and Tottenham Hotspur; 2. Becky James; 3. 1927; 4. 400 metres hurdles; 5. Shane Williams; 6. South Africa; 7. Hereford United; 8. Tokyo in 1964; 9. Neville Southall with 92; 10. 1991; 11. Non Stafford; 12. 346 goals; 13. 43; 14. Ray Reardon; 15. Nicole Cook.

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