

GROUNDSKEEPING

JOURNAL

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TURF TANK

Eton College use the quality of the Turf Tank One to relieve staff pressure

REESINK

Tottenham Hotspur FC brings in electric fleet from STAR EV

ECO CLIPPER

Eco Clipper FM4 Sport for sporting grounds

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Max Sandford, Head Groundsman, Exeter Rugby Club

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Welcome to *Groundskeeping Journal*, the UK's latest bi-monthly publication providing latest product innovations, industry news and opinions from key professionals within the industry. With focuses on Aeration, Irrigation & Drainage; Greenskeeping; Latest News; Machinery; Pitch & Line Marking; Specialist Mowers; Sports Ground Equipment; Sports Pitches; Top Dressing; Sprayers & Spraying and Turf Management.



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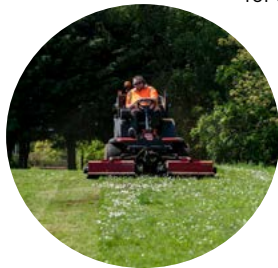


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Enhancing Quality Sports Services

Hello and welcome to Groundskeeping Journal. Our publication has been created to showcase the very latest industry news and product information from the Groundskeeping sector.

In each edition we carry in depth articles from some of the industry leaders, the articles cover many aspects of Groundskeeping with some offering tips and advice on Sports Pitches, Turf Management, Greens Keeping and much, much more. Whether you are looking for tips and advice on creating the perfect green or looking to source



the right product for your synthetic surface GKJ has it all.

Our vision is to connect our readers with professionals and suppliers working within their sector and we hope that we have created a platform that will become a must have tool for anyone working within the industry.

Many thanks for taking the time to read our publication, we hope you enjoy the read and if you would like to keep up to date with all things GKJ then make sure you check out our subscribe page.



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Westgate-on-sea Cricket Club wins Toro Greensmaster 800

Westgate-on-Sea Cricket Club is the lucky winner of a Toro Greensmaster 800 pedestrian mower after entering distributor Reesink Turfcare's competition at SALTEX

Raif Kelly, who has been at the club for 35 years having worn many hats along the way from president to secretary to community manager and finally, as head groundsman, is "incredibly pleased" with the result from the prize draw and

can't wait to put the Greensmaster 800 to work.

Overseeing three groundskeeping teams that work diligently on the square every weekend, Raif explains: "The Greensmaster 800 will come very in handy to cut the cricket strips to the standards to which we have accustomed

our members. This is our first Toro machine so we're very excited to try it and see what it can do.

"We make sure the square is always in good condition. A lot of work goes into it over the year, starting in May and finishing in September, at which point we put it to bed during the winter.



“

We welcome this new greensmower and the technology it brings, it's a great opportunity to try new things and new techniques and see where that takes us.

There's only two months in the whole year where we don't do any work so the Toro mower will be put to a lot of good use!"

The Greensmaster 800 is built upon Toro's legendary reputation of the Greensmaster 1000, with a cutting width range of 18 inches, heavy-duty 4.3hp Subaru Industrial engine, narrow

mowing swath for narrow striping and a standard 14-blade cylinder. This walk-behind mower excels on the cricket square, providing a superior precision of cut and straight-line tracking for the perfect finish.

Raif continues: "We welcome this new greensmower and the technology it brings, it's a great opportunity to try new things and new techniques and see where that takes us."

Reesink's South East branch will be delivering the machine to the club and branch manager Jon Cole says of the win: "Congratulations to the team at Westgate-On-Sea Cricket Club. We hope the Toro Greensmaster will help maintain your pitch to the highest level for this season and many more to come."

To talk to someone about Toro technology and how the Toro range would suit your course, call 01480 226800.





Two Corvus Terrain 4x4 UTVs for Nick Skelton

Nick Skelton CBE, the equestrian and former show jumper, has taken delivery of two Corvus Terrain DX4 PRO EPS 4x4 utility vehicles in green livery. Nick, who won his team Olympic gold medal in 2012 and Individual Olympic gold in 2016, aged 58 at his seventh Olympic Games, bought the vehicles for his Alcester farm. The property is the home of Team Skelton, which comprises Nick's son's Dan Skelton Racing team, and is set across two yards, Lodge Hill and Badbury Hill Barn. Dan Skelton trains racehorses which have enjoyed outstanding success

at the highest level in National Hunt racing.

"We have had numerous 4x4 utility vehicles," says Nick, "and when they came up for review, we tried a number of UTVs. We had not heard of Corvus, so we had one on test loan on the suggestion of Murray Boss at Ace ATV, who has been our dealer for many years. Lots of owners come to the yards and we use the 4x4s to ferry them up and down the gallops as well as pulling chain harrows. They are good for all sorts of uses. We like the feeling of them, they are bigger than the others we considered and feel more robust."

The Terrain is powered by a normally aspirated, inline 3-cylinder 993cc Yanmar Diesel engine, which gives excellent fuel efficiency and range. The above mentioned models are Stage V emission compliant, as an homologated diesel tractor to T1b tractor regulation and have a top speed of 40mph/65kp/h. Corvus is building the Terrain for work primarily in agriculture, livestock, forestry, turf care and construction, but they are highly adaptable vehicles ready for any demanding off-road workout.

For more information about the Corvus Terrain range, you can call 01597 810188
E-mail: sales@bossorv.co.uk
Web: www.bossorv.co.uk



EAST RIDING TURFCARE

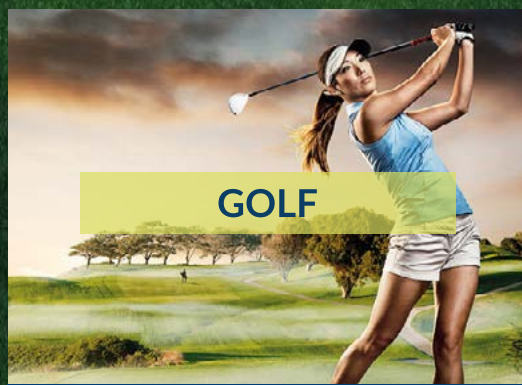
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TURF TOPDRESSING

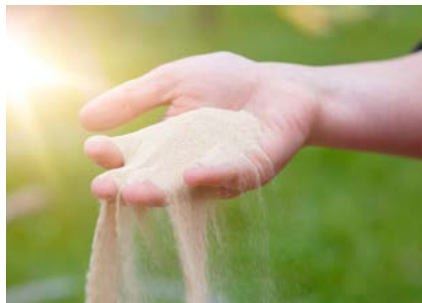
WHY, WHEN AND HOW TO DO IT

Topdressing your lawn or sports turf should be an important part of your turf maintenance programme. It refers to applying additional material to your turf's surface and is widely known to improve the performance and appearance of lawns and turf.

The main benefits of topdressing include the following:

- Improves the turf's resilience to disease.
- Keep the turf's surface level by filling in hollows and undulations with the topdressing.
- Sand based topdressings can improve drainage and firm up the surface. This is particularly effective after turf aeration.
- Compost based topdressings can improve the drought tolerance of the turf.
- Some topdressings include additional nutrients that can improve the turf's appearance and performance, such as iron to help control moss or nitrogen to increase growth.

There are many different types of top dressing such as sand, soil, peat and loam based top dressings. One of the most common top dressings is a 70/30 top dressing mix (70% sand and 30% loam). Many top dressings are screened and graded to a certain size. There are even specialist Sports Top Dressings available such as Profile Greens Grade, which are used in the construction of golf greens and cricket wickets. It



is important to use the correct top dressing for your requirements and one that will match closely with your existing soil.

The best time to dress your turf is during periods of grass growth, so in regular conditions, any time during April and October. Traditionally this is done in late Spring or early Autumn to correspond with usual turf renovation programmes. It is recommended to

apply top-dressing at least once a year after a period of turf renovation such as aeration.

Applying top dressing is a simple process. First, mow the lawn to aid with

working the top dressing into the soil. An important step before applying top dressing is scarification of the turf using a lawn rake or scarifier machine. This process removes any thatch or moss in the turf. Next, spread the topdressing as evenly across the turf as you can. The most common rate is around 4 kg per square meter; however this may vary according to your needs. You can use a fertiliser spreader for even coverage, or simply apply by using shovel and spreading in a casting motion. Begin working the topdressing into the turf immediately using a landscaper rake, drag mat or lute. Repeat until the top dressing becomes part of the soil. If it doesn't rain within a few days of applying, lightly water to wash in any loose material.

For more technical advice on turf care and maintenance, visit www.agrigem.co.uk.

Agrigem are also a leading industry supplier of a full range of top dressings in 25kg and bulk bags, scarifiers and a large selection of sport and amenity turf care products.





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Blaukorn has been praised by the Head Groundsman at AFC Telford United for delivering a fast, but long-lasting, colour boost to their stadium pitch. A single application of the quick release fertiliser from Headland Amenity was put down in February and, in conjunction with Greentec, should deliver the nutrients required to see the pitch safely through to the end of the season.

The maintenance at the New Bucks Head Stadium is very much a family affair – with current Head Groundsman George Conway taking over the role following his father's retirement in January 2022, with additional support and match-day help from George's brother, Andrew. Shortly after his appointment, George had a visit from Headland's Regional Technical Manager for Sports Turf, Jack Hawkes, and the pair constructed a feeding programme for the remainder of the season and beyond.

"We'd applied a fertiliser around New Year, but needed something to give the pitch a bit of a kick" explains George. "Jack suggested Blaukorn 15-3-20, applied at 30g/m² which went down middle of February and within four days the pitch was presenting beautifully, with a really enhanced and vivid colour! We're now four weeks on and the results are still visible."

Blaukorn 15-3-20 is a homogenous granule with no carrier and a highly water-soluble phosphorous content that breaks down quickly when in contact with moisture. Containing ammonium and nitrate, Blaukorn provides a fast response even at low temperatures – something that impressed George. "The temperatures we had in February were low but that didn't hamper the response we received from the product. It gave the pitch the boost it needed with results that have lasted."

"We're then going to be applying Greentec 14-2-6 to deliver a mix of nitrogen

sources which should see us through to renovations." In addition to AFC Telford United first-team matches, the pitch also hosts West Brom Under 23's and junior fixtures so as well as being a high-use surface, application and maintenance windows can be tight. "I've had fantastic support from Jack. He pops in regularly to see how the pitch is holding up and is not afraid to suggest new things to maximise the results from the programme, respecting our resources and budget."

"Considering the number of games we've had, the Chairman and the players are delighted with how the pitch is holding up" concludes George. "We've had great success with the Headland programme to date and look forward to continuing that with a brand new one that will start as soon as the new seed goes down."

Tel: +44 (0)1763 255550
www.headlandamenity.com





Delivering the magic combination

The unique blend of cultivars in Johnsons Sports Seeds J Tee mixture is delivering the magic combination of rapid establishment and high wear tolerance required at Cardiff's Wenvoe Castle Golf Club. Head Greenkeeper Lucy Sellick cites the small tees and the sustained high levels of play as a major maintenance challenge, overcome with this mix incorporating tetraploids and a little extra spring 'kick-start' with DLF's ProNitro® seed coating.

A team of four assists Lucy with the maintenance of the 18-hole parkland course, labelled as 'one of the finest challenges of golf in Wales'. "The big challenge for us is finding seed that can germinate and establish quick enough to cope with the high number of rounds! I've been greenkeeping for a long time, and for our site, I'm yet to find anything that can compete with the establishment and consistency we get with the Johnsons mixtures."

Johnsons J Tee incorporates 40% tetraploid ryegrass, in the form of Fabian and Tetragame, delivering significantly improved disease tolerance, shoot density and recovery, even under close mown conditions. It also incorporates Sabrena RSMG – which germinates like a ryegrass, has the fine leaf and density of a bent grass and delivers outstanding wear tolerance, even in shady conditions. "We've been using J Tee for the last few years now and continue to see germination in under two weeks, even in the cooler conditions with the J Nitro Tee option." Featuring both fast and slow-release nitrogen, ProNitro improves nutrient utilisation during the early stages of plant growth for each developing seedling.

"We sow J Nitro Tee at the start of the season, when everything is a bit slower to give the seed a bit of a head start. We then switch to the regular J Tee in the middle of the season, and have

achieved fantastic results." Lucy adds, "We also use Johnsons J All Bent on our greens which, again, is great for high wear tolerance. The high wear areas around the perimeters of the greens are predominately Poa, but the combination of Arrowtown and Manor outcompetes that and helps us to achieve faster greens with improved disease resistance."

"Another great thing about the Johnsons range from DLF is the fact that it's backed by science. You know that behind every formulation are years of research and trials which for me is a big advantage." She concludes, "The team, including my Regional Technical Manager Ian Barnett, are always on hand with the latest information and findings which reassures me that I'm always making the right choice."

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Velvit fertilisers will provide the specific care and nutrition that premium turf demands. Our Sales and Product development team are sharing this season's must have products that are guaranteed to increase root development, reduce negative impacts of many stresses, and leave your turf looking green, healthy, and growing.

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Command

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Add Velvit Standard granular fertilisers for green-up and increased plant health.

Nutrilon

Designed to release nutrients carefully over time, the Nutrilon range uses a very precise polymer coating technology to provide an extended supply of nutrition to the sward. Available as V90 for 3 months and V180 for 5-6 months longevity, the range provides sustained nutrition with profiles designed to nourish and maintain the turf for optimum health, performance, and appearance.

Velvit Standard

A range of essential granular fertilisers carefully formulated to cover the range of requirements experienced throughout the growing season. They contain readily available nutrients for colour, growth, sward density and plant health.

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Henry Ng elected to AGIF Board

Sustâne Natural Fertilizer, Inc. is pleased to confirm that Henry Ng, Regional Manager Asia, has been elected to the Asian Golf Industry Federation (AGIF) Board for 2022-23. Announced at the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on Friday 25th February, Henry joins an astute board of industry professionals in promoting best practice, support and training for those working in the Asian golf industry.

A veteran in the Asian golf sector with a background in golf course agronomy and management, Henry presently serves as Regional Manager Asia for Sustâne Natural Fertilizer, Inc. Based in Kuching, city of Borneo in Malaysia, Henry leads the Asia Pacific markets including China, Japan, South Korea and the Indian sub-continent, supporting customers in golf and sports turf, as well as those working in agriculture, landscaping, nurseries,



green roof contracting, and erosion control.

Commenting on his appointment, Henry said "I truly appreciate and thank all voting members of AGIF for the confidence in electing me to serve on the board for 2022-23. I certainly look forward to collaborating with fellow

members of the federation to build on the strong foundation that has been laid by the past and present board, and management."

Craig Holden, President of Sustâne Natural Fertilizer Inc. added, "Sustâne are delighted by Henry's new board appointment, and we will continue to give our full backing and support to Henry and the federation as a whole in the developments towards a more sustainable industry".

As the world's leading manufacturer of sustainable, organic and natural base fertilisers, Sustâne is available in more than 60 countries around the globe, with products to suit both consumer and horticultural professionals. Sustâne are also proud to be founding and full business member of AGIF.

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GroundWOW® makes a mark at Stockport County FC



Autonomous technology innovators, GroundWOW®, have been deploying their world first capability at Edgeley Park as part of their Partnership with National League team Stockport County Football Club. The deal, which was announced back in December 2021,

gives Stockport 24-hour access to the technology, creating opportunities to turn their pitch side perimeter into advertising space. For GroundWOW®, the agreement grants them stadium authentic access and the chance to work alongside first-class teams in operations, commercial and marketing.

“Stockport’s ambition is obvious to anybody who is around the club just now and with ambitious plans of our own, it felt like a great fit from the moment we first met” said GroundWOW’s Chief Commercial Officer, David Pritchard. “Stockport have never shied away from doing



things differently. We know the club have a strong commercial foothold in the community and so bringing a world first capability to that setting is a real source of excitement". On signing the agreement, Stockport's Director of Operations, Rick Simkin said, "We went to see GroundWOW® at their high-tech headquarters and we were blown away by what they are doing". He continued, "GroundWOW® think on the same scale we do and so we are excited to imagine the sort of activations we can bring to life".

GroundWOW's most recent activation for Stockport County FC saw printed logos for main partner brands PUMA and VITA in preparation for the game against Southend United on Saturday April 9th. The logos were hard to miss on the BT Sport live broadcast. Pritchard commented, "it was terrific to be on this job and deploy one of our autonomous robots to create two killer looking brand activations" he continued, "and it's always a privilege to be behind the scenes at iconic venues like Edgeley Park and to work with people on the club side who are absolutely fanatical about what they do. The activation for TV at Stockport County was all of that and more!".



The game at GroundWOW's nearest footballing neighbour was an opportunity to showcase the SFXMAX™, their new touchline ground printer. This latest model has been created especially for pitch side presence at sporting venues, printing in full colour and up to 3m high at unlimited length. The pitch perimeter is prime real estate in football and lends itself to many opportunities for brand activations, whether this is for partners, sponsors or businesses seeking advertising space.

GroundWOW® robots are designed for all leagues from grassroots to professional. The primary focus is in the sports sector with an intuitive technology that allows

users to turn under-utilised real estate into incremental revenue. There's also an expanding product line based on differing needs depending on the business, and whether technology is deployed for game days or non-game day events, such as conferences or exhibitions. The idea of having something that can be out of the box and printing in under ten minutes is a fundamental part of the value proposition given the opportunistic capability that hands to a client who might need to react to a situation with zero notice.



We went to see GroundWOW® at their high-tech headquarters and we were blown away by what they are doing. GroundWOW® think on the same scale we do and so we are excited to imagine the sort of activations we can bring to life.

*Rick Simkin Director of Operations
Stockport County FC*



GroundWOW® aims to be the world's most environmentally conscious and low-cost-efficient electric ground marking vehicle. Being conscious of their carbon footprint has always been important throughout their timeline and the robots have been created with environmental impacts in mind. The paint is turf, animal and human safe, and the choices of materials and power source were all made with a carbon conscious outcome very much in mind. At the Stockport activation, the paints were removed just as easily as they were printed. Whether it's artificial or real turf, GroundWOW® prints are non-permanent and can be

removed by jet washing off or allowing the turf to grow and then mowing over it. This means the same patch of land can be used repeatedly without any long-term damage.

This isn't the first time GroundWOW's technology has been seen by large crowds with previous activations including work for The Jockey Club at

The Cheltenham Festival, the Festival of Cricket for the Professional Cricketers' Trust at Wormsley cricket ground, and at Old Trafford stadium for the live broadcast of SoccerAid.

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Eton College use the Quality of the Turf Tank One to Relieve Staff Pressure

As far as jobs go, Eton College provides a unique challenge. As one of the most recognisable names in education with great historical significance, the school's reputation from students to sports pitches is paramount.

Since May 2020, Eton's 38 winter sports pitches and 1,500 acres of land spanning the M4 all the way to 2012 Olympic venue Dorney Lake have been under the control of Grounds Manager Lee Marshall.

His tenure has coincided with the Covid pandemic, which brought to light the number of man-hours his team spent line marking and the fact something needed to be done about it.

For context, Lee has a team of thirty. Eleven are groundsmen, with two on the college's golf course full time and another pair dedicated to line marking. Over the summer, the line marking duo spent six to seven weeks marking out football and rugby pitches for the commencement of the school year,

and in November, Lee checked his Turf Keeper records to discover his team spent over 850 hours marking.

The man-hours and pressure involved in completing this task between terms had Lee looking for alternative options. Despite being initially sceptical of a robotic line maker, he eventually turned to Turf Tank. <https://turf tank.com/en/>

"It was also about helping the team, so they didn't feel under pressure all the time. With the robot, where it's taken us

I think to be fair; the Turf Tank instantly ticked a lot of boxes for us. And it wasn't just me, my team were there, and we tried other machines a week apart on the same pitch.

six or seven weeks to mark everything, we can effectively do that in a week now. Suddenly, the pressure has gone, and if we have staff on holiday or off sick, it keeps us out of trouble.

"We've got some projects lined up this

summer that we are going to do in-house, and suddenly, that marker frees up two people, and we can put extra staff on the projects. That's how we'll use it as an aid and addition to the team to help plan workload and projects."

With the Turf Tank One in place, Lee is looking to cut his marking hours by more than half. For him, this will increase pitch quality with additional aeration, cutting and finessing taking place. But choosing a robot and company that could provide everything he needed was critical.

The support from Alex and the Turf Tank team has been exemplary, with all

questions answered quickly and I know that there is a full-time service engineer if I ever need hands-on assistance."

"I think to be fair; the Turf Tank instantly ticked a lot of boxes for us. And it wasn't just me, my team were there, and we tried other machines a week apart on the same pitch. We looked at line quality, how much paint it was putting out, how quick it was to set up, and there were similarities.

"But then we started to think about the differences. Do we want to be tied into a paint deal? Do we want an annual subscription fee? Turf Tank gave us that bit more flexibility.





We want to teach our staff new skills and using and understanding the latest technology is very much part of Eton College's ethos. I'm very much won-over and very impressed with the Turf Tank One line-marking robot.

"The other factor was the base station. You read a lot about the pros and cons, but to be honest as soon as I saw how it interacted with the machine, and how much more accurate the marking was, compared to those without using a base station, the whole team were like 'it's a no brainer, isn't it?' It blew us away, to be fair, and we bought the Turf Tank, and we now have base station points installed across the site, and it has worked really, really well.

"The Turf Tank records templates for initial marking and subsequent over-marking. Being able to get those templates was a significant point for us and nothing has been out of the remit of the robot. We've got most of the



pitches loaded up now, including where the goals are actually smaller than a football goal, but we've managed to get the robot between the two posts and mark. Everything we've asked for has happened, and it has been great

"We want to teach our staff new skills and using and understanding the latest technology is very much part of Eton College's ethos. I'm very much won-over

and very impressed with the Turf Tank One line-marking robot. And if I were to move anywhere else, it is one of the first things I'd want to have in my fleet."

For more information on the Turf Tank One or to have a demonstration contact alex@turf tank.co.uk (southern UK) or matt@turf tank.co.uk (northern UK) Michael@turf tank.co.uk (Scotland and Ireland)

WHEN PRECISION IS KEY



"It saves us a hell of a lot of time. To mark one pitch, it would take myself or two of my staff an hour, an hour and a half to two hours. But obviously, with the Turf Tank to mark one pitch alone, it takes 20 to 25 minutes. Generally, we'd use five to six litres of paint to mark a pitch, but with the Turf Tank, we probably use four litres."

**Matt Tietjen, Academy Head Groundsman,
Nottingham Forest Football Club**

"When I first saw the Turf Tank One at the demo, I was absolutely amazed, and having used it, it is revolutionary. It just makes the job a hundred times easier, all the lines are straight and there's no mess."

**Richard Hare, Head Groundsperson,
Bromsgrove School**



"The reason I started to look around at autonomous markers was that I found a real inconsistency with how staff marked pitches. With Turf Tank, we've got more consistent lines and I know exactly how much paint we're using per pitch."

**David Thackray, Head Groundsperson,
University of Leeds**



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TINY Mobile Robots

A 'No Brainer' for today's groundsmen

Two milestones for the industry were achieved in March. At BTME the UK's 100th sale of a TinyLineMarking robotic machine was achieved and in the same month, a world record of a million marked pitches was recorded as being marked by TinyMobileRobots!

The 100th UK robot purchase was made by Richard Peel of Richard Peel Sports Turf, the Lancashire-based sports grounds maintenance contractor. To make this even more memorable, Richard Peel placed the order for the very first Tiny robot, four years previously and now has three robots all in constant use.

"The TinyMobileRobots have made a massive difference to my pitch line marking operation" states Richard Peel, "and this latest purchase, as the others before, will enable us to be both more efficient and cost effective with our existing line marking operations. It also opens up further opportunities for future expansion to a multitude of new customers – councils, schools, sports clubs alike," he says. "

Richard continues: "The TMR Pro is a truly amazing machine. Not only is the robot a one-man operation, which includes transportation between each job/site (unloading/loading), we also use the IMPACT ready to use paint, so there is no down time measuring or mixing or the need for a water supply as the paint is applied straight from its container.

The result is that the lines are applied at speed and with great accuracy."

"In addition", continues Richard, "the operator having set the machine to mark can then undertake other tasks such as mowing, aerating, spraying etc. "



Richard Peel with the UK's 100th Tiny Robot purchase

In the contracting business, the price charged per pitch is a key calculation. Using the TMR Pro, the actual initial marking time for a full-size football pitch is just 20 minutes and that's with just one operator.

Without the robot, such an operation would have required two operators to string out the pitch and then mark out the lines using a traditional walk behind

machine; an operation that would have taken around 2-2.5 hours.

Further, if the operation was for marking an eight-lane running track, it would require two operators a full day, which when using a TMR Pro can now be completed by just one person in just 90 minutes."

The same cost per pitch calculation is



IMPACT ready-to-use paint can be sued straight from its container - no measuring, mixing or mess!

used for Rigby Taylor's award-winning ready-mixed Impact paint. Impact may cost more per container, but less paint is used per pitch and the lines are brighter and longer-lasting lines so, on an actual line-for-line basis, the cost per pitch is much lower."

Impact is the ideal paint partner to the TMR Pro, which features the latest GPS technology with RTK receiver and antenna that connects with global satellites and mobile network connections. A supplied tablet records the input of pitch line dimensions and multiple pitches via an App and, once stored, the lines are never lost, even if they disappear because a pitch is not used for any length of time.

Launched initially for marking football pitches (all sizes) and rugby union and league pitches, the TMR Pro can now download over 50 sports surfaces via the App including multi-lane athletic tracks, American football and Gaelic pitches, tennis, cricket, lacrosse, field hockey and even Quiddich! The robot can also mark letters and numbers, exhibition and event markings and car parking grids.



Using a Tiny Robot line marker allows other tasks to be undertaken simultaneously

Such flexibility is also attractive to schools, colleges and universities that have larges number of pitches that require different markings.

Hartpury University and Hartpury College's purchase of the Tiny Pro, fully autonomous, robot has proved to be a "big time saver" for the grounds team according to Grounds and Sports Maintenance Manager Matthew Newman. The team oversee the grounds maintenance of the facility's multi-million-pound outdoor sports facilities used by students, as well as Premiership RFU side

Gloucester Rugby, Gloucester-Hartpury Women's RFC, Hartpury University RFC and the university football club.

Matthew manages three grounds care teams that work across the Gloucester-based campus. There are eight natural turf and two 3G artificial sports pitches, a short game area and golf green.

"There's probably not a single day when a line marker is not being used by my team at the college," Matthew explains. "We normally pitch prep on a Monday and Tuesday for university and college mid-week fixtures on a Wednesday, Gloucester Rugby

trains on the same day, Thursday is a repair day and on Friday we prep for the weekend fixtures. Before we invested in the Tiny Pro it would normally have taken two members of staff one and a half hours to each mark a pitch, an operation that now takes just 20 minutes - within mm accuracy ...and frees up two members of staff for other tasks.

Championship league club Preston North End FC also identified the Tiny robot as a line marking game changer. Head Groundsman Pete Ashworth saw that

managing the line marking operation across their extended training ground sites created a time management problem and saw a potential solution when he was introduced to the robotic Tiny Sport. Following demonstrations of the robot, he advised the club that it would be a cost-effective time saver for the grounds team.



'A supplied tablet records line input dimensions and stores all for future use



Hartpury University and College campus sports ground market using the Tiny Pro



Tiny Pro in action on the Hartpury University and College sports ground campus



Pete Ashworth, Head Groundsman Preston North End FC

“Getting the robot was quite innovative for us,” Pete says. “We now take the Tiny Sport to mark out twice a week at each site – it’s used on the first team training ground on a Monday and Thursday, and the academy on a Tuesday and Friday.

If there’s only one lad at the academy site, he can just set it off while he gets on with the cutting or vertidrainin - it’s definitely helping us a lot.”

When the Tiny Sport arrived, Pete and his team had a ‘hands-on’ training day and were shown how to use the

accompanying tablet, access the football pitch templates and how to plot bespoke pitch markings.

Pete continues. “Now all the pitch templates are stored in the tablet for each site, if we ever lose one – for example, if we were cutting and didn’t mark it, we know we can put the robot back out and it will mark it up from scratch within half an hour – it’s so easy,” Pete says, adding that he also uses IMPACT paint for vibrant lines.

www.rigbytaylor.com



Tiny Sport marking out one of PNE’s training ground pitches’

Two great choices, one superb result. Remarkable!



TinyLineMarker **Sport**



TinyLineMarker **Pro**



Intelligent by design

Using the latest, robotic technology and GPS/RTK connectivity, the TLM Pro and Sport deliver initial and over-marking to millimetre accuracy



Cost efficiency

Whilst the TLM robots are marking, the operator is free to undertake other important tasks like mowing, aeration, spraying, spreading etc.



Perfect partners

Award winning Impact ready to use paint provides long-lasting, bright white lines. No measuring, no mixing and no waste



Simple to operate

Finger-tip control using supplied tablet. Over 50 sports pitch template Apps can be accessed and markings stored for future use



Quality and reliability

Both robots are constructed using high quality materials, are easy to transport, simple to use and require little maintenance



Eco-friendly and safe

Battery powered, low energy and water consumption with zero emissions. The TLM robots are the smart choice for initial and frequent overmarking

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Boston West Golf and Appletree Country Park

By Dr Tracey Jones at Boston West

At Boston West Golf and Appletree Country Park we are proud to endorse Gripclad.

We are the first, in the Away Resorts group of 27 holiday parks, to own a golf course, with more to follow in the future hopefully.

Our Head Greenkeeper, Ian Robins, recommended we use Gripclad. He said:

I have been greenkeeping for 30 years. I've found Gripclad by far the best surface for steps and steep inclines on paths. Even during the hardest of frosts Gripclad has always outshone other materials that I have used.

I cannot recommend it higher! Great product!

Additionally, Phil Chantry, Assistant Head Greenkeeper, said 'Gripclad performs brilliantly in the hardest of frosts and even in light snow it still provides a good level of grip'.

Since taking over Boston West Golf Course in 2020, Away Resorts has invested heavily in the site. We can now boast a much improved 9-hole golf course; a 20 bay, flood lit driving range - 10 of which are TopTracer; two new restaurants and bars: The Topsy Eagle and Six Minutes West; new sports and leisure facilities including, bike hire,

an adventure playground and a splash pad. Additionally, huge investment has been put into our golf course, including substantive health and safety updates. This is where Gripclad comes in!

The original steps, on many of our tees, were covered in artificial grass, which had deteriorated over the years, causing a potential risk of slip injuries, especially in the wet weather. This was identified as an area needing immediate attention. Gripclad to the rescue!

Ian recommended we remove the artificial grass, which was quite slippery, and replace it with Gripclad.



As you can see from the photographs, not only has this improved the safety of our course, but it has also really improved the aesthetics too. Gripclad looks stylish and is extremely safe.

Our Golf Pro, Sophie Hunter, stated that there has been 'a massive financial investment into the course. Although health and safety are paramount, we have had to make affordable improvements where we can'. Gripclad has proved to be a cost-effective solution to the problem of slippery, dangerous steps.



The added benefits of Gripclad are that it comes in ready-cut, metre-long strips – the perfect length for our steps, with all the needed screws and fittings included. The benefits of this are that it fits directly onto our existing surfaces, making life so much easier for our Greenkeepers who have reported that it is extremely easy to use, simple to fix, and is very hard wearing.

The heavy-duty nature of the product is essential as it will need to withstand excessive usage from golfers and

holiday makers alike. We are confident that we have found the perfect anti-slip solution in Gripclad. We will definitely be recommending it to our other parks, for use in a variety of locations.

Barry Eagle at Gripclad Limited has been truly amazing, his customer service cannot be faulted. He has described and explained the product to us in detail which has allowed us to select exactly what we need. Therefore, we have had absolutely zero wastage. Moreover, the speedy deliveries have enabled us to continue with our refurbishment of the site in a timely fashion.

I cannot praise Gripclad enough. We will continue to use this product, not only on our golf course, but also on caravan and lodge steps, decking and fire escape stairs. It is such a versatile material!

For more information, visit:
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From right, Darren Baldwin, Head of Playing Surfaces and Estates at Tottenham Hotspur with Reesink's Richard Freeman and Dave French.

Star for Spurs

Tottenham Hotspur FC brings in electric fleet from STAR EV

T

ottenham Hotspur Football Club has chosen STAR EV to play a key part in its journey to becoming net zero carbon.

As a fleet of STAR EV all-electric vehicles from distributor Reesink e-Vehicles arrive at the Training Centre in North London, Darren Baldwin, Head of Playing Surfaces and Estates at the club, which has topped the Premier League sustainability table produced by the UN-backed Sport Positive and published by BBC Sport for three years

running, tells us why he chose STAR EV.

"We needed an alternative form of transport for staff and VIPs around the Training Centre that has a reduced impact on the environment," he explains. "We're already investing in electric options for tending to the pitches and what we needed next was an electric solution that encompassed golf buggies, people carriers, utility vehicles and ambulances."

Tottenham Hotspur is using 10 Capella Work Machines, three ambulances – two for the men's team and one for the women's – and

a Sirius four-seater people carrier. All are electric and come with STAR EV's record of using high quality materials to create one of the most resourceful green vehicles on the market.

With Tottenham Hotspur a proud member of the UN Race to Zero, committing to halve its carbon emissions by 2030 and become net zero carbon by 2040, its partnership with STAR EV will help it secure a place in the top tier of sustainability in sport.

Darren has been at the club for 26 years and has certainly seen many pivotal points in



We already have a successful relationship working with Reesink UK for our turfcare machinery, so when we heard they had an e-Vehicles division focusing solely on electric vehicles we trusted them with delivering us with the best possible solution for an all-electric fleet.

the industry, and he says electric power is up there with the likes of the DESSO Grass master pitch and grow light technology in terms of key developments: "It's exciting, this stage of electric power. We've certainly achieved a lot so far but there's a way to go yet and it has a far-reaching spectrum. Yes, the vehicles play a key part, but this is just the start, it will encompass all sorts, such as electric lighting rigs, too."

With a grounds team of 45 using the machines, there's a lot of feedback on using the brand. Darren says: "We put feelers out to many manufacturers and found that STAR EV leads the market when it comes to a smooth ride, versatility, payload and towing capacity, battery life and performance. We all really like them."

"We also did a great deal of research into the right partner to work with. We already

have a successful relationship working with Reesink UK for our turfcare machinery, so when we heard they had an e-Vehicles division focusing solely on electric vehicles we trusted them with delivering us with the best possible solution for an all-electric fleet."

And it seems Reesink e-Vehicles hit the nail on the head with STAR EV as Darren concludes: "STAR EV fits in exactly with what Spurs is all about and that's having the best available game-changing equipment on the market there is. STAR EV meets the expectations we have for the club and the expectations we have for achieving climate neutrality."

To talk to Reesink e-Vehicles about the STAR EV range, call 01480 226800 or go online at www.reesink-evehicles.co.uk



STAR EV is playing a key part in Tottenham Hotspur's journey to becoming net zero carbon.



Keeping your equipment in excellent condition

Mark Harrod Limited understands the benefits of manufacturing outstanding aluminium and steel goals, supplying clubs from a premier level to local grassroots clubs with a whole array of football equipment, and providing incredible customer service.

Our collaborative relationship with Premier clubs such as Wolverhampton Wanderers FC goes some way to support that. This year alone Mark Harrod Limited has provided Wolves FC with a whole host of brand

new equipment for their Training Ground facilities at Compton Park.

The growing list includes, but is not exclusive to;

FOT420F 24x8 portable box goals with bespoke coloured nets - FOT600 24x8 portable goals - 1m x 2m target goals with custom coloured nets - 4m aluminium shelters in team colours - five-seater sin bins in team colours - litter bins - socketed pitch signs - complete Duralock fencing system complete with access gates - socketed

ball-stop system around three sides with netting - anti-vermin netting around the bottom - boot wipers at access gates and our new product; chain-link fencing.

Our aluminium and steel goals are manufactured in our factory in Stafford; they come with a warranty and the option of a maintenance contract.

We also offer up to 20% off selected goals to clubs which are FA members, making the switch to becoming a Mark Harrod Limited customer even easier!

Give us a call on 01785 339496 to find out what equipment is right for you and your club.

Here are our tips for keeping your equipment in excellent condition, safe and, more importantly, lasting as long as possible.

Goalposts

Safety is a top priority, and maintaining your sports equipment can avoid unnecessary injuries. Plus, proper care can prolong the life of your gear. When it comes to goalposts, check that your fixings are tightened, nuts, bolts and net hooks are in good condition, and nets are up to standard. There's a range of [goalpost safety products](#) you can buy that'll help keep your team safe so you can enjoy the beautiful game.

Our team has a wealth of experience in the manufacture and supply of [sports](#)

[equipment online](#) and are experts in goalpost safety. We offer goalpost [maintenance contracts](#), carried out by our experienced staff, who are all qualified for CSCS Gym and Sports Equipment Installation.

So, to ensure that your goalpost inspections are carried out to the highest standard, call us on 01502 710039 to find out more and book a service.

Team shelters

Investing in a team shelter will ensure that your substitute players and coaches are kept dry and comfortable throughout the match. We have a range of [dugouts and shelters](#) which can be built to your specific requirements. From benches to premium bucket seats and even the option to match your team's colours, you can give your club a more sleek and professional appearance.

“

Safety is a top priority, and maintaining your sports equipment can avoid unnecessary injuries. Plus, proper care can prolong the life of your gear.

Whether you opt for a permanent or portable shelter, make sure it's fully secure with [spira-lock anchors](#) and [weight plates](#).

Pitch and grounds

Get your grounds match-ready with top-quality line-marking paint. Our fast-drying paint has been used by Premier League football clubs and grassroots teams, so browse our [sports equipment online](#) and find the right line marking paint for your club.



Have you considered new corner flags and poles? An essential to any club, corner flags come in various options. From [spring-back poles](#) to [rubber bases](#), we stock poles suitable for both synthetic and grass pitches. Plus, you can customise them with your club's logo to give your pitch a more professional appearance.

Need to update your drag brush? As you know, over time, the sand infill disperses in high traffic areas. Our drag brushes will bring this sand back to the high-use sites and, therefore, prolong your turf's life. We have handheld or fixed brushes.

Training

Of course, getting match-ready involves training. Investing in the right

equipment can significantly improve the quality of training and, therefore, player performance. At Mark Harrod Limited, we stock a range of [target goals](#) to practice with, available in various sizes and materials. There's a lot to choose from, from [corner shot nets](#) to [target nets](#), target goals to [folding goals](#).

No matter what you're looking for to get your club match-ready, Mark Harrod Limited stocks a vast range of [sports equipment online](#), so you can get everything you need in one place.

Give us a call on 01785 339496 to find out what equipment is right for you and your club.





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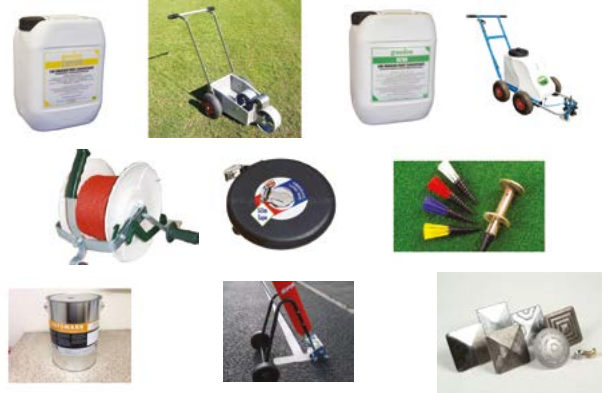
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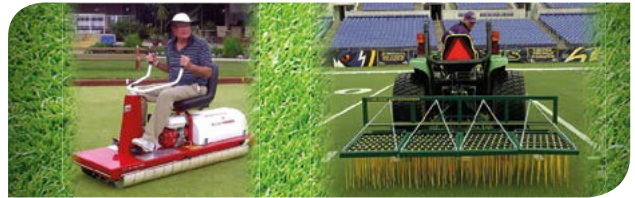
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LITTLESTONE GOLF CLUB STRIKES GOLD WITH REESINK

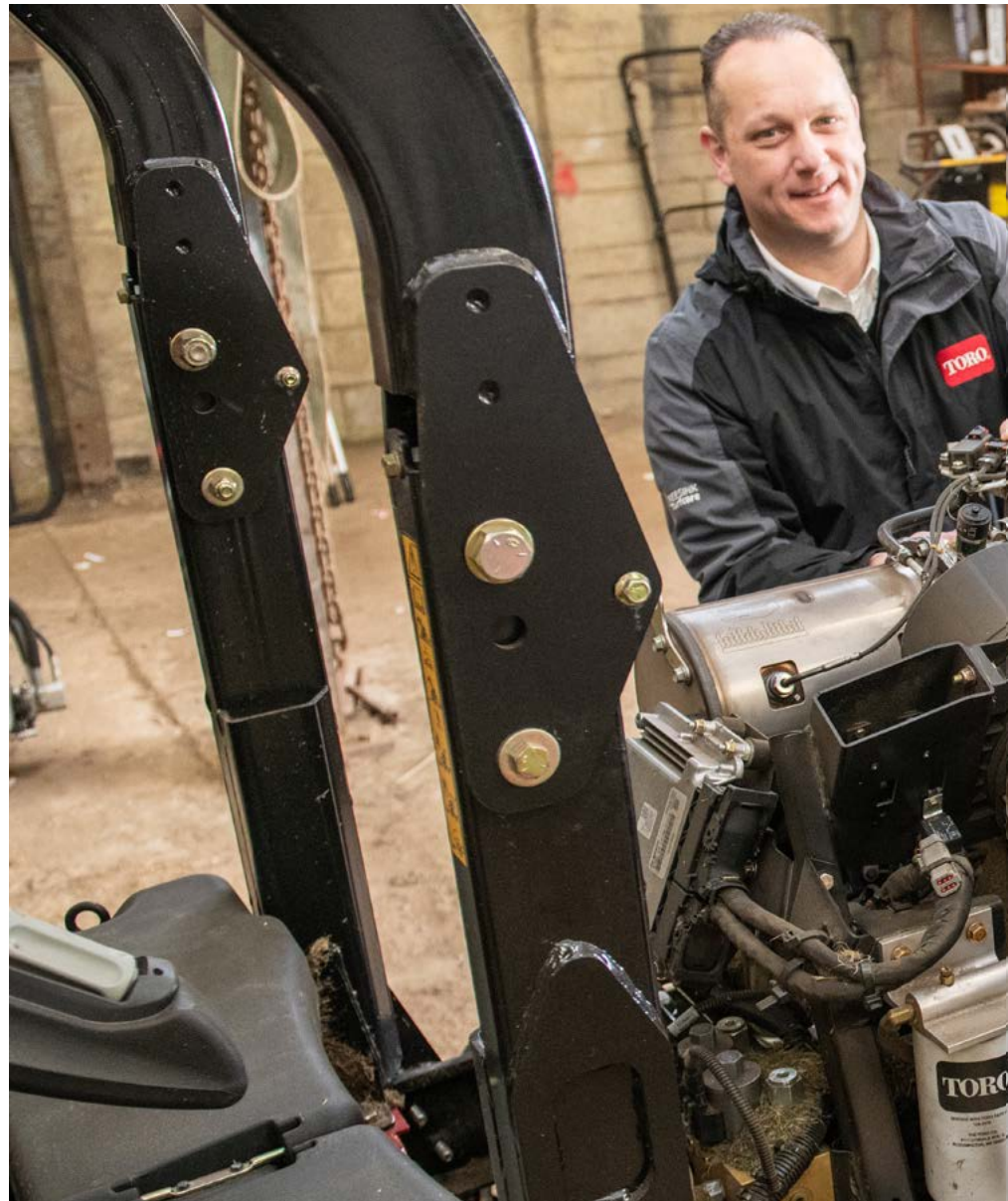
In 2021, Littlestone Golf Club in Kent became a Toro Total Solutions customer by upgrading its fleet with Toro machinery and investing in a Toro Lynx Central Control irrigation system. Now it has safeguarded its machinery investment by signing up to Reesink's ReeAssure Gold maintenance scheme for the all-round perfect deal.

Head greenkeeper Chris Barnard says: "There were plans to alter the courses by redesigning the bunkers with the help of architects and building new tees, and the timing of that fitted well with upgrading the irrigation system as well as requiring a sturdy, multi-functional fleet to make things as quick and efficient as possible."

With so much to do and a new 23 machine deal including cylinder mowers, rotary mowers, aerators, topdressers, sprayers and utility vehicles, the Club subsequently added the ReeAssure maintenance and servicing scheme to the deal to look after the entire fleet of new and old machines.

Chris says: "With all the maintenance the team was taking on that occupied a lot of their time, coupled with not having a specialised mechanic or indeed staff trained in specific areas meant we were only able to deal with basic things and not with repairs or replacements. That would require outside help and that's where Reesink came in."

The Gold plan includes unlimited visits, covers all breakdown and call-out costs, only uses Toro genuine parts and covers all electrical components. Reesink's South East Sheffield Park branch is providing the support and Chris has



nothing but praise for the service so far.

He says: "They're very helpful, we just need to give them a call and they'll be there. They know what they're talking about, know the machines inside out, and can find the problem right away whereas it would take us much longer to do so. Since most of the Toro machines now have new technology, they also

require a bit more knowledge to fix. The Reesink guys will have it figured out in 15 minutes or less just by using their laptops. It's so much easier to delegate that to them so we can focus all our work on the courses."

Littlestone Golf Club already had a very good long-standing relationship with Reesink having acquired most of its

“ With all the maintenance the team was taking on that occupied a lot of their time, coupled with not having a specialised mechanic or indeed staff trained in specific areas meant we were only able to deal with basic things and not with repairs or replacements.



fleet from the distributor a few years previously. After the agreement came to an end, the club decided to continue with the distributor and renew again for two reasons: the trust that it would be a good partnership and the desire to continue with Toro.

Knowing the quality the brand offers in its machines, the club chose to invest

in its irrigation products opting for the Lynx Central Control system for its upgrade. The irrigation system optimally manages water and resources through a convenient app and is currently being installed.

“It’s an exciting thing to be at the club, looking at it with a fresh pair of eyes and making a difference,” Chris concludes.

“Hopefully, with the help of Reesink, we can now focus on all the planning we have going on and getting the work done faster knowing everything else is taken care of.”

Call 01480 226800 or go online at reesinkturfcare.co.uk to find out more about Reesink ReeAssure maintenance plans.

Made for every slope....

The NEW Z9

from Cub Cadet



C

ub Cadet has launched its new top of the range Z9 183id zero-turn. Proven by landscape professionals the Z9 will fulfil all your commercial requirements.

With extremely wide double wheels, the Z9 has been developed to effortlessly tackle even the steepest slopes up to 25° / 46%.

The ability to control all four wheels with a steering wheel and steerable front wheels, an exclusive offering by Cub Cadet in the commercial sector, minimises the turf being churned up by the wheels as it would on a lap bar zero-turn. The patented SyncroSteer technology means that even the less experienced operators can benefit from the ease of use and amazing manoeuvrability of this machine.

The Z9 reduces mowing time by up to 10% compared to lap bar mowers, provides greater hillside stability, enhanced traction on uneven terrain as well as mowing in straighter lines.

It powers through the thickest grass in one pass at maximum speeds of up to 12mph meaning you can do the job quicker. The high lift Marbain blades with a blade tip speed up to 18,500 fpm and the 3" total blade overlap will ensure that you always get a

tight consistent cut. The frame and axle on the Z9 floats as the machine moves, allowing the multi-reinforced steel deck to follow the shape of the terrain and avoid scalping. The cutting deck can be adjusted at the touch of a button.

The Kawasaki EFI engine provides the consistent power you need to get the job done and maximise your work-day – reducing the downtime which could cost you both time and money.

Comfort is at the forefront of the machine's design. Your operators can experience a smooth ride all day long thanks to the exclusive air-cushioned seat and isolated dampening system on the Z9 – meaning they are working in vibration-controlled comfort, lessening downtime for your business. Angled back adjustments, padded armrest and lumbar support give added protection.

Ideal for commercial users and owners of large properties with challenging slopes, the Z9 has everything and more that you would expect from a quality professional machine - ultimate performance, comfort and durability that delivers a fast, premium cut time and time again.

For more information or to book a demo go to www.cubcadet.co.uk

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- The thickest strongest steel deck in the industry
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* Whichever comes first

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The Award-winning design of the new XZ7 L152i from Cub Cadet redefines the zero-turn mowing experience – with enhanced strength, re-imagined comfort and a best-in-class cut.



The latest steering lever lap bar technology combined with the extremely robust construction of heavy-duty components and high-performance engines makes the machine the ideal professional machines for large lawn maintenance.

The open continuous tubular lightweight steel frame is designed for strength and durability. The hinged/removable floor pan allows quick and easy access to the welded, all round reinforced AeroForce Max™ mowing deck and engine for ease of maintenance.

A powerful Kohler EFI V-Twin dual

cylinder engine gives the machine the power to mow up to 15,000 m²h.

With a large cutting width of 60"/152cm, the machine puts owner/operator comfort at the forefront of its design with a premium high-back seat with armrests and adjustable suspension for fatigue-free working.

The XZ7 L152i is ideal for mowing rolling hills, with its outstanding stability on slopes, and around obstacles, with its effortless manoeuvrability. Even on the most difficult lawns the spring-mounted suspension on the front wheels ensure a smooth ride with less vibration.

At Cub Cadet we trust our new XZ7 L152i to perform with maximum durability and robustness and offer a warranty of 3 years or up to 500 working hours (whichever comes first) – for commercial or private use as well as offering a dealership service that delivers true advantages to you and your business.

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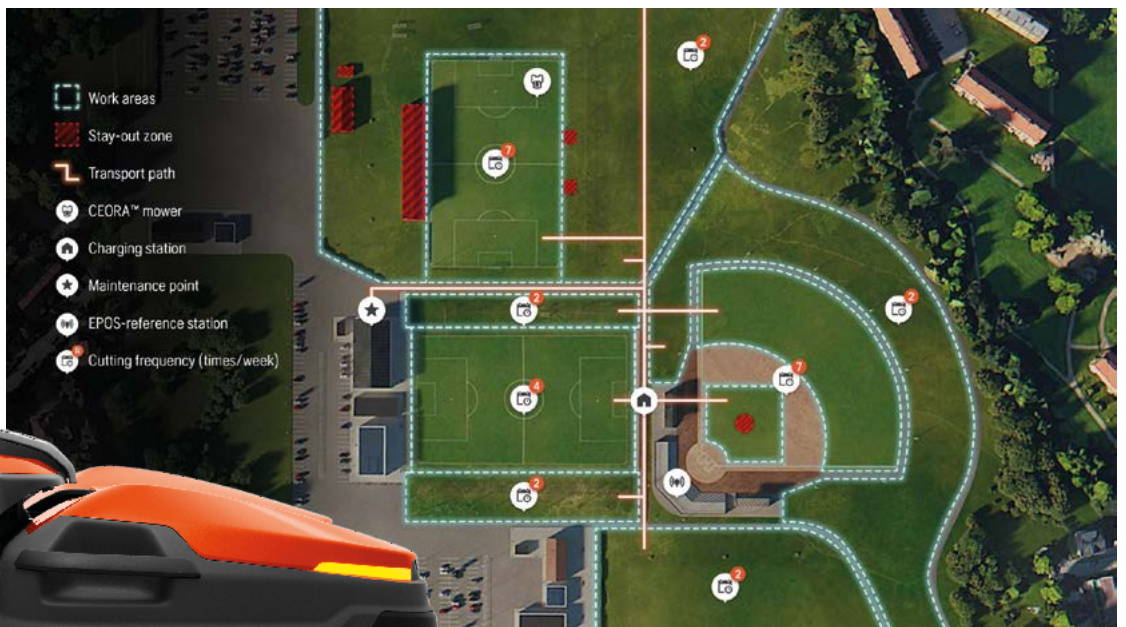
CAPACITY

Pro Sports Quality
Approx 25,000m²

Pro Quality
Approx 50,000m²

Regular Quality
Approx 75,000m²

- Work areas
- Stay-out zone
- Transport path
- CEORA™ mower
- Charging station
- Maintenance point
- EPDS-reference station
- Cutting frequency (times/week)





Husqvarna®



FAROL

Flexible and hassle-free zone management

CEORA™ is a state-of-the-art autonomous mowing solution guided by Husqvarna EPOS technology. Precise satellite navigation with virtual boundaries eliminates the hassle of physical wires. Quick definitions of work areas and stay-out zones accommodate optimal use of the turf, while aerating is made easier without the risk of damage wires. The robotic mower travels between work areas on defined transport paths, while temporary stay-out zones can be created for more flexible turf management.



Systematic mowing delivers a winning result

Cutting systematically in parallel tracks means CEORA™ is equally efficient whether managing football pitches or any other large green space. You can also define work areas and set a schedule where various times and different grass heights between 20mm and 70mm are specified. Schedule one pitch for a morning cut, and another for an afternoon cut at a different cutting height. Frequent systematic high-precision mowing offers the perfect result when only cutting a small amount each time.



Visit www.farol.co.uk/ceora for more information



Making a floating fountain fixed is easy with Otterbine

T

urning a floating fountain into a cost-effective fixed fountain is easy with Otterbine.

For those who have a floating fountain from Otterbine's C3 range – including all of the decorative patterns and Fractional series – all you need to do is remove the float from the fountain and attach the three-legged stand from the fixed system to anchor the fountain to the bottom of the pond basin. And voila, you have a fixed fountain.

This in turn removes the back float from the floating fountain (or, if you were going for a bespoke fountain fixture, the piping and valves) from sight for an aesthetically pleasing result.

Simon Powell, business development manager at Otterbine, says: "This simple system provides a solution to the aesthetic problem of having some of the fountain's parts visible, as can be the case with floating fountains. This is a cost-effective,

off-the-shelf and simple to install solution in comparison to the alternative which is a bespoke build."

Each stand comes assembled with adjustable legs that can be positioned at different heights to accommodate sloping bottoms of varying depths between 22 to 30 inches, while the rubber feet can be removed for earth bottoms.

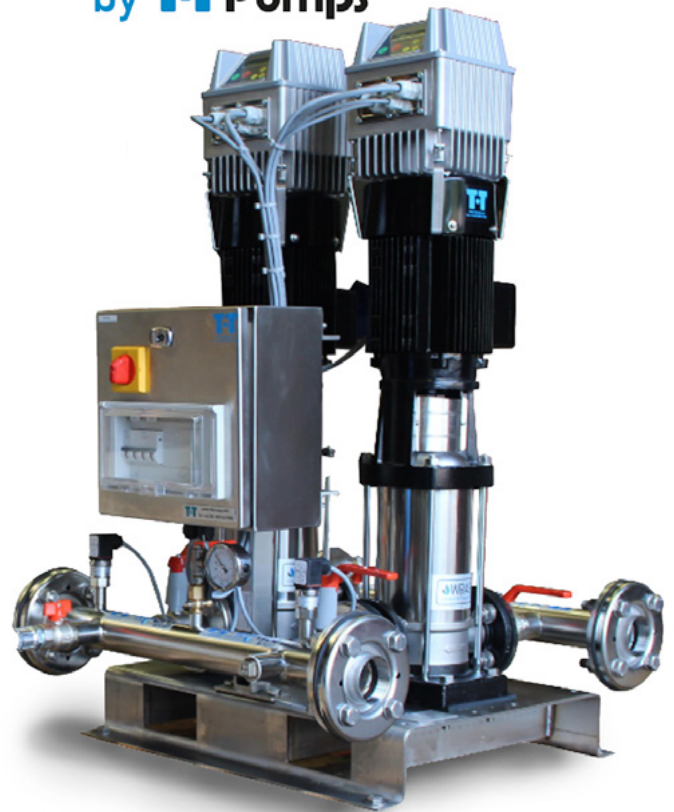
Made from corrosion-resistant and durable marine-grade stainless steel, the pump chamber fits flush with the surface and comes with power control centre cable with quick disconnect for ease of installation. They are backed by a robust five-year warranty and can be fitted with Otterbine's Fountain Glo™ RGBW light systems to enhance the fountain's display and give rich vibrant light through a variety of coloured displays and sequences at night.

To find out more about the Otterbine range of aerators and fountains, contact Otterbine's UK distributor Reesink Turfcare on 01480 226800, email info@reesinkturfcare.co.uk or visit reesinkturfcare.co.uk.



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ISEKI FOR LETCHWORTH GOLF CLUB

Based on the edge of Letchworth Garden City in Hertfordshire, this stunning parkland 18-hole private members golf course is carefully managed by Daniel Spencer, Head Greenkeeper and the hardworking team at Letchworth Golf Club.

Known for its firm and fast greens the greenkeeping team are constantly out there maintaining and improving the course with their wide range of turf maintenance equipment keeping the course mechanics busy all day every day. Their previous 50hp tractor was due for replacement so they decided upon the ISEKI TG6507 IQ. Commenting on the requirements Daniel explained; "we needed a 50hp tractor that was capable of running all our implements including the aerator, leaf collector and leaf blower. Most of the time the tractor runs the aerator to help keep the greens and fairways in top condition, we then hire in a scarifier as and when required."

"The IQ dual-clutch F24/R24 gear box was chosen as it makes manoeuvring the tractor around the course whilst operating the equipment so easy. The finger-tip control makes it simple to use whilst offering the control of manual with the convenience of an automatic, ideal for when you are aerating and require a consistent speed, you can use the cruise control facility with a resume speed memory function."

"Another feature we really like is the Auto PTO function or the Headland Management System, it is brilliant for when we get to the end of the run with the aerator, we can lift the implement up, the PTO automatically cuts out, we can turn around then lower again and PTO restarts by itself. Brilliant for



safety and avoiding damage or excess wear and tear on the implements themselves."

The rear Category 1, 3-point linkage has a lift capacity of 1,580kg plus rear and mid PTO which can be operated from the cabin at either 540, 750 or 1000 rpm allowing for a wide range of implements to be run from front mounted blowers to mid mount decks. The comfortable and spacious air-conditioned cabin offers the ultimate luxury whilst out working in all weathers with the

ever-popular added addition of a dealer fit radio.

Commenting on the purchase Daniel added; "we have built up a great relationship with the parts, service and sales guys at Ernest Does, apart from the tractor itself this was one of the main reasons we decided to buy ISEKI. Having the support and backup when needed is invaluable as the demands and standards are so high for greenkeepers nowadays."

"Reliability from the ISEKI TG6507 IQ has been really good, it has done everything we need it to do and more, we have had no issues, what more can you say! I would highly recommend this tractor, for what we use it for it has been brilliant."

www.iseki.co.uk





Redexim Verti-Quake® 2516

Tackling compaction on previous untouched ground, a Redexim Verti-Quake® 2516 has dramatically improved the downward movement of moisture at Rotherham's Phoenix Golf Club. The Verti-Quake®, delivered in September 2021, complements the aeration work conducted with their existing Redexim Verti-Drain®, with Multi-Sport Complex Manager Mark Smith citing outstanding results on some of the sites historically waterlogged areas.

Constructed on clay-based land, the 65 hectares that make up the complex includes cricket facilities, a bowling green and nine football pitches, alongside the 18-hole parkland golf course. Working with Mark on the maintenance is a team of five, meaning that operations such as aeration have been limited by time and resources.

"The Verti-Drain® has traditionally been utilised on the greens but not on larger, open areas because of staffing levels" explains Mark.

"We'd seen a contractor utilising a linear aerator on our football pitch and decided something like that could bring benefit to areas, such as the fairways, on the golf course." After exploring the options, Mark opted for the Redexim Verti-Quake® 2516 – offering a 1.6m working width and effective compaction relief down to 250mm. "As soon as it was delivered by our local dealer Cheshire Turf, we were out on some of the historically challenging areas and the results spoke for themselves. We went into the winter, and emerged the other side, so much drier than we ever have before."

"Considering a lot of the areas we used it on had never been aerated previously,

the Verti-Quake® broke straight through the compaction and helped to move the water down and towards the water courses – providing a much more cost-effective alternative to installing drainage." After making such a strong first impression, Mark is now looking forward to the further improvements the Verti-Quake® can deliver. "If it's open land, and it's likely to get wet, we're going to get the Verti-Quake® on it!" he says.

That mantra extends to work on other areas of the complex, including the football pitch, reducing the reliance on external contractors. "We'll get the Verti-Quake® out during the end of season renovations, giving us important compaction relief and getting the ground repaired and recovered in time for the busy playing season."

www.redexim.com



HOW TORO AND REESINK CAN HELP YOUR BUSINESS THRIVE

HHA Grounds Maintenance also chose the Toro LT-F3000 triple flail mower to expand its fleet to cope with business expansion.

R

eliability, flexibility and efficiency are three key ingredients to ensure success in any business, but especially for

groundskeeping teams and their machinery choices.

Also key to success is the relationship with machinery manufacturer and distributor – and the combination of Toro and Reesink Turfcare is a winning one for many of the UK's grounds businesses.

Here two talk about how working with Toro and Reesink helped their businesses thrive.

HHA GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

At a pivotal point in the expansion of the business HHA Grounds Maintenance opted to boost its fleet with quality products they could trust from Toro.



Groundsman Mark Cummings with the new Reelmaster 3555-D.



You can't fault the Toro machines. They are absolute workhorses that just run and run if you look after them. We get minimal issues, and we take good care of them.

The family-run business in Cambridgeshire is responsible for grounds maintenance for many schools and parish councils in the East of England. With busy rotas and a growing client list, quality and longevity became key factors in deciding what machinery to add and an LT-F3000 triple flail mower and a GrandStand stand-on were decided upon.

"As with all Toro mowers, the cut is beautiful," owner Harvey Hart says. "Our clients are always thrilled with the finish. You can't fault the Toro machines. They are absolute workhorses that just run and run if you look after them. We get minimal issues, and we take good care of them. They pay for themselves, especially when you think



HHA Grounds Maintenance has been especially pleased with Toro's GrandStand, seen in action here, for being compact and nimble with a beautiful cut.

that some of our Toros have been operating almost as long as our business!"

Alastair Rowell, UK sales manager for turfcare equipment at Reesink Turfcare, comments: "It's wonderful to work alongside businesses like HHA and help them grow their fleets. Their teams are getting increasingly busier with further expansion on the cards, so it's important that they are supported with the right tools for the job."

RADLEY COLLEGE

World-class sporting facilities are one of the cornerstones of prestigious boys' school, Radley College in Oxfordshire, and

maintaining impeccable grounds is a must.

After 10 years of a successful partnership, Radley College has renewed its agreement with Reesink Turfcare for the second time.

Adam's 19-strong grounds teams are responsible for maintaining the school's grounds and gardens, 30 hectares of which are pure sport pitches including rugby pitches, cricket-squares, football pitches, astroturf hockey pitches and tennis courts and now has a nine-strong fleet of Toro mowers to help.

"Flexibility is key" cites head of grounds, Adam King: "We've opted for a slightly different range of machines. Rather than having a smaller number of larger mowers we have gone for a wider range of smaller machines. This gives us ultimate flexibility and enables us to work smarter.

"Down time is not an option. We seldom have issues, but our lease agreement has back-up care built into it so if we have a problem, I know I'll have a mechanic on site the very next day."

Contact online at [via reesinkturfcare.co.uk](http://via.reesinkturfcare.co.uk), by phone on 01480 226800 or by email at info@reesinkturfcare.co.uk.



Some of the Toro machinery keeping the grounds at Radley College in pristine condition.

Presenting a picture-perfect course at Killarney

At Killarney Golf and Fishing Club, presentation is everything



Members of Killarney's greenkeeping team sit on the new John Deere machines, with Richard Charleton, Turf Strategic Account Manager at John Deere, Killarney's Head Greenkeeper Enda Murphy, and Mike Weldon from the Seamus Weldon dealership which supplied the new kit.

W

ith breathtaking views out over Lough Leane and the undulating Killarney National Park beyond, players come

from all over the world to experience the two, 18-hole Killeen and Mahony's Point courses.

It's a club steeped in 129 years of history which includes hosting the Irish Open four times, with Nick Faldo winning in 1991 and 1992, Ross Fisher in 2010, and Simon Dyson in 2011.

With such rich heritage and high expectations, the greenkeeping team has to maintain the highest possible standards to satisfy the 500-plus golfers who could arrive to play at the complex during its busiest days of the year.

Enda Murphy is in charge of the 18-strong team responsible for presenting the course. He's in his 30th year working at the club after joining as an apprentice from school.

"I completed a four-year apprenticeship in Killarney and then worked a year at Wayzata Country Club near Minneapolis in the States," he explained.

"It was wealthy club with 28 greenkeepers for one 18-hole course, but what struck me was how neat and tidy the whole place was. The machinery sheds were immaculate – everything was organised and every machine had its place with a back-up machine in reserve too.



"I thought the whole attention to detail was amazing and something I wanted to bring back to Killarney."

Enda became head greenkeeper in 2013 and takes immense pride in setting up a course which will live up to members' and visitors' expectations.

"It's all about the location here – when you're out on the course on a beautiful spring morning there is no better place," he said. "When every hole is neat, tidy and looking sharp, that's

what it all about and what we strive to achieve."

Being such a popular destination for visiting players while keeping the large playing membership happy is not without its challenges.

Enda says he has 1.7 metres of annual rainfall, a herd of 40 Irish Red Deer, and a constant procession of players to contend with, plus the environmental responsibility of maintaining a course so close to the iconic Irish lakes.

"We have a high level of play which creates compaction, wear and tear, he said. "Having lots of rain on a busy course is also a challenge but we have to keep golfers happy – we have strong competition from the other fantastic courses in Ireland."

Last year Killarney's members' council – with the support of the membership – put pen to paper on a new fleet deal to replace its aging mowers and other course machinery.

"It came to a point last summer when greens mowers were breaking down on the morning of a competition, and the back-up machines were cutting tees because the tees mowers had broken," Enda said.

"We were working on fairway mowers that were 10 or 15 years old and the repairs were starting to cost more than what the machines were worth, so a change was definitely needed."

Enda and his team are familiar with a number of brands and researched prices and specifications as part of the purchasing process, but decided to stay loyal to John Deere as their mowers and utility vehicles had served the course well for a long time.

For cutting they purchased two new 7700A fairway mowers with rear roller

power brushes, two 2750E hybrid greens mowers with tender conditioners and 14-blade reels, and two 2750PC mowers for tees and surrounds. The club also took a new 1570 front rotary mower with 72-inch deck and a 9009A for tackling the rough.

For full course maintenance the new fleet also included a 2030A with ARC HD200 sprayer, three TS Gators and a 4066R compact tractor.

"A big factor in the decision was that we have a dealer on the doorstep in Seamus Weldon so parts, sales and servicing is right here which is really convenient," Enda said.

"They are good machines but if something goes wrong I can get a new part in 10 mins and get the machine back up and running in no time. That's really important for us here on a busy course where we need to get the job done and be out of the way so golfers can enjoy their game."

So far Enda is delighted with the new fleet – purchased using John Deere Finance – and so is his team.

"When you're going out and everything is working it's just a pleasure to do the job. The team gets frustrated when something takes too long and things break down – we're just trying to get everything done to a high standard and then move on as quickly as possible.

"You can really notice the difference in the quality of cut and the reliability of the new machines. We now want to get into a rhythm of replacing them every five years, ideally.

"Bookings for the summer are looking really strong so it's going to be another busy year as we, hopefully, come out of covid and look forward to welcoming players to Killarney."

For further information visit www.deere.co.uk/en/index.html

Eco Clipper FM4 Sport for sporting grounds

Eco Clipper, known for electric mowers for the turf industry, has introduced a special version for the maintenance of sports and recreational grounds.

The 4.11 m wide front mower features four independent cutting decks. For the FM4 Sport, the side decks can be folded in independently, allowing for narrow passages to be mowed.

The smooth decks with fast rotating small blades ensure a high quality cut and good clippings dispersion. The clip-pings are also spread well in wet grass. This makes it possible to schedule this mower almost independently of the weather.

The Eco Clipper mowers are further distinguished by the high possible



Users appreciate the efficiency of the electric drive and the mower's low noise level. To operate the mower a 40 HP tractor is already sufficient, but for transport and driver comfort a larger tractor which can drive 25 mph on the road is often chosen.

The electricity to drive the mower is generated by a PTO driven generator. For larger tractors, the generator is fitted on the front mower. For smaller tractors and optimized weight balance Eco Clipper also offers a separate generator unit option for behind the tractor.

For more information, please contact info@vanmac.co.uk.

www.ecoclipper.com

mow-ing speed. On turf farms mowing speeds up to 16 mph with the Eco Clippers are not uncommon. This is not practical on sports fields, but speeds of 12 mph are easily feasible for tractors with vario or hydrostatic drive. This means that on average a sports field can be mowed in less than fifteen minutes with an Eco Clipper FM4 Sport.

'Dedicated to offer the best mowing system for maintaining large area turfgrass'



Eco Clipper FM4 Sport
for sporting grounds
www.ecoclipper.com



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Power up with Makita

Leading power tools manufacturer Makita UK is offering end users the chance to get their hands on a FREE MR002GZ01 Bluetooth Job Site Radio, or MP001GZ XGT 40VMax Inflator, or ML003G XGT 40VMax Worklight with the purchase and registration of selected XGT 40VMax machines.

Makita's XGT 40VMax range has been designed to offer tradespeople the high output, durability and fast charge times needed for regular professional use. From 1st April 2022 until 30th September 2022, Makita is offering end users the chance to expand their XGT collection with its latest on-line redemption offer.

This redemption deal is available to those who purchase from a wide selection of XGT 40VMax machines (supplied with two batteries and a charger - body only models are not included), spanning across both construction and outdoor power equipment. Qualifying products include twin kits, demolition hammers, rotary hammers, combi drills, circular saws, mitre saws, angle grinders, vacuum cleaners and dust extractors - as well as hedge trimmers, brush cutters, linetrimmers and more.

When purchasing a qualifying XGT machine, users can simply register it online to redeem either the MR002GZ01 Bluetooth Job Site Radio (compatible with LXT, XGT and CXT batteries), or MP001GZ XGT 40VMax Inflator, or ML003G XGT 40VMAX Worklight.

Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita said: "Our XGT 40VMax range provides end users working across all trades with a selection of machines that they can rely on to tackle higher-demand applications with ease. Our new redemption offer is ideal for those looking to expand their existing XGT kit - or those looking to introduce XGT into their armoury."

To qualify for the redemption offer, qualifying models must be purchased from 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022 and registered online within 28 days.

To find out more about Makita visit: www.makitauk.com

For more information on the promotion and terms and conditions, visit: www.makitauk.com/redeemxgtspringsummer2022

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