AFT See Heworth GC into Centenary Year

A combination of AFT Trenchers and Sandbander successfully combat surface water at Heworth Golf Club. In 2012 the Heworth Golf Club celebrates its Centenary Year. The course has matured and as always immediately presented by Head Greenkeeper, Colin Pringle and his team.

Colin runs a team of five including himself and Harry, the young apprentice, combining college and greenkeeping experience.

“We maintain an 18 hole course which is constructed on very heavy clay soil. Our biggest issue has always been drainage and we installed a complete main drainage system using an AFT 45 trencher, 12 years ago,” Despite much of the country suffering from drought, this has not been a problem in Tyne and Wear, the home county of the club. “We have found that if anything we have had excessive levels of rainfall this year and because of that we have invested in the AFT Sandbander to give even more structure to keeping the course free of surface water,” explained Colin.

The AFT Sandbander has revolutionised the way sand slits are installed on sport surfaces. The unique blade design and oscillating movement installs drainage slits with well consolidated sand. In this instance the Sandbander has been used to successfully divert surface water on the greens to the existing lateral drains. Colin is delighted with the results so far and is confident that the course will be at its best for 2012, when the club is hosting the English Golf Union Seniors County Finals.

John Holt Retires after 30 years with Rigby Taylor

After 30 years with Rigby Taylor and the past 10 as Commercial Director, John Holt has retired. John joined the company, as a rep in 1979 and in the early 1990’s became Sales Manager. While Commercial Director he played a significant part in product development, culminating in many new fertilizers, formulated with traditional greenkeeping in mind.

John’s lifelong interest in golf came as a result of his parents, who were steward and stewardess at Blackburn Golf Club. He spent many hours watching the professional repair clubs, which gave him his interest in club making.

For many years, while working as a greenkeeper, John was a category one golfer and this interest in all aspects of the game led him to become a member of the British Golf Collectors and The James Braid Golfing Society. His present collection of golf artifacts includes approximately 800 golf clubs. As a member of Clitheroe Golf Club since 1975 John has spent many years as Chairman of Green. He would like to thank all the greenkeepers and colleagues who have supported him over the years.

Buggy Solutions

Wayreate Nurseries in Swavesey, Kent, has taken delivery of their second $1 million 2 wheel drive electric vehicle from Electric Powered Solutions.

Nursery Director, Richard McKenna, first saw the vehicle at the Four Oaks trade show in 2010 and immediately recognised its potential for moving stock around their 10 acre site. Depending on the motor size the buggy can load up to 500kg and w a trailer carrying up to 1,000kg.

Abbeylea is Where it’s ATT

Abbeylea Golf Club in Sheffield has been a long time advocate of ATT’s turf maintenance equipment, and five years ago were one of the first clubs to trial the TMSystem.

Previously, the club had used dethatching cassettes, but the TMSystem offered a first opportunity to perform more maintenance tasks with a single power unit. “We have two John Deere greens triples, one of which is kept for mowing and the other used with the TMSystem,” says Head Greenkeeper, Warwick Manning. “I was immediately impressed with the build quality of the system and the range of cassettes available.”

The Ultragroomer is the most frequently used attachment used on a regular basis to take grain out of the meadow grasses on the greens. “We have reduced thatch to a manageable level, so all that is needed is surface management of the sward, and the Ultragroomer does an excellent job.”

Vibratory rollers maintain green speeds and also help to work topdressings in, while the scarifier cassette can be employed as and when necessary.

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