

# QUALIBRA BATTLES THE ELEMENTS

Last year's climate proved a testing time to cope with the huge variability in British weather conditions. James Braithwaite, Course Manager at Long Ashton GC in Somerset, tested the attributes of Qualibra for his greens and club members

## Keeping putting surfaces firm

The original soil-based greens of Long Ashton Golf Club have always posed a challenge for Course Manager, James Braithwaite, to keep the course open and avoid the use of temporary greens as much as possible.

So James (bottom right) carried out a trial with Ray Hunt of ALS by using Qualibra on nine greens, and another market leading wetting agent on his other nine. He applied both on a monthly basis, at exactly the same time and according to their recommended application rates.

James reported that, despite using Qualibra on the more difficult greens, the results were that they were firmer and drier at the surface than his other nine holes, resulting in faster, more consistent, putting surfaces.

Ray added that having the penetrant and polymer qualities together in one wetting agent had clearly worked well in moving water away from the surface to achieve firmer conditions, whilst holding moisture at a lower level in the soil profile.

## Water conservation

Ray also recommends the dual action of Qualibra can help greenkeepers make better use of irrigation scheduling, and conserve of water resources in a dry season.

He said: "Applying more water less frequently helps to rehydrate the soil more effectively to depth, and significantly reduces the effect of evaporation from the soil surface in hot summer conditions."

Ray advocates the dual action of Qualibra for eliminating the risks of creating soft surfaces after a heavy rain or irrigation and help alleviate Dry Patch or hydrophobic soils more effectively.

"Creating a dry surface, whilst holding greater soil moisture reserves deep and evenly in the root zone, gives more efficient utilisation of water and encourages root development further down into the soil profile, which can further aid plant health," he said.

## Water warning

Golf courses and other sports facilities are going to have to stop using mains water for irrigation within the next five years, according to latest reports, warns Roger Davey of Somerset-based Irritech.

He said: "Golf courses will have to prove they have an efficient and sustainable policy for their use of irrigation water, if they want to get and keep an abstraction licence."

Whilst the cost of borehole water can be as low as five pence per m3 and could pay for the investment in just three years, greenkeepers and clubs have to be aware of the potential risks of water quality.

Other sources for stored water, including rainwater harvesting and treated grey water or sewage effluent from a hotel complex, for example, could also provide valuable alternatives.



# Qualibra

## Deeper thinking

**New wetting and water conservation technology that moves water from the surface AND holds it deeper and more evenly in the root zone.**

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