“There is nothing but sadness for all those flooded out of their homes recently. As far as our industry is concerned, all involved in turf/husbandry are struggling either to make surfaces playable, or get anything done whatsoever. The ground has been like a sodden sponge, where just walking on it has a marking effect.

“We need two or three weeks with a dry easterly wind to help with the dry process and enable much needed fertiliser programmes to start.

“These recent conditions have led to swarms that are hungry so now is a good time to get soil samples done and analysed. With the correct programmes put in place when the ‘big dry out’ does eventually happen, turf should recover quickly.

“On a happier note, temperatures are remaining quite reasonable, but this is leading to a lot of early growth of weeds. The temptation is for turf managers on the golf course to speed through treatment programmes put in place when the ‘big dry out’ does eventually happen, turf should recover quickly.

“Another invasive that may be taking advantage of the lousy weather is Japanese Knotweed, as this also spreads through flood ravaged river banks, whilst being capable of spreading very quickly. Because of all the flooding, courses near water should be vigilant for the issue on river banks.

“The other problem is moss and the weather has only exaggerated the problem we all have with this invasive nuisance. Walking of invasives; because of all the flooding, courses near water should be vigilant for the germination of Himalayan Balsam. This pink flowered weed looks very delicate just now and for a few weeks to come, before becoming a real issue on river banks, whilst being capable of spreading very quickly.

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“In the UK demonstration at the ViHR Top Changer - a tractor mounted injection process that can inject fluid and small particle materials, in this case 4” into the playing surface leaving very little playing surface disruption afterwards.

“Combining aeration and sanding in one action, the VHR Top Changer introduced by Campey Turf Care is designed to encourage rapid, healthy grass growth. Over time the process can completely change the top surface of your pitch to improve play.

“The VHR has a working width of 1.5m and produces a closely spaced row of holes that are immediately filled with sand to allow a path of air and water to penetrate the top layer of the soil and be absorbed by the root zone. Nutrients, setting agents, liquids and soil improvers can also be placed directly at the roots.

“Spring is a key time of year to consider your turf equipment and its performance, but never more so than this year with the impact water on courses. Wiether 90 percent of Toro quality specification standards. The VHR has a working width of 1.5m and produces a closely spaced row of holes that are immediately filled with sand to allow a path of air and water to penetrate the top layer of the soil and be absorbed by the root zone. Nutrients, setting agents, liquids and soil improvers can also be placed directly at the roots.

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**INDUSTRY UPDATE**

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

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**CONTROL THE WEATHER**

BTME 2014 was a roaring success and everyone left Harrogate with a spring in their step anticipating the new season with relish. Also, the weather has been playing its part again in spoiling thoughts we had of an early start to the season. Here Alan Abel from Complete Weed Control gives his views.

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“On a happier note, temperatures are remaining quite reasonable, but this is leading to a lot of early growth of weeds. The temptation is for an early spray, but as previously said; it’s economically advantageous to wait till the real season starts.

“The other problem is moss and the weather has only exaggerated the issue on river banks, whilst being capable of spreading very quickly.

“On a happier note, temperatures are remaining quite reasonable, but this is leading to a lot of early growth of weeds. The temptation is for an early spray, but as previously said; it’s economically advantageous to wait till the real season starts.

“Another invasive that may be taking advantage of the lousy weather is Japanese Knotweed, as this also spreads through flood ravaged areas. Remaining, a piece of 0.062 grannum can be viable and grow into a mature plant.

“The charater population this year is also high along with the leatherjacket count. Addionallyly worms are causing unsightly gaths and providing weeds with a ready-made seed bed. I’m not trying to sound like a hariranger of doom, with pesilence around every corner, just bringing these problems that may be lurking into focus.

“Complete Weed Control has over 40 Amenity Assured Standard franchises in the field, ready ‘to help all turf managers’ deal with any of the problems outlined above. Please call for a survey of nuisance plants, a soil sample service, and a price on worm, leatherjacket or chafer control.”

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**NEW DEALER FOR CHARTERHOUSE**

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has taken on GGM (Chino’s Ground Machinery) as their dealer for West & South Yorkshire. GGM Groundcare is a specialist supplier of tractors and high quality professional hand-based equipment together with after-sales support.

“Probably best known for its iconic Verti-Drain® aerator, Redexim products have recently evolved and expanded to not only offer aerators, but also top dressers, oversowers and scarifiers for natural turf as well as a growing range of machines for synthetic surfaces,”

Andy Melville, GGM Commercial Director, said: “For contractors or those with considerablu territory to cover, like estate managers, might start by looking at the widest machines first.

“The name badges attached to the Terra Spike fleet give a clue to each area of machine speciality - the extra fast XF, the extra deep XD, the extra penetrative XP while the ‘G’ prefix on the GXi relates to its suitability to greens and fine turf areas.

“Wiedenmann’s Terra Spike brand markets no fewer than ten different models, with working widths from approximately 25 cm to 60 cm and providing the flexibility to work with ease on any terrain. Wiedenmann’s fleet goes from working widths of 1.35 m right the way up to 2.1 m so contractors or those with considerablu territory to cover, like estate managers, might start by looking at the widest machines first.”

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**CAMPEY TAKE DEMO TO HART**

Hart Common Golf Club was the venue for the first UK demonstration of the VGR Top Changer - a trailed mounted injection process that can inject fluid and small particle materials, in this case 2% into the playing surface leaving very little playing surface disruption afterwards.

“Combining aeration and sanding in one action, the VGR Top Changer introduced by Campey Turf Care is designed to encourage rapid, healthy grass growth. Over time the process can completely change the top surface to a fine, even texture, ready for other treatments to be applied over the following season.

“The VGR has a working width of 1.6 m and produces a closely spaced row of holes that are immediately filled with sand to allow a path of air and water to penetrate the top layer of the soil and be absorbed by the root zone. Nutrients, watering agents, liquids and soil improvers can also be placed directly at the roots.”

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**DON’T RISK A ‘WILL & FIT’ THIS SPRING**

Spring is a key time of year to consider your turf equipment and its performance, but never more so than this year with heavy and inexperienced winter on record. With over 50 cm of rain to go, 2014 is likely to see the top 50 mm of the soil layer become waterlogged. While regular applications of liquid fertiliser might be a temptation to improve turf colour and density, the job of looking after that all-important new grass.

“Lelysays it’s imperative users’ Toro equipment is up to the job of looking after that all-important new grass. Regularly checking Toro bedknives is vital in producing a quality cut and genuine Toro bedknives are the best there are, outperforming ‘will-fit’ inferior quality parts.

“Recent research at Toro headquarters in America proves this point. In tests focused on many physical characteristics, in particular the flatness of the knife and positioning of the chamfered mounting holes, results showed that competitor bedknives failed in over 90 percent of Toro quality specification standards.

“Bell bedknives damage grass, affecting after-cut appearance and the long-term health of the turf.”

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**HOW TO IDENTIFY THE WIEDENMANN AERATOR FOR YOU**

Wiedenmann’s Terra Spike brand markets no fewer than ten machines so there is quite literally an aerator to suit everyone. But who buys what? According to the Wiedenmann UK sales team, the starting point generally depends on two things - what do you want to achieve and what size is the tractor? The filtering process then moves to factors like required depth, speed, size of site, versatility and budget concluding normally with a match of one or two Wiedenmann aerators that often can be demonstrated in situ.

Mostly purchasers have already identified they have issues with compaction or thatch or a combination of both. Sodl trimming is the traditional route to resolve compaction. Usually clients volunteer where their specific problems lie, typically somewhere in the range of 100 mm to 300 mm below the surface. As Wiedenmann Terra Spikes operate down from a very competent 220 mm to a handsome 400 mm, most machines remain in the frame. If thatch is severe then perhaps the aerator’s focus will be hollow coring. Depth here wouldn’t be as big as a concern as thatch normally occurs in the top 50 mm of the soil layer but a faster machine could be favoured as it produces optimal hollow coring results.

“лы раноь the aerator’s focus will be hollow coring. Depth here wouldn’t be as big as a concern as thatch normally occurs in the top 50 mm of the soil layer but a faster machine could be favoured as it produces optimal hollow coring results. Early recognition of the tractor employer is essential because obviously the larger the aerator the more hp is required. Tractors from approximately 25 hp to 60 hp can all accommodate up to 2.1 m so contractors or those with considerablu territory to cover, like estate managers, might start by looking at the widest machines first.”

The name badges attached to the Terra Spike fleet give a clue to each area of machine speciality - the extra fast XF, the extra deep XD, the extra penetrative XP while the ‘G’ prefix on the GXi relates to its suitability to greens and fine turf areas.

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The name badges attached to the Terra Spike fleet give a clue to each area of machine speciality - the extra fast XF, the extra deep XD, the extra penetrative XP while the ‘U’ prefix on the GXi relates to its suitability to greens and fine turf areas.

“All Terra Spike aerators are easy to operate controls for depth and hence settings that are tool free. Changing times takes less than 15 minutes. By using a variety of them in combination, soil descompaction and soil exchange can be done cost effectively using only one machine.”

“An excellent anti vibration system significantly reduces any vibration through the tractor to the operator. Another advantage a Wiedenmann delivers is the consistently regular hole pattern and clean finish. Wiedenmann machines prove daily that vibration can be done quickly and effectively without leaving tell tale signs.”

“Versatility is the key with all the Terra Spikes, the FX, the XD and the XP models in particular, have “access all areas” status so can be seen widely on golf courses, municipal sites and club pitches.”