

A CUT ABOVE

Construction is well and truly underway at The Carrick at Cameron House with the first cutting on the 8th green having taken place recently. With many bunkers almost complete and the seeding of all holes occurring in May, the course is just months from reaching its championship standard.

In total, five sets of tees and greens have been seeded, with the 8th green the first to be cut. Head Greenkeeper, Paul McLearn, commented: "The cutting of the green on the 8th has been a real milestone in the construction of the course. It's fantastic to see the course progressing and taking its world class shape".

The 8th is the longest hole on the course and its fairway was seeded in May, along with the other holes south of river; the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th. The 7th fairway is currently in the process of being destoned with a further nine holes having full drainage constructed. The remaining holes are due to be seeded over the summer period.

THE FORM OF HIS LIFE

David Coupland, an Assistant at Boston GC, thought he was in for another so-so round in the recent East of England Section event held at Sleaford GC. The two handicapper was out in 39 having used up all of his shots when he came to the 10th tee.



What happened next he will remember for the rest of his life - he came back in 28 shots with eight birdies and a solitary par to win the competition, ironically on a better inward half.

PRECISION GRANT

Blair Precision Engineering of Carnoustie have received a four figure grant from the Angus Grant Scheme towards the purchase of a CNC lathe allowing the business to undertake a more varied and specialised manufactured components programme. The Business Gateway Angus helped the business access the grant from the fund, which was established with monies from Angus Council, Scottish Enterprise Tayside and the European Regional Development Fund.

The business specialises in the manufacture of replacement metal tines. Over 450 golf clubs across the UK are currently supplied with over 150 product lines to suit both original and customised requests.

"The support of the Angus Grant Scheme was crucial to our decision to make this major investment in CNC equipment at this time. This provides us with a solid foundation for future expansion," said Owner, John Jeans.

RICHMOND DIG DEEP

The Richmond Golf Club is in the process of a two phase bunker reconstruction project with course constructor MJ Abbott.

30 bunkers have been completed this winter. Work on another 20 is set to start in October, with the club opting to do the project in-house. Each bunker has new external drainage with its own positive outfall or soakaway chamber.

"With 100 year old bunkers we thought it vital to reconstruct them in strategic places using modern techniques. As a result, location, as well as the playability of the bunkers, has been dramatically improved. They now look spectacular," said Course Manager Lee Strutt.

"The club struggled with wash down of sand on the face of the bunkers. There was also a problem of poorly draining bunkers, so since the reconstruction they now drain well," said Nigel Wyatt, Contracts Director for MJ Abbott.

Work started with the stripping out of old turf and bunker sand, followed by reconstruction of the bunker in subsoil. A combination of Inturf dwarf rye and fescue bent was used to marry in with existing and was sanded with Topsport Kingsley Number One Sand.



LEESE GETS IN THE ZONE

Kevin Leese has been appointed Zone Sales Manager for central England by Kubota UK Limited's tractor and groundcare division. Covering an area stretching from South Yorkshire down to north London and from

Worcestershire across to Essex, Kevin brings to the position more than 20 years' sales experience within the agricultural and horticultural industries.

His day-to-day responsibilities entail all aspects



of dealer support including stock control, product demonstrations and the training of dealer staff and their customers in the care and operation of Kubota tractors and diesel ride-on mowers. He will assist also at local and national shows and events where there is a Kubota presence.

"This is an important additional appointment for Kubota's tractor and groundcare division. Kevin's long experience and extensive knowledge of the industry will be of great benefit to Kubota dealers and their customers throughout central parts of the United Kingdom. We are very pleased to have Kevin as a member of the Kubota team," commented Sales and Marketing Manager, David Roberts.

ITALIAN PLANT IMPRESSES

New Holland equipment dealers from the UK and the Republic of Ireland recently went on a three-day fact finding trip to Jesi, in Italy, to see the manufacturer's modern factory.

Participants were able to appreciate first hand the build quality of New Holland's specialist tractor line-up, which illustrates the brand's commitment to innovation and modern styling. Of special interest to the groundcare industry were the TND-A, TNS-A and TCE tractor ranges in the 40 - 75hp class.

Delegates were shown how equipment is designed to meet end-users' exact requirements in terms of performance, high work rate and comfort. Amongst the dealers attending was Richard Campey, Managing Director of Campey Turf Care Systems, based in Macclesfield. "The Jesi plant is certainly impressive and the whole operation confirms New Holland's dedicated approach to technological development and an awareness of users' specialist needs," he said.

CRUCIAL AERATION

Aeration on the golf course is the single most important job, that is the message from Ian McMillan, Course Manager at Walton Heath Golf Club. Ian made the comments after recently taking delivery of a Terra Spike XF, the latest deep aerator from Wiedenmann UK.

"I'm a great believer in aeration of all kinds. It promotes healthy root growth and that, in turn, provides healthy and strong grass plants. Deep aeration helps with drainage, allows water and air to the rootzone and provides compaction relief to heavily used areas," said Ian.



The Walton Heath Team