

GRASSFELT FOR FOOTBALL - BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT

Three hundred and fifty square metres of Lindum's Grassfelt are currently on show as part of the Liverpool Biennial International Festival of Contemporary Art.

Situated in the Goree Piazza, in the shadow of the famous Liver Building, the Grassfelt covers a football pitch but not as we know it. Costa Rican artist Priscilla Monge, who pushes familiar objects into the unknown, has given her sports field a lunar landscape, changing the expected flat surface into a surreal series of mounds and gullies.

Landscape architect David Buck who collaborated on the landscape design says that the material was perfect for the subject. "The grass needed to look as if it had grown on site," he explains. "Obviously, there was no time for that."



The 330 sq metre untitled art work, which took 160 cubic metres of recycled material to build, was constructed by Talbot Sports Turf Installation, and will be on show until the Festival closes on November 26.

CLUB CAR KEEPS THE RYDER CUP ON COURSE

Club Car has been the official car and utility vehicle of the Ryder Cup for the last decade keeping the event and players on track on both sides of the Atlantic, whatever the weather. The rain in Spain in 1997 certainly dampened American spirits at Valderamma, but no one could have anticipated the arrival or effects of Hurricane Gordon, which battered a path across southern Ireland just days before the 2006 event.

High winds forced officials at the K Club to close the course to spectators and all non-essential staff at the start of the second practice day. Gusts in excess of over 40mph caused both teams to delay their practice sessions, and heavy rainfall left bunkers flooded - all this before play even started!

Despite Hurricane Gordon's best efforts, Club Car and its support teams led by Liam Ross of the Buggyman, and Don Donaldson of Caddy Car still managed to ensure that the K Club delivered a seamless professional event enjoyed by spectators and players alike. Liam was contracted to manage the fleets before, during and after the event, and Don was contracted by the European Tour to look after their Club Car

units as well as the TV units, which were used by broadcasters from all over the World.

The challenges faced by greenkeeping and grounds staff as a result of the torrential downpours were numerous. As well as the on course problems, once the thousands of spectators arrived, pathways and viewing areas quickly turned to mud and grounds staff had to urgently resolve the problem by using the Club Car fleet of 20 252 rough terrain vehicles, 10 Turf 2 Electric and 10 Turf 2 petrol vehicles to get the site and the course back into tip top condition.



This year's European Team at the K Club



"I'M A LADY!"

All ladies working in the turf industry are invited to attend the Women's Forum at Harrogate Week. There was no meeting at Saltex this year, so come along on to the Education Suite on the first floor of the Harrogate International Centre (above Hall C) on Tuesday, January 23 from 4.30pm until 5.30pm to hear speaker Frank Newberry talk about 'Managing Upwards... managing your boss'. There'll also be a presentation on interviewing staff so please make a note in your diaries and come and join us. It's a great networking opportunity, the ideal time to put names to faces, refreshments will be available and there are plans to go out for a drink in Harrogate town afterwards. Don't worry if you haven't been before - you'll receive a very warm welcome.

For further information, please contact Rosie Hancher at BIGGA on: 01347 833800.

ROYAL WARRANT EXTENDED

John Deere has been granted an extension to its Royal Warrant, which now uniquely covers the supply of agricultural, grounds care and horticultural products to The Queen's household.



The Royal Warrant was first awarded to John Deere Limited in 1970, for the supply of agricultural equipment to Her Majesty The Queen. Royal Warrants are a mark of recognition to people or companies who have regularly supplied goods or services for at least five years to certain members of the Royal Family. They have always been regarded as a mark of excellence and the highest standards of service and quality.

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

Rolawn, Britain's largest turf grower and leading topsoil supplier, have incorporated all their recent initiatives for greenkeepers and groundsmen in a special edition of 'The Blade' their trade newsletter.

The publication highlights their new Medallion® turf cultivar mixture and Turfmaster™ system. Copies are available from: info@rolawn.co.uk or by phoning: 0845 604 6085.

