

CLOSE SHAVE

Steve Beverly, Head Greenkeeper at Immingham Golf Club, turned up for work recently to find their secondary greenshed had been broken into, the front door was smashed off and a triple mower had been stolen. The culprits had broken into the side of the shed, started the mower using a screwdriver and rammed it into the door, breaking it off its hinges and then driven off on the mower.

“We followed the tyre tracks off the golf course and down a path to the town centre where we discovered it had been used to ram over a concrete bollard. After a quick search of the surrounding area (on board our Toro Workman!) we took a car out for a drive around to see if we could find it. While we were out, I got a phone call from the police saying they had picked it up on the far side of town (about a mile away) and it had been taken to a local garage.

We now have the machine back and I have to say that it is not as badly damaged as we thought, the front units are badly bent and there is some bodywork damage, but it does still run!”, said Steve.



After inspection the cost to repair the mower was roughly £3000

“Looking back at it all it is quite amusing because out of all the machinery they could have taken they probably stole the slowest machine, and I am also surprised that the engine ran for that long as we have problems with it.”

SIR STEVE REDGRAVE LAUNCHES THE CARRICK



Sir Steve Redgrave helped launch Scotland’s newest championship standard golf course, The Carrick at Cameron House on the shores of Loch Lomond, when it played host to the opening event of the Golden Golf Tour recently.

The Carrick, which is part of the De Vere Cameron House Resort is now open to the public. Designed by acclaimed golf architect, Doug Carrick, the course uniquely, straddles both the Lowlands and the Highlands of Scotland.

At £7 million, the course is believed to be the most expensive ever constructed in the UK and will, for the first time, make the Loch Lomond golfing experience accessible to all.

GREENING THE GAMES

The 2012 Olympics is now looming with work beginning on the Olympic park and stadium site. The TGA is one of three Associations representing the horticulture industry on the Olympics’ ‘Greening the Games’ steering group.

Working alongside the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA), the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) and other industry partners, it is behind the campaign which aims to showcase and achieve a lasting legacy for UK horticulture. Its success has placed landscaping issues high on the agenda and the TGA is pleased to be representing the turf industry.

One of the main reasons the TGA decided to join the Greening the Games group was to endeavour to have our quality standards specified on all the landscaping contracts associated with the 2012 Olympic Games. As an industry body representing nearly 60 turf companies and affiliated businesses across the UK, the TGA feels its standards will give contractors peace of mind when choosing TGA turf. They’ve become more widely used as landscapers and specifiers realised that they can widen their supply base by not restricting themselves to company-specific turf standards. They can also feel reassured that the association is on hand to help with technical and legislative queries should they arise.

The key message from the Olympic delivery bodies is their desire for a sustainable games and the need for the UK horticulture and landscape industry to demonstrate how it can help to deliver that sustainability. There is particular interest in how trees, shrubs and turf can help deliver a carbon-neutral games.