



Gary Gray of GD Environmental, npower's Ian Fox and Russell Phillips of The Celtic Manor Resort survey the ash being used to build the new practice ground for The Ryder Cup.

GREEN SOLUTION FOR RYDER CUP BUILD

Green issues in golf normally revolve around the quality of the putting surfaces but The Celtic Manor Resort has hit upon an environmentally friendly way of building its new practice ground for The Ryder Cup in 2010.

With the facility sitting in the flood plain just over the River Usk from the first tee of the Twenty Ten course; there was a need to raise the level of the land before grassing over the driving range.

Instead of laying expensive primary aggregate with the associated cost to the environment of excavation and transportation, Celtic Manor has teamed up with energy supplier RWE npower, which has provided over 150,000 tonnes of pulverised fuel ash from its Aberthaw Power Station, near Barry.

The ash is an inert by-product of burning coal to generate electricity and, once compacted, forms an ideal material for construction purposes like this one. Also housing a substantial television compound, the new practice ground area completes a £16m redevelopment at Celtic Manor which also saw the new Twenty Ten course and clubhouse open in 2007.

The Celtic Manor Resort and The European Tour are already committed to making The 2010 Ryder Cup one of golf's most environmentally sustainable events. Indigenous grasses, plants and wildlife have returned to the new Twenty Ten course since its conversion from intensive farmland, and irrigation on all three courses at Celtic Manor is 100% self-sustained from the lakes and a purpose-built reservoir.

TRAINING PROGRAMME EXPANDED FOR 2009

Following a request from the PGA, STRI have created three new one day training programmes for Golf Pros, Managers and Directors of Golf Facilities, to assist with their professional development requirements.

The courses are recommended in the PGA's CPD Professional Programme for 2009 and each completed course will be credited with 25 CPD points.

All three courses are scheduled for March 2009 at STRI in Bingley and cost £156 plus VAT: 3 March 2009, 'The Business of the Environment' Golf Course Ecology; 4 March 2009, 'Why Better Grass Means Better Golf' Golf Course Management; 5 March 2009, 'Golf Course Architecture Past and Present' Golf Course Design.

Following the success of last year's first FACTS (Fertiliser Advisers Certificate and Training Scheme) Turf certified training course, held at STRI, coupled with the pressure on employers in the industry to keep up with growing legislation a record 5 day FACTS Turf course, with exams, is running from 16-20 February 2009 at Bingley. A must for anyone advising on fertilisers and their application.

Having recently been awarded, Approved Provider Status, STRI is currently the only approved BASIS provider delivering a programme specifically tailored to suit the requirements of the Turf Industry.

To meet the needs of employers, who have a statutory obligation to ensure anyone involved in the sale, advice or supply of plant protection products holds a certificate of competence, and following on from the success of the 2008 courses, Dr Ruth Mann, Head of Turfgrass Protection at STRI, has organised another two weeks course plus exam for 2009. BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (Amenity Horticulture) Turf Module: Week One, 14-18 September 2009; Week Two, 5-9 September 2009; Exam, 19-20 September 2009.

For further info please visit www.stri.co.uk

NEW QUALITY MANAGER

David Lamb has joined Ransomes Jacobsen, the Ipswich-based turf maintenance equipment manufacturer, as Quality Manager. Reporting to Malcolm Parkinson, Operations Director, he will be responsible for all quality matters relating to the production, manufacturing and design processes within the organisation.

David joins the company from the Seat Division of Johnson Controls.



SPRAY WITHIN THE LAW

With the safe use of pesticides being very much in the spotlight, it is now vital that advisers, farmers and growers have access to the most up-to-date information on pesticide use in agriculture, horticulture, pest control, forestry and amenity.

The 22nd edition of The UK Pesticide Guide, is now available and is also accessible online at www.plantprotection.co.uk. It features over 1,300

products including 250 product replacements and introductions since the last edition, plus five new actives, as well as several novel mixtures of existing actives.

The online version, www.plantprotection.co.uk, which was launched at the beginning of 2008 has been positively received by customers.

For further information and to subscribe to the online version log onto: www.plantprotection.co.uk