



Pro Plus 900 wheeled boom at St Andrews

Gambetti Brings GPS to St Andrews

The Old Course and the Jubilee Course at St Andrews recently took delivery of two new Gambetti Pro Plus 900 sprayers, customised for their specific needs. The Links Trust was focused on purchasing a large capacity sprayer that could apply high volumes of product without compromise to forward speed and provide increased accuracy of application without being too complicated for the operator, delivered by a robust sprayer with hydraulically folding boom capable of spraying at six or eight metres.

After trialling various different types of jet the quad jets have been fitted with nozzles chosen for specific jobs. One of the most interesting requirements was to apply up to 800 litres per ha. The nozzle tips chosen for this are the Spray Systems Air Inclusion jets, capable of delivering very high water volumes, while still maintaining a relatively fine spray pattern and a high

resistant to wind drift. For more run of the mill application rates the club chose the Billericay air bubble jet; these too are very resistant to wind drift.

Maintaining a consistent boom height is all important for accurate application and on an undulating links course this can be tricky. Gambetti choose to use its newly developed contour-following wheeled boom.

Adapted from its agricultural cousins, Gambetti has fitted its SKIPPER GPS mapping and guidance system which replaces the need for adding dye or using foam markers to see which areas have already been applied and give the operator a straight line to follow while spraying. The Skipper is best mounted directly in front of the steering wheel. The operator simply presses a button to mark an "A" point and then a "B" point as he makes his first run. The Skipper displays on the screen the next parallel run he needs to make. The

computer rate controller can be linked into the Skipper so that as soon as application is started, the screen colours the treated area, giving the operator an accurate update of his progress. It can also tell him the area covered, percentage over or under applied and percentage missed.

Gordon Moir, Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews said, "We have always struggled to find a sprayer that is suitable for the many different conditions we encounter at St Andrews Links, ranging from large flat fairways to some that are severely undulating, as well as applying products with such a range of water volumes. Gambetti has worked very closely with us to customise these two sprayers for our specific requirements and they fit the bill perfectly, while the GPS system allows us to track where the operator has sprayed. Being able to record this information is simply the icing on the cake."

Campey On The Look-Out For More Promotion Across The Globe

Campey Turf Care has signed up new dealers in several countries and are looking to encourage more companies to join them in promoting sales of Imants and KORO by Imants products around the world.

In February this year the association between Campey Turf Care Systems and Imants in the UK was consolidated further with Campey's being appointed official distributors

for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Since then interest in the Imants range of products has far exceeded expectations, particularly in light of the global recession.

New introductions such as the Imants Shockwave and Rotoknife have had a significant impact, bringing renewed enthusiasm and interest to an existing range of

equipment including Sandcat and Rotoblast. Likewise the KORO Recycling Dresser, Topdrain and Cultiroll will be promoted in new countries alongside the hugely popular KORO Topmaker which already enjoys a highly respected position in the world market of pitch renovation.

"We acknowledge the recession in principle but have approached this venture as

we would at any time; with full commitment and complete confidence in the quality of our products and services. All the early signs have been exciting and we will be building on the assurance from our existing customers and the extensive new enquiries for potential sales, to move this forward," said David Harrison, Export Sales Manager for Campey Turf Care.



Stuart Minter and Peter Leech

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT JOHN DEERE

Peter Leech has recently been appointed Regional Training Manager for John Deere's agriculture and turf division in Europe, CIS, North Africa, Near & Middle East. He has been replaced as Customer Support Manager for the UK and Ireland by Stuart Minter.

In his new role, working from Langar, Peter will be responsible for the region's training delivery operations, including the sales branch training centres, covering the key areas of parts, sales, service and dealer development training. During his 38 years with John Deere, he has been responsible for the development of the company's award-winning apprentice technician training programmes (Ag, Parts and Turf Tech), and the industry wide LTA technician accreditation scheme. He has also been Chairman of the AEA training and education committee, and is just beginning a two-year term as President of IAgrE.

Stuart joined John Deere Limited in 1979 as a Service Trainee and Technical Instructor at the UK training centre. He was subsequently Area Service Manager and then Territory Manager for southern England before becoming division service manager for the UK and Ireland in 1986. Stuart was responsible for developing John Deere's national dealer service standards, and more recently has been closely involved with the industry wide 'Look Behind You' campaign to promote safe tractor and trailer braking. He has also been Chairman of the AEA service managers committee.



Ransomes Rescue the Rough

When Derek Thomson, Course Manager at The Wynyard Golf Club on the outskirts of Stockton-on-Tees, wanted to improve the condition of the rough on the 7,000 yard, par 72 Wellington course, he turned to the Jacobsen HR-9016 wide area mower supplied by local Ransomes Jacobsen dealer, Rickerby Ltd of Hexham. Ransomes Jacobsen is a Textron Inc. company.

The previous maintenance regime used a tractor with trailed rotary decks and took two of his greenkeeping team four days to cut the course and the driving range; now it takes just 11 hours.

"It was back in the summer of 2007 that we realised we needed to change how we maintained the longer grass on the course," he said. "The following September we had demonstrations from several manufacturers, who brought along their wide area mowers and we evaluated each of them. The 9016 proved to be the best and we took delivery in June 2008.

"The previous method using the combined tractor and trailed unit was slow and not very manoeuvrable. With the 9016 we have a very nimble machine that has reduced the eight man-days to less than two man-days, although we still require two of the team as we have a small out-front machine to tidy up along the fence line of the surrounding houses that line some of the fairways.

"We normally cut to a height of 50mm and this produces a well groomed finish, because presentation is very important here. The floating front deck helps reduce scalping and we can keep on top of the heavy summer growth, so it never gets out of hand."

The Grass Group Unveil New Look Website

The revitalised site contains several fresh new features including a clear and easy-to-navigate product area, up to date blog/ news page and a straight forward, no hassle, email enquiry form that allows the user to request information and outline their specific requirements directly to the sales team.

Tim Merrell, MD at The Grass Group comments, "The new website will be an essential tool for groundcare professionals

wanting to browse, compare machinery specification, enquire about spare parts and seek technical support".

www.thegrassgroup.com



NEW FROM RAIN BIRD

Rain Bird has launched GSP Services which provides technical support to Rain Bird central control users subscribing to a Global Service Plan.

A hotline provides direct access to Rain Bird irrigation experts and central control specialists.

Via remote access Rain Bird engineers can carry out maintenance, troubleshoot and backup data on your control

system. Incurring no travelling expenses, it offers a time and cost-saving alternative to an onsite visit.

In addition to technical support and remote maintenance, Rain Bird GSP subscribers benefit from computer renewal, software upgrades, etc.

To learn more about GSP visit

www.rainbird.eu