

## SUCCESSFUL UK TRIALS OF OXYGEN GENERATOR HELP GREENS THROUGH HARSH WINTER



Darren Woodward on one of the greens at Tylney Park Golf Course.

Trials of a new oxygen generator have helped bring a prestigious, Hampshire golf course through one of the hardest winters in recent memory.

Tylney Park Golf Club, 200 acres of privately owned estate at Hook near Basingstoke suffered 20 inches of snow from the end of December to the end of January followed by nearly nine inches of rain to the end of March.

“For Hampshire this was unusual to say the least,” says Course Manager Darren Woodward, who has been at the club since 2006.

“The greens have stood up very well. They’ve got a nice, dry firm surface and considering the weather we’ve had they’re not holding much water in the top ¾ to 1 inch.”

Keen to get more oxygen into his Fescue dominated USGA greens; Darren was one of the first UK turf managers to use Oxy-Rush, the new soil stimulant that increases O<sub>2</sub> levels accelerating the activity of beneficial microbes. He applied the product to all 18 greens at the end of April last year, following hollow coring, over seeding and

top dressing. Proof that Oxy-Rush was working came within a week of application.

“We have a monthly fertiliser programme during the growing season,” he continued. “We’d applied fertiliser in March and the greens were due another application that week, but having used Oxy-Rush we found that they didn’t need feeding for another two weeks.”

Darren repeated his application of Oxy-Rush in August, again following hollow coring and kept up his aeration regime – monthly solid tining with 6mm tines during the summer and 9mm tines during the winter – using Pervade penetrant five times over winter to keep excess water off his greens. David Snowden, MD of Agronomic Services, who visited Tylney Park in the middle of March, says that he personally hasn’t come across firmer, better looking greens this year.

“I took out my knife and cut a sample slice out of one of them and the soil smelt sweet. I could also see good, strong rooting. A true credit to Darren and his teams’ hard work.”



## Grants Awarded to Young Athletes

Ransomes Jacobsen continues to sponsor the Suffolk SportsAid Foundation with two young Suffolk athletes, Joe Bloomfield and Keiran Clements, receiving grants to help fund their training as they progress their careers at national level.

Joe Bloomfield, a hammer thrower from Ipswich, was presented with his grant by David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen.

“It’s a pleasure to present Joe with his grant,” he said. “Ransomes Jacobsen are pleased to be a business supporter of the Suffolk SportsAid Foundation and in doing so play our part in helping talented young people from the county, like Joe and Keiran, to realise their sporting ambitions.”

Everyone here at the company looks forward to following their progress as they compete at national level and eventually on the international stage.”

Joe Bloomfield, 19, who is aiming to participate in the 2011 European Under 23 Championships and 2014 Commonwealth Games is ranked 2nd in Great Britain, and holds the number one spot in Scotland in the Hammer at under-20 level.

Keiran Clements, 16, is ranked first on the ‘Power of 10’ rankings in his age group for the mile.