C INDUSTRY UPDATE The latest turf industry news from around the globe



Football Pitch Renovations End The European Demo Tour

Campey Turf Care Systems has concluded its seven week European Demo Tour, completing their final two full pitch renovations at football clubs in The Netherlands and Belgium.

The team began work at Kozzaken Boys' ground in Werkendam on April 26, stripping the surface with the Koro by Imants Topmaker. This revealed returfed goalmouths suffering from extensive matting and compaction, a problem remedied by the use of the Koro by Imants Cultiroll.

Fifty guests, including groundsmen from a number of top Dutch clubs were welcomed to the venue the following day by staff from Campeys and their Dutch distributor, The Verschoor Group. Guests were invited to test the compaction in the soil profile prior to the renovation with the Imants Penetrometer compaction meter, which revealed that it was almost impenetrable past the initial two inches.

The team headed south on Wednesday, crossing the border into Belgium to their final destination – the home ground of Belgian First Division side KVC Westerlo.

The team's training pitch, adjacent to the main stadium, was approximately 90% poa annua and severely compacted. Prior to the renovation, it proved impossible to push the Penetrometer even a short distance into the surface in some areas, even under the pressure of the operator's full body weight.

One the team's arrival back at Head Office in Macclesfield on Friday, Managing Director, Richard Campey, made the following observations about the venues they'd visited,

"The six pitches we renovated consisted of approximately 95% poa annua brought about by the excessive use of irrigation and fertiliser and lack of regular mechanical maintenance, something we simply don't see at professional level in the UK," said Richard.

"The tour was a significant investment for us in time, materials and manpower but we feel it's important that others have the opportunity to learn about the exceptionally high standard of renovation work carried out in the UK. Visitors to all the events were as eager to learn about the process as we were to share our knowledge."



NEW SISIS AERATORS

SISIS Equipment has introduced two new aerators to its range of tractor mounted machinery.

The SISIS MULTISLIT 1500 has a working width of 1.5mtrs and is supplied fitted with sharpened tines with alternative slitting tines available to suit different ground conditions. The angle of the tines and spiral design of tine shaft assist penetration giving maximum underground cultivation with minimum surface disturbance.

The SISIS MULTITINER 180 has a working width of 176cm and a maximum working depth of 100mm. There is a choice of interchangeable tines. The roller can be used for extra weight in hard conditions or raised when hollow tining. Both aerators use standard category 1, 3-point linkage for use on most compact tractors.

New Dealer

John Osman Groundcare, has been appointed by Wiedenmann UK as dealer for Mid and NW Wales

"We are really happy to be working closely with Wiedenmann UK. From Terra Spikes to turf conditioning and mowers they are recognised for leading edge design and quality which fits with what we do. The Wiedenmann range will be received well here because our customers want reliable, efficient machines," said John Osman, Managing Director of the family-owned company.



New Agreement Set to Increase Brand Awareness

Club Car has signed a marketing agreement with Gary Player and Black Knight International to promote the companies' respective brands throughout the world.

Under terms of the agreement, Black Knight International, will work with Club Car to introduce the company's vehicles, equipment and services at courses and real estate developments where Black Knight is affiliated. Club Car also will develop strategies to promote the company and its golf car and utility vehicle lines through an association with the Gary Player brand.

"As Club Car strengthens its presence in international markets, our association with Black Knight International is a great fit," said Robert McElreath, Club Car's Vice President of Global Marketing.

"We are excited to be working with Club Car especially as it moves to increase its international presence. It is quite simply a fantastic company with a team who are committed to excellence," said Marc Player, CEO of Black Knight International.

SPEEDCUT STAY ON THE PACE WITH DEEP-PROBE AERATOR



Speedcut Contractors has completed the aeration of West Chiltington Golf Club's 27 holes with its Gwazae deep-probe aerator.

The machine provides deep soil and subsoil decompaction through the injection of compressed air.

"The results have been fantastic, both on the main course and the nine-hole course. We tried Gwazae treatment on one hole back in 2006 and I was doubtful of the results at first – but that hole, which had been unplayable for half of the winter months previously, was only closed for a short time the following winter," said Course Manager, Adam Hartley.

"It has been consistently good ever since, so we took the decision to do every hole after the terrible winter we have had, not able to get on the course for several months with snow and ice."

Barry Pace, Speedcut Contracts Manager, said, "We were pleased at the results at West Chiltington and it was a delight working the Adam and his team.

"The Gwazae is proving more and more popular on golf courses, particularly those with compaction problems, as clubs start to recognise the process and its benefits."

Speedcut Contractor's tractor-trailed Gwazae, manufactured in New Zealand, decompacts soil to a depth of up to 700mm using a probe and compressed air with the added ability to inject amendments into the soil profile if required.