



25th Anniversary

Campey's 25th Anniversary Open Day, at their Macclesfield Headquarters, last month was a superb opportunity for the industry to get together and congratulate Richard Campey and his team on the success of a great British company.

"A very very big thank you to everyone for supporting our Open Day," said Richard.

"We have been overwhelmed with the turnout with guests from around the world attending, and interest shown from all sides of our industry."

Over 300 people visited over the two days with representation from a whole host of sports and educational establishments. Groundsmen and greenkeepers from golf, football, rugby and bowling clubs, private facilities, colleges, universities and local authorities came along to congratulate Campey Turf Care Systems on their achievements over the past 25 years and to view a full range of sports turf maintenance machinery.

Despite the vagaries of the British weather the sun shone, most of the time, on demonstrations of a variety of established and new machinery from brands including Vredo, Dakota, Koro by Imants, Raycam and Omarv. These continued throughout the day with only a short break during the seminars and talks given by the STRI, IOG and Premier Pitches Managing Director, Carl Pass.

Support for the occasion came from football clubs including Manchester City, Port Vale, Stockport County, plus the DW Stadium; golf clubs including Bolton Old Links, Chester, Clitheroe, Dunham Forest, Garstang, Kirklees Council, Knotty Hill, Stockport, Trentham Park and Wilmslow, as well as Burnley Council and Tameside Council. There were also representatives from UK and European suppliers and distributors, consultants and Greenkeeping Federations as well as visitors from USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The generosity of those taking part in the auctions raised over £5000 which will be donated to Cancer Research UK.



Join the Club

Club Car has completed a major European deal with De Vere to supply 227 new electric vehicles.

The order is Club Car's largest this year and consists of 203 Precedent i2 golf cars, plus a range of Turf utility vehicles and Café Express mobile refreshment centres.

Daniel Hodson, Director of Golf at De Vere, said: "This is a significant investment for De Vere which, based on experience, we know will deliver a return on investment."

Kevin Hart, National Accounts Manager for Club Car in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, said: "De Vere is a great example of a golf venue operator in tune with its customers' wants and needs, successfully adding to the business' bottom line via golf car rentals.

"There is also some indication, from the level of orders we are receiving, that there is a steady increase in demand in mature European golf markets for golf cars. There is no doubt that there is a growing minority of golfers who now want to ride," added Kevin.

Quality Assured Training Providers

The GTC has announced that two of the world's leading machinery manufacturers have become GTC Quality Assured Training Providers.

Cutting Edge, a division of Ransomes Jacobsen, and TORO, are both companies committed to ensuring quality training courses are available to the sports turf sector.

From machine maintenance to operator training and health and safety awareness workshops, the range of courses will underpin the formal greenkeeping qualifications available through GTC Quality Assured Centres.

David Golding, GTC's

Education Director, believes that their support is a sign of total commitment to supporting the industry:

"As the game of golf develops through many countries, there will be a clear training requirement to support the greenkeeping teams skills development and there will be clear opportunities to share the education and training best practices in the future," he said.

The GTC will be promoting a range of training courses for this autumn with both companies involved and these will be in the form of one-day workshops around the country.



Drainage Solution

“Bunker maintenance is an expensive and time consuming part of any course budget. I visit around 20 courses a week,” said Jeremy Parkman, of M J Abbott Ltd,

“Many clubs are now considering the option of filling in or grassing over some of their high maintenance or poorly placed bunkers but with some imagination these can be retained and made more effective.

“Bunker Plug can be installed into bunkers to ensure free draining and that they spend less time spent out of play,” said Jeremy.

“Bunker Plug is probably the most cost effective solution to the poorly draining bunkers on the market today,” he added

A few of the benefits are that it:

- Can be fitted in approx an hour (by course staff).
- Significantly reduces contamination.
- Eliminates the need for pumping.
- Requires minimal maintenance.
- Provides a flushing point for bunker drainage. Also allowing for outfall verification.
- Eliminates surface pumping onto fairways / rough, benefiting both players and spectators and removes the possibility of mower damage from pumps debris.
- Significantly reduces sand migration if two or more are installed in large / long bunkers.

“With budgets on so many courses having to be stretched further and further, anything that can help save time and money, yet also appeal to those that count, has to be a good thing,” said Jeremy

“Golfers like it because the playability of the course in adverse conditions is hugely improved, Management like it because of its cost effectiveness and minimal disruption to play when being installed, and the peace of mind it provides and Greenkeepers like it because it’s quick and easy to install and it relieves them from the mundane task of pumping bunkers.”

Designed to be fitted on the surface when you need it to be, for maximum efficiency, but hidden away sub surface, when you don’t and with the ability to change from surface to subsurface or vice versa taking less than a couple of minutes giving great control over flooding even in the worst rain events.

For further information visit www.bunkerplug.com and www.mjabbott.co.uk

What’s your number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month’s lucky number...

Paul Moreton of BSH is this month’s chosen one...

Name: Paul Moreton

Company: British Seed Houses

Position: Sales Rep
North West England and Midlands



How long have you been in the industry?

10 years (6 previously in New Zealand)

How did you get into it?

In New Zealand I worked for an Agricultural Company that had an ever growing Amenity division and I just found myself spending more time on golf courses and sports grounds which is more fun than faecal counts!

What other jobs have you done?

Mainly Agricultural Sales, Farm hand, Produce Sales.

What do you like about your current job?

Talking technically with Turf professionals and having someone appreciate your expertise

What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

The biggest change for me was seeing how more adaptable and efficient UK greenkeepers/groundsman are when it comes to weather, legislation hassles and expectations compared to NZ, Australia and US counterparts.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I play cricket at a decent level, golf, biking, I have played rugby since I was a lad but have retired due to the weather in the UK! I try to get to the beach whenever I can.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Still doing what I’m doing now hopefully, probably still in the UK.

Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

Being on the road we get to know our clients better than our own staff members! So I have got to know a lot of real decent blokes over the last five years. I think back to a few Greenkeepers who really helped me understand the UK culture when I first started.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

34, has been for years and is my current age!

Pick a number 7

Paul has picked Bruce Jamieson, Consultant Agronomist