



MAJOR CONTRACT FOR SPEEDCUT

Speedcut Contractors is carrying out one of the biggest football pitches construction jobs in London, developing a five hectare site for Kidbrooke Playing Fields in Greenwich.

The Kidbrooke site is home to Long Lane Junior Football Club – the largest junior football club in London and one of the largest in Britain.

It has more than 30 teams from boys (under sevens) and girls (under 10s) to senior teams for men and women.

The new pitches project was a challenge for Speedcut because of varying levels on the undulating

ground but staff used their laser-guided Caterpillar D6 to create level pitches.

After stripping topsoil, regrading the subsoil and laser levelling to FA-accepted gradients, the Speedcut team installed a complete primary drainage system after replacing the topsoil and cultivating.

More than 2,000 tonnes of sand was then applied to the surface to ameliorate the topsoil.

“The dry weather has been a problem because there is currently no irrigation on the site,” said Speedcut Contracts Manager, Kevin Smith.



A Lifetime with the Bernhard Group

Chris Whiting, production electrician at the Bernhard factory, retired at the end of April. Joining Atterton and Ellis in 1962 as an apprentice, Chris tells of how he was called “boy” when he started, and for at least the following 20 years! Chris, pictured above left with Stephen Bernhard, now retires under the title of “pensioner”.

Celebrating his retirement with a party at the local Haverhill Golf Club, Chris was given a fond farewell from the whole of the current staff, as well as best wishes from overseas and past colleagues he worked with over his lifetime of service.

What's your number?

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

Name:
Neil Thompson

Company:
Border Sports Services Ltd

Position:
Director

How long have you been in the industry?
10 Years

How did you get into it?

Having just got married in 2000, I wanted a more secure future and my dad (who started the business over 18 years ago) was wanting to lighten the workload a bit.

What other jobs have you done?

I have always worked in a sales orientated environment, my last job was selling furniture, before that I worked for an Agricultural Merchant.

What do you like about your current job?

The variety of people you meet and the challenges that are presented on a daily basis, and the satisfaction of finding a solution to them.

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

Most recently that people are becoming much more price conscious, and are looking for value for money, with tightening budgets. Something we always try to provide.

What do you do in your spare time?

Play golf, follow football and the British Touring Car Championship.

Where do you see yourself in 10 year's time?

Still providing our customers with the level of service they require, and growing the business.

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

I am fortunate to have met and dealt with many customers and suppliers over the last 10 years, and count quite a few as good friends.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

30, my birthday!

Pick a number
30

Neil has picked Paul Moreton of British Seed Houses