



SHOCKWAVE HERALDS A BREAKTHROUGH AT LANCASTER GOLF CLUB

There is no doubt that we have had an awful lot of rain recently but Warren Bevan, Course Manager of the historic Lancaster Golf Club is not a man to let the elements get the better of him. Following one of the wettest years on record, Warren has had a real challenge to keep the course looking and performing at its best.

He has met this challenge head on by tackling flooding on the greens with a grim determination. "We had to combat the sheer volume of rainfall that threatened to overwhelm the greens," said Warren.

To complement his existing maintenance armoury, he requested delivery of an Imants Shockwave 155 from Campey Turf Care Product Specialist Ian Campbell. "I wanted to source a machine to tackle some deep seated compaction problems and encourage rapid dispersion of water in extremely adverse conditions."

"The worst case scenario would be to close the greens until the water subsides, but that's not how we do things round here. When the course is closed it affects everything; loss of play, cancelled events,

lost revenue. We want play to remain unaffected by the weather conditions for as long as possible."

The Imants Shockwave is a linear decompactor, designed to revitalise heavy wear areas by relieving soil compaction, improving aeration and removing surface water. The important feature for Warren is the working depth – up to 250mm. This is deep enough to penetrate the sub soil layer and allow the water to flow more effectively into existing drainage lines and slits.

Six of the greens have been treated with the Imants Shockwave as have a large number of the traffic routes as well. The effect on the 18th green has been dramatic.

"I'm very impressed", says Warren. "Following a sudden downpour we had standing water on the 18th green and to my surprise Ian agreed to operate the Shockwave in these extremely wet conditions.

"Within 20 minutes of completing a single pass over the entire green, the puddles had gone. The green was playable within 10 - 15 minutes. On less effected greens play was back on within 5 minutes."



COURSE TRACKER WINNER

Steve Isaac, Director of Golf Course Management at The R&A (left), presents David with the iPad

David Braid, greenkeeper at St Michaels Golf Club near St Andrews, was the lucky winner of the iPad offered by The R&A at BTME, as they launched CourseTracker.

David joined Head Greenkeeper Adam Turner four years ago after deciding on a career change from his position of bank manager. Born and bred in St Michaels,

David joined the club at the age of 12.

David couldn't believe he his name had been drawn, describing it as "the perfect end to a fantastic week". He added: "BTME is a great place for us to do business and network". St Michaels registered to CourseTracker within days of its launch at BTME.



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