



## VERSATILE WIEDENMANN SUPER 500 TACKLES GLENEAGLES' ROUGH

As you would expect, a clear focus and a precise plan underpins course preparations at Gleneagles ahead of the 2014 Ryder Cup.

A Wiedenmann Super 500 was purchased in June last year by Steve Chappell, Head Greenkeeper at the PGA Centenary Course, with a very specific role in mind.

The Perthshire team chose the Super 500 CHD which comes with a high dump feature as standard. Flail mowing, collecting, verti-cutting and scarifying make this a truly multitasking machine. The container lifts via a parallel system to a height of 2.1m while rotating the hopper to completely discharge collected material. Additional scarifying blades and the optional golf course contour kit completed the package supplied by dealers, Fairways GM.

"Some of the roughs hadn't been cut for 20 years so there was an immediate requirement to take them right back and clean them out. The main purpose at time of purchase was its flail mowing and harvesting capabilities but its principal duties will switch to scarification and grooming of fairways and roughs," said Mike James, Wiedenmann UK's Northern Sales Manager.



## CLUB CAR HELPS DRIVE UK GOLF COURSE BUSINESSES

Club Car is helping drive business at golf courses large and small thanks to its renewed partnership with the UK Golf Course Owners Association (UKGCOA).

The manufacturer may be best known for its fleets at resort courses, but it is helping UKGCOA members of all sizes.

"Golf course owners are often surprised to find out just how much additional revenue they can make from even a small fleet of just five to ten golf cars," said Kevin Hart, Club Car Sales Director Golf for Europe, Middle East, India and Africa.

"At a time when clubs and courses are having to work really hard to add value to both their member and visitor experience, a small fleet of high quality vehicles can help differentiate a facility and bring in valuable additional revenue.

"It requires an investment on the part of the golf course, but it's an investment that delivers a return and positions the course as a leader in quality and experience."

Club Car is the world's largest manufacturer of small-wheel, zero emissions electric vehicles, making its world renowned Precedent golf cars and utility vehicles at its factory at Augusta, Georgia, USA.

Colin Mayes, Chairman of the UKGCOA, a growing organisation with nearly 200 members, said: "The UKGCOA is focused on driving the golf course industry forward through collaboration, and that includes working with partners that can make a difference to our members' businesses.

"Our members include public pay-and-play courses, private members' clubs and multi-venue groups and resorts."

## CLEARWATER CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

ClearWater, the leading washpad water recycling system, is celebrating ten years of sales with 10th Anniversary Special Offers.

The much acclaimed full biological, below ground system was introduced ten years ago by Highspeed Group Ltd. and now has an enviable reputation for performance and reliability.

Highspeed Group Ltd has developed

the system and installation package since the launch and has worked hard to ensure it is the most affordable system of its type. The special offers include a free upgrade to two hose washing, free special ClearWater barrow and free year's supply of micro-organisms.

Highspeed Group's MD David Mears said: "We've introduced more powerful

pumps, added extra filtration, improved access and ease of operation. One thing we have not done is to compromise our original concept of producing an uncomplicated system that is very effective, reliable and real value for money. To mark ten years of supplying ClearWater, we thought we'd celebrate and make choosing ClearWater that bit easier."

# QUALIBRA BATTLES THE ELEMENTS

Last year's climate proved a testing time to cope with the huge variability in British weather conditions. James Braithwaite, Course Manager at Long Ashton GC in Somerset, tested the attributes of Qualibra for his greens and club members

## Keeping putting surfaces firm

The original soil-based greens of Long Ashton Golf Club have always posed a challenge for Course Manager, James Braithwaite, to keep the course open and avoid the use of temporary greens as much as possible.

So James (bottom right) carried out a trial with Ray Hunt of ALS by using Qualibra on nine greens, and another market leading wetting agent on his other nine. He applied both on a monthly basis, at exactly the same time and according to their recommended application rates.

James reported that, despite using Qualibra on the more difficult greens, the results were that they were firmer and drier at the surface than his other nine holes, resulting in faster, more consistent, putting surfaces.

Ray added that having the penetrant and polymer qualities together in one wetting agent had clearly worked well in moving water away from the surface to achieve firmer conditions, whilst holding moisture at a lower level in the soil profile.

## Water conservation

Ray also recommends the dual action of Qualibra can help greenkeepers make better use of irrigation scheduling, and conserve of water resources in a dry season.

He said: "Applying more water less frequently helps to rehydrate the soil more effectively to depth, and significantly reduces the effect of evaporation from the soil surface in hot summer conditions."

Ray advocates the dual action of Qualibra for eliminating the risks of creating soft surfaces after a heavy rain or irrigation and help alleviate Dry Patch or hydrophobic soils more effectively.

"Creating a dry surface, whilst holding greater soil moisture reserves deep and evenly in the root zone, gives more efficient utilisation of water and encourages root development further down into the soil profile, which can further aid plant health," he said.

## Water warning

Golf courses and other sports facilities are going to have to stop using mains water for irrigation within the next five years, according to latest reports, warns Roger Davey of Somerset-based Irritech.

He said: "Golf courses will have to prove they have an efficient and sustainable policy for their use of irrigation water, if they want to get and keep an abstraction licence."

Whilst the cost of borehole water can be as low as five pence per m3 and could pay for the investment in just three years, greenkeepers and clubs have to be aware of the potential risks of water quality.

Other sources for stored water, including rainwater harvesting and treated grey water or sewage effluent from a hotel complex, for example, could also provide valuable alternatives.



# Qualibra

## Deeper thinking

***New wetting and water conservation technology that moves water from the surface AND holds it deeper and more evenly in the root zone.***

Visit [www.greencast.co.uk](http://www.greencast.co.uk) for more information



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