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Utrecht FC follows Liverpool and Real Madrid

Dutch top-flight football club FC Utrecht has taken ownership of two Cub Cadett electrical mowers. The mowers have been fitted with a groomer. Utrecht FC is the first Dutch club in the top league that uses the Cub Cadett, but the machine is used by several clubs in the British and Spanish leagues.

According to sales rep Vinny Tarbox the electrical cylinder mower with groomer is truly unique. 'Apart from the groomer the machine also has a floating head and a modular cassette mower. That makes it possible to remove the cylinder and have it replaced by a scarify unit.' Utrecht FC ordered two of these machines. 'Otherwise cutting the grass will take too long. Cutting the grass on a match-day with only one machine will take approximately five hours. We would have to start really early in order to be ready two hours before kick-off', groundsman Jan Gijzen explains.

The electrical mower has the advantage that new settings can easily be loaded. 'Aspects like clip rate and mowing speed can be adjusted quickly.'



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Cliftonville artificial grass surface passes FIFA Quality Pro for the 8th time in a row

Cliftonville FC in Belfast, Northern Ireland, has received its 8th FIFA Quality Pro certificate for its Lano MXSi field. The annual certification is compulsory for clubs pursuing FIFA Quality Pro certification.

Most clubs wave the FIFA Quality Pro standard within one or two years after having taken ownership of the field. The rather prefer pursuing the FIFA Quality standard which considers more criteria that are easier to be achieved.

'I remember the days when several teams of our academy would use fields at neighbouring clubs to host their practice sessions', the club's communications director, David Begley, recalls. 'These days the opposite happens. We now have a top-quality artificial grass surface that teams from this area are eager to use too. After having hosted hundreds of domestic and international games, the field is still in optimum condition.'

Cliftonville FC is the oldest club in Northern Ireland, but shouldn't be considered old-fashioned. 'Our players and community deserve the best. When we decided to replace our pitch in 2010, we wanted to be sure that our players could benefit from the new surface 24/7.' The club selected



Lano Spots Profoot MXSi. 'The exceptional resilience and playability in any condition made the difference', David explains.

The club has certainly benefited from its investment. In the past four years Cliftonville FC won several finales at its home turf. The quality of the field also received its own recognition. 'We are

very pleased that our stadium was used to host a Champions League match several weeks ago. We can only hope that there will be sufficient time left for our own players to benefit from the surface', he laughs.



Re-match achieves ETV-certification

The Danish artificial grass recycling company Re-Match has received its Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) certificate. The certificate acknowledges that Re-Match separates waste in clean and separate products.

The certificate confirms what Re-Match has been claiming for many years: separating waste in clean products. The company developed its own artificial grass separation process using air and a sieve. The granulated grass fibres are compressed and supplied to different plastic industries. The infill, consisting of sand and rubber granulates, is used in new artificial grass surfaces for landscaping and sports.



Atlungstad Golf acquires VGR Topchanger 1600

The Norwegian golf club Atlungstad Golfklubb has received its VGR Topchanger. By using the VGR Topchanger the club expects to reduce the time spent on maintaining the 18-hole course.

Stefan Sandegård, the main greenkeeper at Atlungstad Golfklubb, is very pleased with the new machine. 'Thanks to the VGR Topchanger we can now maintain the green in one run. The machine aerates and dresses at the same time. If needs be it can also inject a wetting agent or soil booster at the same time.'

The purchase by Atlungstad Golfklubb comes hot on the heels of a Swedish club taking ownership of another VGR Topchanger.

Dutch Golf course contractor first to invest in Turflynx robot mower

Turflynx Northern Europe has introduced its Turflynx F315, a specially designed robot mower with GPS. The Turflynx F315 was designed from scratch. 'That is why this robot mower is much smaller and lighter than traditional diesel fairway mowers,' says Turflynx Northern Europe director Tinus Vernooij. He estimates the machine weighs only half of a traditional diesel mower. 'This reduces the impact and prevents the topsoil from compacting.' The batteries allow the machine to cut the grass from approximately six fairways or four football fields before they need to be recharged. The Dutch golf course contractor is the first to invest in this robot.



VB Projects pitch heating for new Atletico Madrid stadium

Pitch heating of BV Projects will guarantee that Wanda Metropolitano, the new home ground of Atletico Madrid, can be used all year long.

The beautifully designed stadium provides great comfort to spectators, but failed to include the basics for a quality pitch. The roof provides too much shade in certain areas of the field, thereby denying the grass sufficient heat required to grow a perfect pitch.

No less than 33 kilometres tubing was installed in the longitudinal direction of the pitch. The field has been split up in three sections.



DLF reports that the demand for turf has increased this year.

The improving economic situation has driven demand for turf grasses, the Danish company reports. Even in Southern Europe, where the economy is improving at a slower rate, demand was up for turf grass.

Seed shortages drove up prices for smooth-stalked meadow grass and hard and tall fescue. Seed imports from the USA were low, held back by limited availability and an unfavourable USD exchange rate. And following the disappointing harvests in Denmark, the Netherlands and North America, the balance between supply and demand is tight.

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TC Steinhausen goes for 4 Swiss Court tennis courts

The Swiss tennis club TC Steinhausen recently refurbished 4 tennis courts. The courts have now received a Swiss Court top-layer. Swiss Court is an all-weather surface consisting of an artificial grass field dressed with quartz sand. The surface is hailed for its good properties in terms of maintaining moist and draining excess water.



Capillary Concrete used for iconic Mickey Mouse bunker

The management of Disney's Magnolia Golf Course have used Capillary Concrete to shape the Mickey Mouse bunker on the par-3, 6th hole on the golf course. The large pores in the base material enable expedited drainage of excess water from the bunker through the concrete into the drains, while preventing sand migration into and through the concrete.

Polymers in the concrete binding agent create microscopic connections to enable moisture to be returned to the sand via capillary action, against gravity, upward through the concrete during dry periods. This keeps the sand conditions ideal for play, while dramatically improving the life span of the bunker as compared to traditional construction methods.

The management of the golf course opted for this solution, as the traditional method of bunker construction can have detrimental effects of

multiple factors including climate and soil conditions, can compromise the longevity of a bunker, requiring periodic rebuilds. These effects can result in the loss of the shape of the bunker and the sinking of the sand due to the erosion of the bottom of the bunker because of rain, despite the use of liners and tile drainage. The greenkeeper of the course could not afford this happening, as that would increase the frequency of required maintenance and the cumulative costs associated with bunker management.

In the case of the Mickey Mouse bunker, the bunker and surrounding turf were removed all the way down to bare ground. The well-known Mickey Mouse shape was freshly and precisely sculpted into the ground and new French drains were dug into the bunker surface. Once the drains were in place, a minimum 2-inch depth layer of Capillary Concrete was poured into the bunker and rolled smooth on to the bunker surface. The concrete was then allowed to cure for at least 6 hours and then inspected for quality assurance. Once the concrete had cured and passed inspection, a fresh layer of new sand was placed in the bunker and new sod was laid down around the bunker edge and perimeter.



Orange is the new red

The French golf course Le Golf National will rely heavily on Jacobsen to prepare the course for the 2018 Ryder Cup. Jacobsen is already the exclusive supplier of turf care equipment for the golf course near Paris. To prepare the course for the 2018 Ryder Cup, Jacobsen will also support the on-site agronomy team.

'The Ryder Cup is one of the sporting world's most revered and highly anticipated events. It will be a privilege to play a role in preparing the course for the match and helping to ensure that the highest standards of course preparation are applied for such a prestigious tournament', explains Alan Prickett, senior director at TSV, owner of the Jacobsen brand.

'We are delighted to announce this partnership with Jacobsen. They already enjoy a first-class relationship with the host venue and our hope and intention is to build on that relationship and deliver a course worthy of staging this great event', Ryder Cup Europe director Richard Hills adds.

Brad Kautzer new Company President and CEO at Foley United

Foley United has appointed Brad Kautzer as its new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Kautzer succeeds Jim Letourneau, who will remain with the company as a senior adviser, board member, and equity partner. Prior to joining Foley United, Kautzer had a long and successful career at Honeywell, including VP/GM of its global Electromechanical Sensing & Control business and VP of Industrial Control Products in the Asia-Pacific



Italian Serie A clubs switch to LED

SPAL is the second club in the Italian Serie A football league to move to LED floodlight illumination for its stadium. Juventus was the first club to make the change when they switched from conventional luminaires to LED technology at the beginning of the 2016/2017 season.

LED technology is best known for its contribution to energy savings and reducing CO2 emissions. The technology is, however, also regarded as one that provides superior quality illumination that enables HDTV registration. All games in the highest Italian football league are televised in HD.

Light from LED luminaires resembles day-light quality, thereby enabling players and cameras to identify and register moving objects quicker and better. As a result, players can anticipate and act quicker while spectators both at home and in the stands have a better match experience.

region. He also has a thorough leadership experience in marketing, sales, product development, and operations as well as supporting growth through global dealer/distributor networks. Kautzer has successfully led numerous businesses and channel growth initiatives and is well regarded as an industry expert. 'We are excited to have Brad join the Foley United team', said Jim Letourneau. 'He has demonstrated throughout his career a deep commitment to excellence in all aspects of business, with a clear passion for new product development, sales, marketing and customer service. I look forward to partnering with Brad to continue Foley United's leadership in our markets.'



Duncan Ross reinvigorates Penrith Football Club in six weeks

After having been neglected for nine years, the pitch of Frenchfield Park Stadium has now received a new lease of life. Duncan Ross Ltd. Made sure the field was ready in time for a lucrative pre-season friendly. The surface had been without considered maintenance before and during the current nine-year inhabitation of Penrith FC. Without a functioning drainage system the top layer of the surface became impenetrable. Duncan Ross were only given a six-week window to complete the operation in time for a lucrative pre-season friendly against League Two outfit Carlisle United. Within the three days of work, the top was completely stripped off using a Koro Fieldtop Maker, sand banding was introduced and the pitch was seeded. Brian 'Billy' Williams has had a 50-year association with the club, first as a player, owner and chairman – the role he currently holds. The importance of the pitch being prepared for the match was massive for the club, and Brian explains the before and after effects the project has had. 'The pitch wasn't draining at all,' says Brian 'Billy' Williams, chairman of the club. 'The drains had been dry for the last eight years and Duncan came down and gave us a thesis on what he thought was wrong,' Brian explained. 'He presented a solution to what he thought would solve the problems and our local council along with the Football Stadium Improvement Fund got involved and funded the project.'

'We played our first pre-season game against Carlisle United on 12th July, and that really put them to the test, because the decision wasn't made to bring Duncan in until the early part of May, so there was a five to six-week window to actually start doing the work, which was quite considerable.'

'The game against Carlisle meant a lot to us financially for the start of the current season, so it was great that it was ready for the game. Carlisle were absolutely thrilled with the condition of it and we've had nothing but positive feedback.' As Frenchfield is owned by Eden Council and leased by the club, their leisure and community service manager at the council, Doug Huggon, was involved in the process too. 'Duncan Ross can only be commended in their approach to offering a



solution to the drainage issue, successfully bidding for the work, undertaking the work on time and to budget', Doug said.

'Also, for the support and assistance that has been offered to the club since the work was carried out, advising on irrigation, grass cutting and on-going maintenance.'

'Both the council and the club were impressed by Duncan Ross's performance and hope to develop a relationship going forward that will ensure that the day to day maintenance of the pitch, undertaken by volunteers at the club as well as the annual reinstatement of the pitch allows for less matches being postponed and use of the pitch by other teams within the club.'

Their involvement along with the help of the Cumberland Football Association meant half the cost of reconstructing the pitch was paid for. Allowing other teams within the club to use the pitch is a very important point for Brian Williams, who now aims to bond the clubs 300 junior kids and four ladies' teams together by allowing all of them to play on the stadium pitch.

This would not only have a positive effect on the players, but the club's finances at the same time. There is also a probable knock-on effect of being able to use the surface to attract new players to the club.



Charterhouse to highlight Graden GBS1200 at Saltex

The Graden GBS 1200 is a 1.2 m straight reeled unit ideal for flat areas such as sports pitches, cricket squares and tennis courts. This model can be mounted onto a 20 hp+ tractor and can scarify to various depths of up to 45 mm. The tempered steel blades, in optional widths of 1 mm or 3 mm, feature 8 tungsten tips and are fitted in reverse rotation to slice cleanly through the turf, while the deep scalloped design prevents the blades from becoming clogged.

The Charterhouse stand at Saltex will be Stand K070. Ian Lauder Northern Territory Sales Managers makes his Saltex debut.