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· SINCE 2019 ·

International

GREENKEEPERS

INTERNATIONAL GREENKEEPERS GAZETTE

THE INTERNATIONAL HUB FOR GREENKEEPERS, GROUNDSTAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND HOME LAWN ENTHUSIASTS

ISSUE 1, JUNE 2021

* FREE ENTRY & PARKING * OVER 200 EXHIBITORS



FRIDAY 9TH - SUNDAY 11TH APRIL 2021 | SYDNEY DRAGWAY FERRERS ROAD EASTERN CREEK | VISIT DIESELDIRTANDTURF.COM.AU FOR MORE INFORMATION

GOLD SPONSOR:

KOMATSU

GOLD MEDIA SPONSOR:

earthmovers & excavators

Deals on Wheels

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS:

Pickles

EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT

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YellowCover

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NORM ENGINEERING

Kerfab ATTACH+GO

JustAutomotive

HYDRAULIC STEELS





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NOT A BAD EFFORT FOR OUR FIRST APPEARANCE



WHAT A GREAT EXPERIENCE WE HAD AT THE NATIONAL DIESEL DIRT AND TURF EXPO THAT WAS HELD AT THE SYDNEY DRAGWAY BETWEEN APRIL 9-11 WITH OVER 90000 VISITORS WALKING THROUGH THE EXPO OVER THE TREE DAYS.

THIS WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR INDUSTRY TO PROMOTE WHAT WE DO AND HOW IMPORTANT WE ARE TO THE COMMUNITY PROVIDING SPORTING SURFACES FOR THEIR KIDS ALL THE WAY UP TO THEIR SPORTING HERO'S, IT WAS AMAZING TO SEE HOW EXCITED KIDS WERE AFTER GETTING THE CHANCE TO KICK A FOOTBALL OVER THE POSTS ON A MINIATURE RUGBY FIELD.

HOPEFULLY NEXT YEAR WE CAN TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY AND ALSO USE THIS EXPO AS A RECRUITING TOOL FOR OUR INDUSTRY.

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The NATIONAL Diesel & Turf EXPO[®]
Friday 9th, Saturday 10th, Sunday 11th April 2021
AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT EXPO

DEAN trailers

Ground SOLUTIONS AUSTRALIA

LandHQ™

HUGE THANKS TO ALL OUR ASSOCIATES AND MEMBERS THAT DONATED OVER \$10000 IN PRIZES FOR US TO GIVE AWAY.

ITS WAS VERY OVERWHELMING TO SEE HOW MUCH SUPPORT WE WERE GIVEN FROM ALL OUR FRIENDS IN THE INDUSTRY, WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO RAISE \$950 BY SELLING EXTRA RAFFLE TICKETS TO GO TOWARDS THE NSWGSA FLOOD ASSISTANCE FUND.

HOPEFULLY AT NEXT YEARS EXPO WE PUT TOGETHER A GREAT PRIZE PACKAGE TO GIVE AWAY AT NEXT YEARS EXPO IN 2022.

THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES AND MEMBERS MADE ALL THIS POSSIBLE FOR 2021

DEAN TRAILERS deantrailers.com.au

GROUND SOLUTIONS AUSTRALIA groundaust.com

LANDHQ Landhq.com.au

MIKES GRASSING AROUND +61431 879 099

SUSTAINABLE MACHINERY sustainablemachinery.com.au

SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION NSW sportsturfnsw.com.au

MUSTURF musturf.com.au

VENTRAC AUSTRALIA ventracaus.com.au

LAWN SOLUTIONS AUSTRALIA lawnsolutionsaustralia.com.au

SYDNEY NEW AND USED GOODS +61431 297 948

COLIN CAMPBELL CHEMICALS PTY LTD campbellchemicals.com.au



SOME OF THE GREAT PRIZES DONATED



A very generous donation by Ghris Guy from Dean Trailers working with Daniel Studders from Ground Solutions Australia to make this possible.



The LandHQ team generously donated a huge amount of toys including a 12V ride on Gator.



Our loyal member and big supporter Michael Sammut dropped off a great lawn mower and blower to add to the prize pool.



Lawn Solutions Australia with Ausgap donated a large amount of lawn care products



NSW STA Educational seminar 8th of April held at The National Diesel Dirt and Turf Expo

The New South Wales Sports Turf Association was recently invited by The National Diesel Dirt And Tuff Expo to host a Educational for their members. The day was a great success with Vice President Graeme Logan entertaining the crowd along with celebrity Landscaper Jason Hodges who was the MC for the event.

Huge thanks to the following people who gave great presentations on the day. And a special thanks to Myles from LED Screens Australia for donating a huge screen on a trailer so the event could be hosted outside. ledscreensaustralia.com.au

- NSW floods and turf availability and the latest research on ‘heat island effect’ and erosion control - Jenny Zadro (Turf Australia)
- Soil treatment – A Silver Bullet for turf management in Sports stadium, golf course, bowling greens (nematodes / ground pearl). Dr Swaminathan (Draslovka)
- Sports Field Construction and Renovations - John Neylan (SportsEng)
- Integrated Sustainable Weed Management - Jeremy Winer (Weed Techniques)
- Oxygenation technology to treat turf/greenspace and wastewater technologies - Andrew Pride (Nano Bubble Technologies)
- Sports Fields Hours of Use - John Neylan (SportsEng)
- Cricket Wicket Testing - Albie Leggett (TurfCare)
- The future of GPS and guided technology - James Evins (LandHQ)



ESTABLISHED 2019

INTERNATIONAL GREENKEEPERS FOR HIRE

Made by greenkeepers, for greenkeepers.
Educational card #1



Understanding plant water use (Evapotranspiration)

Evapotranspiration is a term used to describe the water consumed by plants over a period of time. Evapotranspiration is the water loss occurring from the process of evaporation and transpiration. Evaporation occurs when water changes to vapor on either soil or plant surfaces. Transpiration refers to the water loss through the leaves of plants.

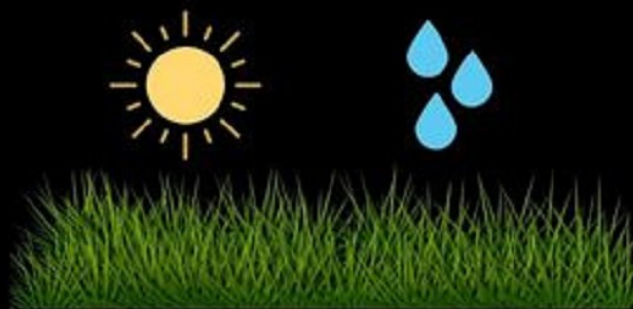
Evapotranspiration is an important process in the water cycle because it is responsible for 15% of the atmosphere's water vapor.

More than 99% of the water used by an irrigated crop or turf is drawn through the roots and transpires through the leaves. Only a small amount (1%) of the water taken up by plants is actually used to produce plant tissue.

The overall amount of evapotranspiration for a crop or landscape over an entire growing season is about the same as seasonal water requirements.

Keeping track of evapotranspiration in your local area can help you more efficiently irrigate your turf.

Evapotranspiration (ET) occurs most when the plant is actively growing, transpiring and respirating. Thus leaving the stomates open and is the place of most water loss.



How is evapotranspiration is estimated?

The two most important factors needed to estimate evapotranspiration are 1. The local weather conditions. 2.

The cropping system for which estimates are needed (type of crop, planting date, crop development)

Local weather conditions are important because evapotranspiration is driven by weather factors that can determine the drying power of the air. You can accurately predict evapotranspiration in a given area from these four local weather variables;

Soil radiation
Temperature
Humidity
Wind.

The data from these measurements are then plugged into equations that accurately predict the daily rate of evapotranspiration for those conditions. These values are called reference evapotranspiration and refer to the evapotranspiration of the reference crop.

If you require any further information please contact us via our website internationalgreenkeepers.com

Facts have been sourced from Colorado State University studies.

https://coagmet.colostate.edu/extended_etr_about.php



MEET THE MEMBERS

STEPHEN VALENTE

With thousands of members from over 90 countries worldwide keeping our industry alive we believe this is a great way of inspiring our members to persue their dreams working abroad or to take a chance in reaching your career goals.

My name is Stephen Valente. I am currently 27 years old and I am the current Deputy Course Manager of Nesklúbburinn in Reykjavik, Iceland. I am from Pennsylvania in the United States and graduated with a degree in Turfgrass Science from The Pennsylvania State University in 2016. While I currently work in golf, the vast majority of my greenkeeping experience is in sports turf.

What attracted you to greenkeeping?

I got into greenkeeping because I've always loved sports and wanted to be around them, even though I was never really good at playing them. I was also attracted to the outdoor nature of the work

What's the best thing you've learned during your career?

This might not be the exact answer you're looking for, but I think the best thing I learned is how similar our industry is all over the world. I've stepped onto crews on three different continents now, and I've been able to contribute meaningfully right from the beginning. I've learned that all over the world, greenkeepers have the same goals and desires, and that's a nice thing to know.

Most difficult challenge?

The most difficult challenge I've faced in my career was switching being strictly labour to managing labour. Here in Reykjavik, during the summer, I'm in charge of a 10 man crew. It's my first experience being in charge. I'm getting better at it by the day, but it's definitely a different kind of challenging I had never really expected or thought about.





Funniest moment?

In the summer of 2015, I was completing my university internship with the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railriders (professional baseball, the AAA affiliate of the New York Yankees). It was the Fourth of July, and we had a sold out stadium with fireworks display after the game and everything, a real money maker for the team. It was a particularly dry summer until that point, but that night, they had predicted a meager amount of rain. We hadn't watered the infield dirt that day, and thought it could stand to take a little bit of rain. When we woke up the next morning, it turned out the forecast was wrong, and over two inches of rain had fallen with no end in sight. The infield was an absolute swamp, completely unplayable. So we had to call in the entire front office of the team to help us first roll out the tarp and get it in on the infield. We pinned the tarp down and then took our two buffalo blowers and positioned them on two ends of the tarp, so that it would blow air underneath it and blow it up like a bubble, so that we could work underneath it while it continued to rain. We had to set up a bunch of portable flood lights and front office workers held flashlights over us so we could see what we were doing. It was so dark and humid, it was like working in a coal mine that was also a jungle. That day was 8 hours of stripping the infield conditioner layer off and replacing it with new material over and over again until enough moisture had been sucked out of it that it could resemble anything playable. It worked and the game was played. It's funny looking back now that everything worked out, but that was probably the most physically exhausting day of my life



Inspiring words for young greenkeepers?

For people just starting out in the industry, I would tell them that they picked the right career path. More so in any industry I've ever been in, greenkeepers tend to be very supportive of each other and, more importantly, willing to help each other, whether it be labor or knowledge. It's an industry where everybody wants everybody else to succeed. Another aspect I love about this line of work is how tangible the results are. When you start a project, you can see the results immediately. You can tell how much nicer an area looks after a fresh mowing and edging. Your greens start turning dark emerald green half an hour after being sprayed with iron. Sometimes the job can be thankless to the people we report to, but at least you and the crew can see your progress in the real time, and at the end of the work week, that is really satisfying.

Favourite sport?

My favorite sport is American Football. I've been a die hard fan of the Penn State Nittany Lions, my school's football team, for my entire life

Dream job?

My dream job would allow me to be in turf and travel regularly. I love adventure, I love meeting new people, and I love learning how people do turf all around the world. My ultimate goal is to be a curator of a piece of turf that appears on TV on all 6 continents. I got three down so far!

What do you think of International Greenkeepers For Hire?

I think IGFH is an invaluable resource. It helped me in a direct way in 2019 when Daryl Davidson invited me to work on his crew at Sydney Uni, which was a dream of mine since the first time I stepped on the famous of USyd in 2015. I gained so much experience in my time down there. How many Americans could say that they're accredited wicket curators in New South Wales? Aside from how I directly benefited from it, I appreciate IGFH because i believe communication is key. IGFH allows greenkeepers to share knowledge with eachother from quite literally everywhere on the globe. As the title would suggest, IGFH is an invaluable resource for job searching, but I think especially for those already set in a career, it's a great way to hear new voices. They say you should never stop learning, and IGFH is a great way to keep up with new trends and ideas. Another reason I think it's great is that it exists outside of an academic setting. I know in the US, most of the new ideas and new practices come out of university research. And while that's always going to be what drives the industry, in IGFH, it's regular greenkeepers sharing their own direct knowledge



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The NATIONAL Diesel Dirt & Turf EXPO®
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AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT EXPO

2021: Another record-breaking Diesel Dirt & Turf Expo

The 2021 Diesel Dirt & Turf Expo was an outstanding success, with more than 90,000 people visiting the Expo over its three days.

The new venue of the Sydney Dragway more than lived up to expectations, with easy navigation to find exhibitors and plenty of parking to accommodate the huge crowds.

Best stand awards

Once again, exhibitors excelled in presenting their products, with JCB taking out the award for the best large stand and Kerfab being awarded the best medium stand. The best small stand award went to International Greenkeepers Association and the award for the best booth went to Hydraulic Steels. Engcon was presented the award for the most innovative product.

About 70 representatives of local councils attended the STA (NSW) Sports Turf Association local government educational seminar on the Thursday before the expo opened.

Expo opening

Cutting the ribbon at the opening of Diesel Dirt & Turf 2021 were the Mayor of Blacktown, Councillor Tony Bleasdale, Chris Moroz of gold sponsor Komatsu, Graham Gardiner of gold media sponsor Earthmovers & Excavators and the Hon. Shane Mallard MLC, representing the New South Wales government.

Councillor Bleasdale welcomed Diesel Dirt & Turf to Blacktown and noted the huge growth in the economy of the city whose gross regional product is estimated at \$21.98 billion, or 3.51% of NSW.

Komatsu NSW Sales Manager Chris Moroz said "We are delighted to be back at the Diesel Dirt & Turf Expo as gold sponsor to show our equipment for small to medium-sized businesses. This is our 100th anniversary year and to celebrate, we are showing a big range of equipment and the latest evolution of our smart machines."

Graham Gardiner, general manager of Are Media, industry division and gold media sponsor Earthmovers & Excavators said "We are pleased to be playing a major role in promoting the Expo. Earthmovers & Excavators magazine is proud to be associated with the National Diesel Dirt & Turf Expo which is without doubt the biggest of its type in Australia.

"After the disruptions of 2020 it is awesome to be back at a big event like this. It's great to be amongst the industry and to see clients we haven't met with for some time. Earthmovers & Excavators magazine is a big part of the industry that we want to support through our sponsorship", Graham said.

Shane Mallard MLC recognised the role of the construction industry in the growth of the region and explained the NSW government was investing \$107 billion in the region in the next four years, which would create 88,000 new jobs in the construction sector.



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Great new venue

John Pesch, Managing Director of Norm Engineering said, "This Expo is unbelievable and the new site is amazing. This event brings the whole industry together. It's great to see all the new attachment products and machines in one place, and it's also great to hang out together and experience the wonderful camaraderie of this earthmoving industry."

Stephen Holt, managing director of Hydraulic Steels agreed. "It's great to be back. We've been coming to this Expo for the last five years. Many of our customers are also exhibitors and it is important for us to be here as our products are used in the equipment manufactured by our customers." Stephen added, "the new Expo site is more user-friendly and bigger, easier to get around it's great for our visitors. The Diesel Dirt & Turf Expo is unique because it attracts smaller contractors and therefore brings a lot more people".

Craig Carmody, National development manager of transport at National Transport Insurance expressed similar enthusiasm for the Expo. "We are a major supporter of the truck, transport and construction industry. We have a number of our products and brands on display, including Yellow Cover and other products such as Truck Assist which is a roadside assistance program for the construction industry," said Craig.

"The National Diesel Dirt & Turf Expo is a great place for the industry to engage with suppliers and customers", said Ryan Hoban, marketing manager of Kerfab, a company that designs and manufactures attachments for small to large machines for the construction and agricultural equipment markets.

"It is a great way to see everybody in the industry. We took on sponsorship of the event this year and to show our support for the industry and the Expo's unique ability to reach out customers.

Field Day atmosphere

Landscaper, Jason Hodges who is a household name from his 20 years in television was visiting Diesel Dirt & Turf and said that the Expo is more like a country field day, but conveniently located on the outskirts of Sydney.

"For those many contractors who may not wish to travel several hours to a country field day, Diesel Dirt & Turf Expo is a great opportunity because it's right on their doorstep and it's on at the weekend, which makes it easy for people to get here.

"Diesel Dirt & Turf is serious business, but at the same time it is a lot of fun! The Expo is entertaining for people who are in industry and also enables them to bring along their families. It is fascinating to see the huge variety of machinery on display. I enjoy visiting to see what is new because I have a little excavator and am interested in seeing what's new, even in push mowers and whipper snippers.

"I am also always interested in seeing how I could do the job more easily to make sure my body is going to last longer," Jason concluded.

Popular Pickles

Pickles Auctions is another long-term supporter and associate sponsor of Diesel Dirt & Turf. National industrial manager, Hugh Ranger said the event brings the industry together.

"There are not many trade fairs around the country where people who share a common interest can visit. It is evident from looking at the attendance at our auctions that there are people who are all working for the same goal. At every Diesel Dirt & Turf Expo we hold an auction where about 120 lots are put up for sale which usually generates around \$2.5 million. We are big fans of the Expo and will continue to come back for many years," said Hugh.

Recruitment services booming

Jason Sultana, director of Just Automotive Recruitment said, "We welcomed the opportunity for sponsorship this year because our recruitment service is a large part of the truck and equipment industry.

"The Expo is a good fit for our business as we are a local and overseas recruiter who helps local businesses find staff. We also have an overseas arm that helps bring skilled workers into Australia to fill market that is short on skills. We help employers find skilled people such as mechanics, fabricators, body builders and welders.

"The event is important for the industry because everyone can get together to see what is happening and look at the latest equipment and discuss matters of common importance. Looking around the Expo you can see who is offering similar products, or who is able to supply a specialised product or service which may be helpful." Jason said.



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So much enthusiasm

Jamie Gray of associate sponsor Earthmoving Equipment Magazine said "It is so awesome to be back at Diesel Dirt & Turf in 2021! It is good to see everyone being so positive and enthusiastic after what has been a difficult past twelvemonths. The Expo is great for the industry, not only in terms of people being able to meet each other but also to showcase the huge range of new products that are appearing in the market.

"There is no better way to get product and brand awareness out there in the market and is an ideal way for us to engage face-to-face with the decision-makers in our market.

"Diesel Dirt & Turf is probably the only time in Australia that can rival some of the large overseas equipment fairs that we are able to visit. To get everyone together in Australia from "the industry at one place is a fantastic achievement" said Jamie.

Competitions

The Takeuchi excavator challenge has become a regular part of Diesel Dirt & Turf and lets top gun contractors show off their skills. This year's daily winners were Matt Anderson, Ryan Rayner and Ryan Burgmann.

Helicopter arrivals

Some expo visitors wanted to bypass the traffic jams and come to the Expo any way they could, including some who flew in from the Central Coast by helicopter.

Matt Wynne who develops storage facilities was anxious to get to the Expo. The fastest way was to jump on a helicopter from Lake Macquarie. "We want to see what was the latest in plant and equipment and we just had a one day, so this was the quickest and easiest way to do it", Matt said.

Record crowd at Sydney Dragway

Market Easthope, maintenance manager at the Sydney Dragway said, "this Expo is by far the biggest show I have ever seen held here, and certainly the biggest crowd we have ever seen."

Speaking to several visitors to the Expo, typical of the responses came from Ben Green from Greenway Contracting who said "We like to come to Diesel Dirt & Turf Expo because it's a day out with the kids. I operate a small civil construction business in Sydney and it is good to see new construction equipment on display at the one place.

Patrick Makerry, director of PJ's Plumbing & Excavation, Sydney said "I like to see new equipment that is available in the industry so that I can keep my business up to date with the latest.

Shaun Sabri, Business Development Manager, Business & Equipment Finance of CreditOne Group spoke for their team and the many exhibitors when he said, "Thanks very much for an incredible Diesel Dirt & Turf 2021. We value our relationship with this great event and look forward to participating into the future."

Contribution by sponsors

Expo Manager Marti Zivkovich said sponsors had a major impact on the Expo's success and paid special tribute to gold sponsor Komatsu Australia, gold media sponsor Earthmovers & Excavators magazine and Deals on Wheels, major supporter Pickles and associate sponsors Just Automotive Recruitment, Norm Engineering, Truck Assist, Yellow Cover, Hydraulic Steels, Kerfab, Earthmoving Equipment Magazine and Australian Earthmoving magazine.



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WHEN THE INDUSTRY GETS TOGETHER TO HELP OUT

Now this was a fun project for International Greenkeepers to be apart teaming up with the Sports Turf Association NSW, Ventrac, Musturf and Ground Solutions Australia.

The Muralan Cricket Club was very lucky when a new team member David Insley join their club who also happens to be the Assistant Superintendent at Mt Broughton Golf Club. David a keen cricketer and turf lover seen an unused Turf wicket square hiding next to the Synthetic Pitch laying dormant for many of years, so he decided to try and bring it back to life. After talking to David regularly it came to my attention that he wasn't just volunteering his time for this project he was also purchasing equipment using his own money.

Hearing this we decided to reach out to the STA NSW to see if we could use their contacts to help David reach his goals of creating a place for the local community to enjoy for many years to come.

It was amazing to see the large amount of companies that put their hand up to help out donating their time and products.

A huge thanks to the following

Ventrac Australia for bringing two machines down plus every attachment like a Swiss Army knife. The Ventrac team used there power broom and Power rake to strip and level off the Wicket Square to prepare the area for the new turf to be laid.

They also aerated and mowed the outfield in record time especially with the 95 inch cutting deck attachment.

Ground Solutions Australia came down and ran their Recycling Dresser through the outfield which was also surprising to everyone there on the day how quick the machine worked through the virgin soil and how good a job it done.

Musturf rocked up in style with a huge semi trailer loaded with 300m² of washed TifTuf Bermuda/couch followed by another truck full of staff and equipment to lay the new turf on the freshly prepared wicket square and laying the leftovers in a new nursery area.

The Sports Turf Association did a great job organising the event as well as finding the club a heap of donations to help maintain their new pride and joy.

Big shout out to the committee members that made the trip down south and got their hands dirty Damien Curtis, Mick Sutton and MVP of the day Grant Thomas.

We also had a few visitors to come and help out on the day Michael Sammut from Mikes Grassing Around and Brad Llyod from Cumberland City Council both made the long trip and put in a full days work to help us get the job done quicker as well as the Muralan Cricket Club President Rob Collins and team mates David Insley, Dai Woodgate and Kai Gardiner who not only helped but also put on a great BBQ for lunch.

The Marulan Cricket Club was established in 1866 and this season saw the first senior side for the Club in 8 years. They are also currently running a junior Blast program and are looking to welcome a few junior teams next season. This installation will provide a much-needed boost to the Club so they can continue to build a wonderful community facility.

And we cannot wait to take on the Muralan Cricket Club in a charity Cricket Match later this year which should be a fun day as most of the people that came down to help have not played any kind of sport in a long time, but we still think we have them covered. (Ring ins are allowed).

To get in touch with any of the companies that helped out please check out their websites.

*Sports Turf Association NSW

sportsturfnsw.com.AU

*Ventrac Australia

ventracaus.com.au

*Musturf

musturf.com.au

*Ground Solutions Australia

groundaust.com



The great team all together



Before



After



WHEN THE INDUSTRY GETS TOGETHER TO HELP OUT



NOW THIS LOOKS NEW



TURF GAMECHANGER

SUPERIOR METHOD FOR TURF MANAGEMENT

BETTER QUALITY AND LOWER COSTS, WHILE SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT.



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Have a look at this beast, could this machine be the answer for sporting facilities around the world.

One machine that can be used for multiple purposes, we have seen this before with smaller machines that have been very successful so why not on a much larger scale.

International Greenkeepers is looking forward to seeing this new technology grow around the world as we all know time is money, this may be a very handy piece of equipment to many Sports Turf Managers across many codes in our industry.

For more information contact **ILKKA KAIVOSOJA**
Email ilkka.kaivosoja@turfgamechanger.com

RENOVATION & COURSE CONSTRUCTION

Renovation of a golf course usually costs millions and takes years. Turf Gamechanger offers a unique method that can replace the actual renovation with continuous renewal and achieve the same result as rebuilding. The method is inexpensive and does not cause any disturbances or inconveniences to the golf players.

- Restoring course shapes
- Thatch layer management
- Soil improvement
- Reshaping surfaces
- Sub-surface and surface drainage
- Finishing and seeding the new course

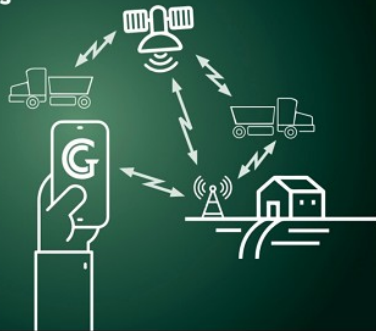
Repair, completion, and reconstruction of drainage and irrigation pipelines.

Rebuilding of greens, teeing areas and obstacles.

AUTOMATION BASED ON GNSS

Using this futuristic method, all machines will collect measurement data tied to GNSS positioning and send it to the back-end system.

The data are processed and returned to the machines in the form of operating instructions and settings adjustments.



TURF GAMECHANGER method

LOGISTICS UNIT & LOADER

In the second stage, a logistics unit is created in the form of a treatment machine with the quick-release, multi-purpose hopper removed.

The patented unit – which includes a loader and multi-purpose trailer – takes care of the efficient transport of materials in return loads.



FAIRWAY & ROUGH MOWER

Both standard machines can be equipped with quick-release mowers for cutting fairways, semi rough, and rough.

The capacity of these mowers is enough for an 18-hole course, among other maintenance work.



RECYCLING & COMPOSTING

Composting and reusing waste materials, such as core and verticutting waste, returns top dressing materials and nutrients back to recycling, saving both the environment and costs.

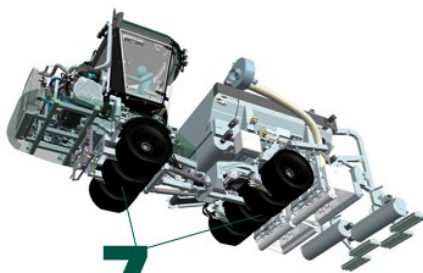
The mixing unit needed for composting, material handling and producing materials for course construction and renovation is a very simple and inexpensive addition to the range of machines. Its production capacity is remarkable, and the unit is also environmentally friendly.



TURF GAMECHANGER MAINTAIN

The key part of Turf Gamechanger is the patented hopper, the volume ratios of which change as the work progresses. This allows up to eight different stages of maintenance work in one run.

8 different stages of maintenance work in one run



7 The unique seven-wheel chassis design doesn't strain sensitive turf surfaces.

Turf Gamechanger is not just a range of machines, it's a completely new method for maintaining turf. While TGC was born on a golf course, the method is suitable for maintaining all high-quality turfs.

QUALITY

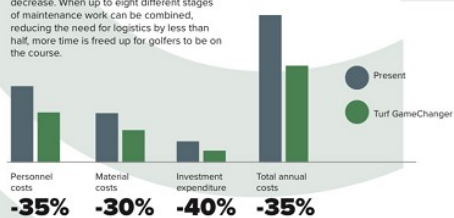
With TGC, many of the maintenance activities can be combined and done at the same time, which means they support each other. When all the necessary tasks can be done in one run, the turf won't be degraded by extra runs. Also, the settings of the machines are automatically adjusted based on data from GNSS positioning, which significantly improves quality. The equipment is versatile and can be combined in different ways to allow work to be done exactly as it should be at any given time, without restrictions from a fixed setup.

ENVIRONMENT

Reduction of separate tasks has the immediate effect of a reduction in energy consumption. When the entire course is regularly analyzed, leading to a chance to adjust the machine's settings efficiently, the use of fertilizers, irrigation water, and other products can be optimized, saving resources. This revolutionary change in methodology is somewhat comparable with how logging in forestry has changed from the 1970s to the present, but – with current technology – this change in turf maintenance will happen within the space of just a few years' time.

COSTS

The Turf Gamechanger method cuts course maintenance costs by more than a third. The need to acquire new machinery will be significantly reduced, their utilization rate will improve, and fuel and maintenance costs will decrease. When up to eight different stages of maintenance work can be combined, reducing the need for logistics by less than half, more time is freed up for golfers to be on the course.





GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT JEFF McMANUS NOT EVERY HERO WEARS CAPES

Hi Jeff thank you very much for giving up your valuable time to answer some questions to help educate and inspire other people in our industry to stick out your situations or reach out to others in need.

text



Jeff how long have you been in the industry and how many times have you personally have been dealt a bad hand from Mother Nature ?

I started my career at Cumberland Country Club in Sydney January 1992 till present at Windsor Golf Club. In those years I have experienced 2 huge storms January 2001 we lost over 200 mature gums, plus hundreds of smaller ones and debris. A storm last February following the flood that hit Windsor Golf Club losing 30 gums, a huge amount of debris and mess. Then 2 floods last February and now this March one which has been total disaster.

You are currently the Golf Course Superintendent at Windsor Country Club in Western Sydney that has been severely affected by two major floods in just over a year , how has that affected you and the knock on effects seeing your staff having to deal with everything you all have gone through as a team during these tough times ?

To be honest this flood has knocked me for 6, last February was bad with huge turf losses but this flood was metres higher and created 4 times the amount of damage and mess. We lost 2 staff after the flood last February and it took its toll on the staff both physically and mentally. The scarring was evident on their faces. Unfortunately this flood was huge and for some of the new boys, it was clearly evident the pain on faces.





I couldn't imagine trying to motivate yourself let alone an entire team during times like this. How do you do motivate your team as well as yourself each morning to turn up to work ?

We have tried to stay as positive as possible, trying to get the boys its day by day work, then week by week, as it's impossible to do it all in a week. Don't think to far ahead as it can affect you going forward. Tick off the small achievements as we go, remember the little things daily. Boys have really appreciated a few longer lunch breaks and some tucker thrown in on the work credit card lol. With the amount of overtime the boys have put in so far, try to give them an early mark when i can jut to say thank you. End of week BBQ's and a few cold beers seems to be working and well earnt. Sometimes in these situations you go into cruise control.

As we are part of a small industry that caters for so many people in the community do you think the award wages need to be looked at especially when majority of the sporting precincts are naturally planned into flood zones as the land cannot be built on and as it would be a huge task raising awards straight away what small changes would you like added to see to our existing awards in regards to natural disasters ?

Unfortunately the industry has been left behind in rewarding workers fair money for the turf related works/projects. Look at the Masters a few weeks ago, the purse was over 11 million in \$\$\$. The dedicated sports turf workers have always missed out and it will continue to occur. Small budgets and the ever we can't afford it becomes very frustrating, I have trained up to 19 Apprentices in my time and only 3 remained in the industry. All of them indicated they left due to the final wage after they complete their studies/training.





The big question is how long until you can open the course after a huge flood like this and what extra percentage of work do you think is required by your team to fix everything compared to your normal everyday workload ?

Some mention of having 9 holes open in May with 6 greens and 3 Temporary greens, but I can understand golfers/members frustrations with Temporary greens, we have still a large amount of works to be completed and to be honest it would be a hassle if that happens. We are hoping to be opened some time in July, very similar to Lynwood Golf Club, weather pending as well. The team have a huge amount of works left and looks like around 6500sqm of turf to be replaced from flood damage. Flood refurbishments is taking majority of time at present due to the amount of damaged caused. 4 Staff daily are working on flood refurbishments and others still maintaining unaffected areas out on the course

Do think if your staff stay in the industry these tough experiences will help them grow a few extra layers of skin through their careers or scar them for life and possibly make them think twice where they decide to work in the future ?

Yes I believe most will stay in the industry but they will seriously consider future employment in regards to areas affected less by flooding. For people in the industry it's not something you want to be worrying about every time there's heavy rain forecast in the area. Can lose 12 greens in a week and course closed for months.

You and your team now have a lot of hands on experience with major floods, what equipment do you and your team think you could not live without ?

We definitely couldn't survive without our Bobcat, removed the pump when flooding on way and place back in pump shed, Fire Pumps as we need to clean off surfaces after water has subsided, having no irrigation pump for long periods its our only means of water for a period of time, Runabouts with 4WD, can access wet parts without the risks involved as normal runabout vehicle. To access parts of the course we need a boat to carry all workers around to clean off surfaces where nothing else can go. Lastly the most important tool = STAFF the best tools to have in any emergency, 12 hour days that role into weeks then over a month and there still going on and on.



Was there any grass on the course that performed better than the others?

Absolutely astounded at how good the zoysia (Shadetuff) has stood up in the flood affected areas, areas submerged for up to 16 days, were cleaned off and remained green and healthy with no turf loss, Cannot fault it since it's been down 12 months, tough as buggery and a picture to look at. Also the couch grass we have, the native couch grass has held up very nice, but Santa Ana and Star Xpress have been amazing to, 18 days submerged and no losses, still green and kicking. Highly recommend these types when submersion and salts are involved in floods.

Is there anyone you would like to thank in the industry that has been beneficial to you and your team during these tough times ?

Scott Riley has been in contact every day since flood hit us, might as well be on the pay role actually he's been in 3-4 times a week to help out after his own job. Dan Studders who has donated free hours to help the green renovations, really looked after us after the floods with Air2G2, Daryl Sydney Uni who donated a full day when he was on work holidays, Ventrac Craig/Steve donated power broom so we could clean fairway silt off, Steve Land HQ lent us brand new bobcat to remove all silt/debris off all affected areas and clean up. And just weekly phone calls Nadeem Collins Campbells, Shaun Ryde Parramatta to check up on staff and how we are holding up

Has the club put in place a Flood Management Plan for future events to help protect their employees from burning out ?

Unfortunately there's not much to say, poor equipment to use for pump removal, not the right tools, no money has been invested for flood care. We have had to start a fresh with new tools, ideas, companies to modify existing parts to be made easier. Submersible pumps would alleviate 99% of the issues involving floods, but something club never wanted to spend money on. Water the most valuable source for grass and the course but was never recognised that way.

It's hard to get past the efforts from your team especially after being the 2nd major flood in such a short time, I'm seeing seeing similar situations around the nation who have also been affected. Does it make you proud that your staff turn up everyday no matter what ?

Can't speak highly enough of the teams efforts since the flood hit Windsor Golf Club, chucking in 12 hour days during the week, then having to back up for 8-10 hour days on weekends, this was just in the clean up process. Boys have never moaned or complained about the job we faced and will continue but can definitely see pain on their faces. It's the 2nd major flood in 13 months and the job the team has achieved so far is a credit to them all.

And finally like many Turf Managers around the world we all go home leaving a work place we are proud of, coming to work the next day and seeing it destroyed would be devastating.

As you are a passionate manager can you please give the next generation some words of wisdom to remind them they are not bullet proof ?

Some final words to young people coming into the industry or climbing the ladder at employment. Don't think you can change things overnight, staff numbers are crucial, budget restraints, weather patterns all are factors in success. Write down your goals and possible achievements for the future and tick them off slowly as you successfully complete the works. Always document your works with photo etc, before, during and after your works are completed, people have a funny way of remembering certain details. Always be transparent with your Chairman/Board, create a friendly relationship if possible and regularly meet and discuss with them all. And lastly the most important point in all of Greenkeeping/Superintendent always keep documentation of all correspondence, between yourself and management, if its verbal always write an account of any conversation so it's on file.

Jeff McManus

Superintendent - Windsor Country Golf Club

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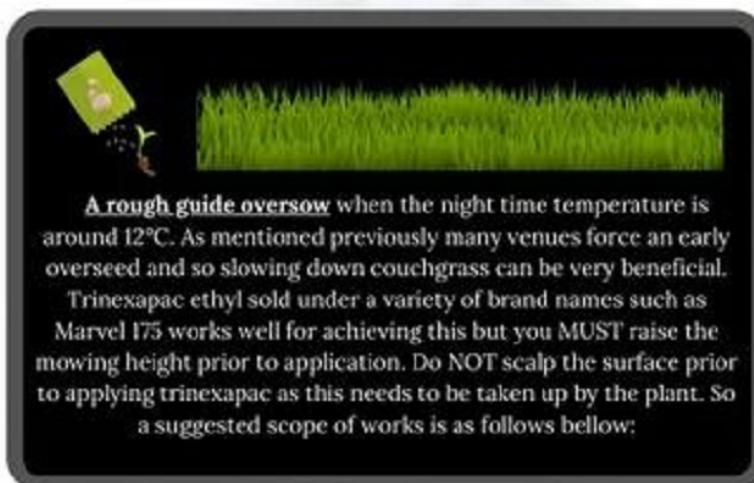


A Slightly different overseeding perspective!

After the summer the following 3 practices are **NOT** a good idea if you are overseeding in the autumn.

- 1. Aggressive scarification** – when this is carried out stolons are removed. These act as subsequent 'growing points' when you transition the ryegrass out in the following spring. Aggressive scarification removes 80-85% of the stolon buds. This then means that the only place the couch can grow back is from rhizome buds. Couch has more stolon growing points than rhizome per square metre.
- 2. Overseeding too late.** This coupled with aggressive scarification damages the couch and means that when spring comes around the existing couch which has limited food reserves and struggles to transition back.

3. This is an awkward one but still should be mentioned. **Overseeding too early**, when the couch is still growing, allows the couch to grow back. Yes, we all know many venues are forced by management to overseed early due to usage constraints but this point cannot be emphasized enough. When the couch grows back it is at the expense of limited food reserves in rhizomes, crowns and leaves even less available for spring transition back to couch. The end result is poor ryegrass establishment as the couch continues to compete with the oversewn ryegrass and poor spring transition from a tired couch plant.



A rough guide oversow when the night time temperature is around 12°C. As mentioned previously many venues force an early overseed and so slowing down couchgrass can be very beneficial. Trinexapac ethyl sold under a variety of brand names such as Marvel 175 works well for achieving this but you **MUST** raise the mowing height prior to application. Do **NOT** scalp the surface prior to applying trinexapac as this needs to be taken up by the plant. So a suggested scope of works is as follows below:

During mid-summer

- If thatch is 50mm or more vertically mow to remove aiming to carry this out no closer than 6 weeks prior to seeding to allow recovery.

35 days prior to seeding

- Cease all N applications and increase K

12 days before seeding

Raise the mowing height by

- 35-50%. Decrease irrigation by 25% to force the couch to store carbohydrates and also slow up growth. If you are going to apply a PGR carry on irrigating as usual.

5 days before seeding

- Now is the time to apply your PGR.

1 Day before seeding

- Mow the turf to its original height (same height as three weeks previously).

This scalps the grass removing the upper leaves.

- Drop the height another 30-50% as this will in reality be the only decrease in height although you will have "double scalped" the turf. The result is a semi upright stolon with one leaf on it. This makes it easier for the seed to get down to the soil plus more importantly the stolons will be in better condition for the spring. Using some of the smaller seed variety ryegrasses (such as Playoff 2) will also help with the success of seeding.

Day of Seeding

- Overseed in two directions. Drag a matt over the surface and roll if possible to agitate the top layer of soil and help plant the seed.

Next Day

- Set irrigation for light and frequent irrigations. No more than 6mm per day should be applied (depending on date seeding actually takes place (with 3-5 irrigation events over the day. Don't irrigate past 4pm.

First Mow

- Mow the ryegrass when its 12-17mm in height with a cylinder mower

First Fertilisation

- Apply a starter after the first mowing

References available on request.

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The Growing Importance of Turf Certification

AusGAP Certification Program

AusGAP is an independent turf quality assurance business that operations is governed by The International Turfgrass Genetic Assurance Program (ITGAP) system and is the only authorised agent outside of the USA to be endorsed by them. ITGAP is owned and governed by the Georgia Seed Authority.

AusGAP is Australia's leading turf certification program that operates independently. Under the business model, any turf producer is welcome to apply and gain AusGAP accreditation and certification.

AusGAP's key objective is to ensure turf quality assurance and genetic purity for turf grasses. AusGAP provides an operational system to support turf producers nationally, with the anticipation to improve turf quality for the end user and turf industries alike.

With the continued introduction of new and improved turfgrasses, genetic purity and turf certification of these varieties are more important than ever. The AusGAP program aids in limiting the risk of genetic inconsistency and substitutions like have been experienced with older turfgrass varieties, making this part of the program a key element.

Purpose

Key objectives of the AusGAP program are to ensure quality assurance, genetic purity, uniformity of turfgrasses via its provided operational system. These systems support turf producers nationally, with the expectation to improve growers farm practices and quality of produced turf to ensure an exceptional product for the end user (homeowner, turfgrass professional, etc.).

The AusGAP Turf Certification Program is governed by a set of Business and Turf Standards. These are based on five main components that enable turf growers to produce the highest standards and quality in turf production for the end user.

These components are:

1. Business and farm regulatory compliance
2. Environmental stewardship
3. Keeping turfgrass varieties genetic purity intact, free of weeds, pests, and diseases
4. Maximise levels of customer satisfaction
5. Staff welfare and safety

LCertification

Each grower under the AusGAP process has a stringent set of standards, procedures, and documents for specified turfgrass varieties. These standards and procedures require regular field inspections throughout the growing season to identify the stated variety, foreign turfgrass varieties, off-types or contaminants and weeds within the field. Only turf harvested from these fields which uphold these strict inspection standards can be officially identified and sold as certified. This then must be supplied accompanied by an AusGAP Certified Certificate of Authenticity.

With the objective of maintaining genetic purity and freedom from contaminants, the certified turfgrass growers in our program adhere to rigid rules and procedures enforced by AusGAP representatives.

AusGAP inspectors examine all certified production fields before planting to make sure that no contaminating weeds or other turfgrass varieties are present. Once a prospective production field has passed inspection, certified turfgrass production fields are then planted with material from a foundation farm. All planting material can then be traced and documented to foundation production plots.

The AusGAP program in Australia is the only authorised independent agent of the ITGAP program outside of the USA, with over 16 turf varieties in over 12 countries worldwide.

Who are ITGAP?

Who better to tell you about it than one of its founders Terry Hollifield. Terry is the Executive Director of the Georgia Crop Improvement Association. ITGAP is the largest warm season turfgrass certifying agency in the United States that undertake inspections of sod farms and certifies turf as an agent of ITGAP.

ITGAP was developed by Dr. Earl Elsner, John Hope, and Terry Hollifield in 2000 as a system to introduce new improved warm season grasses to the international community.

"If a landscaper, or an architect, knows that they have certain situations that need a specific variety with particular characteristics like shade tolerance or winter tolerance in the transition zone so there's no winter kill, or if they are looking for a grass that's low maintenance, the only assurance they have of getting that variety is through certification," Hollifield says. "State and federal laws don't apply to vegetative turfgrasses, the only standard is to require certification."

The process of certification begins with the turf developer or breeder.

"It doesn't matter if it's a university variety or a private variety, the inventor of a new variety must complete an application for approval of the variety to be certified. The application includes information such as breeding history. (Was it selected or bred? Produced through asexual reproduction? Naturally occurring? Or irradiated?) Then they complete a section that talks about leaf colour, leaf shape, stolon colour, length of internodes and all other characteristics that determine a variety," Hollifield says.

Claims like cold tolerance, shade tolerance, or drought resistance must also be substantiated.

"If you make a claim about the variety, this claim must be substantiated with reputable data. Say a breeder claims the has a light green stolon, that doesn't mean anything, the must be referenced on the Munzel colour chart, or another known colour chart used for identification. It's got to be good science. Any claim that is made, whether it's a claim that I use as I make a field inspection, or a performance claim, (such as cold tolerance or drought tolerance), data must be provided," he says.


Once a variety is approved for inclusion in the certification program, it will be licensed to turf producers who plant it on land. This land must be sterilized and known to be free of pests and weeds and foreign turf varieties. The crop of turf is then, it is subject to a minimum of four inspections per year by the growers and 2 inspections by an ITGAP representative.

Specially trained third-party inspectors who are not employed by the turf farms themselves walk every inch of a turf farm looking for weeds and off-type grasses. If weeds or off-type grasses are found in a field, that field may be quarantined, meaning no turf can be harvested from that field until the weed or off-type is removed and the field has been re-inspected for varietal purity.

"What Hollifield has mentioned is why the partnership between AusGAP and ITGAP continues to be strong and upheld. Regular correspondence and meetings ensures the process stays intact and is complimented here in Australia. The ITGAP staff deliver great support and confidence in our program and a quality turf product the end user receives due to its process", AusGAP Program Manager says.

For further information about AusGAP please visit our ausgap.com.au or call 1300 287 744.

Always choose certified turf.

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Scott Brooks, Grounds Manager at OGC Nice in France, believes that when it comes to battery-powered cylinder mowers, there is nothing that compares to the new Dennis ES-860.

After an illustrious start to his career in the UK, which included positions at Tottenham Hotspur FC, Arsenal FC and St George's Park, Scott is now carrying out the upkeep and the development of OGC Nice's training pitches in the South of France.

He was specifically head hunted for the role after the French club visited the Football Association's national training centre for a pre-season summer tour and were impressed with Scott's unique philosophy on keeping players injury-free. That was over a year ago now and it is evident that he is making some vast improvements to the pitches in Nice.

Scott first started introducing battery-powered products into the operations at St George's Park and claims that he was keen to continue embracing this technology in his new role. It was towards the end of his spell at St George's Park that he first heard that Dennis was launching a range of environmentally friendly mowers called the E-Series.

"I never got the opportunity to get one at St George's Park," said Scott. "I had every faith that it would be a good machine because I saw the prototype at SALTEX and I could see the benefits of it straight away."

For many years, turf professionals have been choosing Dennis Mowers for their superb cut quality and reliability, and anticipation quickly started building when the company announced its new battery-powered range.

Leaving no stone unturned, Dennis Mowers spent three years working with carefully selected partners to develop a range of quality battery-powered equipment befitting of the Dennis badge. The aim was to provide a reliable and long-lasting solution with the ultimate performance that helps professionals meet sustainability and environmental initiatives, reduce carbon footprint, emissions, running costs and noise without any range anxiety.

Ever the perfectionist, Scott first insisted on putting the Dennis ES-860 to the test against other battery-powered cylinder mowers.

"I had other mowers on trial for a few weeks and this enabled me to assess them side-by-side," said Scott. "For me, there was no comparison and there was only one winner – the Dennis ES-860 was the machine I wanted."

Users of the Dennis G860 cylinder mower will no doubt see familiarities in the new ES-860.

This 34" battery powered turf management system delivers maximum versatility and the range of 13 interchangeable cassette options provide a solution to many day-to-day maintenance tasks such as cutting, scarifying, brushing, slitting and verticutting. Furthermore, traditional G860 cassettes will also fit the ES-860, meaning that customers will not have to purchase additional cassettes.

A robust LCD keypad screen is an integral feature of the handlebar console providing the operator with a multitude of information options including speed, clip rate, service checks, lifetime running reports and battery information.

"The battery life on the Dennis ES-860 is excellent," continued Scott. "We were able to cut two pitches on one single charge, whereas we were struggling to complete one pitch with others."

"The charging capacity on them is incredible. For example, if we have a big day ahead and everything is getting hand cut, then we know that we can bring the Dennis ES-860's in at lunch-time and charge each of them for just twenty minutes. In this short amount time, we know that we will get enough recharge in them to go back out and finish the job.

"Aside from battery power, I felt the Dennis ES-860 was a robust and solid unit that was ideal for continuously using on the training ground – it is an excellent piece of engineering."

"The Dennis ES-860 is also so much easier to operate and the interchangeable cassette system is so simple to change cassettes."

After the side-by-side trial, Scott purchased four Dennis ES-860 mowers and uses them regularly throughout the week as part of his maintenance programme.

Typically, Scott relies on the brushing cassette to brush the debris off the pitches after every use; the verticutting cassette to remove any organic material and the 8-bladed cutting cassette to provide a quality cut before a match or a training session.

Scott and his team have been using the Dennis ES-860's for a prolonged period of time now and he certainly has no regrets.

"There were quite a few reasons for going down the battery route," he said. "Firstly because of the environmentally friendly benefits, but also from a noise pollution perspective. Prior to having the Dennis ES-860's we kept getting asked to stop mowing because the noise was disrupting the training sessions. However, now with the ES-860 mowers we can be on the pitch next to the players while they are training, and they are so quiet that they do not stop us. It is a vast improvement in productivity.

"I also wanted the team to be more comfortable and with these mowers you do not have any fumes, there are less vibrations and also less noise.

"Battery-powered technology is developing and progressing all the time, but it is important to be an early adopter because if people don't take it up then no one else will. It certainly seems to be the future.

"The club's owners encourage the sourcing and implementation of more sustainable and environmentally friendly practices in the way we operate which this purchase obviously supports."

For further information or a no obligation demonstration, please contact Dennis 01332 824 777 or visit www.dennisuk.com

For more news, reviews and insightful views, you can follow Dennis on Twitter and Instagram @DennisMowers and like the company's Facebook page – www.facebook.com/DennisMowersUK. You can also view the latest Dennis videos by visiting www.youtube.com/DennisMowers



GREENKEEPER IN THE HIGHLANDS

During the middle of the Pandemic in 2020 International Greenkeepers had Pernille Bjerre from the Roskilde Tekniske Skole in Denmark reach out to us through our website, to help find her students find International Work Experience within our great industry.

From this we got to meet Yon Yoeun and through our members we were able to find Yon the Experience of a lifetime, not only for his career but also making a new friends for life at the stunning Cullen Links Golf Club in Scotland.

None of this would of been possible with out one of our members James Swanson the Golf Course Superintendent at Cullen Links a born and bred Scotsman.

Here are some great photos of Yon Yoeun's experience a Greenkeeping Student from Denmark taking advantage of an experience of a lifetime. If you are involved with a school or are looking work experience within the Sports turf Industry please contact International Greenkeepers via email internationalgreenkeepersfh@gmail.com



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GREENKEEPER IN THE HIGHLANDS



The first day Yon was taken on a tour of the area where he was introduced to the golf club board, as well as the staff of the restaurant. The members (golfers) were very welcoming, and incredibly friendly.



Yon was taken on a grand tour of the Cullen Links then put straight to work adjusting the height of the greens mowers followed by a cardio session mowing the greens with a walk Behind greens mower.

GREENKEEPER IN THE HIGHLANDS



Not a bad view for a early start, with a 6.00am start each morning to prepare the course for the Golfers by 7.00am.



During the four weeks Yon received some great hands on training using a large variety of machinery from hand tools to large tractors. Hands on experience for any training with machinery is Very important for any student or new employee.

GREENKEEPERS IN THE HIGHLANDS



Not only did Yon maintain the Golf Course he also helped with course improvements and renovations. From building a traditional Scottish Tee with the help of a local farmer to coring greens, Yon received hands on training he could ever learn in a classroom.



GREENKEEPER IN THE HIGHLANDS

WHAT IS YOUR NAME AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

• MY NAME IS YON YOEUIN AND I'M FROM COOPENHAGEN, DENMARK

HOW DID YOU GET INTO GREENKEEPING?

• IT STARTED OUT WHEN I BEGAN PLAYING GOLF WITH A COUPLES OF FRIENDS, AND DURING ALL THE MANY ROUNDS, I NOTICED A CALMNESS AND A SATISFYING LOOK IN ALL THE GREENKEEPERS APPEARANCE. IT DIDN'T TOOK LONG BEFORE I UNDERSTOOD THAT I NEEDED TO BE A GREENKEEPER.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WORK OVERSEAS?

• I'VE ALWAYS BEEN FOND OF TRAVELING AROUND THE WORLD, I MEAN WHO ISN'T! AND WHAT COULD BE MORE PERFECT THAN HAVING YOUR DREAMWORK OVERSEAS.

HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET WORK EXPERIENCE OVER IN SCOTLAND?

• THROUGH MY EDUCATION WITH THE HELP OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNSHIP ABROAD AND THE (ERASMUS PROGRAMME), AND THROUGH THE HUGE NETWORK COOPERATION WITH THE HELP OF BRADLEY FROM IGFH, JAMES SWANSON THE HEADGREENKEEPER I CULLEN LINKS GOLF CLUB SCOTLAND, REACHED OUT AND SAW AN OPORTUNATY TO GET ME AS AN INTERN FROM DENMARK.

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE AT CULLEN LINKS GOLF COURSE WITH JAMES?

• I HAD THE BEST TIME IN CULLEN LINKS GOLF COURSE WITH JAMES. HE WAS LITERALLY THE BEST BOSS AND AFTERWARDS A GOOD FRIEND YOU CAN WISH FOR. HE A FANTASTIC INSTRUCTOR AND AT THE SAME TIME, HE TRUSTED ME TO ALL THE DIFFERENT ASSIGNMENTS AND ALLOWED ME TO BE INDEPENDENT. WE HAD GREAT MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN WHILE IN SCOTLAND?

• I'VE LEARNED THAT COURSES IN SCOTLAND ARE QUITEDIFFERENT FROM THE SCANDINAVIANS, I GUESS DUE TO THE CLIMATE AND THE LANDSCAPE. MOST IMPORTING THING I'VE LEARNED DURING MY TIME WITH JAMES IN CULLEN, WAS THAT YOU NEED TO BE INDEPENDENT AND TAKE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN ACTION.

WHAT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT CHALLENGE YOU'VE HAD TO FACE?

• MY BIGGEST CHALLENGE WAS TO END MY STAY AT CULLEN LINKS GOLFCUB WITH JAMES AND CAMEROUN, AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE SCOTTISH ACCENT WHEN IT WAS AT ITS FASTEST!

WHAT INSPIRING WORDS WOULD YOU SAY TO YOUNG GREENKEEPERS?

• GO EXPLORE THE WORLD, AND MEET OTHER EXCITING PEOPLES, AND SEE IF IT REALLY IS TRUE ABOUT THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE.

• THE NATURE ON A GOLF COURSE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS ARE PERFECT, SO APPRECIATE EVERY LITTLE DETAIL.

WHAT'S YOUR DREAM JOB?

• I JUST WANNA CUT GRASS ON DIFFERENT GOLFCOURSES AROUND THE WORLD, MEET PEOPLES AND ENJOY THE NATURE, AND NOT LEAST LIFE.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND WORKING OVERSEAS TO THOSE WHO HAVEN'T?

• WITH EVERY BREATH OF MY LUNGS.

DO YOU FOLLOW IGFH AND HAVE YOU PICKED UP ANY USEFUL INFORMATION FROM US?

• I FOLLOW IGFH AND THE INFORMATION HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL.

Ground

SOLUTIONS AUSTRALIA



HUGE THANKS TO GROUND SOLUTIONS AUSTRALIA FOR BELIEVING IN US AND PAYING FOR A LARGE SUM OF ADVERTISING UPFRONT IN ADVANCE.

THIS MAGAZINE AS WELL AS OUR ENTIRE ORGANISATION HAS BEEN BUILT BY VOLUNTEERS DONATING THEIR TIME WHILE USING THEIR OWN HARD EARNED DOLLARS TO GET US WHERE WE ARE TODAY IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME , WE ARE HOPING THIS MAGAZINE CAN HELP US RAISE MONEY SO OUR TEAM DOES NOT HAVE TO REACH INTO THEIR OWN POCKETS FOR A GREAT CAUSE.

HERE ARE SOME GREAT PICTURES OF GROUND SOLUTIONS AUSTRALIA'S GREAT WORK AND MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THEM OUT AT WWW.GROUNDAUST.COM

DEFINING THE STANDARD

BY BRADLEY TENNANT

First of all, what do we mean by 'standard', a level of quality or attainment in short. But within horticulture and particularly in sports turf this standard can vary dramatically. The local Sunday league team aren't expecting to play on Wembley standard pitches, whereas the elite athletes will be. It's about finding that fine line, look at English football for example. The lower the division, typically means a lower 'standard' - however this isn't always the case. Some clubs simply won't have the money or facilities to produce world class pitches but others may. Take for example Sunderland and Bolton, very recently ex-premier league teams now playing in division 3-4 respectively. Facilities have remained the same, budgets will have been cut yet. But will the expectations to produce world class facilities have stayed the same?

This is also becoming more prominent in golf. The 'standard' is almost set at tournament ready courses every day. For the world's elite courses this may be achievable, but not every club is this fortunate. Now this raises more questions than answers, why would anyone play at the local club over the top clubs. They do, else other clubs wouldn't exist. So there's a lot more to the 'standard' than we see. This can range from course design, planting, green speeds, heights of cut all the way down to Tee times and everything in between. The most frustrating part is most end users will never see the commitment, dedication and time that goes into preparing our work, yet will still be quick to comment.

I always say this, as people in this industry we must stick together. The industry is self destructive enough without us having a dig at our own. Constructive criticism and negative feedback is fine, we need this to become the best we possibly can, but some of the comments I see often online don't lend themselves favours. There's a lot of variables which may lead to a person or club's situation. Without all of the details we shouldn't be making assumptions. As I've said before, this industry can vary massively from site to site. These differences can be seen even larger when you go international, with climate and weather becoming a major limiting factor or benefit!

So as turf managers, gardeners, volunteers, groundstaff, how can we define our own standards? First of all is to stop comparing to others, we all want Wembley, Lords, Wimbledon or Wentworth surfaces but let's face it that just isn't going to happen overnight. Now that's not saying that these 'standards' aren't achievable. They clearly are because we can see them in action. It takes time and careful planning.

SMART goals. Again some of you may have heard of this and I'm not teaching you to suck eggs but this breakdown gives a good idea of what is achievable and what isn't. This method has been used across many industries before, but rarely used in ours. What does SMART mean?

Specific (simple, sensible, significant).

Measurable (meaningful, motivating).

Achievable (agreed, attainable).

Relevant (reasonable, realistic and resourced, results-based).

Time bound (time-based, time limited, time/cost limited, timely, time-sensitive).

Now this may seem a little patronising but it's honestly worth the time to create a plan following this guideline. For me this has worked great, after taking on a management role the first thing i needed to do was analyse my site, staff, budget and machinery. Gave me the basis to build my SMART goals on and provided me with a great piece of evidence to provide to my employer when I was requesting additional help or budget.

Here's a more detailed explanation of SMART goals.

S – Specific

When setting a goal, be specific about what you want to accomplish. Think about this as the mission statement for your goal. We are going to fertilise the fields, who is, what exactly are we doing and why, when, where (all the fields or just one) This isn't a detailed list of how you're going to meet a goal, but it should include an answer to the popular 'w' questions:

Who – Consider who needs to be involved to achieve the goal (this is especially important when you're working on a group project).

What – Think about exactly what you are trying to accomplish and don't be afraid to get very detailed.

When – You'll get more specific about this question under the "time-bound" section of defining SMART goals, but you should at least set a time frame.

Where – This question may not always apply, especially if you're setting personal goals, but in our case if there's a location or relevant event, identify it here.

Which – Determine any related obstacles or requirements. This question can be beneficial in deciding if your goal is realistic. For example, if the goal is to renovate a field, but you've never renovated any turf before, that might be an issue. As a result, you may refine the specifics of the goal to be "Learn how to renovate."

Why – What is the reason for the goal? When it comes to using this method for employees, the answer will likely be along the lines of company advancement or career development. Both play hand in hand when raising 'standards'.

M – Measurable

What metrics are you going to use to determine if you meet the goal? This makes a goal more tangible because it provides a way to measure progress. If it's a project that's going to take a few months to complete, then set some milestones by considering specific tasks to accomplish. Maybe even breaking the project into sections, re-turfing all the tee's with a team of 5 may not be possible over a winter - however over 3 winters may be doable.

A – Achievable

This focuses on how important a goal is to you and what you can do to make it attainable and may require developing new skills and changing attitudes. The goal is meant to inspire motivation, not discouragement. Think about how to accomplish the goal and if you have the tools/skills needed. If you don't currently possess those tools/skills, consider what it would take to attain them. As i mentioned above, a certain task may not be possible over a winter - however over 3 winters may be doable.

R – Relevant

Relevance refers to focusing on something that makes sense with the broader business goals. For example, if you're looking after a lower league football stadium the expectations will not be elite 'standard', it should be something inline with similar clubs in your league. Do your research. Your team may be able to raise the 'standards' by working extra hours but keeping them there may be out of question. We all need breaks.

T – Time-Bound

Anyone can set goals, but if it lacks realistic timing, chances are you're not going to succeed. Providing a target date for deliverables is imperative. Ask specific questions about the goal deadline and what can be accomplished within that time period. If the goal will take three months to complete, it's useful to define what should be achieved half-way through the process. Providing time constraints also creates a sense of urgency, we all know what the weather is like!

Once you've done this you should have a good idea about the 'standards' you have and will be able to produce in the future. A key part being research, know what other clubs and teams are doing around you. Go and check out the facilities and say hi. Heck you may even learn something off them. Every day is a learning day regardless of who you are.

Bradley Tennant
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THE GROUNDSMAN



Hi Members and Friends

Just to let you know International Greenkeepers has purchased The Groundsman to help make International Greenkeepers self sufficient so we can continue to grow.

This is a very exciting time for all our members and friends as the world starts to recover from Covid. The borders will open again and we will be waiting to open up as many doors as we can for people in our industry as well as promote our great industry to recruit next generation so we all have someone to hand the keys and the phone over to with the confidence that they will do the same thing for the generation they bring through.

We have already added a heap of new categories to The Groundsman website as we will be looking to turn it into the one stop shop classifieds for the Sports Turf Industry as well as tapping into the Agricultural side.

We have decided to focus on selling memberships to companies, golf clubs and sporting clubs that gives the members unlimited listings as well as access for their staff to any International Greenkeepers events and educational days.

For 12 months membership we have kept the price the same as what the former owner was charging at \$1080 plus GST for 12 months. Which is great value considering we have added new categories like employment, tenders and work available, agriculture equipment, turf products, trade services promotions and specials, dry hire/wet hire, turf/seed, Brand new machinery and demos, Auctions, cleaning products and a special page for accredited members so customers can feel comfortable dealing with companies especially when buying used equipment or utilising their services.

We are also selling advertising banners on the website which will direct people to their website if clicked on by anyone visiting the website.

The options are as follows

We have

4 x below header banners available at \$2000 per year.

4 x Above footer banners available at \$1000 per year

5 x Banners that pop up above the actual listings available at \$2000 per year.

We understand a lot of companies budgets do not start until next year so we are more than happy to invoice companies in January 2022 if they would like to get involved now and have their company advertising on the website ASAP.

Happy to have a chat about anything that interests you and I'd love your company to join up as a member as I believe it will benefit your business, The Groundsman already has a great data base and by adding the International Greenkeepers data base to that we will be able to give any company that become members great value for money.

We also have a goal of starting a hard copy magazine which would be combined with the International Greenkeepers magazine and The Groundsman once we have revived The Groundsman website, so their will be other opportunities for advertising later on.

We hope to have this set up before the end of the year.

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THE GROUNDSMAN



With all this happening International Greenkeepers is also planning a few events that might interest our members and friends.

(Some dates may change but there will be plenty of notice)

18th of September 2021- Charity cricket day at Muralan Cricket Club NSW

International Greenkeepers helped organise with the NSW STA and their sponsors to re turf their wicket square that had not been used for years. We are planning with the club a charity day to raise money for the club to buy equipment to look after their new cricket pitch as well as help promote the club within the community to help find new members especially local juniors.

International Greenkeepers will be looking for sponsors to help the club as well as people to come and enjoy the day.

7th of November 2021- Movember Family Barefoot Bowls Day at The Alexandria Erskineville Bowling Club.

This is a fun day before the Reno Demo Day the next day.

We will be charging \$30 per head which gets you a BBQ and 2 Drinks kids are free.

There will be a musician who is a former Greenkeeper and having a raffle to raise money for Movember.

International Greenkeepers will be looking for companies and our members to donate prizes we can raffle off on the day.

8th of November 2021- Reno Demo Day at Sydney University for Movember.

International Greenkeepers are hosting a field day based on renovations from soil amendments to heavy renovation equipment.

We will be hoping to have it as an interactive day so people can try out the machines on the day.

We have set the price at \$500 per company to cover the costs of catering and staff, any profits will be donated to Movember.

There will be an opportunity for companies to sponsor the coffees, morning tea or lunch if they are feeling generous.

April 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th 2022- The Diesel Dirt and Turf Expo as well as the Educational walking tour.

This would be a great opportunity for your company as International Greenkeepers are running a Educational day with the DDT expo on the 7th of April.

A stand works out to be around \$30 per square meter which get you a stand at the expo for 4 days. The recent expo we just had over 90000 people walk through the gates and every company we introduced this year did very well out of it.

It's important to remember International Greenkeepers owns The Groundsman and all the profits will be going back into the industry as we have goals of supporting associations and starting scholarships as well as promoting the industry.

Thanks Daryl Davidson

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THE GROUNDSMAN



YOU CAN FIND VERY EASILY

<https://thegroundsman.com.au/>

<https://internationalgreenkeepers.com/>

Facebook public page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1319957671461271/>

Facebook private page for people and companies within the industry

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/170802567173372/>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKiWLdkxAqhCSJmVex2Qm3A>

Instagram search for

internationalgreenkeepers

thegroundsmanigfh

We are also on LinkedIn and Twitter