

# INTERNATIONAL GREENKEEPERS GAZETTE

October 2023 Issue #6



INTERNATIONAL GREENKEEPERS GAZETTE | ISSUE 05

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# LIVING THE DREAM AT THE HOME OF FOOTBALL

One of our founding members, Bradley Tennant, recently secured an opportunity to work as a member of support staff on the grounds team for London's iconic Wembley Stadium. Here, he tells us how he got the job and shares an insight into his daily routine at the largest sports venue in the UK...

**How did you manage to secure what must have been quite a competitive job position?**

I actually just applied the generic way: by responding to a job posting. The post was for Wembley match day ground staff, and I applied in October after seeing an advert online. I live

semi-locally and I've always dreamed of working at Wembley in some capacity, so I decided to take the opportunity while it made the most sense.

**What happened next? When did you receive a response from the Wembley careers team?**

Only a few days after applying online, I attended the Turf Business Summit 2022 in Barcelona, where I happened to bump into Karl Standley (Wembley grounds manager). I had no idea he'd be there! I mentioned that I'd applied for the position as support staff and Karl said that he had seen my application and would be offering me the position within a few days. This is just one example of how the stars align when you put yourself out there and say 'yes' to an opportunity that interests you.



Wembley Grounds Team - FA Cup Final 2023



Not a bad view!  
Preparing to cut Wembley

**When was your first game? What was that like?**

My first game was the Carabao Cup Final on February 26 this year. Working at Wembley is the boyhood dream, so I was obviously on an adrenaline high throughout my shift! Wembley is our national stadium, and I have fond memories of attending cup finals and semi-finals with my dad as a boy. To be on the other side in a professional capacity is still hard to wrap my head around.

**Have you always wanted to work at Wembley?**

Yes, I've always been interested in working at Wembley for obvious reasons, but my interest was piqued when I took a tour of the grounds

and got a peek into the behind the scenes work that takes place at the stadium. I'd attended Wembley before as a football fan, but the tour allowed me to see the grounds from a different perspective, and that's ultimately what drove me to seek out job opportunities.

**How much experience do you need to have if you want to take on a support staff role?**

I think that people assume being support staff at Wembley is something that you can only do when

If you've climbed the ladder in your career, but actually, jobs like these are a great way to dip your toe into the industry, get some experience, and help you to stand out when applying for full-time jobs in the future. So while experience is preferred, passion and drive are much more important.

### **Is working at Wembley everything you expected it to be?**

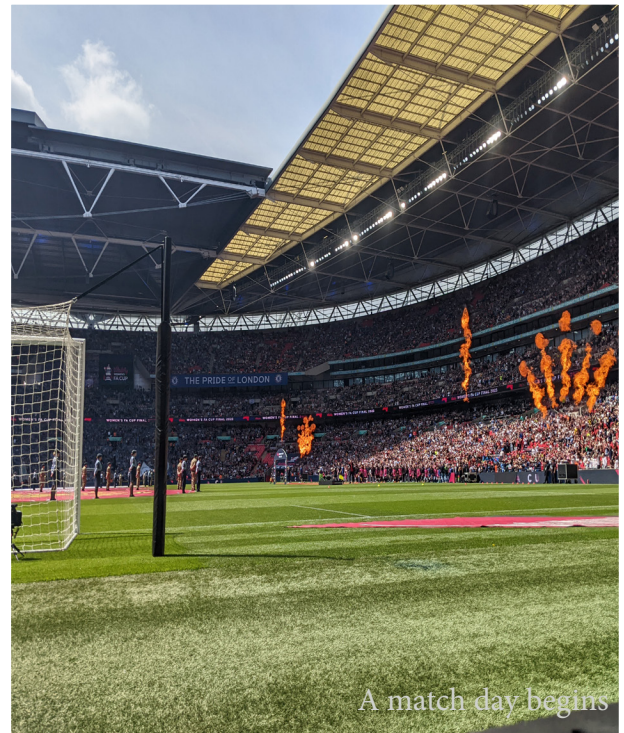
Yes! The stadium is known for being the best of the best, and having worked there myself, I agree wholeheartedly. There are no dark corners or neglected areas behind the scenes. The beautiful presentation of the pitch is carried through across all areas of the facility. The team is a well-oiled machine, professional and extremely well-organised. I think we all know that the grounds and greenkeeping industries can get a bit chaotic sometimes, but at Wembley, it's not like that at all. Everything is placed and labeled correctly in storage. As you'd expect, the standards are so much higher than any other place that I've worked. It's the ultimate on how a football stadium should be run. Wembley has all the facilities for the players and the staff. I've worked at venues that don't even have showers or toilets, whereas Wembley has everything thought out to the finest detail.

### **What's the grounds team like?**

It's a fantastic team – a good mixture of people from all backgrounds, both male and female. Many of the staff are support staff like me, so they work a few games per month to earn a bit of extra money and usually also because they're passionate about Wembley, football, or both! I work alongside team members who work in other unrelated trades during the week, as well as head greenkeepers and groundsmen from other stadiums and cricket clubs. There are people from all over the world, which makes for a diverse and exciting community. We have around 30 matchday staff, and at least 20 need to work per game. You don't have to work every game, but the manager expects you to work around one-third of the games.

### **Give us a breakdown of the Wembley schedule.**

All sorts goes on, not just football. During May, which we've nicknamed Mad May, there are so many sporting events: cup finals, semi-finals, playoff games, and so on, all packed into one month. There were 9 games in May this year, and over one of the May bank holiday weekends, we had 3 games in 3 days. So, there's quite a quick turnaround, which is why it's important to have



so many staff. As well as football, we prepare the pitch for rugby, and we're also involved in preparing for concerts, which involves putting the mats down to cover the pitch. I don't think people realise that there are other tasks involved in the job aside from the football-related ones. Working at some of the world's biggest football events is what appeals to most people when applying for the job.

### **In your opinion, what's the biggest benefit of working on the Wembley grounds team?**

It's hard to list just one! Of course, it has significance for your CV and for yourself personally, knowing that you're a member of a team that is so important. There's also the elation and adrenaline of working in such an impressive and renowned stadium. That never really goes away. I've already made some fantastic memories and still pinch myself that I get to work under the arch at our national stadium. I've stood on the same pitch metres away from some of the world's top players, which is mind-blowing for any football fan.

### **What's your top tip for somebody who's interested in taking on a groundskeeping job at Wembley?**

Prepare to be flexible! This isn't the kind of job that you can thrash out as quickly as possible and leave dead on your clock-out time. A lot of the work that we do is dictated by what goes on on the pitch. If there's a cup final, celebrations can take up to an hour after the game, so there can be

Full to capacity - a common Wembley sight



a lot of waiting around. But with the energy and the excitement in the stadium, you're never bored even when you're waiting to get on with your job.

You can follow Bradley on LinkedIn to keep up with his work at Wembley and beyond. Just search <https://www.linkedin.com/in/bradley-tennant-21822410a/>



Freshly mown and ready for play

A day in the life of a groundsperson working at Wembley Stadium on a match day with a 3:00 PM game:

- **12:00 PM:** Welcome and pre-brief with Karl, the Grounds Manager at Wembley. Here, we'll discuss the events for the day and Karl will make us aware of anything specific to the day's game.
- **1:00–2:00 PM:** Prepare the pitch ready for the game. The bulk of the work will have already been done that morning, but we mow and water the pitch and mark it again, put the goals in, and prepare the portable goals for warm-ups. We also remove the corner chains that stop people walking across the pitch (Wembley has public/VIP tours right up to half an hour before kickoff).
- **2:15–2:45 PM:** Internal sprinklers on, then leave the pitch while the players are warming up.
- **2:45 PM:** Once the warm-ups have finished, remove the portable goals and divot the pitch ready for kickoff. The noise in the stadium is incredible and being on the pitch while that's happening around you is surreal. 90,000 all singing, spine-tingling.
- **3:00 PM:** Take our seats when the game begins. The ground team has some of the best seats in the house, just behind the goals.
- **3:45 PM:** Half-time. Water and divot the pitch again, collect any debris (this could be anything from grass that has been kicked up or ripped out to paper airplanes, depending on the fans!), and repair any damaged areas.
- **4:00 PM:** We take our seats again and watch the second half. A great experience if you're a football fan on any level.
- **4:45 PM:** Assuming that there is no extra time and the game doesn't go to penalties, we watch the celebrations and then wait for the players to do their cool-down.
- **5:00 PM:** Take the goals back down, rotary-mow the pitch to collect the debris, verticut, then mow again and divot the pitch. We finish by washing the mowers, doing one last divot check, and tidying away our equipment. Wembley is the home of the FA and there are FA offices that overlook the pitch, so it's important to maintain a very high standard every day of the week.
- **7:00 PM:** Commute home. I live about 80 miles away from Wembley, which is about a 2-hour drive with traffic. I wouldn't want to do that commute every day, but I don't mind the drive on the odd weekend here and there - especially not if it means I get to work at one of the most renowned stadiums in the world!

# PPE AWARENESS DAY JSP HELD

On 11 September 2023, Bradley Tennant, one of IGFH's founding members, was invited along with Wiltshire College and University Center to a PPE Awareness Day at JSP Limited.

JSP is the leading manufacturer of above-the-neck personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety products in the UK. The event, jointly organized by Bradley and Victoria Fiander, Assessor in Horticulture at Lackham College, was held for students of the college with the aim of providing education on PPE and its importance in the workplace.

JSP's Key Account Manager and PPE Specialist, Colin Whitworth, hosted the event. A total of 24 students attended, with an agenda that involved a seated session to discuss the reasons for PPE and the JSP background, a tour of the company's Oxford-based Worsham Mill Factory, and product awareness sessions for various aspects of personal safety.

Colin has previously visited Wiltshire College's Lackham campus on several occasions to host educational talks about PPE, sharing his passion, knowledge, and enthusiasm with budding students in the grounds, greenkeeping, and horticulture industry. Being able to visit Colin in JSP's factory gave us additional invaluable insight into the PPE production process and the care that goes into ensuring the safety of personal protective gear, reinforcing the importance of wearing the appropriate gear to control risks and stay safe while carrying out certain tasks.

Bradley took the time to recount his experience of the PPE Awareness Day, which we've shared below:

"After our introductions and safety briefing, we began the first seated session. Here, Colin explained the importance of PPE, sharing several health and safety videos that many of us long-serving greenkeepers and groundstaff are much accustomed to by now! He also spoke in detail about respiratory protection, particularly in sports turf, when mowing dry grass during the summer months, and the dangers of inhaling quartz and sand particles. An open discussion began, which was quite nice to watch naturally happen, and the students talked about issues they had faced, while Colin and the lecturers in attendance provided feedback.



Top: Colin presents to the students  
Bottom: Vicrotia Fiander test fitting the PPE  
Right: Team picture of the students who attended





# WARENESS AT ADQUARTERS



“Lunch ended the seated session, and next, we jumped into the factory tour. Everyone loves a tour - it gave our students a chance to witness processes that they could otherwise only watch online. We were divided into four groups to do a rotation of the factory, including production, quality control, and lab testing. A particular highlight was the live drop test using a safety harness. From my perspective, the tour reinforced the importance of giving the next generation complete confidence and trust in their PPE - I know first-hand that trust can be the difference between them wearing it and not.

“Following another short break, we were taken into the JSP meeting and function room. The room’s walls were lined with all manner of above-neck PPE, harnesses, and safety barriers. The students

had the opportunity to try on the PPE, familiarizing themselves with the different safety gear and getting an understanding of which PPE may suit them best.

“The JSP Worsham Mill Factory is an incredible facility and I absolutely recommend booking a tour if you can - you’ll learn a lot! The students enjoyed their educational experience and took away valuable information that will hopefully stay with them throughout their careers. I’d like to say a huge thanks to Colin Whitworth for inviting and hosting us for the day. PPE saves lives!”

**Interested in booking a tour of the JSP headquarters? or want to know more about the company? Contact Colin via email at: [Colin.Whitworth@JSP.co.uk](mailto:Colin.Whitworth@JSP.co.uk)**

# Meet The Members: Elizabeth Pinnington

Throughout IGFH's existence, we had the opportunity to interview a number of our members to learn more about who they are, their qualifications, where they work, and what drives them in their careers.

One of the members we chatted with this year was Australia-based Elizabeth Pinnington, who's in her fourth year as an Apprentice Parks Operative at Liverpool City Council. Here, we've shared our interview with Elizabeth, where she discussed what attracted her to the industry, her favourite and least favourite parts of her job, and whether or not she'd consider working overseas...

**Hi Elizabeth! Could you tell us about your current job role and your education history?**

I've worked in many open space positions including at our first-grade cricket/AFL ground Rosedale Oval (based in New South Wales, Australia) for a 6 month stint. We get rotated on our 4 year apprenticeship indenture to experience all areas of Parks and Gardens.

For my education, I have completed my Certificate III in Parks and Gardens and Certificate III in Horticulture, and I'm currently looking at completing Certificate III in Turf Management.

**What attracted you to the industry?**

I love to work outdoors getting stuck into the different physical tasks. I have an interest in plants and the environment and enjoy taking care of all

that comes with this line of work.

**If you had to choose, what's your favorite part of the job?**

For me, it's the fact that I get to work outside every day. I also enjoy the variety and opportunities to work on a range of different projects in the Parks area.

**What's your least favorite part of the job?**

I find getting up early in the winter time a challenge! Thankfully, once I'm up, I adjust very quickly.

**What's your biggest concern for the industry going forward?**

I have a few environmental concerns. The more development in city areas, the less open space and parkland there is. Environmentally, we need to be more sustainable with equipment and products - now and in the future.

**Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

I see myself in a higher position in this industry, still studying and learning each day.

**Has Covid affected your day-to-day work schedules?**

Yes, a little. We're still working just wearing our PPE, such as face masks, and driving in separately hired additional vehicles. We're completing more sanitizing of playgrounds and hard stand areas as opposed to completing landscape projects as we

**"I love to work outdoors getting stuck into the different physical tasks."**



Top left: Elizabeth with her My Gateway Apprenticeship award in 2020  
 Bottom left: Project planning at Liverpool City Council  
 Top right: Renovation works underway

would normally in the winter slow growth periods.

**Would you consider working overseas one day?**

I'd definitely consider an opportunity to work overseas. I'm interested to see how our industry works in different continents and climates.

**Thanks again to Elizabeth for taking the time to answer our questions and share a slice of her working life with IGFH. We get so much back from interviewing our members, and we hope you do too! If you've lived and worked in the same country or even city your whole life, it's eye-opening to learn about the lives of other greenkeepers and groundstaff in other parts of the world.**

**We're particular pleased to see that our industry is gradually becoming more mixed-gender rather than remaining traditionally male-dominated. If, like Elizabeth, you're a woman proving that greenkeeping isn't just for men, we'd love to hear from you.**

**If you'd like to be interviewed for our Meet the Members column, please email Bradley at [internationalgreenkeepers@gmail.com](mailto:internationalgreenkeepers@gmail.com)**

# GROUNDSFEST 2023: CHAPTER ONE

September 20-21 this year marked the first ever GroundsFest show, a Warwickshire-based event that covered all aspects of grounds maintenance in one.

Bradley of IGFH attended the event, which comprised two indoor areas for various exhibitors, and several outdoor spaces for practical demonstrations, including line marking and mowing, as well as an educational sector and a space dedicated to play equipment.

We exhibited our stand at the event, and Bradley hosted two well-received talks on networking and volunteering in sports turf, and using apprenticeships in a staffing shortage, with Lackham College's

Assessor in Horticulture, Victoria Fiander.

The event was a great success, with high attendance for the first year, and was wrapped up with a fully staged live band performance in the evening - something we rarely see at trade shows!

We're already eagerly anticipating next year's GroundsFest and encourage anyone interested in exhibiting or attending to contact: [chris.bassett@groundsfest.com](mailto:chris.bassett@groundsfest.com)



Aerial view of GroundsFest's outdoor exhibition space

This image: GroundsFest logo  
Right: Our IGFH stand



# Gilba Solutions Examines Longevity Of Turf Pigments On Golf Greens in 2023 Study

The use of turf pigments on golf greens is a growing trend in the golf course management industry. The Sydney-based turfgrass agronomists at Gilba Solutions investigated the longevity of six turf pigments available today.



A bentgrass green site was used for the trial, the site was mowed at 3.5mm. The trial was repeated four times in the same conditions, and growth potential was 100% for the duration of the trial.

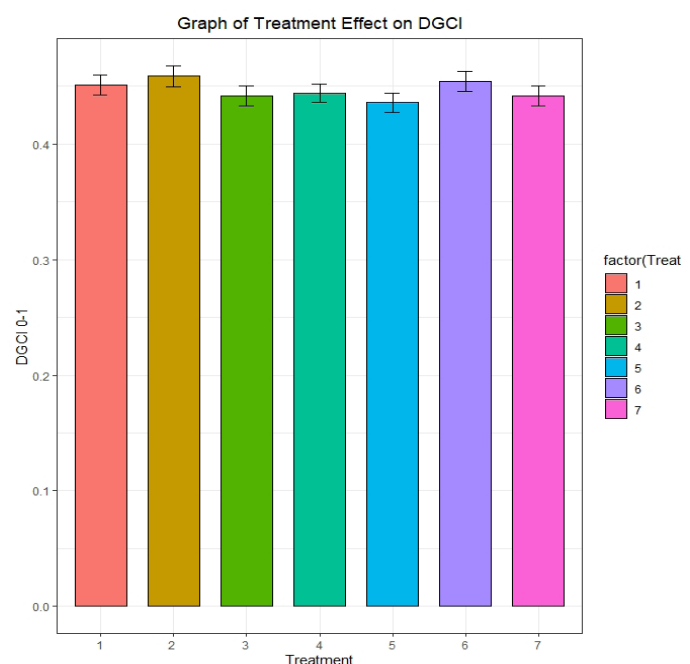
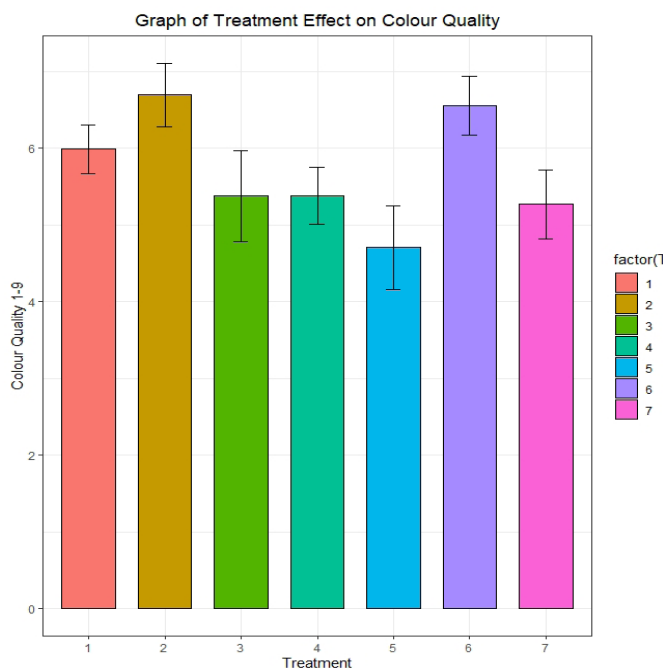
The products tested, as represented by the corresponding numbers in the charts below, were:

1. Endurant TE Pigment (Endurant)
2. Flex pigment (Endurant)
3. Vertmax Duo (Gilba Solutions)
4. Vertmax (Gilba Solutions)
5. Ryder pigment (Syngenta)
6. Ambient Plus (Simplot)
7. Untreated Control

The testing team at Gilba Solutions used two criteria for measuring the use of turf pigments on golf greens and the colour response: Dark Green Colour Index (DGCI) on a scale of 0-1; and turf quality on a scale of 0-9.

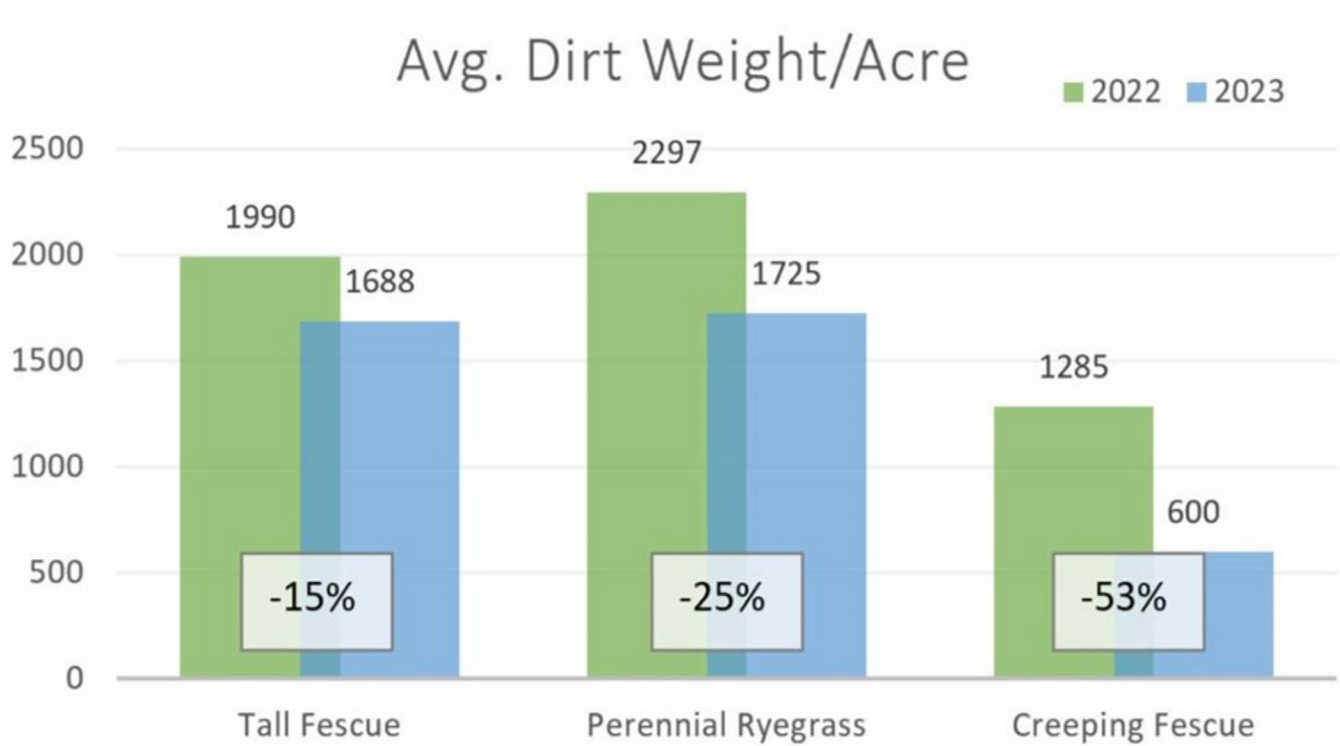
In the results analysis, the company highlighted a number of key takeaways:

- The use of turf pigments on golf greens doesn't appear to extend their longevity. No doubt the combination of 100% growth potential plus regular mowing reduces the lifespan of these.
- This contradicts some claims of colour longevity of up to 3 months. In defense of these, however, this might be the case on a fairway or sport turf situation where mowing is not so frequent and when these are applied to warm season turf growth is limited.
- Colour is perceptual. So your choice of pigment is very much a personal choice. Try a few until you get the response that you are happy with.
- The best way to make a choice is on two criteria: the cost per application and what the turf pigment you use on your golf greens actually does.



Above: Results from the study displaying treatment effect on colour quality and DGCI.

Read the full study at <https://gilbasolutions.com/the-use-of-green-grass-paint-on-golf-greens-37>



# DROUGHT AFFECTS MVS SEED CROP PRODUCTION

Harvest is now underway at the Willamette Valley for Oregon-based global wholesale grass seed supplier, Mountain View Seeds - and in an email update from the manufacturer, we learned that drought has affected this year's seed production.

Mountain View Seeds says that Willamette

Valley has “forever been the grass seed capital of the world”, which is mostly thanks to the region’s mild winters, spring precipitation, and timely summer rains.

Unfortunately, the company reports that this year, like many others in the west, drought throughout the spring and summer seasons have had a continued effects on crops.

According to MVS, this growing year has been “hampered by a very dry spring”, during which the state of Oregon averaged 2.56 inches of precipitation - more than 5 inches below normal.

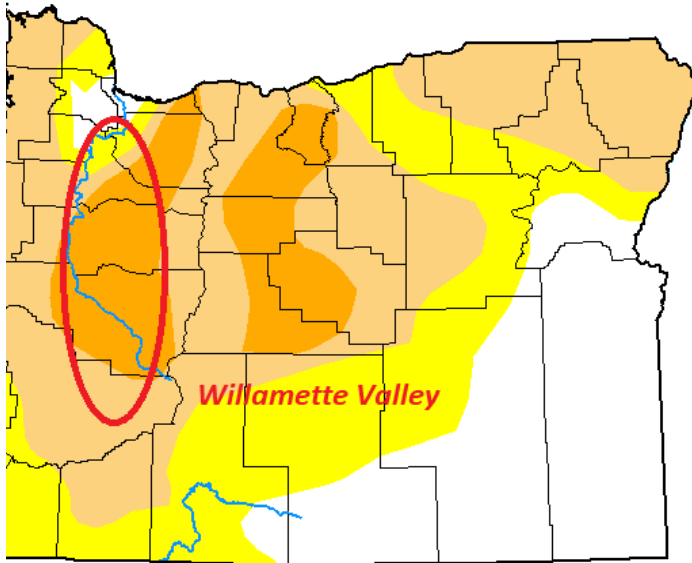
Not only does a lack of rain hamper yields, but, as MVS explained, it also damages new seedlings. Some seed producers have apparently reported a 50% loss of spring planted acres, and Mountain View Seeds has seen “major declines” in the average dirt weight/acre on all grass species being delivered to our cleaner.

The company shared a chart that shows the difference in 2023’s average of each species



# U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

**July 18, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Jul. 20, 2023)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	24.39	75.61	48.76	12.60	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 07-11-2023	23.21	76.79	48.76	12.60	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 04-18-2023	16.91	83.09	56.44	23.63	6.20	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-03-2023	13.46	86.54	59.75	46.03	26.18	1.40
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-27-2022	0.42	99.58	68.05	52.42	30.73	1.40
<b>One Year Ago</b> 07-19-2022	24.60	75.40	66.42	52.76	31.72	1.77

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

Author:

Richard Tinker  
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



Above: U.S. Drought Monitor documents drought conditions in Oregon  
Below right: xxx

versus 2022 (see top left). The dirt/weight ratio has declined by up to 53% for specific grass species.

Drought can have a significant and detrimental impact on grass seed growth. Grass seed production relies on favorable weather conditions, including adequate soil moisture, to support healthy plant growth and seed development. Drought conditions, characterized by prolonged periods of low precipitation and water scarcity, can disrupt this process by hindering seed germination, leading to smaller seeds with lower germination rates. This can result in a lower-quality seed crop and a reduced overall grass plant population.

Mountain View Seeds estimates that around 70% of unirrigated acres are off an estimated 30% for perennial ryegrass yields, while there's around a 10% reduction in tall fescue growth, a 20% reduction in Kentucky bluegrass, and a 40-50% reduction in fine fescue yields.





Top: Bradley of IGFH manning our table  
 Middle: A back copy of the IGFH magazine  
 Bottom: David Newell - Reading FC

## Logging Championships, Going Green, and Building Connections at SAGE 2023

Marking the end of a wet, rainy July here in the UK, we exhibited at our first UK-based trade show of this year: the Sports & Grounds Expo, or SAGE.

SAGE is an annual outdoor trade show that's the biggest in the UK for the sports and grounds maintenance industry. This year, it was held on July 19th and 20th at its usual site: the picturesque Three Counties Showground in Malvern. While we enjoy every trade show that we attend, SAGE has particular appeal due to its focus on live demonstrations and experiences.

The entertainment was certainly provided this year, with plenty of opportunities for attendees to learn more about the industry, promote their products or services, and check out the latest equipment in the sports and grounds industry.

Our personal highlight was the UK Loggers National Championships 2023, which saw the country's best loggers competing across a range of categories, proving exactly





Some of the stands at SAGE 2023

why SAGE has made a name for itself in itself in providing interactive, hands-on experiences and demonstrations.

This year, SAGE introduced the Green Business Expo, which featured engaging talks by leading experts, offering a thought-provoking overview of what it means to go green in our industry.

Entertainment aside, we spent many productive hours exhibiting at our International Greenkeepers stand, sharing our mission and discussing overseas career opportunities with visitors.

We also had the chance to network with many of our fellow vendors and exhibitors, including Avant, Kersten, Bio-Circle, Toro, and Fleet. We had some inspiring conversations with suppliers about sustainability – for instance, Fleet is now using sustainable cardboard paint packaging, and Kersten is focusing on reducing glyphosate use and using more environmentally friendly weed-control methods, such as steam weed removers.

**SAGE is a free event for members of the public to attend, so if you have any interest in sports and grounds, regardless of your experience, it's marking out your calendar for 2024.**

Want to know where else you can find us this year? We'll also be at SALTEX 2023 (held on November 1-2). We always welcome the opportunity for a chat, whether you're interested in what we do, you want to work overseas, or you're pursuing sponsorship opportunities.



### Featured Listings



£19,500 – £23,500 per year

Job Listings - Permanent  
**Assistant Grounds Person – Queens Park Rangers**

Job  
1 day ago  
TurfMarket.co.uk

**LONDON STADIUM**



£30,000 – £34,000 per year

Job Listings - Permanent  
**Skilled Grounds person X2 – London Stadium**

Job  
1 week ago  
TurfMarket.co.uk

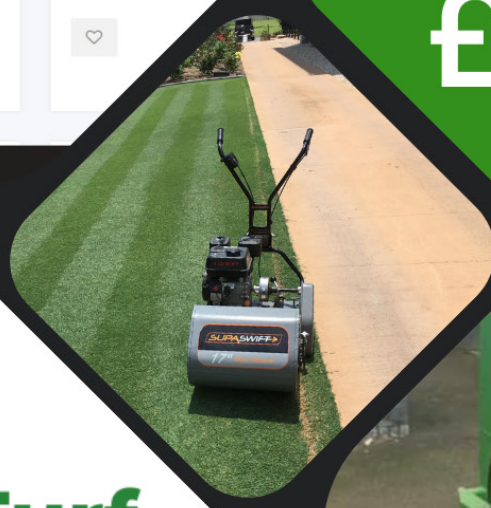
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Matthew with his  
Dennis G860

## Reliable Dennis G860s are Excellent for Hartpury

Matthew Newman, Grounds and Sports Turf Manager at Hartpury University and Hartpury College in Gloucester, claims that his fleet of Dennis G860 mowers are reliable, robust, and ergonomically excellent.

Matthew was once a student at Hartpury University and College completing a National Diploma in Horticulture before being offered a position on the grounds team in 2002. He now oversees three divisions which consists of a grounds team, a sports turf team, and a construction team.

The eight sports pitches, which are split equally between rugby and football, require a lot of attention as Matthew explained.

“They are arguably the most demanding surfaces because of the amount they are used,” he said. “During the week we find ourselves preparing the pitches for university and college teams, which still must be high spec because they are in the top divisions, but then it gets to the weekend, and we have premier league fixtures for the women’s teams or championship rugby games for men. In these situations, we are very much aware that we are preparing pitches for the paying public and that the games will be

and that the games will be streamed online around the world for all to see. It is a lot of work, and we need reliable machinery.”

It is for this reason that Matthew decided to upgrade his previous cylinder mowers to four Dennis G860’s.

The Dennis G860 is one of the most renowned cylinder mowers in the grounds management industry. Lightweight at just 166kg it is incredibly easy to manoeuvre and comfortable to operate. The handlebar console houses the controls for the throttle, parking brake, roller drive and cutting cylinder drive.

The mower features a large diameter front roller with an adjustable scraper which has been designed for a precise height of cut control, giving an excellent finish on every occasion. The Dennis G860 also features an interchangeable cassette system to assist with a wide range of tasks such as including scarifying, verticutting, brushing, spiking, and slitting.

“Once we trialled the Dennis G860s, we just had to have them,” continued Matthew. “They are lot more robust, more sturdy, easier to use and more manageable.”

Matthew and his team use the Dennis G860s on both the rugby and football pitches approximately three times a week. With such a busy schedule, time is of the essence and Matthew has noticed that the Dennis G860s have helped in this respect.

**For further information or a no obligation demonstration, please contact Dennis: 01332 824 777 or visit [www.dennisuk.com](http://www.dennisuk.com)**



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**Walker mower with high dump kit Plus trailer** \$44,500  
 Small Area Mowers · Daryl Davidson · August 23, 2023 · 818 total views, 0 today  
 Up for sale is this beautiful Walker mower with high dump kit fully optioned up deck and an 8x5 trailer with ramp to transport it. [...]

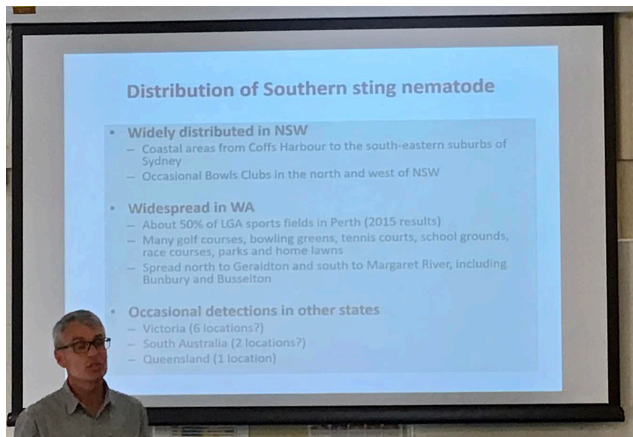
**Uniboom 300L sprayer** \$800  
 Sprayers · Daryl Davidson · August 19, 2023 · 884 total views, 3 today  
 300L, 8m boom with reel. Pump will need a diaphragm service. \$800 ono. Located in Sydney.

**Agrimetal blower 2018 \$8800** \$8,800  
 Blowers and Vacuums, Groundscare Equipment · Daryl Davidson · Sydney · August 18, 2023 · 846 total views, 1 today  
 Agrimetal blower hasn't had a lot of work 2018 \$8800 located in Sydney.



**SOLD**

# STING NEMATODE MASTER-CLASS HELD FOR TGA-WA AND STA-WA TURF MANAGERS



**Monday, 11 September 2023:** A selection of turf managers and golf course superintendents in the Sports Turf Association WA (Western Australia) and the Turf Growers Association WA were invited to a free masterclass workshop on sting nematodes.

The masterclass was hosted by Peter Ruscoe (STC) who welcomed Dr Graham Stirling, (Biological Crop Protection Pty. Ltd), expert nematologist from Queensland, who has a particular interest in sting nematodes, to share his knowledge.

The session was held free of charge to assist industry in managing the impacts of this pest, which is found widely on public open spaces and sporting surfaces across the Perth Metropolitan Area.

Topics covered during the masterclass included sting nematode infiltration of public open spaces, playing fields and stadiums across Australia; identifying and monitoring nematode populations; nematicides and integrated nematode management; the turf industry's role in spreading sting so prolifically, the use of carbon, compost and Mycorrhiza to increase soil health and ultimately plant health; and the recently developed sting nematode accreditation protocols for testing for sting nematode on farm.

Images and videos of the masterclass were shared on the TGA-WA and STA-WA Facebook pages.

**Images: Masterclass underway! Hosted by Peter Ruscoe (top left and top right), with guest speaker Dr. Graham Stirling (top left and bottom right)**

A representative of the STA-WA said:

“Delegates certainly appreciated the content of the masterclass and the chance to undertake a guided walk over of the South Metropolitan TAFE turfed areas with Turf lecturers.

“The lecturers highlighted areas of interest and took core samples to show the strength of roots in the different varieties of turf under varying mowing heights. The turf facilities were magnificent.

“The WA Turf industry is most grateful to Graham for undertaking this masterclass with delegates in his own time while here in WA on leave.”

**The TGA-WA has produced a Facebook album titled: “Sting Nematode Workshop Sept 2023” which can be viewed publicly. Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/turf growersassociationWA> to find the album.**

# CHELTENHAM LADIES' COLLEGE INVESTS IN SISIS

When the grounds team at Cheltenham Ladies' College received investment for new equipment, Ross Spry, Head of Grounds and Gardens, decided that SISIS machinery was a good place to start.

Established in 1853, Cheltenham Ladies' College is an independent boarding and day school for girls aged 11 to 18 in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. It is consistently ranked as one of the top all-girls' schools in the UK.

Ross has been the Head of Grounds and Gardens for approximately fifteen months after joining from the nearby Cheltenham College. Ross and his team maintain all CLC's lawns and sports pitches which includes lacrosse, athletics, rounders, and cricket.

*"The Mk.5's best feature is how robust it is. A cricket square is probably one of the toughest things you can put it through, and it doesn't bat an eyelid."*

His job has been made that little bit easier after College invested in some new machinery, as he explained. "When I first started at CLC a lot of the kit was old and it was apparent that several machines needed replacing. I'm pleased to say that a big investment was made and so I started sourcing new equipment.

"I've always been impressed by SISIS machinery and have used some of it throughout my career - particularly when I was a greenkeeper. I've found it to always be very good kit and it is always solidly made."

His first purchase was the SISIS Auto

Rotorake Mk. 5 - a self-propelled heavy duty scarifier for removal and control of thatch on fine and other quality turf. Its contra-rotating reel has specially designed tipping blades for a clean, consistent cut and maximum thatch removal to ensure excellent lawn care when the time comes to scarify.

Ross explained how he uses the SISIS Auto Rotorake Mk. 5: "The Mk.5 is predominantly used on our big lawns and for end of season renovations on the cricket square. It is a great machine, and we find it is one of the better machines for scarifying the cricket squares. It has got so much torque, and it can get through the hard clay, more so than any other scarifier I have used.

"The Mk.5's best feature is how robust it is. A cricket square is probably one of the toughest things you can put it through, and it doesn't bat an eyelid."

Ross was also adamant that he wanted a SISIS Dart. This independently powered vertical action aerator improves drainage, reduces turf compaction, thatch build up and increases the health of lawns.

Powered by a 6.5hp engine, the Dart has a working depth of up to 100mm which can be easily adjusted from the operator's position using the balanced depth control lever.

The unit can also be fitted with a wide range of tines to meet the operator's requirements.

"I've used the SISIS Dart at every venue I have worked - mostly on cricket squares. We always use it when we are renovating to break the surface up a bit, and I do tend to use it occasionally during the winter periods. We use the pencil tines, to keep the air circulating,



“The Dart is so easy to operate. All my staff can use it – and that is important because we need machinery which every team member feels comfortable using.

“Once again SISIS has not let me down.”

For further information or a no obligation demonstration, you can contact SISIS on 01332 824 777 or visit the SISIS website at [www.sisis.com](http://www.sisis.com)

For more news, reviews and insightful views, you can follow SISIS on Twitter or Instagram @SISISMachinery and like the company’s Facebook page – just search [www.facebook.com/SISISMachinery](http://www.facebook.com/SISISMachinery). You can also view the latest SISIS videos by visiting the manufacturer’s YouTube channel - search [www.youtube.com/SISISMachinery](http://www.youtube.com/SISISMachinery)

*“The Dart is so easy to operate. All my staff can use it – and that is important because we need machinery which every team member feels comfortable using.”*



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