

SPEEDCUT NEWS

Sportsturf project news from Speedcut Contractors

Spring 2010

Sportsturf projects on target



Speedcut in action at The Warwickshire Golf and Country Club

SPEEDCUT CONTRACTORS had one of their busiest years with sportsturf projects in every sector – including golf, football, rugby, cricket and racecourses.

Golf projects included Foxhills Golf Club and Resort in Surrey where Speedcut have been using their new BLEC laser grader to transform old tees without costly reconstruction, following a series of major fairway drainage and bunker projects.

At The Warwickshire Golf and Country Club they carried out drainage on 15 fairways while at Moor Park Golf Club, Hertfordshire, Speedcut replaced paths.

And at Tandridge Golf Club in Surrey, one of the UK's 'Top

100' golf clubs, Speedcut reshaped and reconstructed green surrounds, tees and bunkers, following last year's major woodland clearance and construction of three water storage tanks.

Also in Surrey at Lingfield Park Golf Club, Speedcut have completed drainage on the 17th fairway while at Sandmartins Golf Club, Wokingham, they have been reshaping bunkers for lining with Sportcrete.

Speedcut were also at Wincanton and Market Rasen Racecourses with their new Gwazae deep probe aerator (one of only a few in the UK) decompacting areas of high impact around jumps. Last year Wood Bend at Market Rasen was completely

remodelled by Speedcut to overcome an adverse camber.

At King's College School in Surrey, Speedcut carried out major pitch renovation on three football pitches and relocated a cricket square at the Barnes Lane site, while installing an irrigation system.

In Kent they renovated 41 senior football pitches, including Chatham Town FC, 14 junior pitches, nine mini football pitches and six rugby pitches for Medway Council and Quadron Services Ltd.

At Loughborough University Speedcut completed two new rugby pitches and a football pitch as part of expansion plans.

● **News on some of these projects and others appear within this issue.**

Exeter City FC pitches beat the weather

EXETER CITY FC's training ground was extensively renovated by Speedcut Contractors to keep it playable all year round.

Head groundsman Clive Pring, who has been at the club for over three years, called in Speedcut after Exeter was promoted to League One – their second promotion in two years.

"Speedcut have done a great job," says Clive, who was previously at St. Peter's School, Lympstone, for four years and at Woodbury Park Golf Club for eight years.

"The training ground is on similar clay soil to the main St. James stadium and needs to be well-drained for all-year round training use by the main team, the under-18s and for nine to 16-year-olds using this as our Centre of Excellence."

Kevin Smith, Speedcut contracts manager, said they had installed main drainage on the training ground at five-metre centres, sandbanding at 250mm centres and sandslitting at two-metre intervals.



Speedcut's Kevin Smith (left) and Exeter City's Clive Pring

SPEEDCUT CONTRACTORS are specialists in sportsturf construction, drainage and renovation. The company was established in 1977 and has a long record of major projects in every type of sporting venue, including golf, football, rugby, cricket and racecourses. Clients include local authorities, schools and colleges.

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King's College School on top form

KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL had some of its extensive sports facilities improved by Speedcut Contractors during a tight summer schedule.

At the 24-acre West Barnes Lane, Surrey, site, 10 minutes from the main Wimbledon school - which has another 17 acres - Speedcut carried out complete drainage and laser-levelling on three football pitches and moved and rebuilt a cricket square.

They have also built a 52 cubic metre water tank which will hold extracted water from nearby Ply Brook to irrigate the pitches.

"The site is on a flood plain," says West Barnes Lane manager, deputy head groundsman Miguel Pimenta, who has been at the school for eight years. "Being on clay surfaces means they just became unplayable after heavy rain.

"Over the years we have done as much as we can with vertidrainage ourselves but the situation and the demands on the ground led us to call in Speedcut Contractors.

"We have always had a good working relationship with Barry Pace, the Speedcut contracts manager, and the Speedcut team really know what they are doing."

The King's College School job was completed by mid-July - a tough deadline, having been started on June 10 and finished on July 22.

In early August Miguel carried out the first cylinder cut of the grass (which took



Barry Pace: "Challenging job"

two weeks and three days from germination to first cut) and a high nitrogen fertiliser applied. In October Miguel carried out sand grooving of the pitches during half term.

Miguel is in charge of the West Barnes Lane grounds and was previously at St. Paul's School, Hammersmith.

"It was a tight schedule because we had our first games scheduled on the newly-drained, levelled and seeded pitches for end of the first week in September,"

says Miguel, who has just one assistant groundsman on the West Barnes Lane site - Damion Meech, who was previously at St. John's School, Leatherhead.

"There is never a dull moment on our sports grounds," says Damion. "They are in use most of the year and the new drainage and levelling should allow the surfaces to be more playable after bad weather."

The West Barnes Lane site



is also home to a sand-filled artificial hockey pitch used by Wimbledon Hockey Club, who are creating a new sand-dressed Tiger carpet hockey pitch on the site of a former football pitch next to the existing hockey pitch.

There are also three rugby pitches and a combined rugby and football pitch at the prestigious sports site. Two years ago the West Barnes Lane site was being used as a training ground by Fulham FC Academy players.

This year a new pavilion is to replace the current ageing building, making the whole site a showpiece sporting centre.

Speedcut Contractors laser-levelled using Speedcut's state-of-the-art TopCon laser-guided Caterpillar D6 and drainage was carried out with the Mastenbroek trencher and pipe-layer, then cultivated and seeded with Barenbrug BAR7 ryegrass mixture.

Barry Pace says: "This was

a challenging job because the timescale was very tight to get the surfaces well established by the first week of September.

"The new irrigation system and the water tank provided water to establish the seed.

"King's College School has excellent sporting facilities and we have been delighted to be part of the team giving pupils vastly improved surfaces to play on."

With new drainage, irrigation and better surfaces, the hard-working West Barnes Lane team are hoping they can more easily cope with the intense year-round demands on the site.

Miguel says: "We pride ourselves on producing the best playing facilities of any school and we have to battle through all weather conditions."

Kings College School has 1,200 boys in the upper school and two prep schools with 150 pupils each.

Head groundsman Steve Wells (left) and deputy Miguel Pimenta



Warwickshire keeps up to par



Speedcut at work on The Warwickshire Golf and Country Club drainage

THE ROLLING valleys and lush water features of the Warwickshire Golf and Country Club make this 465-acre course one of the loveliest in central England.

And the heavy clay soils of this 36-hole course takes an intense amount of greenkeeping skills on the part of course manager Daniel Rowe and his team of 11.

The two 18-hole par 72 courses – from 5,900 to 7,400 yards – were originally designed by architect Karl Litten and the club opened in 1994.

The Warwickshire is on heavy clay and the Kings Course was extensively drained about eight years ago but this year Daniel decided to work on drainage on the

Earls Course on 15 of the fairways using Speedcut Contractors, who were on the course for about five weeks.

“This is a challenging course with rolling slopes, water features and plenty of trees, very attractive and popular with players. We are very proud of the surroundings and work hard to create excellent playing conditions,” says Daniel.

The Warwickshire has played host to many professional tournaments including a European Seniors Tour event and the Midland PGA Final on three occasions.

“We aim to stay open as much as possible despite the weather,” says Club Company group course manager Chris Brook, responsible for



Bunker and lake at The Warwickshire Golf and Country Club

overseeing 10 clubs in the group and course manager at Castle Royal in Berkshire.

“The Warwickshire is particularly challenging for Daniel and his team because of the heavy clay but they do a magnificent job.”

Last year produced particular challenges with the weather – the first half of the summer at The Warwickshire was very wet and the second half very dry, giving Speedcut a good five-week opportunity to drain the 15 fairways on the Earls Course.

“It was a pleasure to work with the Warwickshire team,” says Speedcut contracts manager Kevin Smith. “They were incredibly helpful and co-operative with an extensive knowledge of the

particular course problems and location of irrigation pipes and cables.”

The original design gave the course a number of distinctive features – inland links, woodland and parkland, plus American-style sweeps.

All the greens are USGA-style construction and the new drainage systems have given The Warwickshire an additional aid to beat severe wet weather.

“We never want to close the course and the new drainage systems give the course that extra edge,” says Chris.

“It’s important when you are producing top quality courses that you have the best facilities available to keep standards high. Our players and visitors expect the best.”



Speedcut’s Mastenbroek in action

Eastbourne Borough FC renovated

SPEEDCUT CONTRACTORS were praised by Eastbourne Borough Football Club chairman Len Smith, following major renovation work at the Blue Square Premier League club.

"They were very impressive in operation and incredibly efficient. We now have a stadium pitch, two youth pitches and a training pitch which will give us years of service," he said.

Len is chairman of the largest of the three football clubs in Eastbourne (the only town in the country with that number of league clubs) and was part of the team which masterminded the creation of the present ground on former marshland 25 years ago.

"We had increasing problems with drainage because of the clay underneath," says Len. "Thanks to the work done by Speedcut Contractors, and previous drainage work, we now have two youth pitches - one of which has not been used before - and a new training ground."

Speedcut carried out lateral



Speedcut Contractors in action at Eastbourne Borough FC

pipe drainage on one of the youth pitches and sandslitted all the pitches.

On the main stadium pitch they also carried out sandbanding in some areas.

A team of four, under foreman Peter Little, worked at the Eastbourne site for two and a half weeks.

After overseeding with BAR7 the main pitch was toppedressed with 60 tonnes of specially selected sand.

"We didn't miss a game last season," says Len, "but we did have problems with a frozen playing surface.

"Now we can have a

consistent surface throughout the season and for many to come thanks to all the work that has been done by Speedcut."

Eastbourne Borough FC stadium holds 4,200 spectators, 500 seated, and plans to increase the number of seats by 300 by enlarging the main Mick Green Stand - named after the legendary club captain killed in a car crash, who had played for all three Eastbourne clubs and also played for Sussex County.

Speedcut Contractors also have a golfing link with

Eastbourne Borough FC because one of the team players is Alan Tate, course manager at Nizels Golf and Country Club where Speedcut has carried out major drainage work.

Speedcut contracts manager Kevin Smith said: "We were delighted to work with the team at Eastbourne Borough and are pleased that they are entirely satisfied with the completed works.

"Giving the club playing surfaces that are likely to remain consistent throughout the season is a major advantage for them."

Chairman Len Smith said: "We finished 13th out of 24 teams in the Blue Square Premier League at the end of the last season, which we were delighted with.

"We have just installed new floodlights which will make games much better for everyone, particularly televised matches."

Gate figures showed a 57per cent increase last year and is the best attended football ground in Eastbourne.

New services from Speedcut Contractors

SPEEDCUT CONTRACTORS now offer golf clubs a new solution to releveling and regrading tees, a cost-effective remedy for deteriorating conditions.

The company's new BLEC Laser Grader is a small machine fitted with a 'Bullseye' Control System that collects a signal from a Dual Grade Laser to give a perfect finish with no margin for error.

Tees become uneven over time through excessive use and soil settlement. Edges begin to slope off, reducing the actual area that a golfer can 'tee off' from.

Existing turf is stripped from the tee area and the platform prepared for final grading.

The laser grader is then set to the required grade and can

create perfect tee platforms to any fall.

The increased tee area created is of great benefit to greenkeepers and golfers, by helping to spread wear over a greater surface area without the need for major reconstruction.

SOLVE COMPACTION PROBLEMS QUICKLY

SPEEDCUT also offer a unique sportsturf service with the Gwazae deep-probe aerator, one of only a few available in the UK in the hands of experienced contractors.

The machine provides deep soil and subsoil decompaction through the injection of compressed air.

Speed of operation and



Speedcut's tee laser grader in action

depths achievable with a Gwazae make this invaluable in relieving soil pans and deeper compaction around areas of high wear.

As well as eliminating deep decompaction the surface is

left virtually undisturbed which is ideal for fine turf sport. Soil improvement materials can also be injected.

● Call us on the number below for an assessment and free demonstration.