

SPEEDCUT NEWS

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Busy year for Speedcut team



Speedcut in action at Burgess Hill Golf Centre, West Sussex

SPEEDCUT CONTRACTORS had one of their busiest-ever years with a wide variety of sportsturf projects across the UK – including many in the world of golf.

At Foxhills Golf Club and Resort in Surrey they have been reshaping bunkers, following a major series of fairway drainage projects.

And at Tandridge Golf Club in Surrey they built three massive water storage tanks to reduce water use costs during droughts.

At Burgess Hill Golf Centre, West Sussex, they have comprehensively drained the 28-bay two-hectare driving range, with sandslitting and topdressing.

Other golf courses which

had major work done included Pycombe Golf Club in West Sussex and Piltdown Golf Club in East Sussex.

Near Nottingham, Cotgrave Place Golf Club has had a troublesome fairway on the Masters Course completely drained.

Great result

Course manager Peter Billings said: "Speedcut were very efficient and we were delighted with the result which means we can keep both the Masters and the Open Courses open during extreme wet weather."

Speedcut were also at Market Rasen Racecourse in Lincolnshire where a bend

was remodelled to overcome an adverse camber.

Course manager Nick Patton, also clerk at Nottingham Racecourse, said: "Speedcut were outstanding and carried out the job very efficiently, overcoming problems caused by the light sand in the area."

Contracts manager Kevin Smith said: "It was a hectic year and we battled against weather to meet deadlines. With our dedicated team and state-of-the-art equipment sportsturf projects were completed within tight schedules."

News on these projects and others appear within these pages.

Cotgrave Place can beat the wet

PETER BILLINGS knows everything there is to know about Cotgrave Place Golf Club near Nottingham.

Now course manager, he has been at the club, since it opened in 1989. He started his career with four years at Mickleover GC at Derby.

Then for two years he was at Ruddington Grange, Nottingham, from the age of 21. He has City and Guilds qualifications in greenkeeping and golf course management from Broomfield College at Bredsall, Derby.

The 36-hole course at Cotgrave, owned by Crown Golf who own around 30 clubs, has an Open and a Masters course.



Peter Billings

Drainage around hole seven of the front nine holes of the Masters Course has just been completed by Speedcut Contractors of Oxford.

"Speedcut did a fantastic job," says Peter. "They completed the job between several periods of bad weather and the finished result is tremendous."

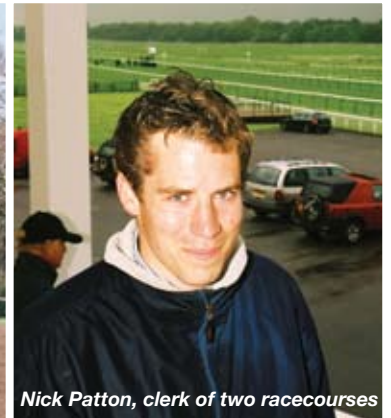
Speedcut Contractors are specialists in sportsturf construction, drainage and renovation. The company was established in 1977 and has a long record of major projects in every type of sporting venue, including golf, football, rugby, cricket and racecourses. Clients include local authorities, schools and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

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Safer racing at Market Rasen



Speedcut's Mastenbroek on Wood Bend at Market Rasen Racecourse



Nick Patton, clerk of two racecourses



Speedcut machines at Market Rasen Racecourse

MARKET RASEN Racecourse in Lincolnshire had a bend extensively remodelled by Speedcut Contractors to overcome an adverse camber.

They carried out the work on Wood Bend with a team of five completing the job within four weeks.

The free-draining sandy Lincolnshire soil gave the team some challenging conditions to work in as an initial drainage cut revealed the water table to be higher than expected, leading to the construction of a main drain of 270 yards to a ditch.

"Speedcut were outstanding," said course clerk Nick Patton, who is also clerk at Nottingham Racecourse.

"This was a major job which

involved the moving of hundreds of tons of soil on an area which was becoming a danger to horses because of the adverse camber.

"We have 21 meetings a year at Market Rasen and this is likely to rise to 23 so we needed to get this part of the course to a safer standard for racing. It had been used for point to point and had developed the adverse camber.

"Speedcut were very efficient and very quick, at one stage working against snow and between heavy rain storms."

The camber remodelling is to be continued around that part of the course with further work planned for the end of

2009 and early 2010

Speedcut contracts manager Kevin Smith worked closely with project director Mike Harbridge of PSD (Professional Sportsturf Design), Milton Keynes Surveys and Nick Patton to ensure the smooth running of the contract.

"We were delighted with the finished job and were lucky with the weather at the end of April and beginning of May when the sun shone for us," said Kevin.

Paul Francis was the foreman on the contract. "The sandy soil gave us some headaches," said Paul. "It is difficult using excavators in sand because it is so friable with little resistance against the buckets. We also came across several old 'horseshoe' drains, so called because of their shape."

The Speedcut team used one of their laser-guided Mastenbroek 10/12Ds to lay the new drainage system.

More than 300 tonnes of sand were incorporated into the newly modelled surface before seeding with a BAR9 mix of 40per cent Barlennium (ryegrass), 40per cent Barminton (ryegrass) and 20per cent Chopin (strong creeping red fescue).

As well as giving Wood Bend a new camber, Speedcut also extended and resurfaced the fibresand crossing on the north side of the racecourse. The course also includes a nine-hole golf course and one of the holes was relocated as part of the project.

"This was a major project," said Kevin. "We are delighted to have worked with the team at Market Rasen and the results are excellent."

The racecourse groundstaff are headed by Steve Bakin, who has been at Market Rasen for more than 20 years.



Market Rasen Racecourse includes a nine-hole golf course

Speedcut expands operation to meet demand

THE DEMAND for Speedcut Services has resulted in additional staff being employed, including another contracts manager, Barry Pace.

Barry is already a well-known figure in the Industry, and will complement Speedcut's existing high profile in the sportsturf industry.

He brings with him vast experience of sportsturf construction, drainage and renovation work – and now has the company's very latest equipment available.

Kevin Smith, who has been with Speedcut as contracts manager for nine years, continues in his role based at the head office near Oxford.

"Because Speedcut is a family-run company the commitment to quality and service is paramount," says Barry, who lives in West Sussex. "I am delighted to be part of such a professional team that works hard to ensure clients' requirements are met."



At Dyrham Park Golf and Country Club, Hertfordshire, Speedcut opened up a pond as a water feature on an existing stream that crosses by the 15th hole. They also rebuilt the tee, extending and improving visibility.

Speedcut managing director Dick Franklin, who founded the company in 1977, said: "Barry's experience is invaluable and he will be a major asset."

As well as investment in people, Speedcut continues its investment in machinery. A recent acquisition is a Caterpillar D6 earthmover, used on a major football pitches construction job in Basingstoke. The dozer is complete with a new TopCon

dual level laser that has virtually zero tolerance with 3-5mm settings.

Speedcut 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. The company has close links with the IOG and BIGGA and is a member of the LDCA, SAPCA and Constructionline.

LEFT: Following major drainage work at Foxhills Golf Club and Resort, Surrey, Speedcut also created new bunkers and reshaped existing ones on the front nine holes of the Bernard Hunt Course. These are now more visually pleasing and easier to maintain for the greenkeeping staff. Pictured is the eighth hole.

BELOW RIGHT: At Pyecombe Golf Club in West Sussex Speedcut reshaped and rebuilt an existing bunker by the fifth hole to create a more pleasing visual effect.



ABOVE LEFT: At Moor Park Golf Club in Hertfordshire, Speedcut have created a new path by the first tee using green wet-pour rubber, removing an old path in the process. The path has added to the visual appeal of the area and increased safety for golfers.

Range of projects

AS WELL as golf courses, Speedcut have been involved in a number of other sports projects, including schools.

At St. Peter's School in Shoreham, West Sussex, they created an artificial play area and at Aston School near Oxford they built an artificial cricket practice wicket.

At Radley College, Oxford, a multi-use artificial games area was constructed and at Wallands Junior School, for East Sussex County Council, they built a new natural turf football pitch.

At the All England Club, Wimbledon, they renovated a fibresand car park and constructed a new facility for South Downs Nursery near Hassocks in West Sussex.



Barry Pace joined Speedcut as a contracts manager

At Merrow Cricket Club in Surrey they built a new wicket and levelled an existing one as part of club improvements.

And at the Metropolitan Police Sports Ground in Kent, Speedcut installed safety matting in a sports training area.

Water tanks will keep costs down

TANDRIDGE Golf Club in Surrey called in Speedcut Contractors to install emergency water tanks to provide supplies in the case of drought.

They constructed the three 84,000-gallon tanks on concrete bases, complete with automatic circulation and transfer pipework and pumps.

The club is now able to store mains water when it is cheaper during the winter months.

Isle of Wight cricket ground puts Speedcut team in to bat



Newclose Cricket Ground settled in after Speedcut's construction

A MAJOR cricket project on the Isle of Wight has transformed life for the island's cricketers.

Newclose County Cricket Ground, a project started by Speedcut Contractors in June 2007, is the brainchild of wealthy entrepreneur Brian Gardener – the president of Ventnor Cricket Club.

He developed the plan as a way of giving county standard facilities to all the island's cricketers.

Now the superb ground – the first full-size cricket

ground on the island – covers 2.6 hectares and is fully operational with 12 wickets and two artificial practice wickets with nets. All the facilities are ECB-approved.

A luxury clubhouse looks over the ground, which has become a focal point for the island's sporting community.

Speedcut Contractors had to move 29,300 cubic metres of soil to create the playing surfaces and banks – laying 2,000 metres of perimeter drainage as the project got under way in June 2007.

By September of that year the square was complete with 12 wickets in place but as the cultivation and stonepicking began the weather broke and completion work was held back until May last year.

Speedcut used a Caterpillar D8 with box for initial earthmoving.

Drainage pipes were installed with the latest Mastenbroek laser-grade pipe-layer.

The cricket square was created using Essex loam from Munros and a Barenbrug

Bar 7 seed mix was sown.

The project was designed and managed by Alex Vickers of TurfTrax Ground Management Systems in liaison with Martin Ford from the IOG on behalf of the ECB.

“There was great co-operation between all concerned,” said Speedcut contracts manager Kevin Smith.

“Because of the weather a lot of patience was needed but as soon as conditions improved progress was rapid.”

Ground conditions were hampered by ground water and the mixed soils of clay and pebbly loam, but Speedcut used a series of cut-off drains at different levels as soil was moved.

The cricket authorities on the Isle of Wight are reported to be ‘delighted’ with the new ground.

Speedcut keeps Wimbledon up to par

WIMBLEDON Park Golf Club is prepared for wet weather after drainage work was carried out by Speedcut Contractors.

The magnificent 18-hole course, in the shadow of the All England Lawn Tennis Club, is on clay and required drainage round more than half a dozen holes.

Under foreman Peter Little the Speedcut team used one of their Mastenbroek laser-guided trenchers to carry out drainage over the course of a

week. “It had been incredibly wet the week before,” said Peter. “The clay was difficult to dig and still wet in places but we were pleased with the finished result.”

Trenches were back-filled with shingle and sand and surfaces levelled with minimal disruption to the smooth running of the busy course.

During the Championships Fortnight Wimbledon Park Golf Club becomes a car park for spectators and the course is closed.



The new Speedcut Caterpillar D6 creates pitches at Loughborough

Sporting excellence from Speedcut

A MAJOR sports project at Loughborough University, the UK's number one sporting academy, is being carried out by Speedcut Contractors.

The creation of two new natural turf rugby pitches and one football pitch on previously undulating agricultural ground was a big challenge for the Speedcut team.

Using their new Topcon laser-guided Caterpillar D6 they were able to move thousands of tonnes of soil

to create level surfaces for the final construction of the pitches at the Holywell Park site.

“The facilities created by these new pitches will give the university additional surfaces in time for the 2009 season,” said Speedcut contracts manager Kevin Smith.

“With tolerance levels of only 3-5mm the laser ensures these pitches will be built to exceptionally high standards.”



Speedcut's Mastenbroek in action at Wimbledon Park Golf Club