

SPEEDCUT NEWS

Sportsturf project news from Speedcut Contractors

Spring 2012

Speedcut celebrates 35 years

SPEEDCUT CONTRACTORS celebrate 35 years in the sportsturf business this year and look back at an incredible record of varied projects across every sporting discipline.

Last year they completed five major football projects and built golf course tees, greens, ponds and bunkers at major golf clubs, including Foxhills Golf Club and Resort and Kingswood, both in Surrey.

Speedcut's Gwazae deep-probe aerator has been in action at racecourses including Royal Windsor, Brighton and Fontwell while sand-banding and sand-slitting has been carried out on golf courses and football pitches across the country.

Other golf clubs worked on included, among many others, Staverton Park in Northamptonshire, Piltdown in East Sussex, Sandown Park in Surrey, Wimbledon Park in London, Worthing in West Sussex, Sundridge Park in Kent, Lee-on-Solent in Hampshire, Nizels in Kent, The Oaks in Surrey, Lingfield Park in Surrey and Burgess Hill Golf Centre, West Sussex.

Football pitch construction included five at Kings Hill, near West Malling in Kent, five for Colchester United FC in Essex and five for Long Lane Junior



BEFORE: Speedcut constructing the 'Big Ground' football pitch at Charterhouse School in early April



AFTER: Charterhouse School new football pitch after third cut first week of June

FC at Kidbrooke Playing Fields, Greenwich, London.

Speedcut also built eight pitches for Worthing Town FC and four pitches for Brent Council in the shadow of the Wembley National Stadium arch.

Some high-profile independent schools had new football and cricket pitches built by Speedcut, including Charterhouse in Surrey and two on the Isle of Man - King William College and Castle Rushen High School.

"2011 was one of our busiest years ever" says Speedcut

managing director Dick Franklin, who founded the business at his Oxfordshire base in 1977.

"Our dedicated teams, who are highly trained and experienced in sportsturf construction and drainage, are able to offer all the expertise from planning a project through to completion."

•On these pages we look in detail at some projects carried out by Speedcut and show the range of sportsturf services the company provides.

Isle of Man student cricketers get state of art facilities

TWO top education establishments on the Isle of Man have had their cricket training facilities improved by Speedcut.

At King William College a new artificial match wicket was installed with a 30-metre 2.7metre-wide Wilton woven carpet over a dynamic base.

And at Castle Rushen High School, Castletown, an old concrete base match wicket was replaced with a shockpad over a new dynamic base.



The new practice wickets at Castle Rushen High School on the Isle of Man

Four-bay practice nets were removed and replaced with two concrete base bays and two dynamic base wickets.

Then two 15-metre cages were replaced with one large cage and four dividers.

The fully-enclosed training facility has been a major success, not least because they were produced at two different levels.

"The work Speedcut did was absolutely fantastic," said Mike Atherton, head groundsman at King William and advisor on the Castle Rushen job, where he was once a pupil.

"The attention to detail was incredible and working on the higher and lower levels of the wickets was accomplished with great precision.

"These facilities will save the school a lot of money in the long run because of the quality of the workmanship and materials used by Speedcut."

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.

Colchester United FC challenge



Speedcut applying the rubber crumb at Colchester United FC's training ground



Speedcut carry out stoneburying at the Colchester training ground

SPEEDCUT completed five football pitches at the Colchester United FC Training ground at Tiptree in Essex - one of the toughest jobs they have done.

"The ground conditions were incredibly difficult," says Speedcut contracts manager Barry Pace. "Because of the thick clay overlaying gravel our machinery was constantly under strain, despite tungsten tips on the cutters."

Drainage began with the construction of an outfall into a massive soakaway, then the whole site (seven hectares) was laser graded and primary drainage installed at five metre centres.

The pitches themselves were each of a different construction to provide varied playing conditions.

The community pitch, which will be used by local clubs, was

prepared and seeded using existing soil from the site, after stonepicking.

The four main training pitches each had different rootzone treatments - all had rubber crumb incorporated.

One pitch has rubber crumb incorporated into the existing soil before seeding.

Another had rubber crumb ameliorated into the soil before 5cms of sand was applied and seeded.

The third had 5cms of fibre-

reinforced rootzone applied over a rubber crumb-ameliorated base.

The fourth had a 10cms of fibre reinforced rootzone placed over two and half centimetres of rubber crumb.

All the pitches were sown with a ryegrass/fescue mix and the entire site has a full pop-up irrigation system installed by Dax Environmental Ltd - a Colchester-based company.

One problem that had not been envisaged was the discov-

ery of a large filled-in pond which had about 11 old cars buried in it.

"This was a job full of challenges but we enjoyed working with Colchester United FC and the main construction team from APH Ltd," said Barry.

"Speedcut had a team of six working on the site for about 12 weeks and we brought in 6,000 tonnes of materials for pitch construction, including gravel for drainage trenches, fibre-reinforced rootzone material and rubber crumb.

"With the constant wear of stones on the Mastenbroek trencher we were battling the conditions - but we are delighted with the final outcome and grass cover on the pitches is excellent."

The new Colchester training ground is having a fully-equipped clubhouse with all facilities built by APH Ltd.



Applying fibre-reinforced rootzone over rubber crumb at Colchester United FC training ground

Major Kent football pitches project

SPEEDCUT also worked on one of the biggest football pitch construction jobs in Kent - with five pitches finished by the end of August to be ready for play in September 2012.

The Kings Hill pitches near West Malling are part of a major project by the developers, Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd, who are putting money into producing high-class sports facilities for local residents.

These include five natural

turf football pitches, one artificial pitch, associated changing facilities and large areas of amenity grass and wildflowers. Kings Hill already has an 18-hole golf course and cricket pitch.

Speedcut used their LGP (Low Ground Pressure) fully-automatic laser grade bulldozer to produce level surfaces to the required grades. Primary drainage systems were installed before two stone-picking operations were carried out. This was followed

by a third stone picking and light grading before ameliorating the topsoil with 380 tonnes of approved sand on each pitch.

A BAR7 seed mix of dwarf perennial ryegrass was then sown after a dressing of fertiliser (10-15-10).

Germination on the first two pitches took place within a week and after a fortnight

excellent grass cover was established.

Derek Lloyd, Liberty Property Trust Construction Manager, said: "Speedcut carried out a very professional job and their attention to detail is remarkable."

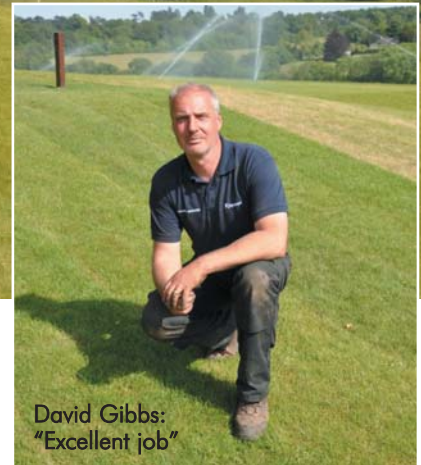


Speedcut at work on the pitches in Kent

Kingswood ready for Senior Open Qualifiers



Tee 14 at Kingswood with the new turf being irrigated



David Gibbs:
"Excellent job"

SPEEDCUT built new tees at the 14th hole for Kingswood Golf and Country Club in Surrey ready for the Senior Open Qualifiers last July.

The superb course at Kingswood overlooks stunning open countryside and the new 14th tee was built on farmland acquired by the club owner Tom Hilliard.

Head greenkeeper David Gibbs, who has been at Kingswood for 20 years, said Speedcut had done a very fast and efficient build using existing earth and new rootzone materials and had also laser-levelled the 18th tee in preparation for the Qualifiers.

David and his team of six

then spent three days laying 2,500 square metres of ryegrass turf supplied by Proturf of Doncaster.

"Speedcut did an excellent job. They were up against a tight deadline," said David.

The new tees were designed by Swan Golf and the 18-hole course was originally built in the 1920s by James Braid, five times winner of The Open.

Kingswood, one of the leading courses in the South East, has undergone extensive re-design and construction under the guidance of Howard

Swan, recognised course architect for James Braid-designed courses.



Speedcut at work on the 14th tee at Kingswood

Wembley pitches in shadow of the Arch



Speedcut in action on football pitches at Wembley, with the stadium Arch behind

SPEEDCUT built four new football pitches for Brent Council at Wembley, a stone's throw from the national stadium.

Using existing soil and incorporating composted green waste, they installed a full primary drainage system on land which had once been a private sports ground.

Sand was incorporated into the existing topsoil and good grass cover established by the autumn. The pitches will be in use this year.

Speedcut solutions for every surface

SPEEDCUT CONTRACTORS offer a variety of solutions to sports surface problems with a range of services.

For many high-wear compacted areas their Gwazae deep-probe aerator is proving an essential tool.

It is 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 depths achievable with a Gwazae make this invaluable in relieving soil pans and deeper compaction around areas of high wear on the golf course.

Because of the depth reached this makes the Gwazae aerator more effective in the results achieved than with traditional machines such as verti-drainers or groundbreakers.

As well as eliminating deep decompaction the surface is left virtually undisturbed which is ideal for fine turf sport situations



Speedcut's Gwazae in action at Brighton Racecourse

where a perfect finish is required.

Speedcut Contractors' tractor-trailed Gwazae, manufactured in New Zealand, decompacts soil to a depth of up to 700mm using a probe and compressed air. It breaks the soil structure apart creating fissures through the soil profile while leaving the surface virtually undisturbed, with just a neat insertion point left. The remaining small hole can be filled with drainage material or just left to heal over.

Soil improvement materials can also be injected into the

soil during the process such as seaweed, gypsum and wetting agents.

It has proved extremely effective on racecourses, including Brighton and Fontwell Park.

The clerk of both courses, Edward Arkell, said: "Speedcut's Gwazae was very effective on compacted areas of both courses and the results were achieved in a short space of time."

Speedcut also offer a verti-draining service for surface improvement and decompaction.

Bunkers and ponds improved

MANY golf clubs have benefited from having ponds enlarged and bunkers recontoured or rebuilt.

For example, Lingfield Park Golf Club in Surrey prepared for the PGA European Pro Tour visit in August by using Speedcut Contractors to enlarge one of their most attractive ponds and create two new bunkers.

Speedcut enlarged and altered the contours of the well-established pond at the third hole, bringing it closer to the green, and filled in two ponds to create new bunkers at the 18th.

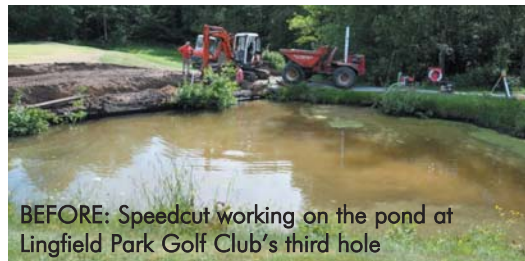
"Speedcut did a brilliant job, really fantastic," says Lingfield Park estates manager Jon Harris, former head greenkeeper from 2002 until 2008 when he took over responsibility for the famous racecourse as well.

"The year before we had real drainage problems on the 17th fairway and Speedcut did an excellent drainage job for us then. Those problems have been solved by the drainage system they installed."

The work on the pond at the third hole involved removing old timbers, enlarging the area of water and shoring up the new sides to create a smoothly-contoured pond that is next to a wood.

At the 18th hole two dilapidated ponds were excavated and replaced with material to create two new bunkers, which have had the surrounds turfed prior to new sand being added.

"The fairway on the 18th now looks down to a smart finish with the racecourse Grandstand visible in the distance," says Jon. "We are very proud of the course and Speedcut did a splendid job, with great attention to detail."



BEFORE: Speedcut working on the pond at Lingfield Park Golf Club's third hole



AFTER: The enlarged pond at the third hole

Laser grader for tees is cost-effective

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

The laser-grading technique has been used to great effect at Foxhills Golf Club and Resort and The Oaks, Carshalton, both in Surrey, Wimbledon Park Golf Club and Worthing Golf Club in West Sussex.



Speedcut's BLEC laser grader in action at Foxhills Golf Club and Resort, Surrey

Speedcut's 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 green-keepers and golfers, by helping to spread wear over a greater surface area without the need for major reconstruction.