

Turf BUSINESS

A cut above the rest

APRIL 2010

Kick starters



cover STORY

Sports turf contractor Agripower has been hard at work in Grimsby following a big cash boost to sports pitch facilities there



Utility vehicles are more than just run-arounds see page 8



Tackling the debris on Villa's synthetic training pitches see page 16



In action: the machines that do the aeration see page 28

£1.3 million pitches boost

SPORTS FACILITIES in Grimsby will soon be of a Premier League standard thanks to Agripower, the natural and artificial sports ground specialists who have continued to go from strength to strength in the last year with the imminent completion of a football pitches contract worth over £1.3million. The Bradley Road project, part-funded by North East Lincolnshire Council, Football Association and the Football Foundation, includes the construction of four natural and one synthetic pitches, plus a new pavilion. Agripower was awarded the contract last August and work started in early September on an irrigated, floodlit full size natural Premier pitch with seating, one full size fully floodlit 3G synthetic pitch to both Football Association and Football Foundation specifications, three full size natural training pitches which have been drained and sand ameliorated, attenuation for pavilion, car parks and all pitch works, site secure fencing systems for the whole area, turnstiles and stands. Excellent progress has been achieved on site largely due to the company's in-house resources of equipment and manpower. Firstly, the topsoil was stripped off all working areas before subsoil grading and the replacement of top soil was completed. A full drainage and irrigation system was installed along with concrete edgings, floodlight column bases, ducting and cables. The full sized natural pitch was then seeded in early October with Barenbrug's Bar 7, which has been specifically designed for rapid establishment and has an outstanding wear tolerance in or out of shaded areas. The synthetic pitch is also due to be finished ahead of schedule and is currently awaiting an upgrade to FIFA two star accreditation. Works included the topsoil being stripped, subsoil graded, drains installed, stone formation laid followed by all edgings, floodlight bases, path surrounds and fencing being installed. "Our intention was to hit the ground running and endeavour to complete the bulk of works before the onset of winter", commented Grant Holmes, Director of Agripower. "Whilst the weather has been mostly favourable, the real credit has to be given to all of our staff that has really pulled out all the stops".



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Break for cricket

Never have the green shoots taken longer to appear than this year - metaphorically and in reality. But April come she has. The mowers are buzzing and thousands of cricket squares up and down the country are being de-mothballed so to speak. Welcome news too is the near half a million pounds that the ECB is pumping into the IOG. The hope over the next four years is that this cash will make a real difference to pitch standards right down to grass roots level through a co-ordinated advisory set-up. Better pitches mean better playing standards and more wanting to play the game. A pitch-led revival in our fortunes at Test level could just be about to start. But maybe that's too much of a spin.

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