

Bunker building is revetting...

Greenkeepers at a South Yorkshire golf club have turned bunker building into a fine art using the revetting (or turf layering) or turf layering technique.

Led by Head Greenkeeper Kevin Kelsall, the five-man team at Doncaster Golf Club began rebuilding the bunkers last autumn and now, having completed 14, are waiting until the end of the growing season before starting the rest.

"We got better with each bunker," says Kevin. "The bunkers were in a bad state and although none of us had done the job before, we decided we'd tackle it ourselves. Basically, you build a wall of turf, laying it upside down until you get the height and shape you want. This creates the new bunker face."

Having drawn an exact replica of the new bunker base on the ground, 1 m long strips of turf are slit, across the width, every three or four inches so that the turf can be curved and fitted to shape. The first four layers are laid level; subsequent layers are tapered back one inch per layer, with the back having considerably more layers than the front. Each layer is backfilled with soil.

Lindum, which is supplying the club, has developed a method of



Left to right - Doncaster Golf Club's Kevin Butterworth, Billy Cooke, Tony Simpson, Kevin Kelsall and Mark Sneap

harvesting the turf in strips 290 mm wide instead of the usual 600 mm so that Kevin and his team are saved the time consuming task of cutting each strip lengthwise.

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Geofleece helps Carlisle United to Wembley final



While other clubs waited nervously to see how their ground sheets would cope with severe frost in late January/early February, the directors and players at Carlisle Utd FC could prepare for their four games in 11 days safe in the knowledge that the Geofleece Pitch Protection system could cope. And, by playing regularly, it gave the players that all-important match sharpness to enable them to earn their place in a Wembley Cup Final in March.

The Geofleece system, marketed by JMS Sport, is made from recycled plastic and an independent trial has showed it is able to keep out frost to -8 deg. The special honeycomb of soft fibres locks out the frost, traps in the ground heat and allows air flow. The system can be deployed over an entire pitch by eight people in an hour.

Carlisle Utd FC Director, John Nixon, said: "The loss of a game, particularly a Saturday fixture, means a considerable loss of revenue, even at League 1 level. We estimate it to be around £30,000. We also have to then cope with the resulting fixture backlog issues it gives us. The investment we made in the Geofleece system will be recouped within this season and the system will be available for use for many seasons to come."

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£1.3 million boost for sport as part of major overhaul

Sports facilities in Grimsby will be of a Premier League standard thanks to Agripower Contractors, a leading UK natural and artificial sports ground specialists, which will soon complete a £1.3 million plus contract at Bradley Road Football Pitches.

The project, which is part-funded by North East Lincolnshire Council, the Football Association and the Football Foundation, includes the construction of four natural pitches and one synthetic state-of-the-art pitch and a new pavilion.

Agripower was awarded the pitch contract, which included an irrigated, floodlit full-size natural Premier pitch with seating, a full-size floodlit 3G synthetic pitch, three full-size natural training pitches that 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.

First, the topsoil was stripped off all working areas before subsoil grading and the replacement of top soil. A full drainage and irrigation system was installed along with concrete edgings, floodlight column bases, ducting and cables. The full-size natural pitch was seeded in early October with Barenbrug's Bar 7, which is designed for rapid establishment and has outstanding wear tolerance in and out of shaded areas.

Work on the synthetic pitch - which is awaiting an upgrade to FIFA two star accreditation - included the topsoil being stripped, subsoil graded, drains installed, stone formation laid followed by all edgings, floodlight bases, path surrounds and fencing being installed.

Visit www.agripower.co.uk

