Wimbledon use Air2G2

Historically, there has been no solid tine aeration on The All England Lawn Tennis Club’s (AELTC) courts in the early part of the year, but that has changed with the Air2G2 Air Inject.
It is being used across the world with Royal Selangor Golf Club, Kuala Lumpur, Onwards Golf Club, Guam and Doha Golf Club, Qatar, all using it to heighten their aeration programmes.

Course superintendent at Royal Selangor Golf Club, Jack Cheong, has had two spells at the Malaysian club totalling 15-years and has vast experience with the wet climate and now aerates his greens with the Air2G2 on a weekly basis.

“We got our Air2G2 at the beginning of 2019, and it's mainly been used on our greens. They were quite compact under the surface where the traditional hollow tines could reach. The Air2G2 has helped break up this zone and improved the drainage throughout the profile and improved plant health.

“The compact size and weight of the machine has been especially beneficial when turning it in tight spots between the green and the bunkers. Those two factors also contribute to the minimal disruption element, and that allows us to use our machines regularly without fear of disrupting golfers, and that has meant we can use it on a weekly basis.”

On average, Kuala Lumpur receives 2500mm of rainfall, making effective aeration vital to keeping the course open for golfers. A practice green (above) has been used for a long-term trial of the Air2G2, with the left side of the green untouched and the right portion receiving weekly aeration with the machine.

For Jack, it’s clear there’s been a definite improvement in the drainage characteristics during heavy downpours, which has helped play resume quicker after heavy rainfall.

“A new Dakota 410 and Vredo Overseeder have produced impressive results at The Irvine Golf Club in Scotland.

The Campey™ Turf Care Systems machines were supplied through The Double A Trading Co and their representative Adrian Gardner, to Derek Wilson who has been the head greenkeeper at the James Braid designed links for 33-years. The attributes of the Dakota and Vredo were the main reasons behind Derek’s decision but the service from Campey product specialist, Richard Heywood, was equally as important.

“We’re very pleased with the two machines, and we’re pleased with the back-up and how Richard has attended to us,” Derek explained. “We’ve noticed a difference in the spread, and we get the greens done a lot quicker now. One fill does three greens, it’s quick to move around the golf course, and we can spread light or heavy if we want to, so it gives us the option to do what’s best for the course.

“We had some first-hand experience with the Vredo because we borrowed one from a local golf course and I was really pleased with the results. The seed came through quickly, and there was very little wastage. We’ve had our own one for six months now, and it’s been out on the course, and we’re very pleased with the results on the areas we’ve used it on.”
After assessing the TopDrain Esdav director of operations, Lasse Jensen purchased a machine through Campey Portuguese dealer Torre Marco – Algarve Estrada Nacional and proceeded with work on the fairways. “In the Algarve, we have French drains everywhere and, in some circumstances, we need to reinforce with secondary drainage,” he said.

Thatch is a common issue, and it often causes problems with surface drainage, especially when there is a heavy downpour. It has been encountered many times by Esdav who has been building, rebuilding and modifying local golf courses since the mid-80s, working all over Portugal and southern Spain.

Recently, one of their clients, Quinta do Lago, suggested the TopDrain 1000 might be the ideal machine to implement a secondary drainage system on their fairways. The renowned Portuguese golf resort hosts three world-class courses in the North Course, which was redesigned in 2014 by Beau Welling and Paul McGinley, the South Course that overlooks the Ria Formosa National and the award-winning Laranjal Course.

“Our client, Quinta do Lago, had been having some issues with drainage on their fairways and expressed an interest in using the TopDrain and after assessing the machine, we were happy to use it. “It’s a quick machine to operate, and we definitely saved a lot of labour time. The turf also recovers very quickly, so overall it makes installing secondary drainage a straightforward and easy process.

“After using it, we noticed immediate improvements in drainage and we’re looking forward to seeing how the fairways perform throughout winter.”

Installing a secondary drainage system is simple with the TopDrain. It trenches, removes spoil, injects sand and re-compacts the surface in one operation. The sand grid it creates drains exceptionally well on its own and links the surface to existing primary drainage. The overall operation saves labour time while providing faster processing times and less surface contamination than conventional methods.

The machine works to a depth between 15-225mm and uses three 40mm thick blades at 100cm spacings during operation. The sand slitting method prevents sinking and shrinkage in hot weather, making it perfect for use in the Algarve and during the summer in the United Kingdom.

Esdav Experience
Immediate Fairway Drainage Improvements with the Imants TopDrain1000

The mixture of heavy spells of rainfall and warm season grasses in the Algarve, Portugal, can make for challenging drainage conditions but landscape contractor, Esdav, has used the TopDrain 1000 with immediate improvements.

What is it?
Tractor mounted, artificial decompactor / rotary scarifier

Key benefits:
Decompress rubber crumb, thins out grass without leaving lines

Potential Users:
Contractors, football clubs, sports clubs, tennis, cricket and more!

Available from: Now

Product literature available at campeyturfcare.com

New Product Announcement Campey™ Uni-Scratch™
For six years Feyenoord head groundsman, Erwin Beltman, has evolved pitch maintenance at Rotterdam’s biggest football club, and having his own Koro® FIELDTOPMAKER® (FTM®) with Universe® Rotor is the latest part of his plan.

During his time at the club, he and his team have been awarded the Eredivisie Pitch of the Year five times in a row from 2014-2018 for the surface at De Kuip. When he joined the club, after spending eight years at the Royal Hague Golf and Country Club, a majority of work including renovations was done by contractors.

This caused certain irritations around scheduling and often left his plans at the mercy of the weather, but as the club has progressed, they have invested in machinery, and the grounds team are now able to carry out their own renovations.

“When I started six years ago, the club didn’t have enough money for machines, and they didn’t know what the club would be in six years. We had fewer machines, and we did everything using contractors, that included, using the Kroo FTM, aerating and seeding. I’d have to call a contractor and hope that it would be good weather to do the job and it really irritated me sometimes. If you say you want to do the work on a Monday you have to call up the week before, and the weather in Holland isn’t predictable, so for me, it was a problem.

“I wanted to be able to do everything by myself, and over the six years, we’ve got all of our own machines. This summer we have made some good investments, including the Koro® FTM®. The Koro® is particularly useful because it has the Universe® rotor which was developed for renovation use on natural and Desso pitches leaving a perfect surface to carry on with the rest of the renovation processes. As we have three Desso pitches and three natural, we can now do our own work on them. Last summer we did three, but in the future when the new academy is finished, we will use the Koro® on six pitches. We can start whenever we want, go as late as we want and do two pitches in one day, so it’s all in our own hands.”

In August 2018 construction began on the new Feyenoord Academy and Sports Club Feyenoord. During this time the club has had to use some amateur pitches which have also been renovated using the Koro® FTM®. With help from Campey dealer, Heybroek, Erwin and his team used the machine for the first time themselves on a hybrid first-team pitch before using it on the amateur pitches, and the results across all surfaces have been impressive.

“Last summer we did the first pitch at 1908, the first team training facilities, and it was the first one we did by ourselves with the machine. It was very exciting, but we were very nervous about how the machine works and how we would do it, but the results were very nice to see. It was easy to use, and we got a lot of good advice from Heybroek, and they spent a lot of time with us and advising us – I know a lot about grass but not about the machines so that combination was good.

“After that, because we haven’t finished building the new academy, we renovated two amateur pitches. We were able to do both in one day starting from half six and ending at five, and they were cleaner than they’ve ever been before. The results were phenomenal.

“it’s 40 or 50% better than last year and for that pitch, it’s really satisfying

“One of the amateur pitches is a really, really old Desso and it was quite satisfying to see how the Koro® worked on that because every year there were problems on that pitch with the contractor. It’s an Under-19s pitch which they use for training, and they love it now. I think it’s 40 or 50% better than last year and for that pitch, it’s really satisfying.”

Product literature available at campeyturfcare.com
ID Verde has added a second Omarv Venezia to their fleet of mowing machines after five years of impressive results in London’s Regents Park.

A second contract in Northampton which required a cut and collect mower for large areas prompted ID Verde’s group head of assets and fleet management, Angus Lindsay, to purchase another Venezia from Campey™ Turf Care Systems through their dealer George Browns one of the UK’s leading grounds care machinery dealership.

Over the five years of use at Regents Park Angus has been impressed by the time users save when using the mower as well as the cut, collection and presentation qualities of the Italian made machine. He said: “We bought our first one for Regents Park back in 2014 because it was high capacity, very strong and it did exactly what it said on the tin.

“With cut and collect machines there’s a lot of vacuum options about which are great but the cutting units on them are a bit weak and the materials we were looking to cut were meadow grass and that sort of thing, so we needed something robust.

“When we cut and collect on the meadow grass on Primrose Hill it gives us a fantastic striped finish which is the kind of presentation they didn’t get with the previous machines they had. In central London people like to see everything immaculately turned out so it’s great for us to be able to do that.

“We got another Venezia last year for a contract in Northampton where again we had a lot of meadow grass to cut and a lot of leaves to collect. Another reason for getting the machine at Regents Park was for leaf collection and we could wind row leaves because it has a big flail head on it which chops them up and takes them all on board.

“Time saving is an important factor because in Northampton we are covering massive areas, but we can send one man out and cover the same area as two smaller machines without compromising on quality because the Omarv is a high-performance cut and collect machine, so everybody is happy with what it does.”

As well as being impressed by the machine for a prolonged period of time, Angus also commends the backup service from Campey™.

“We did have a few issues with the mower but the back up from Campey™ has been very good, even if it’s been of our own making, there’s no finger pointing it’s just let’s get you fixed and get you back on the road,” Angus explained.

“I think the understanding of what we do and the backup we require is something that Campey™ and their suppliers do very well. One example of this is when we needed parts and they had them flown in from Italy overnight, so we were back on the road within 36-hours.”
At the time, Istvan was a horticulture and landscape engineer, and after working in Austria for three years decided he wanted to move into growing turf. Knowing that the information and machinery he needed was available in the United Kingdom, he contacted companies in the UK with Richard being the first to respond. Istvan explained: “Richard replied to me very quickly, probably within minutes. He invited us to visit Campey™ so I travelled with a translator to England and aimed to learn as much as I could. “At the time, all I could ask was ‘what can I use this machine for?’ but Richard was very patient with me, and our working relationship continued from there. In the following years, I was invited to Slovenia, Czech Republic and Scotland to meet groundsmen, see a lot of different stadia and learn. I was also introduced to Carl Pass and John Woodfall from Premier Pitches Ltd and learnt a lot about renovations and building pitches from them. “From there, we started to organise demos and renovation days in Hungary to build the knowledge of Hungarian groundsmen and show them the importance of good renovations, which we are now seeing the benefit of.” Istvan started his business by buying second-hand machines from Campey and eventually bought the first Koro® FIELDTOPMAKER® and Imants Shockwave® into Hungary to focus on pitch construction.

Now, Premier Pitches Kft are a Campey dealer as well as constructing football pitches and installing hybrid SISGRASS systems. The fleet of Campey machines the company has enables them to carry out these projects without the need for subcontractors which streamlines their operation.

So far, they have completed projects at 50 different sites in Hungary including the Groupama Arena, the home of the Hungarian national football team, and continue to strengthen their reputation in the professional sports turf market.
Campey Machines used to Prepare Pitches for 2019 Rugby World Cup

From September to November 2019 international rugby teams from 20 countries will battle it out in Japan in the Rugby World Cup on pitches prepared using Campey Turf Care Systems machines.

It is the first time the tournament has taken place outside of Europe and the Southern Hemisphere with 12 stadia including The Sapporo Dome, International Stadium Yokohama and City of Tokyo stadium set to host 48 games in six weeks. Because of the demands placed on the turf by rugby preparation was key and having the best machinery available to establish the pitches was crucial.

Campey’s dealer in Japan, Toyo Green, took delivery of an Air2G2, Campey Aeraseeder and Vredo Turf Fix in the build-up to the tournament to help deliver international standard pitches. Each of the three machines play crucial roles in pitch development and maintenance with the Vredo Turf Fix able to aerate, overseed and spread sand while the Air2G2 has been used to provide aeration before and after games to prevent compaction in heavily used areas during matches.

KORO® FTM® Becomes Regular Fixture in Loughborough University’s Cricket Maintenance Programme

After using their old Koro FIELDTOPMAKER® (KORO® FTM®) to renovate cricket squares last year, Loughborough University has made their new machine a permanent fixture in their cricket maintenance programme.

Chris Bitten has been the lead cricket groundsman at the university for just under a year, and after successfully using the Koro® FTM® on some of the squares for the first time in 2018, he was eager to see what the upgraded machine could do on the hybrid surfaces.

“We’ve got some hybrid pitches on our cricket squares, and we’ve been looking to see how using the Koro® affects the fibres in the stitched pitches that we’ve got,” he explained. “The results have been good, so it’s something that’ll become part of our general maintenance every couple of years.”

So far, Chris has used the Koro® FTM® with the Universe® rotor, which is specifically designed to remove organic debris from hybrid grass pitches without causing any damage to the synthetic fibres. 3mm, 5mm and 10mm blades are available with each set taking off a different percentage of the surface from 15% to 100%.

He added: “Against methods we’ve previously used it takes more of the surface off, so it’s just purely new grass that comes up the next year. You get a more uniformed grass coverage with it, and with that, we’re hoping the squares next year will look really good because what little thatch is left over on the cricket wickets at the end of the season is gone.”

Product literature available at campeyturfcare.com
The main reason for the introduction is disease management. With certain pesticides going off the market, the AELTC’s Head of Courts and Horticulture Neil Stubley, began looking at alternative ways to manage disease, with increased aeration coming out on top.

Neil explained: “We decided to look at an alternative to how we manage disease with some of the pesticides that are coming off the market. We then started looking at some modern aeration devices to see if we could creep into January and February with spiking just to help us. We have a routine – we have a monthly wetting.

Wimbledon use Air2G2 for Winter Aeration and Topdressing Trial

Historically, there has been no solid tine aeration on The All England Lawn Tennis Club’s (AELTC) courts in the early part of the year, but that has changed with the Air2G2 Air Inject.

Product literature available at campyturfcare.com
agent programme, a monthly turf hardener – it’s a calcium, Magnesium, potassium and iron mix – and it’s all about plant health and making sure the leaf is as dry as it can be. Then we started thinking about finding a spiker that can fit in with that programme.

“We’ve seen the Air2G2 around for a couple of years, and we’ve been monitoring it. Because of the nature of the beast with The Championships we historically have a policy where we don’t do solid spiking or solid aeration after Christmas. If we start spiking through January, February and March what will happen during the second week of The Championships, because the courts become so hard, and clay soil to a certain extent has a bit of a memory to it, is it starts to dry out and stress, and you tend to find the spike holes start to show and open up as the soil shrinks.

“So last year we put it in the budget for a form of spiker and then a contractor who has an Air2G2 brought it down and demo-ed it for us on one of our courts, and we liked it. The spacings weren’t really close that you would have a lot of holes opening up on the surface, but you had the benefit of when the spikes go in and punch the air through, you’re actually breaking up the soil but further down the profile, so we’re hoping that by doing that it would destress it more.

“We got our own machine around Christmas 2018 and put a programme together. We did all the courts in January and did a second follow-up round in February. It’s hard to compare on one year what sort of benefit it had because we had a fairly dry winter whereas the previous winter in this area was fairly wet. By nature, our clay soil doesn’t drain quickly, so if we do get a lot of rain it does pool on the surface, and it takes time for it to disperse. Over the second and third year, we’ll have more data to relate back to. Although the surface dryness was very good this winter and we didn’t have any pooling, we didn’t have much rain either, so it’s hard to compare at this stage, but it’s only going to benefit because it’s getting a good depth down at nine inches and so far, so good.”

Although the machine was brought in for disease management, its attributes for working in wet conditions have proved useful, and other trials have been put in place to see if it can aid top dressing during renovations.

“This year we’re going to trial it before we do top dressing. In the past, we’ve only done one solid tine aeration which is normally at the renovation stage,” Neil explained. “After that, it’s just regular Sarroll rolling to keep the surface open. We’re thinking this year that before we do our annual top dressing through the end of September into October, we’ll put the Air2G2 through it first to give it that second opening and alleviate it before we put the dressing down and do the final levels. We want to do it to see what benefits, if any, there are.

“One of our challenges, when we’ve looked at aeration, it’s only going to benefit because it’s getting a good depth down at nine inches and so far, so good.

“Using the Air2G2 has given Neil and his team flexibility with aeration. They now have the option to inject air into sections of courts and can easily use the machine along the backs of the courts in-between monthly spiking. There has also been a focus on areas near hedgerows and buildings that get covered by shade.
Jordans Sports Ground Solutions has seen an improvement in ball bounce consistency on cricket wickets where they have removed thatch using the Koro® FIELDTOPMAKER® (Koro® FTM®).

In summer 2018, the contractor started using their new 1.6. Koro® FTM® with Universe® rotor to remove thatch from cricket squares as well as saddles. A year later, reports back from clubs have signalled improvements and Jordan’s managing director, Ian Jordan, thinks using a Koro® FTM® to renovate cricket squares will soon become the norm.

“A lot of cricket squares have a build-up of thatch, and it’s a quick and more accurate method of removing it from the surface down to whatever millimetres we need to go to,” Ian said. “We’ve had some good feedback about the squares that it has been used on. We’ve been told the bounce has improved and there’s more consistency in the bounce now the thatch has been removed so the feedback has been good.

“Customers have also been happy with the removal of saddles where loam has built up over the years. I’d say it’s a better way to remove saddles than the previous methods we’ve used because it’s more accurate.”

So far, the Koro® FTM® has proved itself to be extremely versatile and effective on all grass surfaces. Jordans has used it on tennis courts, rugby pitches and natural and hybrid football pitches among other surfaces with positive results.

Vredo Completes Over Seeding Dream Team at Hillside Golf Club

In 2018 Hillside Golf Club was given six months to prepare their links for the 2019 British Masters, hosted by local European Tour professional Tommy Fleetwood.

In November 2018, European Tour agronomist, Eddie Adams, told Hillside they needed more seed in their fairways which meant seeding during winter – making the Vredo Super Compact 1.2 Overseeder DZ 212.035 the best machine for the job.

“Having the Vredo alongside our other seeder was a great overseeding combination,” Chris said. “The Tour came in November and told us we needed to seed through the winter to give us the best possible coverage on the fairways. We were already winning the battle with products we were using from Consolidate Turf, and they were recovering, but the club was prepared to spend money on a seeder and the seed to fill both of them because they wanted to get the course looking as good as it could for the event.

“We were putting fescue out with the Vredo in February, and there was a lot of top dressing to stop any cracking if it turned out to be a dry spring. We were lucky that we could use our easily accessible source of dune sand for that, so there was never a worry for us that it would work, only if it would germinate. The Vredo can push the seed into the ground as deep as you want to go, so you can make sure the seed is well in there, and sure enough, it all germinated. We had a debrief meeting yesterday with the tour, and nobody complained about the fairways, and there were no negatives about the course at all.”
In March 2019, the Slatter Group added White Horse Contractors to their organisation to enhance their natural turf construction and renovation portfolio. As part of the acquisition, David Smith was installed as managing director from his previous position at the Slatter Group and began sourcing new machines.

With a particular focus on pitch construction and renovations, the list of machines included a Dakota Turf Tender 440, Vredo DZ 225.75, Koro® Speed Harrow and two CAMPEY Speedressers. Both CAMPEY machines have played a vital role in the new build constructions completed this summer.

The drop-spreader is designed to handle all top dressing material. Its high work rate enables it to spread up to depths of 2mm-75mm in one pass while the four flotation tyres minimise the risk of turf damage and compaction.

David had to consider numerous factors, including build quality and operator feedback, along with speed of delivery. This was vital to ensure that planned projects could begin on time.

“We looked at the market to compare the available equipment. The operators and I preferred what Campey could offer us,” David explained. “We based our decision on operator feedback, because I think it’s essential to listen to the people that use the machines on a day to day basis. Service and customer support were also key in our decision-making process.

“We had outstanding service from Ben Taylor and Campey, and I was impressed with their ability to do the deal and deliver the products quickly. We needed a quick turn around with the new equipment to get started on projects and Ben delivered a lot of the equipment direct to site, even commissioning some on site himself, to enable us to hit client deadlines this summer.

“White Horse Contractors have a fantastic reputation in the sports turf and drainage industry and we want to build upon the 60 years of experience held by the company. By investing in our machinery fleet, this will allow us to ensure we deliver the level of service that our clients expect. The five-year investment plan is a strong foundation for our growth plans in the future.”

White Horse Contractors has invested in a fleet of Campey™ machines as the first part of a major five-year investment plan.

As a company, Campey™ offers support to numerous grassroots sports initiatives, and in Ireland that is focused on the GAA National Maintenance Workgroup.

Campey™ area manager (Ireland, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia), Brian O’Shaughnessy, heads up the company’s involvement in this programme that concentrates on improving the education of Irish groundsmen.

GAA National Maintenance Workgroup

It is run by Croke Park pitch manager, Stuart Wilson, Padharic Greene, groundsman at the GAA National Games Centre and Colm Daly, groundsman at Croke Park as well as other GAA groundsmen. Many education days take place as well as working days, one of which took place in July 2018 at Geraldines GFC Louth to demonstrate the difference a proper renovation can make.

“We’ve brought the pitch back to a new pitch, and the maintenance programme is vital after that,” Brian said. “You’ve got to maintain it properly. You’ve got to top dress it and scarify it. If it isn’t maintained properly, you go back to square one and 25mm of organic matter build-up, and the pitch will become wet and not drain properly, and grass won’t survive in it.”

Kieran McGann of the national maintenance workgroup added: “We have a number of sponsors and experts here working on this day. People can come here and see the most modern machinery and showcasing this to the GAA and GAA officials throughout the country is invaluable.”
Before travelling to the TPI event, the Campey™ sales team spent two days at the Dakota factory, gaining valuable insight into the popular top dressers. 2019 has also seen the team exhibit in Sweden, The Netherlands and Germany as well as taking the renovation tour back on the road, completing golf specific dates at Clitheroe Golf Club and Prestbury Golf Club while also taking grassroots groundsmen through a renovation at Newcastle Town Football Club. In Europe, a demonstration tour, led by Brian O’Shaughnessy, travelled through the Czech Republic and Slovenia as well as a demonstration week in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Tennis has also been on the agenda in 2019 with delegates at Wimbledon getting the chance to see the new Koro® FIELDTOPMAKER® with Terraplane® rotor in action as part of the two-day Grass Court Seminar.

Campey™ on Show

Throughout 2019 Campey™ Turf Care System has exhibited at trade shows across the world, including BTME, National Grasdag in Belgium and the Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) Summer Convention and Field Day.

Imants QuickDrain

**What is it?**
Secondary drainage tool which attaches to the RootPruner® to allow sand slits.

**Key benefits:**
Assist drainage, helps to dry out wet areas. Ideal for high traffic areas.

**Potential Users:**
Contractors, golf courses.

**Available from:** Now

Product literature available at campeyturfcare.com

Get in touch

If you have any questions or require more information don’t hesitate to get in touch, call +44 (0)1260 224568, visit www.campeyturfcare.com, email info@campeyturfcare.com or write to Campey Turf Care Systems, Marton Hall Lane, Marton, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 9HG.

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