

Dakota 410 the Obvious Choice for La Grande Mare Golf Club

When it came to purchasing a new spreader as part of their machinery replacement programme, the Dakota 410 from Campey Turf Care Systems was the obvious choice for La Grande Mare Golf Club.

The Guernsey based course was undergoing an extensive replacement programme that covered all types of machinery from aerators, spreaders and utility vehicles with the aim of getting the most out of each piece of equipment. The overall aim of the programme has been to increase the control of the greens by opening them up and carrying out regular maintenance on them, and the Dakota 410, along with the Air2G2 Air Inject, has been a crucial part of that.

In his previous role abroad in Asia, course manager Rick Hamilton had used the combination of a John Deere Pro Gator 2030A and Dakota 410 to great effect and decided to replicate that with the electrically calibrated dual-spinner discharge system.

“The 410 was always the obvious choice for me because I’ve used it in the past and I’m familiar with the performance and quality that the machine offers,” Rick explains. “I did look at other options, but I think the 410 with the Gator is probably one of the best combinations you can have.

“A new thing for me on the updated 410 is the electronic calibration controls. I was impressed with that when I was setting it up, it’s a feature that I like and once I got the machine, I did some calibrating and testing to best suit the applications that I was going to be using. We’d just finished aerating and seeding and were going to go with a heavy topdressing, so to be able to work out the calibrations and know they’d be exactly the same each time was especially useful. It’s important that the greens get the same amount of inputs so we can get consistency.

“When I get a new machine I always make a file that includes the settings for various applications. That way whoever uses the machine knows to open the sand trap to six on the back, knows what the speed settings and conveyor settings should be and it can be the same every time. That’s what I thought was great because it gives us consistency and we know it’s going to put out one ton of sand per green or whatever we’re using, so the calibration will always be spot on.”

The Dakota 410 has been built to deliver consistency. The electronic control box allows users to set their width of spread an infinitely variable amount between 3.5m and 13.0m while ensuring that it can be changed and returned to that width at any time. It can handle both wet and dry materials allowing light to heavy dressing and is well suited for use on greens because of its size.