

### We're in the News

#### GI INDUSTRY UPDATE Sept 15



### AGRONOMIC SERVICES TEAM UP WITH WOLVES

BIGGA Education Supporters Agronomic Services Ltd are delighted to announce their joint seminar with 'Wolves'. Wayne Lumbar, Head Groundsman at Wolverhampton Wanderers FC will be opening the doors to the Molineux Stadium with the chance to enjoy an informal Q&A session on the pitch and a demonstration of the lighting rigs and spray techniques.

Jason Booth will be guest speaker representing the IOG and David Snowden of Agronomic Services Ltd will present the "Importance of Oxygen" as well as discussing the pros and cons

of foliar, granular and soil liquid feeds.

All this will be followed by the opportunity to socialise and share views with colleagues over a complimentary lunch.

"We are really looking forward to the day and want to give as many industry colleagues as possible the chance to see this wonderful Stadium and pitch steeped in football history" said David Snowden, Managing Director of Agronomic Services Ltd.

To register for the event to be held on Tuesday 20 October, please email [dpsfpg@aol.com](mailto:dpsfpg@aol.com) or telephone 01765 658021



Wayne Lumbar, Head Groundsman Wolverhampton Wanderers

#### Greenkeeping May 15

##### Agronomic Services

It is widely acknowledged in the sports turf industry that mycorrhizal fungi and beneficial bacteria are symbiotic with healthy turf.

So now all the guess work and time consuming techniques for producing 'bugs' has been bypassed with Floratine's new unique product EON BIO.

EON BIO is a 'time capsule' release of humic acid containing mycorrhiza fungi and exact quantities of beneficial bacteria in a prill form. Easy to use with top dressing and granular fertiliser.

Floratine has always pioneered cutting



edge science and been the leader in its field and it has established specifically with EON BIO by identifying those bacteria proven to benefit the soils.

EON BIO is not compost derived but specifically cultured and this is what sets it apart from any other product currently on the market.

Should customers wish to order online the EON BIO and the Floratine range, they are available via Agronomic Services new website and online shop for those who prefer the on-line shopping experience.

If any technical advice is required then Agronomic Services is always happy to talk to customers old and new.

Web: [www.agronomics.co.uk](http://www.agronomics.co.uk)

#### the Groundsman Oct 15



### Agronomic Services makes its debut

Agronomic Services (stand A110) is exhibiting at for the first time and the firm's David Snowden is also a guest speaker on "The Importance of Oxygen", at 1pm on Wednesday 4 November.

David goes on to say: "We are the oxygen specialists for water and soil, this is a passion of mine as I know that if we improve the microbial life this in turn increases root mass and fertiliser efficiency."

Agronomic Services believes in an integrated approach to turf management, including the reduction of fungicides and accurate soil and water diagnostics.





# AGRONOMIC SERVICES LTD

## Specialist in sports turf nutrition

How a passionate co-owner, together with the greenkeeping team, triggered a turnaround in fortunes for a club in South Yorkshire

AGRONOMIC  
SERVICES LTD Specialist in sports  
turf nutrition

BIGGA  
clubmaker supporter

Greenkeeper International Sept 15

## At home on the Grange

Grange Park Golf Club is an 18 hole, par 71 parkland course located in Rotherham. Its Fred Hawtree design was completed in 1972 and it opened as a municipal course.

Speaking to co-owner Richard Townley, it's evident that his passion for the golf course has resulted in a huge turnaround for the Club during the last ten years. He learnt to play on the course as a boy beginning at 12 years of age on a £7 ticket, his first lessons taught by the club professional Eric Clark who is still on hand to pass on his skills today.

Grange Park also has the good fortune to work closely with Peter Cowen – one of Europe's leading golf coaches – as his Golf Academy and Driving Range is located on the original Grange Park site.

Richard has enormous enthusiasm for the game of golf and so co-owning the golf course really is a dream come true.

In 2005 new life breathed into Grange Park. Richard and his business associate Steve Gillott acquired the golf course and it emerged as a private club with a year on year investment totalling in excess of £1.3 million.

During tough economic times and when other clubs are struggling to gain new members, Grange Park is thriving and continues to grow. A busy function suite and clubhouse is well supported, due to quality entertainment and fun events. These have all contributed to the financial wellbeing of the club, which in turn means that investment in the golf course is viable.

Grange Park is also licensed as a wedding venue with its perfect setting. Weddings are now conducted at the club and the first ceremony took place in August. Celebrations

ABOVE: Richard, David and Steve discussing tournament preparation

are held in the newly erected marquee overlooking the 9th hole, with spectacular views of the Yorkshire countryside towards Sheffield and beyond.

February 2013 saw Grange Park and Agronomic Services Ltd first meet when David Snowden conducted an Educational Seminar in conjunction with BIGGA.

The event – held at Grange Park – was very well supported by BIGGA members and everyone who attended learnt more about "The Importance of Oxygen".

Following on from that day, the two decided to work together.



It became clear that the team at Grange Park really wanted to make a change and this represented a challenging period for the Head Greenkeeper Steve Pickering and his team. He and his colleagues adopted new methods including foliar feeding and together with David Snowden they have tackled several issues with very pleasing results.

The desire to take the golf course to the next level and make the overall golfing experience even better meant that Richard was keen to use Floratine Product's new technology and this is why he chose to work with David.

Richard said: "David's expertise and level of service is second to none, and he is always available at the end of the phone day and night. It's wonderful to have that support."

Soil and water samples were taken and analysed using Analyrac which is the most comprehensive independent testing available to the sports turf industry.

This enabled David to diagnose with accuracy specific areas that needed addressing. A road map was created for the team with the aim of improving the efficiency of the root zone and plant health and this has led to dramatic results.

One of the most significant changes to the agronomic approach has been the considerable reduction in fungicide with only one preventative spray in 12 months. The need to hollow core has also been reduced resulting in less disruption of play.

This has been achieved with the introduction of a cultural approach using new products such as Coy Rush and Thatch Buster to combat Thatch and Elack Layer combined with proactive Greenkeeping practices.

Steve has embraced the spray techniques and said: "The spray plans are easy to follow and tank mixing is simple using a number system to ensure perfect results every time." Steve's personal pride in the course and enjoyment of the job is evident.

He communicates regularly with David and a spray schedule is in place which is continually updated to fit in with the weather and needs of the club.

Steve left the mining industry to begin his career in greenkeeping and has continued to gain qualifications throughout his time working in the industry.

With this new approach Steve has taken the time to learn about foliar feeding and Floratine products and the greens are continually improving.

When you ask Richard about the secret to success at Grange Park in a time when many clubs are looking for answers he refers to a hands on approach, how he still enjoys cutting the grass alongside the rest of the greenkeeping team and how the whole family are involved in the operation.

It's clear too that Richard has a head for business and we are delighted to learn that "revenues are up by 30% on green fees since working with Agronomic Services Ltd."

Richard added: "Fantastic feedback from visiting societies also reinforces the visible results achieved since our decision to work with David."

As we come to the end of our visit three teenagers arrive on a green to hole their putts, immaculately dressed and observing true golfing etiquette.

It's clear to us that the future at Grange Park is secure for the next generation of golfers.