

Spring 2026

News for turfcare and grounds management professionals

NEWSLINES



When the solution is Toro

ROBOTIC MOWING FOR THONOCK

Club reports back on Toro Turf Pro's performance

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A Toro Total Solution for four clubs starting with our cover star Cabot Highlands

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ENTRUSTED BY AFC BOURNEMOUTH

New Toro fleet for new Performance Centre

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**We knew we needed Toro
to guarantee success.**

James Hutchison
Course Manager, Cabot Highlands Golf Club



LAY OF THE LINKS GETS UPDATED AT CABOT HIGHLANDS

Front cover from left ↖
Mike Turnbull, Reesink Scotland; John Mooney, The Toro Company; Robert Jackson, Reesink Hydro-Scapes; James Hutchison, Cabot Highlands Golf Club; Simon Squires, The Toro Company and Jon Cole, Reesink Turfcare.

From left →
Cabot Highlands' James Hutchison, centre, with Reesink's Jon Cole, right, and Mike Turnbull.



Toro machinery and irrigation instrumental in course build and maintenance.

For Cabot Highlands' Course Manager James Hutchison a new course build, world-class golf conditions to maintain and a reputation to uphold are all part of the day job. Luckily, with a Toro Total Solutions agreement, he has a fleet of Toro machinery, a new irrigation system and backup support from Reesink Scotland to make the job easier.

The Castle Stuart course has long been a Toro customer with both Toro machinery and irrigation maintaining the acclaimed links in Inverness and now the new Old Petty course, designed by renowned architect Tom Doak, will be too.

James comments: "There are over eight Cabot-managed courses across the world using Toro, but we still did extensive research and testing when it came to deciding what would work best for our new course and how to bring the latest technology onto our Castle Stuart course.

"With so much riding on the opening as well as maintaining Castle Stuart's position in the top 100, we knew we needed Toro's finest cutting equipment to guarantee success and allow us to continue competing for our place."

The latest machinery order, which includes four Toro Reelmaster 3555-D mowers, two Greensmaster TriFlex 3420 mowers, a ProCore 648s aerator, ProPass 200 topdresser and Multi Pro 5800 with GeoLink have all been chosen with the specifics of the new course front and foremost says James. And when it came to which irrigation system to install on the new Old Petty course, James opted for the Lynx Central Control System with Infinity sprinklers.

"We open officially in April 2026 and we're currently growing the grass," James explains. "For the delicate stage we're in, precision is key, and Toro has delivered

that from the 2000 pop up sprinklers with targeted watering with negligible water waste to the combination of the lightweight Reelmasters and the hybrid TriFlexes with no risk of hydraulic leaks.

"We're about to start topdressing using the ProPass and 5000 tons of sand and spraying in wetting agents. The accuracy of the GeoLink with sprayer means we're not wasting a drop of the expensive product; it's all going exactly where it needs to and not putting the grass under unnecessary stress due to over spraying."

Also aiding in the period of growing in the grass was the irrigation system says Robert Jackson, Division Manager at Reesink Hydro-Scapes: "We needed to be able to establish the grass species quite quickly. Having the correct irrigation system with the correct control and application meant we could assist in the whole process. With the input of the installer and consultant and Reesink's experience on the irrigation products we were able to make sure the client achieved what they required from a system."

By choosing Toro from Reesink Scotland, James is guaranteed the backup and support from the UK distributor: "We have a team of 23, which will go up to 30 with the requirements of the new course in mind, so we need to know the equipment can support them," he says. "We don't need any downtime or delays for repairs and Reesink's support to our on-site mechanic will be a vital service." ■

More from some of our Toro Total Solutions customers can be found on pages 8 and 9!

“We are delighted to be chosen to partner Cabot Highlands at the highly prestigious courses at Castle Stuart. We look forward to meeting and exceeding James' expectations and supporting their whole business from our new depot near Elgin.

Mike Turnbull
Branch Manager, Reesink Scotland



DISCOVER MORE, WATCH THE VIDEO!

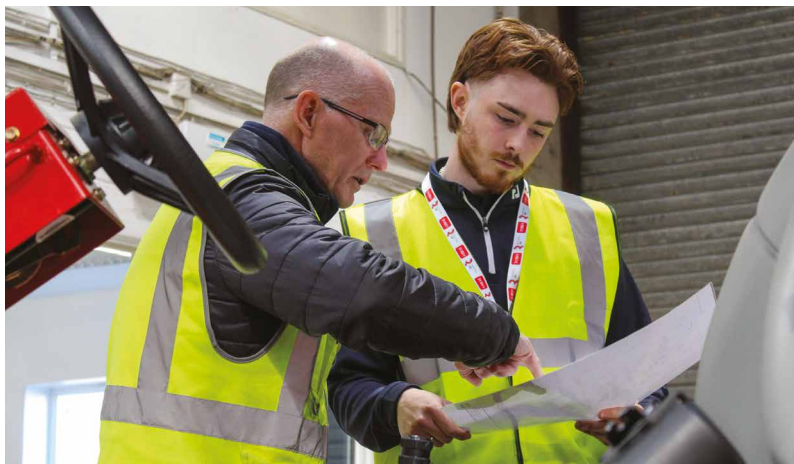




LEADING FROM EXPERIENCE



Alastair Black on shaping the future of technical training at Reesink



At the heart of Reesink's commitment to excellence is its technical and training department – the driving force behind customer support, service innovation and developing the next generation of turfcare engineers.

Leading that team is Alastair Black, who has embodied the Reesink ethos for nearly a decade: blending technical expertise, customer care and a focus on bridging the industry's skills gap.

Today, as Reesink's new Technical Support and Training Manager, he oversees a growing network of engineers, dealer partners, and apprentices, ensuring every customer receives the world-class technical support Reesink is known for.

A comprehensive understanding of the industry

"My career has been shaped by a lifetime of experience in mechanical and technical roles, beginning with my apprenticeship as a toolmaker. Every step has helped me understand what customers really need: reliability, expertise and trust," Alastair reflects.

Supporting champions

"The Open is a highlight every year," he says. "There's no margin for error –

every piece of machinery has to perform perfectly, and our support team has to be ready for anything. It's high-pressure, but incredibly rewarding."

Those events showcase the very best of Reesink's partnership with customers – a combination of precision, preparation and teamwork that underpins the company's reputation in the professional turfcare world.

Training the next generation

One of Alastair's biggest passions is training and developing new talent. He's leading initiatives designed to attract, train and retain skilled engineers at a time when the industry faces a significant skills shortage.

Through Reesink's comprehensive training programmes, covering everything from Toro machinery maintenance to emerging technologies, Alastair is helping to build a sustainable future for turfcare. A key part of this strategy is the development of a new, purpose-built training school in St Neots, designed from the ground up to foster practical skills.

"The new school is all about very hands-on training," Alastair notes. "We want people in the workshop,

learning skills on the machines themselves. It's about giving them a safe environment to learn, where they can experience things first-hand and gain real-world confidence."

"We're tackling the skills gap head-on," he continues. "That means inspiring young people to see turfcare as a career, not just a job. We want to equip them with technical skills, but also the confidence and pride that come with being part of something that keeps the industry moving."

Reesink's approach combines traditional apprenticeship routes with advanced technical training and mentoring. The result is a pipeline of skilled, motivated engineers ready to support customers nationwide.

Keeping pace with innovation

From autonomous fairway mowers to connected diagnostic tools, the pace of innovation in turfcare is accelerating.

"Technology is moving fast, and our role is to ensure engineers are ready for it," he says. "Robotic mowers, AI, data-driven maintenance... these are no longer future concepts, they're here now. Training must evolve just as quickly."

Reesink is always investing in tools, systems and education to keep both staff and customers ahead of the curve. That commitment ensures every Reesink technician can deliver the service levels expected from the UK's leading turfcare distributor.

A people-first focus

Ask Alastair what drives him, and the answer is simple: people.

"It's always been about the people – our engineers, our customers, our apprentices. Machinery will change, technology will change, but people remain at the heart of everything we do."

He's proud to lead a department that helps careers thrive. By creating a culture of learning, mentorship and collaboration, Alastair and his team are ensuring Reesink continues to deliver excellence, both today and for years to come.

New for 2026

- **First Reesink training school will open**
- **New training courses will launch**
- **Master Service Technician training focus**

For more information on Reesink Turfcare's training, technical support and genuine parts, call 01480 226800 or visit reesinkturfcare.co.uk today. ■

THONOCK PARK REPORTS BACK ON TORO ROBOTIC MOWING

Thonock Park in Lincolnshire has been using five Toro Turf Pro autonomous mowers for six months.

The Turf Pro 500 mowers are being used to cut both fairways and rough of 18 of the club's 36 holes and General Manager Benjamin Hatch feeds back: "We are exceptionally pleased with their quality of cut and the definition between fairway and rough grasses."

Course Manager Rob Acheson controls all five mowers through the Smart App. This provides a big advantage in getting course maintenance ahead of play. All fairway mowing can be completed before the course opens, supported by "the almost non-existent noise levels" says Benjamin.

With these machines the club has been able to redefine the job requirements of the team and can guarantee all-year round value.

"Very importantly, these mowers have enabled us to reassign some of our skilled greenkeeping team to other tasks on the course that require more specialist work," Benjamin says. "During the wetter months, we expect to keep using these mowers, when ordinarily we would struggle to use the much heavier diesel machines. It's been a very positive investment for us and one we believe we will continue to benefit from year after year." ■



Customise settings at your fingertips – working perimeters, no-go zones, mowing pattern, cutting height and transport paths.



GPS-RTK navigation provides ultra-precise navigation – no boundary wires required.



Wireless monitoring and control. Start or stop your machines anytime from anywhere, receive alerts, create schedules, and automate certain processes.



The all-electric, autonomous mower is self-charging and automatically returns to its charging station.

TORO TURF PRO SPECIALIST TRAINING

Customers like Thonock Park who invest in Toro's autonomous mowing can expect two comprehensive training sessions post-install from Lee Rowbotham, GeoLink and Digital Specialist at Reesink UK.

Lee spearheads the introduction of this new technology and works closely with our dealers and sales team providing support and training on these product lines.

Thonock Park's local dealer Russell's Groundscare also joined the training. Lee explains the process: "We were there at the point of delivery to install the chargers and base station. The mowers are blind out of the box, so training involves telling them everything they need to know, like where the charging station is, the route to the fairways, what the safe areas, and not safe areas are. And of course, for the team to understand the operation and the terminology involved."

The backup and support doesn't stop there. Lee and his team will be offering additional training at a new training school at Reesink's head office in St Neots in 2026. This will cover in detail servicing of these new machines.

**SEE THE
TURF PROS
IN ACTION!**



HOW INTELLI360 IS PROVIDING THE DATA TO RESHAPE TURFCARE



Until not long ago, the idea of sophisticated autonomous mowers, artificial intelligence (AI) and data dashboards belonged firmly to the future of turfcare. But today, this kind of technology is no longer an emerging trend – it's already reshaping how greenkeepers, grounds teams and course managers approach their work.

Here we'll explore how Toro's latest innovation, Intelli360, is revolutionising fleet and turf management.

Smart fleet and turf management with Intelli360

For golf clubs and sports fields, fleets are at the heart of every turf operation, but without smart management, they can also be a source of inefficiency and hidden operating costs. That's why more and more turf professionals are adopting digital fleet management systems such as Toro Intelli360 to optimise resources and simplify maintenance.

Smart connected products are digital tools that share information in real-time across your operation. For greenkeeping teams, that can mean better visibility into equipment usage, maintenance schedules, work orders and more – resulting in less

downtime, better planning and a more productive team.

“
Intelli360 can help you make proactive, informed decisions. It is designed with the flexibility to grow and evolve for the long term.”

Jon Cole
Divisional Business Manager,
Reesink Turfcare

”
What's the opportunity?
Imagine having instant access to track where machines are, what condition they're in and what service they'll need next. You could have a clear picture of your fleet and equipment at any given moment.

In addition, with connected work order systems, tasks can be scheduled and assigned quickly. You can account for upcoming maintenance, allocate time and labour, and even estimate costs before work begins. These features help avoid delays, reduce breakdowns and keep equipment in rotation longer. For those managing budgets, connected systems also make it easier to monitor part usage and plan for future needs.

Putting it into practice

Toro's Intelli360 is a web-based digital toolbox that integrates several Toro applications into a single, user-friendly platform.

Intelli360 offers equipment tracking with geolocation, allowing users to see the position, status and maintenance needs of connected equipment on a map view. Teams can manage work orders with the ability to create and assign maintenance tasks, track parts and labour, and review service history.

Why choose Intelli360?

Intelli360 gives managers real-time data and complete visibility into machine location, status, repair needs and productivity. Instead of relying on disconnected data or reactive maintenance, teams can monitor usage hours remotely from any mobile device, flag upcoming services and prevent unexpected downtime before it happens.

- **Reduced downtime** – fewer unexpected breakdowns means minimal disruption during busy mowing and maintenance periods.
- **Cost control** – by tracking usage and fuel consumption, managers can identify operational efficiencies and allocate resources where they're needed most.
- **Improved productivity** – schedule work orders and tasks.
- **Ongoing support and updates** – Intelli360 adapts to the latest turfcare challenges.

With IntelliDash built into Intelli360, turf professionals can see everything in one place – including weather, evapotranspiration forecasts and irrigation data – gaining a holistic picture of their turf operations that is essential for smarter, data-driven decision-making.

The future

Toro has set its sights on building a fully connected ecosystem for course maintenance. In other words, it's scalable as technologies develop and are introduced. ■

Greensmaster eTriFlex 3360
with **GeoLink Mow** ↓
Equipped with GeoLink Mow technology
for manual or autonomous operation.



“
By switching to robotic mowers
for the fairways you have in one
smooth move taken another
step towards a smarter, more
sustainable future in turfcare.
With these machines you reclaim
time for smarter working around
the clock.

Jon Cole
Divisional Business Manager, Reesink Turfcare



**DISCOVER
MORE!**



MACHINE FOCUS **TORO GREENSMASER** **ETRIFLEX 3360 WITH** **GEOLINK MOW**


**AUTONOMOUS
MOWING**

When it comes to autonomous technology, it's not just about innovation – it's about knowing the turf. Rather than retrofitting other products for golf course applications, Toro's solutions are built from the ground up by people who understand the game, the course and the teams who will be using them.

With over 100 years of experience in golf course maintenance, Toro designs autonomous equipment that fits seamlessly into daily operations because it's engineered with golf courses in mind – they are tailored to the task.

Toro's autonomous journey began with GeoLink technology on the Multi Pro 5800 sprayer, offering GPS-guided precision. That foundation expanded to include the autonomous Toro Greensmaster eTriFlex 3360 with GeoLink Mow.

This mower is ideal for intensive fairway maintenance and higher cut grass areas such as close-cut sports fields, using proven Toro cutting units for high-quality performance. It features three core technologies: centimetre-level Real Time Kinematic (RTK) and GPS positioning, digital boundary mapping and wireless communication, allowing it to follow set paths, avoid overlap and even operate in sync as needed.

The technology behind this machine – autonomous path planning, automatic turns, obstacle detection, and the fact that it is autonomous and manual (that's why it still has a seat and steering wheel) – really is a glimpse into the future and what is possible when experience and technology combine. ■

Specification

Power source:

Engine with generator and four 12V 33AH AGM batteries

Energy capacity:

4.9gallons (18.5ltr) petrol

Electrical systems:

48V system for motor circuits, 12V system for controls and brake actuator

Ground speed:

0-5mph (0-8km/h)

Noise level: (DBA):

Sound power: 91db(A) Operator ear: 73db(A) Bystander: 78db(A) at 25ft

Width of cut:

59ins (150cm)

TORO TOTAL SOLUTIONS

The latest news from some of our 'Toro Total Solutions' customers who've chosen Toro machinery and irrigation for the complete care of their courses.

TORO Coventry Hearsall reports back



Coventry Hearsall Golf Club has been a Toro machinery customer for 13 years and a Toro Total Solutions customer for seven. As the club takes on another machinery renewal agreement with Reesink, it provides an update on what it's like to be exclusively Toro.

Course Manager Chris Low explains: "Being with the same brand for machinery and irrigation makes everything really easy. The main components of quality, reliability, and performance are applicable to both and having one point of contact, good backup and support and the power of competitive finance means it's a hard deal to beat."

The latest fleet deal comprises greens, tees and fairway mowers and utility vehicles, and the biggest

change to the fleet set up is bringing in walk-behind mowers – the Toro Greensmaster Flex 1021 – for greens, tees, collars and run-offs.

As the first club in the country to upgrade to Toro's Lynx Central Control System and a combination of Infinity, T5 and T7 sprinklers using Reesink Hydro-Scapes' fixed term finance for irrigation, Coventry Hearsall has been enjoying hassle-free, precise watering application since 2018.

"In terms of maintenance all we've had to do is replace one decoder in seven years, that's it," Chris explains. "It's been so easy to scale – we've doubled the coverage on the approaches and have more run-off areas. We wanted the capacity to expand as needed and now we can. It was undoubtedly the right choice."

Chris finished by saying it would be wrong to underestimate the power of a Toro Total Solution: "Regular investment in the machinery and an irrigation system that allows for consistent year-round coverage does not go unnoticed by the members. ■

TORO Toro delivers championship results at Frilford Heath



Frilford Heath Golf Club in the heart of Oxfordshire is on the home straight to having a complete Toro Total Solution across all three of its golf courses.

For over 15 years, Toro machinery has helped produce three courses of championship quality, improve ranking, and attract members. For the club's latest fleet delivery, as part of a rolling lease deal signed five years ago, Director of Courses and Estates, Paul Sheather and Courses Manager Jake Boardman curated a comprehensive machinery update.

The latest 18-month refresh brings in new greens, tees, roughs and surrounds mowers, utility vehicles, transporters for tees mowers, and blowers. More electric options have been selected specifically for the utility vehicles fleet as the club increases its amount of battery-powered machinery.

Jake says: "It's a well-rounded update ensuring performance excellence for the club. The site is huge: 54 holes, three courses and 450 acres and our fleet works hard. An injection of new technology and reliability gives an all-round lift."

2025 also sees the club's second phase of irrigation complete. In recent years, the club has initiated a major three-phase irrigation upgrade to ensure the long-term quality and playability of its courses.

The first phase, completed in 2022 by Ocmis, delivered a modern Toro Lynx irrigation system to the Blue Course and in 2024, the second phase followed with the installation of the same system on the Red Course, setting the foundation for the final phase on the Green Course. Once complete, all three courses will be equipped with a fully integrated and reliable irrigation solution.

Jake says: "The presentation of the Blue and Red Courses is much improved since the irrigation upgrades. We now have precise, efficient, and reliable irrigation management, tailored to the needs of our courses."

"It was a big job involving all pipework replacement, but there was minimal disturbance to the turf and the finish was excellent. Now we have a system which is easy to manage and maintain performance consistency and set up ready for the final integration on the Green Course." ■



Royal Dornoch and its Toro Total Solution for the future



From left: Reesink's Jon Cole, Toro's John Mooney and Simon Squires, Royal Dornoch's Eoin Riddell, Neil Hampton (seated) and Scott Aitchison, Reesink's Rob Jackson and Mike Turnbull.



Royal Dornoch Golf Club's Course Manager Eoin Riddell

In the highlands of Scotland Royal Dornoch Golf Club is celebrating the handover of a £1.5 million Toro irrigation system for the Struie Course and the arrival of a fleet of all-electric ride-on Toro Greensmaster mowers and Workman utility vehicles.

Replacing the irrigation on the Struie Course with a future-proof solution had been in discussion for many years. The club had acquired 50 acres of land with plans to build additional holes, including a new par 3, and needed an irrigation infrastructure capable of supporting an expanded layout.

For this purpose, the club specified Lynx Smart Control System, Infinity 35 multi trajectory sprinklers, Infinity 55 dual and multi trajectory sprinklers and 590G sprinklers with Precision Rotating Nozzles for the 18-hole course.

General Manager Neil Hampton says, "The new system provides a robust and flexible backbone for current maintenance and new turf in future course development. It will be much better on the sustainability front: we won't be using more water; the system will allow us to target where water is needed and control application from mobile phones and laptops."

With the system operational since the beginning of 2025, Course Manager Eoin Riddell can confirm: "It's saving our greenkeepers a huge amount of time and effort; it makes watering so efficient. The benefits are significant all round – it's good ecologically, financially and from an agronomy perspective, too."

Robert Jackson, Division Manager at Reesink Hydro-Scapes, says, "So many people came together to ensure the smooth installation for Royal Dornoch: Adrian Mortram Associates, the installation team from Ocmis, Simon Squires from Toro and us as distributor. It's credit to all involved that the project was completed on time and on budget."

Meanwhile, the continuing choice of Toro machinery is down to its reliability, consistency and quality, says Neil: "Toro performs all day, every day for us. It takes a lot of stress away knowing you do not have to worry about that aspect of the business. We've always been able to trust Toro. There's reliability in terms of performance as well as Toro always being at the forefront of new machinery research and development."

The most recent machinery delivery includes four of the Toro Greensmaster eTriFlex 3370 mowers and eight Workman GTX Lithium-ion utility vehicles. Eoin says, "The electric Greensmaster eTriFlex proves year after year to be able to do the job we require with the benefit of being the sustainable option. Same with the utility vehicles. These machines are now a staple in our fleet."

"The backup from Reesink is also a big factor in our continuing loyalty, as is the interest that Toro shows in how we use the equipment," concludes Eoin. ■

“As the expectations of golfers continue to increase, we need to provide the best conditions for play, and we can do that with Toro.”

Neil Hampton
General Manager,
Royal Dornoch Golf Club



**DISCOVER
MORE,
WATCH
THE VIDEO!**



PROACTIVE IRRIGATION



Data is fast reshaping how greenkeepers, grounds teams and course managers approach their work. It is enabling smarter, more efficient and more sustainable decisions to be made every day.

Climate change is fast becoming a familiar pressure for turf professionals: unpredictable weather patterns, droughts and heavier rainfall. Managing the turf's requirements in the face of these conditions quickly and with the right protocols is essential.

Now, there's a software solution that provides a deeper understanding of what turf requires, allowing turf managers to be proactive with their irrigation.

Introducing turfRad...

Thanks to Toro's exclusive partnership with TerraRad, turfRad uses remote sensing technology to detect moisture information deep under the surface accessing everything there is to

know to make actionable changes to improve irrigation. It integrates with TurfRad software to save natural resource and optimise turf conditions. The information it collects helps provide a streamlined, more effective irrigation strategy that eliminates the need for manual labour when it comes to moisture monitoring and sprinkler adjustments.

How does it work?

Patented smart sensors are installed on Toro equipment to map root-zone soil moisture levels while mowing - there's no need to disrupt turf with sensor placement any more. These rugged, waterproof sensors are designed for quick and easy installation on mowers, UTVs or other turf machinery.

Each sensor takes about 10,000 single-point measurements per fairway and considers the chlorophyll content and surface temperature from the microwaves naturally emitting from the soil.

This subsurface data detects

early stress before it's visible meaning irrigation can be proactive rather than only reactive as it is now.

This real-time data can be sent to Lynx Central Control platform to be viewed in real time on colour-coded maps that indicate moisture variations. To ensure proper irrigation customised to course needs, the software provides individual sprinkler adjustment recommendations that can be made with the touch of a button.

What are the benefits?

The rising costs of irrigation, the pursuit of sustainability and its increasing scarcity have made the efficient use of water a critical priority. That's where turfRad comes in - it's smarter irrigation. Information is power and never more so when it has a direct impact on the use of a natural resource.

Unlike traditional probes that take readings at individual points, turfRad provides a detailed, field-wide picture of where moisture is high, where it's low and how those patterns shift across the day or season.

This data can be leveraged to optimise irrigation accuracy and minimise water waste: instead of watering uniformly and risking over- or under-irrigating in different zones, turf managers can target irrigation only where it's needed.

- **Significant water savings** compared to traditional irrigation practices.
- **Improved turf health** with more even growth as well as reduced stress and disease susceptibility.
- **Data-driven decisions** that can be clearly communicated to committees or stakeholders.
- **Detect irrigation inefficiencies** and fix issues before they escalate.
- **Collect data and map your course automatically** every time you mow - no extra work needed.

For golf course management, where irrigation represents a large portion of input costs, turfRad's insights play a pivotal role in improving profitability - and in periods of drought, when irrigation restrictions may come into play, being able to demonstrate optimal turf performance and responsible water usage can be extremely valuable. Backed by Toro and TerraRad, it sets the new standard for golf course management - and is distributed in the UK by Reesink. ■

UNITED FOR SUCCESS AT ROYAL PORTRUSH

Royal Portrush Golf Club provides one of the world's greatest links challenges and is proud host to three Open Championships. Two 18-hole classic links courses are situated among dramatic sand dune systems on the North Antrim Coast of Northern Ireland.

What was needed, and why?

This project spans almost two decades and covers the irrigation milestones in the club's constant quest for always evolving and benefiting from the latest technological developments, innovations, and feature advancements that Toro has to offer for both its central control system and sprinklers.

The first stage, specified by Adrian Mortram Associates and carried out between October 2008 and March 2009, saw a complete irrigation remodel across the Dunluce and Valley Links – covering greens, tees, approaches, fairways, walkways, and surrounds. The new irrigation design needed to bring comprehensive and uniform coverage and futureproof the water source, storage, supply, and delivery, using the best the industry could offer.

Further updates followed to bring in new control system technology, sprinkler design updates and accommodate course changes in conjunction with The R&A in advance of the 2019 and 2025 Open Championships.

What was the solution?

The club was an early adopter of the Toro GDC system and in 2008 Toro and Reesink supported Jim Price and the MJ Abbott team with the installation – from wiring right through to the programming at the back end – and provided training for the customer.

The GDC system brought proven aerospace technology to the club to allow for longer wire runs, smaller gauge wire sizes and more simultaneous valves in operation. Using a two-wire path to communicate to buried decoders, it accommodated larger systems with fewer wire paths, optimised water use

and served the club well for over a decade.

In 2017 the system was updated again to a state-of-the-art Lynx central control system with Lynx Smart Module for advanced irrigation control. The intuitive user interface of Lynx combines all essential irrigation data in an easy-to-use format and allows Graeme and Chris to quickly act on course management decisions.

Over the years the scope of work included adding a 690m³ Vulcan water storage tank complete with a new borehole, transfer pipework, a 125m³/hr pump station designed and fabricated in-house by MJ Abbott, an upgrade of the station's electrical supply, the addition of five boreholes and the installation of additional mainline pipework. The irrigation coverage has been extended as new holes were built ahead of both Open tournaments.

In the early winter of 2025, ahead of the club hosting the Open Championship that year, all sprinkler heads on both the Dunluce and Valley courses were replaced. Greens, surrounds and fairways were installed with Toro Infinity sprinkler heads and with Toro Flex and B Series on the tees – a process that involved a total of 853 sprinkler heads and which the club did independently, with no contractors, under the direction of Chris.

What was the result?

- *Water security – supply and storage requirements can be met sustainably.*
- *Maintaining shoot density and uniformity with a careful balance of moisture.*
- *Improved moisture consistency over the playing surfaces due to individual head control and the ability to target in millimetres rather than minutes.*
- *Scheduling to the second watering ensures turf quality and conditions for major championship golf.*
- *Watering targets areas precisely and hydrated as needed.*
- *Better recovery rates and better germination on the fairways and grassed pathways.*

The water savings the new system design and application has brought is estimated to be up to 30 percent per unit area of maintained turf.

For Chris the success of the project is the self-sufficiency it has afforded: "Control, autonomy, the ability to problem solve, react and adapt to weather conditions and tweak for perfection, this is what technology brings and the result is natural links turf."

Chris and his team rely on Reesink and Toro NSN for round-the-clock customer support and are ready for future Lynx software updates – such as Lynx Drive. ■



This advanced system from Toro enables us to produce tournament-grade conditions while minimising water use and supporting our sustainability goals. The work completed is, in my opinion, the best it could be.

Graeme Beatt
Course Manager, Royal Portrush



TORO ENTRUSTED BY AFC BOURNEMOUTH FOR NEW PERFORMANCE CENTRE



↑ Above
AFC Bournemouth's new training complex at Canford Magna

As the first team moves into AFC Bournemouth's new training complex at Canford Magna, a new fleet of Toro machinery arrives to look after the first four pitches to be built.

The machinery choices by Head of Grounds Ian Lucas are strategically made on how to cut more efficiently according to European regulations and meet the Premier League standards in place for all pitches.

Ian explains, "The products we chose come with adjustments to match the width of cut to the pitches exactly. The Toro Reelmaster 3100 with Sidewinder, which is usually a mower favoured by golf clubs, allows us to mow as efficiently as possible with no overlap."

It's a machine also favoured by Manchester United, West Ham and Liverpool football clubs, says Ian: "I visited other training centres and saw how other clubs adapted the Sidewinder to cut 30 inches across instead of 26. That meant the cutting width worked better with the required striping pattern within the dimensions of the pitch."

Also ably assisting Ian and his team of 11 looking after the 57-acre training grounds are Toro's Workman HDX utility vehicles with

cabs for improved operator comfort and a Toro Reelmaster 3550 for its light footprint and turf-friendly tyres. This will be followed up with another machinery order in 2026 as the next four pitches for the £36 million Performance Centre open. Ian comments: "I've chosen the Toro machines I want, I've been using Toro for around 15 years, so I know how good it is, especially with the backup and support of Reesink, our local dealer D J Scott and our mobile mechanic Lee Read." ■

“When it comes to the machinery entrusted to look after this huge investment in sport, it had to be Toro.”

Ian Lucas
Head of Grounds,
AFC Bournemouth

THE LAST TEE...

New depot in Lossiemouth

We've expanded in Scotland with a satellite branch to support our growing customer base north of Aberdeen.

The depot sells leases for Toro machinery, stocks all fast-moving genuine Toro parts and has ReeAssure maintenance plans available.

Branch Manager Mike Turnbull says: "We will be prioritising quicker call-out times and cutting response time down from days to hours."

BTME 2026

Visitors at BTME found out what Toro has in store for 2026.

Four new Toro product launches meant those who love new machinery were not disappointed and those who appreciate the power cutting-edge technologies can bring to streamline golf course management, improve efficiency, and elevate course conditions found out about the latest software to do just that. It's going to be an exciting year!

Students of the year 2025

Two talented greenkeepers were rewarded at the 36th Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards.

Bradley Taylor, student at Myerscough College, and Matthew Strutt Donnelly, who attends Berkshire College of Agriculture, emerged victorious at the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Awards after impressing judges across a series of assessments designed to test their knowledge, skill and passion for greenkeeping.



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