



The Power of Partnerships!

Over two years ago, the Campey Imants and Aqua-Aid Inc. partnership was forged. Their common goal; to promote best practice in sports turf maintenance /renovation in North America and Canada.

Now a hugely successful partnership between manufacturers and distributor has led to the development of many innovative machines and techniques which have transformed the maintenance regimes of groundsmen across the spectrum of turf related sports.

Through introducing innovative machinery and proven techniques to those responsible for maintaining natural turf sports surfaces, a host of products from Imants, Vredo, Raycam and KORO® products are being used extensively

across the USA, with many machines in operation across golf courses, baseball fields, NFL pitches and soccer pitches, delivering excellent results.

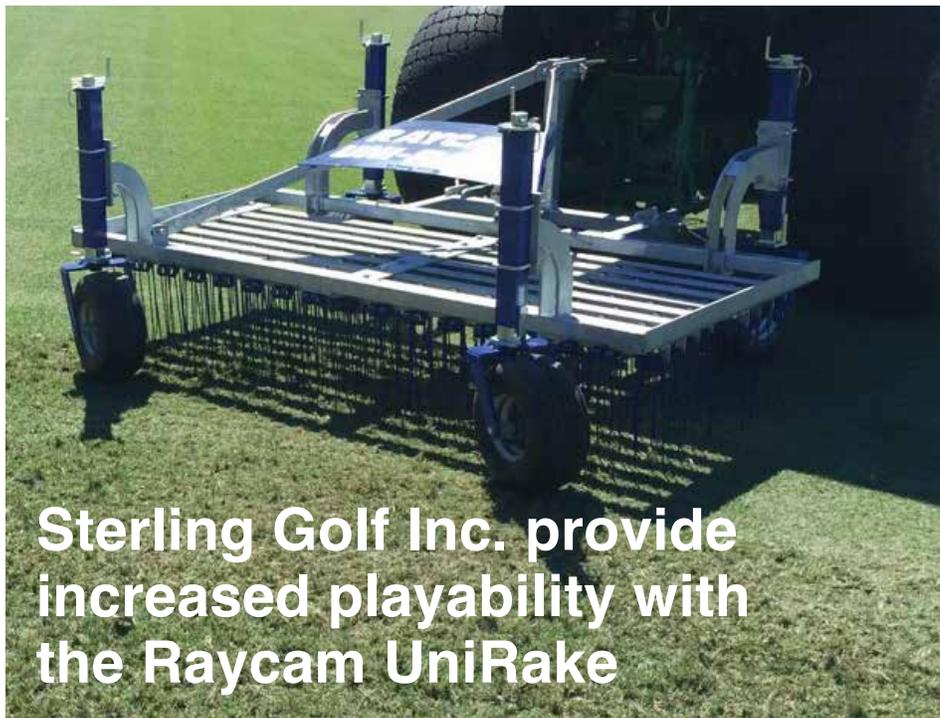
One of the most dramatic examples of embracing change is the growing popularity of the KORO® FIELDTOPMAKER® (FTM®). The KORO® FTM® is a radical approach to removing unwanted surface matter such as poa annua, thatch, weeds or even the entire surface of natural sports turf playing surfaces like football and rugby pitches, cricket squares and outfields golf fairways and turf farms, known as fraze mowing.

This machine has revolutionised pitch renovation and led to remarkable improvements in pitch quality and extended playing hours on natural turf soccer pitches and is rapidly becoming an established practice worldwide.

Working tirelessly to provide the vital links of support, Aqua-Aid is rapidly expanding its network dealers across the United States and Canada, ensuring service and full product support, with new dealers delivering sales and back-up coverage across the United States.

This year sees the introduction of an even greater range of products such as the Raycam UniRake field groomer, Vredo Compact and Super Compact seeders and the Vredo Turf Fix Series; a compact, multi-function, for seeding, dressing and aerating turf.

For the professional sports turf manager the coming year will be demanding, challenging and above all fulfilling, with the options now available through this powerful global partnership!



Sterling Golf Inc. provide increased playability with the Raycam UniRake

Campey Imants dealer GLK Turf Solutions of Texas has supplied a Raycam UniRake to Sterling Golf Inc. for use as an effective bi-weekly alternative to verti-cutting.

Sterling Golf Inc., based in Houston, Texas, are responsible for 99 holes across 800-acres of golf course and landscape at Goldcrest Country Club, Sterling Country Club, Houston National Golf Club, The Golf Club at Texas A & M, College Station and Panorama Golf Club.

These facilities run a 364 day a year season, making the maintenance operation an integral

part of meeting golfer's expectations. To that end, Sterling Golf Inc. director of agronomy, Carter Hindes, decided to use the Raycam UniRake on the courses greens and fairways.

Carter had a number of criteria in mind when choosing a machine to fulfill his needs, and it was Jeff Kadlec of local dealer, GLK Turf Solutions, who recommended the UniRake, which has now become an important part of the maintenance program leading up to major events.

"The main reason we purchased the UniRake was to run on our new Celebration Bermuda

grass fairways," Carter explained. "Our turf managers and I have seen such a positive impact on playability and appearance since using it on all our Bermuda and Zoysia surfaces. This includes Baby, Tifway 419, Common, Celebration and Zorro varieties.

"We were also trying to save time and present an elevated product from our tee and fairway surface, whilst looking to erect growth of Bermuda grass to hold the leaf blade up-right for increased playability. By doing this we hoped to have the ball sitting up on the sward.

"We have tried to solve this issue by circle mowing and deep verti-cutting throughout the year, but we were limited on the amount of times we could carry the practise out, as well as having to take into consideration the disruption it causes.

"We use the rake ten days before our large member or collegiate events. We find it helps take any puffiness out and stands the grass up, and we also follow it with a circle cut, and the surfaces then looks and plays so much better."

A major design point of the machine is the ability to adjust the severity of the grooming. This is an extremely important aspect of the UniRake as the grooming can be tailored to work on varying wear areas, giving the perfect results every time. Adjusting the severity of the grooming takes no more than 30 seconds and contributes to the quick working of the unit.

Carter also cites the speed of the rake as a major positive, stating, "You can pull it as fast as your tractor will go." The speed that it can be used – along with the quick adjustment time – is because it was designed with the user in mind. This way, if you've got 99 holes to maintain like Sterling Golf Inc., or you're a course superintendent with 18 holes, you can complete the work quickly with great results every time.

ShockWave extends play at St. Johns Turf Care

The use of the Imants ShockWave has allowed St Johns Turf Care to help play continue on highly used sports fields by relieving compaction and enhancing moisture control.

A difficulty of maintaining any sports field is ensuring that it can take all the fixtures scheduled throughout the season, and being able to manage the symptoms of heavy usage. Over use usually manifests itself in the form of compaction, which can also lead to difficulties with moisture control.

Sports turf management company, St Johns Turf Care, has enlisted the Imants ShockWave for use across the seven different sports facilities they maintain. Football, soccer, lacrosse and baseball are all played across these facilities, meaning that the fields receive regular use all year-round and require maintenance to keep them at a high quality.

The machine was purchased through Kimball Inc., the Aqua-Aid appointed dealer for Florida, giving them access to other Campey Imants machines such as the KORO® FIELDTOPMAKER® and the Vredo range of overseeders.

The Imants ShockWave is a linear decompactor, designed to revitalise heavy wear areas by relieving soil compaction, improving aeration and removing surface water. The machine is reputed to be the world's fastest PTO driven rotary linear decompactor, and because of the tidy working of the ShockWave, play can continue immediately after use.

These qualities make it the ideal machine for a company that has to maintain a number of heavily used pitches on different sites, with short periods of times in-between games to carry out any maintenance work.

Speaking on how well the machine has worked since purchasing it, owner of St Johns Turf Care, Jeff Pilcher said: "We purchased a ShockWave to help with compaction because of the heavy use on the fields that we maintain."



"This machine does everything that we need in opening up the soil and allowing it to breath, but also allowing it to be played on immediately after it is ran. The ShockWave has helped us with moisture control as well, and we have seen that running it is giving us a stronger plant that holds up to the traffic.

"As a turf management company working across several sites the speed of the machine is also very important to us, this is one awesome machine."



Thatch stripped away for Speciality Turf Supply

Using the KORO® FIELDTOPMAKER® by Campey Imants, has allowed Speciality Turf Supply Inc. to breathe new life into the pitches they maintain by removing thatch and other organic matter.

The Alabama based sports turf contractor has been operated by owner, Michael Hill, since 2003, and they now maintain approximately 70 athletic fields covering football, soccer, baseball and softball. They purchased the KORO® FIELDTOPMAKER® through the Campey Imants and Aqua-Aid Inc. partnership that is bringing European methods of turf maintenance to the USA.



The main issue faced by Michael was the drainage of the fields and other agronomic issues that are commonly triggered through extensive use. To counter these problems conventional tine aeration and verti-cutting had taken place, but it was only after the introduction of the KORO® FIELDTOPMAKER® that improvements became apparent.

“We had specific aims for the KORO® FIELDTOPMAKER® in terms of stripping out the thatch and organic matter so we could open up the surface and improve the drainage,” Michael explained.

“Fraze mowing is something that I’ve known about and wanted to try, and after seeing the improvement in the standard of surface I’m really glad that we’ve implemented it into our services.”

“As a contractor it’s a great machine, because the different rotors available means we can adjust to suit what we need across each sport, and more importantly each field. If one doesn’t need as much of the surface removed as another then we can allow for that and provide the best field possible.”

The versatility of this heavy-duty fraze mower means that it can remove poa-annua, thatch, weeds or the entire surface up to a depth of 50mm. It can be operated with either the Terraplane® Rotor or the Universe® Rotor, both of which use tungsten faced blades to prolong the accuracy of the cut and reduce down-time associated with changing blades.

The machine can also be used with the Scarification Rotor, transforming it into a traditional scarifier with optional mid-mounted roller for undulating ground, or be fitted with the Digging Rotor, making it one of the most accurate and versatile machines on the market.

Trio of machines deliver benefits to Montgomery Parks

The Campey Imants and Aqua-Aid Inc partnership has supplied the Southern Parks Division of the Montgomery Parks Department with an Imants ShockWave 210, KORO® FIELDTOPMAKER® 1500 and a KORO® Recycling Dresser as part of their massive maintenance operation.

Currently Dean Turnbull, regional operations manager for the Southern Parks Division of the Montgomery Parks Department, and his team are responsible for 18 baseball fields, 93 softball fields, 80 soccer fields, 12 football fields and 2 cricket pitches.

Each one of these five sports surfaces demands specific practices in order to be kept in the best condition possible, and with such a high volume of use Dean is constantly looking for ways to innovate the methods that are already in place.

“Like most sports turf managers that have high traffic facilities, we face the issues of drainage, compaction and keeping the turf generally healthy,” Dean began.

“It was whilst trying to combat these issues that we came across the ShockWave, Recycling Dresser and KORO® FIELDTOPMAKER®. Each of the machines now plays a very specific role within our maintenance practices. The ShockWave allows us to provide linear aeration and the removal of surface water, with minimal surface disruption.

“With our county regulations, that were recently put into effect, requiring us to reduce, and eventually eliminate, the use of pesticides on sports turf, the FIELDTOPMAKER® allows us to remove weeds mechanically as well as remove

thatch while smoothing the playing surface. We have also used this machine to remove “lips” on our diamond fields that tend to build up from over use and time. With the amount of play we receive on our “local park” fields, sodding occurs on a regular basis, and this machines reduces the amount of prep time to install the new sod.

“In our current soil conditions, the majority of our fields have good profiles in the top 2-3 inches. The KORO® Recycling Dresser allows us to utilize that quality soil and recycle it deeper into the profile. Our typical soil conditions are compacted and this machine allows us to reduce layering. We have also increased efficiency by reducing the need for additional equipment and materials for topdressing.”

Dean was first introduced to the machines through a partnership with the Maryland Soccer Foundation, who initially acquired and tested each piece of equipment. After seeing the machines in action Dean and Jerad Minnick, Lead Advisor for the Natural Grass Advisor Group, were impressed with the innovative concepts on offer.

Whilst the concepts were impressive – and have proven to work through use on the surfaces – Dean also commends the ease in which all three machines can be used, the low maintenance and large working width.

The improvement of the fields has seen less ‘rain outs’, increasing the number of times the pitches can be used in a season, whilst providing the best playing surfaces possible for all residents and users across over 200 sports turf surfaces.



Rootpruner cuts through the rough at Sharks Tooth GC

Managing the tree roots at Sharks Tooth Golf Club, FL had previously been a problem, but thanks to the use of the Campey Imants RootPruner, the rough areas of the course have been rejuvenated.

The 18-hole course was built in 2002 near Lake Powell, and is surrounded by Loblolly pines and native Oaks, both of which present a problem for course superintendent, Josh Parker. The issue was that whilst the trees were providing a fantastic setting for the course, the roots were taking valuable nutrients and water away from the turf.

This was especially prevalent in the rough areas closest to the trees, leading to the turf thinning

out and becoming weaker. Josh had previously used a trencher to deal with the problem, but although it worked the results were unsightly and required a lot of clearing up.

Through Aqua-Aid Inc., Josh was able to acquire an Imants RootPruner and now views it as the solution to his root problems, as he explains.

"The tree roots have been an issue for quite some time on the course and were robbing the turf of water and nutrients and the roots were surfacing in some areas, creating many issues with equipment and golfers," he said.

"Although using a trencher worked it did create other problems in a visual and cleaning up aspect, so I took the opportunity to have the RootPruner demonstrated on the course. We started off trying it on some smaller roots, and the machine cut through them easily with minimal disruption to the surface.

"We then decided to try it on some of the larger roots on one of the tee boxes, and once again

it cut through a 5" with no problems. So, having seen what the machine could do I ordered one for use on the course within a few weeks and the results have been fantastic."

Since ordering the machine and using it extensively on his course Josh has seen a vast difference in the color and density in the roughs, and he has been able to remove a large amount of the surfacing roots, making it easier for golfers to move around the course and for his own staff to use other equipment on those areas.

The success Josh has seen at Sharks Tooth comes from the design and build of the machine. It includes a unique patented triple-reduction planetary gearbox, for smooth maximum torque drive to rotor shaft. It also features a factory set torque limiting PTO shaft, eliminating all shear bolts and spring clutches.

This power is harnessed by the machine, meaning it can cut through roots up to 4" thick without requiring any clean up, making it exactly the machine Josh needed to prune roots on the course without causing any surface damage.



Shoal Creek achieves championship conditions

Shoal Creek boasts a proud tradition of hosting PGA Championship events, and it is the conditions expected by the best golfers in the world that had them acquire a KORO® FIELDTOPMAKER® supplied by Campey Imants and Aqua-Aid Inc.

The course, which was designed by golf legend Jack Nicklaus, was founded in 1975 and hosted its inaugural ceremonial round in November 1977, with Nicklaus himself joined by fellow Open Championship winners Jerry Pate and Hubert Green.

Current Course Superintendent, James Simmons, began working at the Alabama based course in 1975 and has seen some of the greatest names in golf grace the spectacular 18-holes that Shoal Creek offers.

The tradition of hosting such prestigious championships and having the 2018 US Women's Open approaching, means that world class conditions on the course are expected by players and members alike, and it was the challenge of keeping the course in such a condition that prompted the acquisition of the KORO® FIELDTOPMAKER®.

James explains: "Prior to using the KORO® FIELDTOPMAKER® our fairways were too wet to the point of some members complaining about the mud on the ball, a lack of ball roll and a need to restrict carts being used on the course.

"We tried to solve this issue by using a verticutter with a good top dressing plan, and that improved our fairways immensely, but we were

very much looking for another way to combat the issue that didn't require such persistent work, as we were hiring a company in to carry it out on our fairways.

"A demo of the machine was arranged and I was impressed with how it stripped the organic matter from the surface. Having seen how the machine worked I wanted to use it to reduce our organic matter from 7% to 3%."

Use of the machine began in November and already James has been impressed at how quickly the machine can remove a vast amount of organic material whilst leaving a level consistent surface every time.

Removal of this organic matter will only improve the drainage through the root zone, leading to drier fairways that hold less water at the top of the profile. By using the KORO® FIELDTOPMAKER® the surface hygiene will also be increased, reducing the likelihood of quick organic matter build up in the future.

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