

Learning Live 2022 Presentations

30th November to 1st December



Sustainable Management of the St. Andrews Golf Courses

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Learning Outcomes

Understanding the breadth of the strategy a club needs to fully implement the idea of a sustainable golf operation.

- Case study 1 - Some specifics about how a modern irrigation system can reduce water use, even in a links environment
- Case study 2 - How the transition to electric machines will support the move to a net-carbon zero operation, without reducing the quality of the final product.

Brief / Outline of the projects in these case studies

- Case Study 1 - St Andrews Links Trust undertook a full upgrade of all 7 irrigation systems in order to benefit from the latest sprinkler and central control technology. The overall objective being to improve their water management and reduce water use.
- Case Study 2 - The move to electric and hybrid machines to reduce diesel use and the production of carbon.



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What challenges did you face during this project?

- Case study 1 - Training the green keeping team to undertake the upgrade and following a very detailed project plan.
- Case study 2 - Setting up the trial project to test the electric mowers under real-world conditions, ongoing data collection, analysis and interpretation

What innovations did you employ in this project?

- Case study 1 - The introduction of the latest Lynx software and Infinity sprinkler to allow by the second water management.
- Case Study 2 - Introducing the first fully electric ride-on greens mower.

What Went Well or What Went Wrong? Or ... Would you do anything differently?

- Both projects were successful, with significant savings in resources, such as labour, water and diesel.
- SALT - have needed to reorganise their maintenance facility to allow for the storage and charging of the electric mowers. This will eventually lead to a redesign of the entire building as more electric products are incorporated in the fleet.

