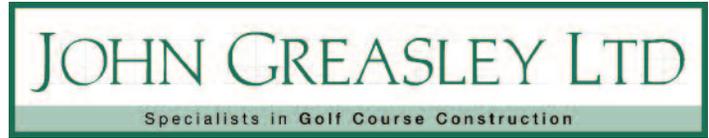


# Taking shape with



John Greasley continues to be at the forefront of course construction and renovation as a new nine-hole course nears completion



*Ferrybridge Golf Club and right, installation of the 'HyLine' bunker liner at Verulam GC*

**John Greasley** has been carrying out the construction of a new nine-hole golf course at Ferrybridge in West Yorkshire, designed by Simon Gidman Golf Designs. Works started in April and the course will be seeded down in August.

SSE, owner and operator of Ferrybridge 'C' Power Station, made a commitment to secure replacement playing facilities for the members of Ferrybridge Golf Club after part of their previous course was required to provide space for a new multifuel power station.

Furthermore a Roman chariot was found nearby during the A1(M) construction adding to the history of this wonderful site, with its rolling contours, woodland surrounds and best of all, lovely free draining subsoil!

Simon Gidman first became involved in the project with SSE back in 2012 when it was commissioned to replace the power company's existing nine-hole golf course.

SSE was in the process of enlarging its premises to incorporate a new waste to energy plant, and the old course had been given up so that excavation materials, 50,000m<sup>3</sup> of subsoil and 8,000m<sup>3</sup> of topsoil could be stored on the site; the planning gain being that this material was to be taken across to the site to form the new course, and not hauled up and down the main roads.

Simon Gidman said: "It wasn't until I was some way into this project and pouring over a survey plan that I realised that one of the large copses on this site was in the very distinct shape

of a heart – right in the middle of a farmer's field. And they say romance is dead!

"The detailed design of the course was heavily influenced by both planning conditions – we weren't allowed to move any topsoil for fear of archaeological damage and of course the fact that we needed to incorporate a vast amount of subsoil onto the site.

"Much of the groundworks are finished now and the course is shaping up very well. A lot of care and attention has been paid by the machine shapers to developing the detail on the plans, in particular the greens and surrounds, and these will be a major feature of the new course when it opens in 2017. It should be a very dramatic course, what with 50,000m<sup>3</sup> of subsoil and a heart!"

## **VERULAM GC, HERTS – HOME OF THE RYDER CUP**

This James Braid course is famous as the home of the Ryder Cup with the trophy being presented by its then captain, Samuel Ryder, in 1926. The origin and background to the project stemmed from the club's ambition to revert the course bunkering back to the James Braid style and design in conjunction with solving the issues faced by many clubs. The work has proved a great success with members of Verulam Golf Club and the general manager, Robin Farrer, commenting highly on the works carried out by the company and the improvement that the bunker work has made to the course.

"The bunker project started with an early consultation between an architect and members of the golf club and following the award of the contract daily consultation on site with the John Greasley team. The interpretation of the

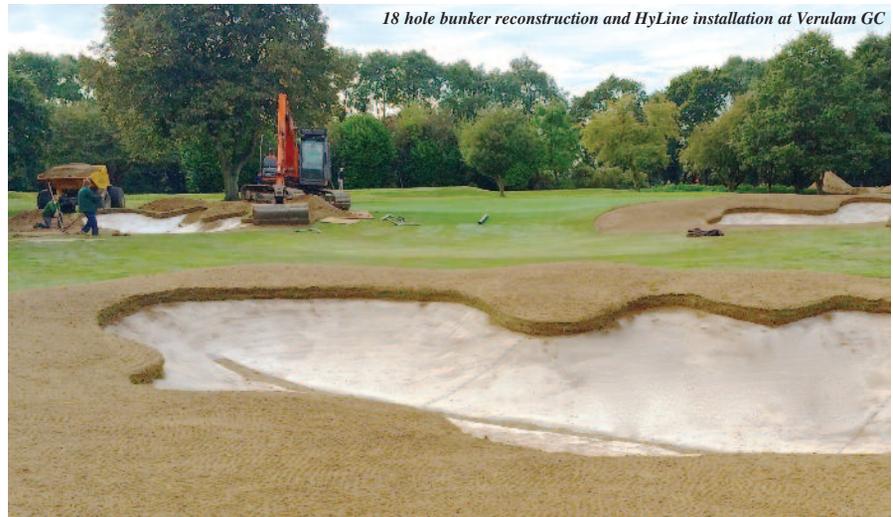
plans was first class and the advice and construction techniques used resulted in a consistent and outstanding visual bunker presentation throughout the course which has received praise from members and visiting societies. Being on a hoggin / gravel subsoil the bunkers suffered with large quantities of stone contaminating the bunker sand along with having a mixed array of large, steep, high sand faced bunkers that were both a maintenance headache, unfair to play out of and inconsistent. The project brief was therefore threefold. Firstly to re-position / reconstruct all bunkers to the original Braid layout and design with slight amendments to suit the modern game including the filling of those no longer applicable," said a spokesman for John Greasley.

"Secondly to create bunkers free from stones with uncontaminated sand that plays consistently and thirdly to reduce the overall sand area and maintenance / reinstatement requirements, particularly after periods of heavy rain.

"We were selected as the preferred contractor based on a combination of price, previous project portfolio and ability to offer the installation of our proprietary 'HyLine' bunker liner as part of the package. During the autumn / winter 2013 / 2014 a total of 32 bunkers were reshaped and lined on the back nine holes and the second phase was for the completion of the remaining nine holes during autumn and winter of 2014 / 2015. A total of 58 bunkers were refurbished or constructed."

## LE TOUQUET, LA MER COURSE, FRANCE

This fabulous links course was built in 1931 by the renowned architect Harry Colt and ranked as one of the best 100



courses in Europe. Many aspects of the course had changed, deteriorated, been reconstructed or damaged over the last 70 years. The long term strategy is to restore this course to its original Colt design and help restore its rightful position as one of the leading courses in Europe.

Holes 11 to 16 have been totally rebuilt over the last two years with new greens constructed, new tees integrated within the dunes along with re-bunkering and reshaping to fairways / dunes. The majority of features are being re-turfed to ensure they are open for play the following spring / summer. The works are being supervised by Patrice Boissannas and Frank Pont, golf course architects.

## FOUR YEARS ON FROM FARLEIGH

It has now been four years since John Greasley's first major HyLine Bunker Liner installation.

"We installed HyLine to over 100 bunkers on 18 holes of this 27 hole Surrey Downs parkland course during the summer of 2011," said the John Greasley spokesman. "In summary, Michael Mann, course manager at Farleigh GC, Surrey, has been very impressed with the long term performance of the liner in terms of having consistent, stone free bunkers that do not suffer with any significant wash out.

"After the four year period he has not seen any depletion or change in the colour, playability or drainage performance since the bunkers were originally

reconstructed. Michael's main maintenance cost is the labour required in daily raking and the occasional topping up / re-distribution of sand within the bunkers.

"Over the 18 holes installed with HyLine that Michael maintains, his maximum annual sand requirement is between 20 and 30 tonnes. In comparison the first nine holes were lined with inverted turf. The sand in these bunkers has been heavily contaminated with the degradation of the lining turf naturally breaking down and mixing with the bunker sand. These bunkers both appear and play very differently to the 18 holes HyLined.

"Founded in 1985 by John Greasley the company has seen many highs and lows during the past 30 years, and has witnessed the boom times of the 90s together with the difficult trading years after the global crash of 2008. Perhaps then it is even more of a milestone for a company that specialises only in golf to be marking its 30th anniversary this year.

"The market has improved greatly over the past two years and we have invested heavily in a replacement programme for our machinery.

"With our commitment to working safely as a CHAS accredited company, we also recently achieved ISO 9001 Quality Management and ISO 14001 Environmental Management Certification and we are an Achilles UVDB Verify Category B2 registered supplier."

## GCM

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