

Parks' life

Keen to improve the club's wash-off facility, Cottingham Parks Golf and Leisure Club explored what was on offer. David Mears looks at the solutions the golf club discovered

Cottingham Parks Golf and Leisure Club started life in August 1994 when the 18-hole golf course was opened on former farmland following four years of planning by the Wiles family (John, his son Rob and daughter Jane). Each of them still work there today and has different responsibilities, with John and Rob being heavily involved in the golf and greenkeeping side while Jane has her roles in the clubhouse and administration. Leisure facilities (pool,



The ClearWater system at Cottingham Parks. Below, John Wiles (left) and his son, Rob

gym, restaurant, equestrian centre and lodges) have been added in recent years to this well-maintained 200 acre parkland development in east Yorkshire.

The golf side has progressed under John and Rob's leadership and, in 2007, they took over the adjacent Skidby Lakes course, enabling 36 holes to be played.

The greenkeeping team comprises six full-time personnel and three part-time. Talking to John and Rob it is clear that they are very committed to being involved on a day-to-day basis and are certainly hands-on. Late last year they came to the conclusion that their wash-off facility was not up to scratch and began investigating solutions. Having seen publicity, they also visited BTME and requested information from three companies. They chose a ClearWater biological washpad water recycling system from Highspeed Group. Asked why, Rob explained: "Some systems on the market seemed too complicated and others were not true recycling systems. ClearWater offered best value for money with a simple and effective product. Besides, we have been dealing with the company for some time."

Highspeed visited the site and options were discussed. Although John and Rob wished to save water and comply with the

law, they also wanted to keep costs down. Said John: "We both have civils experience and it was agreed that we would carry out a 'self install', as Highspeed call it." This option does keep costs down as the system is supplied and the customer installs this and builds a washpad of the desired size to Highspeed's specification. A Highspeed engineer then finishes the job off with full commissioning and training. "It was pretty straightforward," said Rob. "However, Highspeed did provide us with detailed installation instructions, drawings and photographs to guide us through."

ClearWater systems are approved through the UK government-backed Water Technology List (WTL) and, as a water saving technology, qualify for 100 per cent first-year capital allowances under the Enhanced Capital Allowances scheme (ECA). Asked if this influenced Cottingham Park's decision, Rob said: "It didn't alter our choice of system but it was an added benefit. We've claimed 100 per cent of the project cost under the scheme, making the system even more affordable. Effectively, the system cost has come down quite a bit"

Cottingham Parks is pleased with the ClearWater system and is proud of the installation. Said John: "The system is

performing well and there's plenty of pressure from the water guns. Having a dedicated facility and pollution prevention area, which includes a fuel station supplied by Highspeed, means we have a very effective and efficient capability. It also saves time!" Rob chimed in: "In the past we'd sometimes hear excuses as to why staff could not wash off; pressure washer broken and so on. Now, there are no excuses, just pick up a water gun and switch on!"

Maintenance of the system is simple and painless too with the responsibility for weekly dosing with microbes given to one greenkeeper.

Cottingham Parks is justly proud of the investment and of the new washdown facility. *David Mears is joint managing director of Highspeed Group, which operates waste management services throughout mainland UK, produces the ClearWater washpad water recycling system and supplies separators, sewage plant and bunded oil and fuel tanks. Tel: 0845 600 3572. Web: www.highspeed.co.uk and www.clearwatertv.co.uk.*

If you are considering updating your wash-off facilities, complying with the law and wish to save water, ClearWater may well be the choice for you. With 'self install' and 100 per cent enhanced capital allowances available, a system becomes even more affordable

