

Bush Hill Park Golf Club, UK



Course Renovation Revitalises An Ageing Irrigation System

Property Details:

Irrigation Consultant
Irritech Limited

Contractor
Irrigation & Water

Rain Bird Products
Stratus™ II Central Control
IC System™
751 Series Rotors
700 Series Rotors

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Bush Hill Park Golf Club is a stone's throw from Enfield Town in North London. Originally 9 holes, this 100-acre parkland course was designed by Open Championship winners James Braid and Harry Vardon and enjoys a reputation for being the best maintained in the area.

CHALLENGE

Installed 25 years ago, much of the irrigation system had deteriorated and needed a complete overhaul. Being clay the ground would become very dry in summer and, with a small number of heads on the tees, irrigation coverage was poor, with leaks and frequent system breakdowns. Keeping the unreliable and ageing irrigation system became increasingly expensive with extra watering in the early hours or at night, and staff working overtime to keep the course in the best condition.

To help build the case for investment in a new irrigation system, Head Greenkeeper Graham Careford kept a detailed timeline recording all system faults, breakdowns and overtime as well as taking photographs of course conditions. This was presented to the management committee to inform decision-making and help the club properly evaluate its various options.



RESULTS

The club appointed Irritech Limited to undertake the irrigation system design and specification. The committee decided that an investment in the Rain Bird Stratus II Central Control with mapping and the IC System™ would provide the system reliability and future water efficiencies that would maintain the quality of the course for many years to come. With over 300 sprinkler heads, 7 miles of piping, 6.5 miles of cable and 3,500-man hours, the contractor brought the project in within budget.

“Our biggest challenge has been heavy clay and high water table which meant adopting a more sympathetic approach to ground conditions. It’s taken a little more time and care but that’s been essential to minimise damage to the course. This is our first complete Rain Bird renovation and we’ve had a superb Rain Bird team working with us providing all the technical support, training and back-up we needed to make sure the system was installed to the right standards. We’re delighted to have been involved in what’s been a landmark project.”

— Ashley Proctor, Director, Irrigation & Water
