



Arsenal Training Ground—A Profile

Using New Technology to Manage Complex Watering Requirements

Arsenal's training grounds comprise ten full scale football pitches, each of which has to provide the ideal balance of grass cover and softness so that some of the most valuable players in the world can practice hard without risk of injury. The pitch surface should feel firm to walk on but soft to the touch or foot. Each pitch is used extensively for two weeks, then rested and nurtured for a month.

THE CHALLENGE

Steve Braddock is the Head Groundsman with the ultimate responsibility of delivering and keeping those pitches in top condition. The players and their coaches are quick to tell Steve if the ground is too hard or not moist enough. Additionally, the main water supply and the ground's holding tank capacity is limited.

THE SOLUTION:

Rain Bird's state-of-the-art Central Control software offers monitoring, programming, and control features within one easy-to-learn interface. The platform allows for 24/7 control over the amount of water each sprinkler head delivers, the length of time each sprinkler runs, the pattern in which the sprinklers operate and more—from any device.



Rain Bird Central Control

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ✓ **Comprehensive Remote Management**
- ✓ **Strategic Water Allocation**
- ✓ **Precision Reporting & Scheduling**
- ✓ **Rapid Response to Changing Conditions**



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RESULTS:

Save Water and Save Time

Delivering the best conditions for the best players requires the best equipment.

“ It’s a great tool, for two reasons. One, it takes care of complex watering requirements at the click of a mouse...Two, I can change things at a moment’s notice, depending on the nature of the playing surface, or more likely, if a coach or player feels it’s not quite right! A tool like the Rain Bird Controller is as valuable to me as the players are to the Club!



STEVE BRADDOCK, HEAD GROUNDSMAN
ARSENAL TRAINING GROUNDS

APPROACH:

Intelligent Automation



Rain gauges are programmed to shut off irrigation if more than 3mm of rainfall should fall when the system is running.

Achieve Ideal Balance



Rain Bird’s site controllers allow Steve to achieve the ideal balance between water usage and available capacity in the main tank.

Remembers Exactly Where it Left Off



Steve particularly appreciates the system’s memory; if interrupted by a local electrical power failure, the system will remember exactly where it left off and deliver the remaining amount when the situation is resolved.

Staggered Start Times



Start times are staggered to ensure the tank has enough time to replenish before the next cycle. Steve can remotely monitor the system from any device and can even utilize its “dry run” feature to preview the impact an adjustment would make.