

Avonmore Associates

SPECIALISTS IN TURF MANAGEMENT

Installation of pipe drainage system

An initial contact was made with Avonmore Associates by Merthyr West End Bowling Club in early 2010 and their purpose for doing so was for an analysis and advice on the current state on the bowling green and as of April 2010 Avonmore Associates were contracted to undertake full maintenance of the green with the exception of day-to-day mowing operations.

The Chairman of **Merthyr West End Bowling Club**, Mr John Davies, was able to co-opt a willing team of helpers who were able to assist with the reaching of the goals outlined.

The green improved significantly, getting some great reviews from neighbouring clubs. Unfortunately though, as we all know, summer 2012 subjected all with extreme rainfall. With **Merthyr West End Bowling Green** holding prestigious events such as the Welsh Ladies International Trials, Mid Glamorgan Senior Men's County Side and one of the largest tournaments around, found themselves being flooded at crucial times. John and his team were forced to use a squeegee to remove water off the playing surface enabling games to come to their conclusion. As we all know this is not ideal for green husbandry, creating compacted, stagnant and anaerobic condition despite all the efforts made by **Avonmore Associates** with soil conditioners and mechanical aeration taking place.

After heavy Autumn Maintenance work had been carried out the rain continued to fall making it favourable for germination, however the seed which did grow struggled to make sufficient headway before rotting off owing to the root zone being saturated.



In February 2013, the Club were again in contact with **Avonmore Associates** and a visit was arranged to see what could be done to overcome the constant problem of flooding. After exploratory excavations were carried out it was identified that water movement below ground (capillary action) was as much of a problem as the excessive rainfall. With all the aeration work which had been previously done it was concluded the only way forward would be to install a piped drainage system. Unfortunately this could not be done until Autumn 2013, thus forcing the club & **Avonmore Associates** to battle their way through the 2013 season.



Finally in December 2013 **Avonmore Associates** arrived on site to undertake the installation of the piped drainage system at 4.5m centres across the total area of the green. Still the Mid Glamorganshire terrain would not give in. Large amounts of rock were exposed forcing the necessity to remove approximately double the amount of material, meaning the same had to be replaced (and as anyone who has been to **Merthyr West End Bowling Club**, will know access is limited). Fortunately, with weather on their side and floodlights in place **Avonmore Associates** were able to complete the work within 2 weeks.

As we have all encountered 2014 has been one of the worst years on record for rainfall, however, to use the Chairman's words, *'We are astounded with the performance of the drainage system and all looks well for the future'*.



DESIGN • CONSTRUCTION • IRRIGATION • MAINTENANCE

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