

Scanlaser Customer Story Dales Sports Surfaces Jim Rushby



Dales Sports Surfaces Ltd is the world's leading supplier of synthetic and artificial sports surfaces used commonly in bowling greens, tennis courts and sports pitches. They are particularly proud to be the providers of the playing surfaces for the UK Indoor Bowls Championship, as well as providing surfaces for other international sporting events such as the World Bowls Tour.

Sports surfaces are unique as they require high levels of precision and tight tolerances to produce a blemish free playing surface. Operating at a class leading international level, Dales Sports settles for nothing but the very best equipment. In such a critical job, Civils Manager Jim Rushby purchased a MikroGrade CB14 automatic guidance system from Scanlaser, fitted directly onto their Blec drag box attachment. The CB14 provides essential slope guidance inside the tractor cab, as well as controlling the hydraulics to maintain and achieve precision grading automatically – even without driver intervention.

Jim Rushby takes time away from his busy schedule to talk to Scanlaser's Lee Gauntlett and comments on the CB14 system and the service he received from Scanlaser.

Jim begins, "Machine control as a concept is nothing new to me; however I understand that new technology such as this is a considerable change to the way work is 'traditionally' completed. Before I called Scanlaser, I hadn't heard of them – they were actually recommended to me by a friend who works in the industry, I trusted his judgment and contacted them, and since that point I have been consistently pleased with the system they have supplied, as well as the excellent levels of customer support."

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**JIM RUSHBY
CIVILS MANAGER
DALES SPORTS SURFACES**

"I placed the order and within 24 hours a Scanlaser engineer came to our site and installed the equipment promptly and trained our operators – the engineer even stayed with us for the rest of the day to help get the most out of the system, I really can't ask for better service than that, it's just first class!"

Machine Control Benefits

Machine control affects users and their projects differently, in regards to Dales Sports' Jim comments "The CB14 has certainly increased the speed of work, which in turn reduces man hours and fuel costs. The main benefit is that productivity increases, ensuring that we get the maximum from our capital investments, such as the drag box attachment; but also that we complete the main project with solid confidence of precision".

Jim concludes, "Dales Sports Surfaces is a world leader in synthetic and artificial surfaces. We recognise that this technology is essential if we are to stay competitive in our market and retain our place as a market leader in this sector, so you could argue that this was a natural progression for us. All in all, we are really pleased with Scanlaser. Their service is simply second to none. If we do have any issues they are there for us within hours!"

MikroGrade CB14 Onsite

Onsite at a bowls facility in London, Wayne Pike, an Operator for Dales Sports Surface uses the CB14 working directly from a rotating laser. The system uses dual laser masts to monitor the slope and elevation of the box blade. Wayne stops to discuss how machine control has affected his day-to-day activities on site.

“The current project here at Wembley is a typical project for us – we prepare the ground of the bowling green before a playing surface is laid on top. At the moment we are aiming for a 7mm layer of coarse sand. We will compact this and add a further 3mm of sand later to make it precisely 10mm thick. This is a tight tolerance, however it is very easy to achieve. The drag boxes hydraulics automatically controls the blade elevation using the rotating laser as a reference. It’s very simple to achieve because of the CB14 system.”

Wayne continues, “We have used the CB14 on three projects so far and I have to say we are very pleased with it. Our last job was a Crown Green which needed a 200mm ‘bump’ in the centre with falls on all sides. This would have been tricky to achieve by hand, but the CB14 combined with our dual grade laser made it no problem at all. It’s good to know that even an unconventional shape can be produced quickly and first time out!”

Machine Control systems are still relatively underutilised in the UK and can deliver construction companies a number of benefits when completing a project. Wayne continues, “Without the CB14 we would traditionally screed the area, meaning we have to work on our knees with boards; slowly fine tuning the level by hand. As you can imagine it’s extremely labour intensive and hurts your knees!”

In regards to the overall aspect of project completion Wayne comments, “The drag box and CB14 is undoubtedly faster than doing the work manually, and saves labour costs. In a small job like this, it would save a few hours work. In the example of the Crown Green with its tricky grades, it would definitely save days!”

Wayne concludes, “The CB14 provided by Scanlaser is extremely easy to use. This is my first experience of a machine control product and I can honestly say if you can use a rotating laser, you can use this – it’s that simple! I’m trained as a ‘bricky’ and after a few hours training I was confident with the system. This will be invaluable on future projects!”

For more information on any of Scanlaser’s products including the CB16, please visit www.scanlaser.co.uk

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OPERATOR
DALES SPORTS SURFACES**

