

"...you need the best quality tools you can get, and in top working order. That is what we've now got with Rain Bird."

**RAIN BIRD**

## Investing in top quality tools:

The Hallamshire installs Rain Bird



The Hallamshire: Now irrigated by Rain Bird



Faced with a choice, it's very easy for decision makers to choose the cheapest option. But like anything else in life, you only get what you pay for and that is particularly true of irrigation systems. The Hallamshire GC near Sheffield opted in early 2008 for one from Rain Bird, so Inside Line asked Course Manager of twenty

five years Gordon Brammah about the thinking behind the club's decision.

### Contractor and equipment: achieving higher standards

Rain Bird's quality impressed the club initially, as Gordon Brammah explains: "We were very impressed by the sheer quality of the design, equipment and approach of Rain Bird, as were the contractors. Rain Bird's equipment has evolved through design, improvements in technology, and huge experience in every sort of irrigation situation and environment." So the club chose Rain Bird's recommended solution of a Stratus LT control system that operates individually each of the Eagle 750E rotors around the greens and the Eagle 700E rotors on the approaches; the tees are irrigated separately via block valves.

Because rock is present near the surface throughout the course, installing the irrigation system needed a contractor that was determined to achieve high standards, as Gordon explains: "We were also impressed by the way the contractors never compromised on the depth specified for laying pipework and cabling. It meant taking more trouble to get things right, but it ensured we got the system as designed."

### Backwards and forwards compatibility: unique to Rain Bird

Gordon: "The built-in compatibility will be major benefit, because it means the club's invested in a system that can always exploit any future development of the component parts from Rain Bird." Rain Bird's compatibility makes their systems uniquely cost-effective. Unlike other systems, from software to

sprinkler Rain Bird's irrigation systems are all forward- and backward-compatible, so any Rain Bird system can use more recently redesigned, improved or upgraded replacement parts and software. That extends the lifetime of a Rain Bird system and ensures it is always capable of benefiting from new developments.

### New Rain Bird pump set for smooth delivery of constant pressure

The Hallamshire's old irrigation system had a number of niggling issues, one of which was an ageing unpressurised pump set. Drawing water from a local brook, the pumps took time to get up to the right pressure, so checking the valves on the course was very time consuming and laborious. With the latest Rain Bird pressurised pump set, Gordon can turn on any valve on any part of the course and fire up the system by a green at the flick of a switch, which makes things much easier. In addition, with the Variable Speed Control feature, there's no water hammer; by using each pump sequentially with constant acceleration the required pressure is reached smoothly and consistently. This feature greatly extends the life of both the pump set and the system itself.

### Does what it says on the tin

Gordon: "The Rain Bird system does everything that it says on the tin. It's extremely reliable and always works whenever we want it to, which wasn't the case with the old system. The software's much more sophisticated of course, but it's very user-friendly, very simple and straightforward. It's easy to put in a temporary watering programme, and to alter the percentages of water you want for any of the greens and approaches. This particularly suits my long held belief and philosophy in minimum water usage. The added advantage of the Rain Bird system is to be able to exercise that approach far more accurately."

This means that between Gordon and his Rain Bird system, the club can demonstrate its credentials for being a responsible environmental citizen, and with water becoming an increasingly valuable resource, every golf club will need to prove to local domestic users that it isn't wasting water at their expense.

### Training and support

The Hallamshire's decision to invest in Rain Bird was vindicated all the way, including the training and support given to the greenkeeping team while they became familiar with the new system. "Training and support have been excellent from Kneale Diamond and Mark Ganning. They always take their time to make sure you really understand something, whatever it is."

### Best quality tools

In a year when the local rainfall has been in plentiful supply, for a Course Manager to wax lyrical about an irrigation system means it must be impressive; but that's how Gordon feels about his club's new system: "A golf course is always under pressure to be in the best playing condition all the time, and it needs a good reliable irrigation system. It's a tool, but to achieve high standards you need the best quality tools you can get, and in top working order. That what we've now got with Rain Bird."

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**InsideLine**

Making golf club management more effective.

Edited and published by Charles de Haan • Design & Artwork: [www.October21.net](http://www.October21.net) • Printing: Portman  
Telephone: 01737 243 151 • e-mail: [charles@dehaan-associates.co.uk](mailto:charles@dehaan-associates.co.uk) • [www.dehaan-associates.co.uk](http://www.dehaan-associates.co.uk)

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