



Wiedenmann™

NEWS RELEASE

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Speedy new signing for Plymouth Argyle FC

When Coca-Cola Championship side Plymouth Argyle FC signed a Wiedenmann Terra Spike GXi 6 aerator for the upcoming season it went straight into first team duties. Head groundsman, Colin Wheatcroft wasted no time introducing this versatile all-rounder to the Home Park pitch.

After a thorough hand over from Clive Ralph of new Devon Wiedenmann dealers, Masons of Chudleigh, and Wiedenmann UK's Area Sales Manager, Chas Ayres, the GXi was set optimally for the club's turf. And then its work began.

"As soon as Clive and Chas were away, we were off!" mused Colin Wheatcroft. "We did the whole pitch in less than three hours. We couldn't believe its speed. That was why we bought it and instantly it was fast. With our previous equipment we were taking between six and seven hours every Friday and it was hard work. It virtually took a whole day. Now we're taking just over two and a half hours and have got time to do other things. It's wonderful. There are so many demands on the pitch and saving so much time is making a real difference."

As well as speed, the GXi is proving a real winner. "I also think it is doing a much better job," suggested Colin Wheatcroft. "Because the tines go through the ground considerably faster, they just leave a much cleaner hole. We're running it on 12mm tines. Our previous machine was slower going in and out the turf and the turf tended to lift up. That's not an issue now.

"Our pitch here at Plymouth gets a lot of rain," he continued. "Historically it always has. It can be sunny across the rest of Devon but its raining here. Even in a few short weeks I've noticed an improvement in our root zones. Growth seems so much stronger. It's also helping our training ground.

"The lads that work with me are also really pleased because it's a lot simpler to run, it manoeuvres much more readily and there are absolutely no problems with vibration in the tractor. That's such a good thing, believe me! After seven hours in the cab it's hard to think straight."

So who has Colin Wheatcroft to thank for introducing him to the Terra Spike GXi? "A contractor friend went to the Wiedenmann launch when the machine was first unveiled in Germany, late 2006. He called me from the field and told me he was quite literally running beside the machine, with the phone in his hand, while it was being demonstrated. I told him I'd be amazed if a machine that was as fast as that could be doing a good job."

"But happily he was right. And I am amazed. And here I am – really delighted..." laughed Colin Wheatcroft.

Wiedenmann will include the Terra Spike GXi 6 its range to Saltex. See them at stand V26.

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Machinery releases, photographs and logos are **available to download** as high resolution jpgs on the Wiedenmann UK website. www.wiedenmann.co.uk/media.html

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