



Photo: Golf de Nîmes-Campagne

Golf de Campagne renovation delivers elevated conditions

The course at Golf de Nîmes-Campagne in southern France, which was originally designed by Léonard Morandi and Don Harradine, has been transformed following a renovation by Harradine Golf, agronomist Alejandro Reyes and materials specialist, Alcimex.

Over the years, soil on the course had become compacted, overworked and water hungry, making maintenance a “daily battle”, according to Vincent Pigeyre, greenkeeper at Campagne. “Compacted and overstressed, the soil simply wasn’t doing its job anymore,” he said.

In 2022, the club appointed Peter Harradine, Don’s son, to oversee a reconstruction which “respected the spirit” of the course while preparing it

for today’s – and future – maintenance and playability requirements.

“The club wanted to restore the playability and aesthetics of my father’s design,” said Harradine. “That objective was achieved by designing and specifying a sustainable approach which will withstand the ever-increasing hotter and drier summers. Returning to a course designed by my father wasn’t an act of nostalgia. It was about renovating it for the next 50 years.”

Following the renovation, players have found the course’s surfaces to be more uniform and stable, and the roll of the ball to be more consistent. For the maintenance team, the course is more tolerant of climatic variations and less prone to disease, while water use has fallen by around 25 per cent.

The club attributes much of this improvement to the decision to use Alciturf from Alcimex, a mineral material with high cation-exchange capacity and natural porosity. “In the first weeks after sowing, the soundness of that choice became evident: samples taken at five and nine weeks revealed unusually vigorous root growth,” said Pigeyre. “Six months later, roots had colonised the entire profile, and the greens retained their suppleness even under the August sun.

“Everything seems to function with less effort, as if the course itself had begun to breathe again. Everything has fallen back into place – soil that works for the plant, water used with discernment, and a design that is both respected and renewed.”