

# By Royal Appointment

Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club

Founded over 100 years ago and comprising two 18 hole golf courses, Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club sits idyllically in Royal Parkland at Richmond upon Thames, adjacent to Kew Gardens and just a few miles outside the capital.

## The Challenge

In common with many greenkeepers across the country, the ground staff at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club were battling a growing problem with invasive non-native plants. A Japanese knotweed infestation in the area had started to spread onto aspects of the course itself, specifically on two large problem areas, a car park that borders the edge of the 18th fairway as well as on a proposed new teeing ground at the 9th hole.

General manager, Marc Newey and course manager, Gavin Kinsella recognised that, if left untreated, the continued encroachment of the Japanese knotweed onto the course could escalate into a major costly issue for the golf club. Concerned, they both visited the Institute of Groundsmen SALTEX exhibition to assess alternative treatment methods available.

## The Solution

The innovative new stem injection system being exhibited at SALTEX by Japanese Knotweed Control appeared to offer the ideal solution to Royal Mid-Surrey's problem. The club's location next door to Kew Gardens meant that traditional chemical spraying of large infested areas was not an environmentally acceptable option, whereas the localised stem injection method offered a much more accurate and efficient solution.

Within a couple of weeks of the exhibition Japanese Knotweed Control had visited the golf course, surveyed the extent of the problem and made recommendations on the treatment programme. A cost effective solution with minimum disruption to the course and all environmental risk factors taken into account was agreed, before work began immediately on the treatment.

## The System

The stem injection system, available exclusively in the UK and Europe through Japanese Knotweed Control's sister company, Stem Injection Systems (Europe), works by delivering a measured dose of herbicide directly into the centre of the plant rather than just on the surface. This means it is a far more environmentally-friendly alternative to traditional chemical spraying of dig and dump methods since it avoids drift spray, run-off and contamination of watercourses and other sensitive vegetation.



“Japanese Knotweed Control offered a first class service, impressing us with the efficiency and accuracy of its stem injection system. We were able to see immediate results as the knotweed began to die back and the main benefit has been that no other vegetation or animal life on the course, or in the surrounding area, has been affected by the treatment.

The team itself was professional, personable and highly knowledgeable about the treatment and has quickly overcome a knotweed problem which threatened to become a major issue for our golf club.”

- Course Manager, Gavin Kinsella

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