

For immediate release:

The status of the Groundsman

Groundsmen are probably the only people who really understand what goes into marking straight lines on sports surfaces. Anyone who has ever marked out any kind of playing surface knows that to mark straight lines, and to repeat the straightness week after week is tremendously difficult, especially when marking out a pitch which has divots, uneven contours, lumps and bumps and worn-out or muddy surface. It is no mean feat to mark out a perfectly straight line over distances up to 120 metres. Skilled groundsmen take hours to mark a pitch carefully and accurately.

For best quality marking, groundsmen traditionally used string lines to act as a guide, but these were cumbersome and time-consuming to set out and usually end up tangled and covered in paint. Perhaps this is why most pitch-marking was done by mere guesswork. Even where string lines were used, they could snag on contours, and a thick grass surface could end up distorting the lines to be marked.

But this is history. The advent of the laser-guided line marker will change line-marking forever, and has already set new standards for straightness and squareness on sports surfaces. BeamRider is a new laser-guided system developed by an Anglo-Swiss consortium headed by Fleet (LineMarkers) Ltd, which has its headquarters here in the UK, and Leica Geosystems, the world's leading manufacturer of laser surveying equipment.

Easy to use, and capable of marking perfectly straight and square pitches in a fraction of the time taken by traditional methods, BeamRider will revolutionise the way groundsmen think about linemarking, and also the way people think about groundsmen. Pitch marking has now been raised from the string-and-peg level to a truly high-tech skill, equipped with some of the most advanced electronics and laser technology in the world.

www.beamrider.org

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Notes for editors

1. Hi-res images can be downloaded from www.beamrider.org/press/imagelibrary
2. The new laser system is the product of a three year, multi-million pound development programme by Anglo-Swiss developer BeamRider Ltd. The main investors in this project are UK-based Fleet (Line Markers) Ltd, and Swiss laser specialists Leica Geosystems. The system is protected by international patents.
3. The BeamRider system is capable of phenomenal accuracy over long distances, and is expected to revolutionise pitch-marking standards for most sports at professional level. It

will also drastically cut marking times for contractors and local authorities with many pitches to mark.

4. BeamRider consists of a set of laser transmitters and reflectors, and a laser-following attachment mounted on a spray-marker (such as Fleet's popular Kombi marker).

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