



CHANNEL RELEASE

Ipswich Town FC Experience World's First Jacobsen SLF1 ELiTE Lithium

For the past year, the world's first Jacobsen SLF1 ELiTE lithium five reel mower has been in use at Ipswich Town Football Club, and the near-silent vibration-free experience has been a game changer.

Head of Grounds Ben Connell and his team have put the machine to work at the club's Playford Road training ground as part of the unit's development phase. A 40% reduction in fuel and parts, an enhanced user experience, and the multiple benefits of silent operation have all been standout factors during the 200 hours of use.

The SLF1 in Action

Ben explains: "Everyone wants to jump on the SLF1 and use it. The team enjoy using the machine because it's less fatiguing when sitting there with no noise. It's just a much more pleasurable experience.

"We've had it out a lot of days to get the 200 plus hours, and some days, we've had it going all day, and the battery was great. I've never had a problem where we've run out of battery anywhere on the grounds. The team brings it back at lunchtime, plugs it in for half an hour, and it keeps going for the rest of the day. Then we charge it overnight, and we're good to go the next day."

40% Reduction in Maintenance Costs

While the user experience on the machine has been greatly enhanced, Ben has seen massive benefits off it as well. With no filters, oils, or fuel to deal with, the maintenance time and associated costs have decreased.

"I'd have a guess that our maintenance costs have reduced by 40%, Ben explained. "We don't have the oil filters, so we're saving on those and other parts, and you then don't have the waste products you get from

changing them.

"We've also received fewer fuel deliveries because our consumption is lower, so it's a win-win for us going forward.

"Maintenance-wise, with the lithium batteries, it's so much simpler because we're using the computer system. Any faults are plugged in and solved without having to crawl underneath machines to try and find them, so we aren't exposing ourselves to oils and all the dirt, grime, and other carcinogenic materials that come with them."

No Longer the Noisy Neighbours

Like many sports facilities, houses surround Playford Road, and noise complaints are common. The low 72 Db noise output from the SLF1 ELiTE has meant the grounds team can cut early in the morning before training without causing any disruption.

"We've had issues in the past where we've wanted to cut early on Saturday or Sunday mornings when the pressure is that we've got football training or a game, and we need to get out with the mowers, but we've caused a noise, and we've had a few phone calls," Ben said.

"Now we're going out at weekends, and the neighbours don't even know we've cut. And I've asked them, "Did you hear us at the weekend?" and they've said, "Oh, we didn't realise that you'd come out." And that's the answer you want."

World Soccer's First Emissions Free Grounds Department

The SLF1 ELiTE is a long stride forward for Ben's ambitions to be the world soccer's first emissions-free grounds department. With Jacobsen, Cushman, and E-Z-GO lithium technology already being utilised by the team, Ben has planned solar panels for a potential new grounds shed. These panels would recharge the batteries overnight, effectively making the next day's operation cost-free.

To experience the SLF1 ELiTE for yourself, contact your local [Jacobsen dealer](#).