Financial Crisis

Despite the huge sums of money floating around the world of golf in an ever increasing spiral, we hear of yet another plea from a deserving cause.

No, it is not the Greenkeepers asking for a living wage, but this time it is the Golf Foundation, a charitable organisation whose sole objective is to promote junior golf at grass roots level through coaching schemes at both schools and clubs.

This year they face an income shortfall of around £50,000.

Figures supplied by the Golf Foundation reveal that only 300 clubs in Britain make a contribution to the funds. That leaves some 1,700 skinflint Committees who have totally ignored requests asking for a donation to help not only the junior golfers, already with a golf club without a club, but those juniors, sons and daughters of senior golfers, already with a golf club attachment.

Ask at your own club for a contribution, or a direct appeal to management committees. If they feel they cannot justify a sum from the annual subscription then surely someone would donate 10p, probably more if he understood the excellent work of the Golf Foundation.

The only way this sum can be raised is to make a direct appeal to management committees. If they feel they cannot justify a sum from the annual subscription then surely someone could organise at least one competition during the season, run a sweepstake or even put a Golf Foundation swear box on the bar.

How many of us have said as we swing the club in an arthritic curve - if only I had started the game earlier?

It is too late for us, but not too late to help a youngster on the right path to golfing success.

Tragic ending to prize trip

There was a sad ending to the Houston trip for Young Greenkeeper of the Year, Huw Morgan, who heard by telephone that his father, Vivian, the Course Manager at Pontadawe Golf Club, Swansea, had died suddenly on his home course.

Huw, Head Greenkeeper at Fairwood Golf Club, had already made the most of his prize visit to Texas and was spending a final few days taking up the numerous invitations he had received to see the top courses in the northern part of Houston.

Despite a bout of “Texan Flu”, Huw had participated in as many events as could be squeezed into his hectic schedule and was using his last few days to see how the best courses were managed.

We would like to extend our sympathy, to Huw and his family, in their sad loss. We know how much he was looking forward to sharing his experiences with his father on his return to Swansea.

Huw is a fine ambassador for the younger generation of British Greenkeepers and his club can be proud of him.