

Let's Get The Priorities Right

It seems a pity that the EIGGA and SIGGA pages in *Greenkeeper* are devoted solely to branch news. There are no 'views' to mention. Is this due to a lack of material perhaps?

I offer some thoughts on technical greenkeeper education as a follow-up to Jim Arthur's article on this subject in the November/December issue and Peter Wisbey's comments in October's *Out On The Course*.

Providing an opportunity for greenkeeper training at college is one of several benefits that can come out of sound management—staff relationships, staff accommodation, wage scales, clothing allowances and priority to course machinery and maintenance in club budgets are others.

Golf club committees run businesses; they are not likely to give continued preferential treatment to the workforce unless they consider such a policy a worthwhile investment.

Those responsible for a club's financial security and standing will always value and respect good greenkeepers who work together,

efficiently and conscientiously and keep open channels of communication with club officers.

The head greenkeeper/course manager can only act as a representative for the interests of all his staff if each member contributes to the team effort and approach by pulling his weight, standing independent on occasions and giving feedback to the head man.

So, let's all be prepared to promote ourselves and our profession. Only by this means can we and greenkeeping as an applied science have a secure future.

David Merrills, Porters Park GC, Herts.

Shades Of The Past

Let me take you back to the beginning of the century with a few extracts from a club handbook that may be of interest. 'The letting of grazing for the season (1919) was considered by the committee and it was agreed that the greenkeeper should have the let for the season for the sum of £24.' Very cunning those old greenkeepers! As well as keeping the grass short, it was

fertilised at the same time and there was a plentiful supply of mutton for the winter.

Forget your modern grass-cutting equipment. For £30, the greenkeeper found a horse suitable for grass cutting. Presumably, it pulled a gang mower! A horse had a two-fold use, as it produced a ready-made supply of organic material to help make compost. At the end of the season, the farmer would buy the horse back from the club for £20.

There was no problem conveying sand and other material around the course as the greenkeeper purchased a secondhand wheelbarrow.

A number of golf clubs employed scythe gangs twice yearly to cut the grass. Golfers of old accepted vastly different conditions to their counterparts today—long grass and firm greens to name but two. But they adapted to the conditions and adjusted their shot-making accordingly.

As we approach the latter part of the century, things have certainly changed with machinery, fertilisers, watering systems, etc, etc. But have these modern inventions made our jobs any easier or more enjoyable?

Jim Grainger, Ayrshire.

MALDON GOLF CLUB

This attractive 9 Hole Members Club in Rural Essex seeks the Full-Time Services of a

GREENKEEPER

Salary is Negotiable within the guidelines of the E.I.G.G.A. recommendations

Free Accommodation will be available soon after appointment

Applications in writing to the Secretary:

**MALDON GOLF CLUB
BEELEIGH, LANGFORD,
MALDON, ESSEX CM9 7SS**

EUROPEAN OPPORTUNITY WANTED

21 year old Assistant Greenkeeper with five years experience on three U.K. courses wants a post on a mainland European course.

A member of E.I.G.G.A. with a working knowledge of French and attending evening classes in German and a keen golfer.

*Any interested club should write to:-
P.O. Box 12, Greenkeeper, 121-123 High Street,
Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex.*

CONGLETON BOROUGH COUNCIL

TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT MALKINS BANK GOLF COURSE, SANDBACH HEAD GREENKEEPER (T. 249)

Applications are invited for the above post from qualified/experienced Greenkeepers to maintain the 18 Hole Golf Course at Malkins Bank, Sandbach.

Applicants must be able to show proven ability in all aspects of golf course maintenance and be capable of supervising labour. Preference will be given to persons holding the National Diploma in Turf Culture or relevant City & Guilds Certificate.

The person appointed will be regarded as a Sub-Foreman directly responsible to the Parks Superintendent. An average anticipated weekly wage for 39 hours will be £136 to £140.

*Application Forms and further particulars from the
Personnel Section, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach, Cheshire.
Tel.: 09367 3231 Ext. 224.*

Closing date 23rd April, 1985