SIMON TAYLOR, 22, joined the greens staff at the RAF Germany Golf Club, Bruggen in June 1985, originally to earn some money before returning to university. However, when September came, he decided not to return to his studies and the club kept him on.

"I have played golf since I was eleven, but had never considered how enjoyable and rewarding working on a golf course could be. Being a golfer means I can appreciate why each job has to be performed in a certain way and what results are expected."

The course at Bruggen has 18 holes, with an SSS of 71, measuring 6,522 yards off the back tees.
mission is granted.

“We also experience a great deal of rabbit damage, due to the course being heavily wooded and, as with the boars, permission has to be obtained before any shooting can be done.

“The relationship between staff and members here will interest other course managers. As Bruggen is an RAF course, the majority of members are only here for about three years and there are a lot of greens fee players. There are also a great number of competitions and society meetings from April to November, both weekdays and weekends.

“The course is relatively busy, so a lot of the work is done while play is going on and some players seem unreasonably impatient when required to wait a few minutes before playing their shots.

“There also seems to be a lack of willingness to consider plans for the course any further ahead than the present time, possibly as a result of short-term membership.”

Simon enjoys a good working relationship with colleagues, a Dutchman and his son. However, there are language problems. “It is difficult for me to learn the theoretical side of greenkeeping and also impossible for me to attend college for the same reason.”

Simon says he has gained much more enjoyment from greenkeeping than he would have ever imagined possible and after another year at Bruggen, he intends to look for a position at a course in the UK.

*To keep pace with the ever-changing face of our industry, Greenkeeper is spreading its wings to take on a more international appeal.

It is already widely read in continental Europe, in America, the Far East and Australia and this report by Simon Taylor is the first in a series that will highlight courses, problems and peculiar traits all over the greenkeeping globe.

Future articles will cover such diverse locations as Greece; Zimbabwe, where importation problems for spares and chemicals are a major headache and make for some interesting improvisations; the Algarve, now ripe with golf course and property development; and the States, when we will compare the lifestyle and working conditions of an American superintendent and his UK counterpart.

BOAR DAMAGE CONTINUED...

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