Golf club rallies round head greenkeeper

Members of a Dorset golf club have raised £2,300 to send a head greenkeeper and his family on a dream holiday to Florida.

Golfers at Tidworth, on Salisbury Plain, have been touched by the plight of Chris Brown's seven-year-old daughter, Samantha, who had a kidney transplant last June and then suffered a series of setbacks, culminating in a 165-day stay in hospital while she had her gall bladder and spleen removed. Her mother, Jan, stayed with her while Chris looked after their other daughter, Kelly, 6, at home.

Chris worked his job around Kelly's school day, starting at 9am and working to about 3.30pm, and his colleagues, Tony Rose, Mark Arthur and Ted Racey, covered for him at weekends.

Samantha, who'll be eight this month, came out of hospital just before Christmas and is now leading a normal life, apart from fortnightly check-ups.

Members of the downland course, where Chris has been working for eight and a half years, four years as head greenkeeper, raised the money through a greenkeeper and his family on a holiday home in Florida.

The Browns expect to go in October.

One step beyond course manager

What's the next step after course manager? Operations manager is the answer. And Kevin Munt, course manager at Buckinghamshire Golf Club, has just been appointed operations manager there.

This expansion of duties will involve him in all aspects of club management and operation.

He said: "This is an exciting challenge for me having been involved in the club's development since day one. It is wonderful to be given the chance to play a greater role in an operation that I have vested the last four years of my career to."

Kevin, 36, added: "This is a great reflection on the educational system developed by the Association in the last seven years. I hope that my appointment will give incentive and help to other skilled course managers who wish to step into overall golf club management. Hopefully it will also serve as a target for young people entering our profession. There are now great opportunities in the golfing world for people who are willing to study and work hard at their careers. In fact, thanks to the standards set by BIGGA and the GTC, it should be far easier for managers to step from the golf course into the club-house rather than the other way around."