New course  
Hirst Priory gears up for spring opening

The new golf course at Hirst Priory, Crowle (between Doncaster and Scunthorpe) has a new team in place ready for its opening this spring.

The full compliment of six staff have now been appointed with Paul Wylie (Southport Old Links) joining as deputy to head greenkeeper Jim Sargeant, who's been there since construction began. Allen Walker (Petercutter, Aberdeen) has been appointed as...
the general manager.

The 18-hole, 6130-yard course is set in a 147-acre park containing much mature woodland and an impressive Georgian house. It will have a small membership of 300-350 plus "upmarket" pay and play and society facilities.

During 1992 an original design by David Baxter was modified and construction began under the supervision of one of the directors. Before any work commenced, experienced head greenkeeper Jim Sargeant (Royal Dublin, Royal Porthcawl) was appointed to oversee the green and fairway construction. Extensive land drainage was carried out, together with the excavation of four small lakes. A Rainbird tee and green irrigation system was installed and seeding was completed by October 1992. Further tree planting was then carried out.

According to one of the directors, Mr P Fitzgerald, "The course has since been maturing well and despite the wettest autumn/winter any local can remember, there is no evidence of any standing water problems. The new team, with advice from the STRI, is now looking forward to an early spring to show their mettle and deliver a much needed course to the area."

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The product, which is said to be innovative, is being reintroduced.

The Cutting Compound Corporation is reintroducing it.

When you're looking for new greenkeepers, you need to consider the following:

- **Paying attention to details**: Greenkeepers need to be meticulous and detail-oriented to maintain the course's appearance and functionality.
- **Strong communication skills**: Greenkeepers must be able to communicate effectively with both staff and members to ensure that all requirements are met.
- **Physical fitness**: The job requires a lot of climbing, lifting, and walking, so physical fitness is essential.
- **Flexibility**: Being able to adapt to different weather conditions and work schedules is crucial.
- **Attention to detail**: Greenkeepers must be able to identify and address issues on the course promptly.

July seminars

Two days of seminars and a small trade exhibition are lined up for Newmarket Racecourse on July 12 and 13. The first day's topics will relate to general groundsmanship. The following day will be directed at greenkeepers. Speakers include Derek Ganning of The Belfry, Martin Jones, Myerscough College and John Philp, Carnoustie. For an invitation call Lynn Hilton at SISIS on 0625 503030.

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