This month, Greenkeeper International's bi-monthly series featuring Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers from every Region profiles Maintenance Facilities

Maintenance Facilities
Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE

1. What difference have you seen in the quality of maintenance facilities over the past ten years?

Paul Seago
Course: Gullane GC
Region: Scottish Region
Course type: Links
Number of holes: 54
Staff: Course Manager, mechanic and 14 greenkeepers

A vast improvement, with the staff looked after a lot better. We have locker rooms, heating, shower, and proper washing facilities. We have spent because of Health and Safety regulations. There are new concrete floors with wash bays and a workshop. I think we also need to convince many clubs about the importance of Health and Safety.

Paul Hobden
Course: Chart Hills GC
Region: South East
Course type: Mixture of woodland and parkland
Number of holes: 18
Staff: Course Manager, Mechanic and seven greenkeepers

Facilities have improved with us but I have seen some which are very poor. The course has been open for six years and we originally had agricultural buildings. These have been redesigned with a storage area with a place to wash of machinery. We have two toilets and a shower.

Marcus Phelps
Club: Marlborough GC
Region: S West & S Wales
Course type: Mixture of heathland and parkland with downland grasses
Number of holes: 18
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus four greenkeepers

A big improvement. We used to have sheds, but now we have a new brick building with washing facilities, toilets, tea room and storage space for every item of machinery. There is room for seed inside, but we have to keep top dressing outside. It's getting better everywhere due to the Health and Safety regulations.

Kevin Hodges
Course: Ryston Park GC
Region: Midland
Course type: Parkland
Number of holes: 9 (hoping for 18)
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus one (we run most of the time!)

Not to many here but ranging from good to poor at the three courses I have worked on. We have three up and over garages (all locked) but no shower or toilet. We have a work bench. We've spent £43,000 on a Jacobsen greens mower and a John Deere fairway mower and other items.

John Waite
Course: Scarthingwell GC
Region: Northern
Type of course: Parkland
Number of holes: 18
Staff: Head Greenkeeper plus three greenkeepers

Facilities have had to change for the better because of Health and Safety regulations. At one of my previous clubs there was no electric light and we had to wait each day for daylight before we could see anything in the maintenance facility! We have a toilet but no showers and a Portakabin for eating lunch etc. We are trying to improve all the time.
<table>
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<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<td>2. When did your maintenance facility last have a major make-over?</td>
<td>About eight years ago when wooden sheds were knocked down and we put up a prefabricated steel girder construction with steel cladding. We are looking to extend at the moment in three phases. 1. A workshop and fertilizer store. 2. Pesticide store and 3. A staff building.</td>
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<td>3. Is your facility close to the clubhouse, or out on the golf course?</td>
<td>Out on the golf course. It's about three quarters of a mile from the clubhouse, but ideally situated as it is bang in the middle of the three courses.</td>
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<td>4. What would you like to see in your maintenance facility that isn't there at the moment?</td>
<td>Better facilities for staff. We have improved but there is still room for further improvements. Greenkeepers do the work out there in all weathers and need a place to clean up, be able to prepare something hot to eat, dry clothes, shower and change. This should happen at every club.</td>
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<td>5. Outside of your own, whose maintenance facilities do you admire the most?</td>
<td>Undoubtedly St Andrews. They have state-of-the-art facilities and have got the lot. We have three courses and they have five and a half so our complexes work in similar ways. I have been to St Andrews three times now and have taken my staff there as well. They are an example to a lot of places.</td>
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