Training priorities recommended by GTC Technical Committee

The GTC Technical Committee has set out its recommendations for Greenkeeper training priorities in a three year Business Plan.

The work of the new Technical Committee within the GTC structure chaired by Dr Mike Canaway will enable the Management Committee to consolidate on the Leading Industry Body for Greenkeeping by achieving set objectives and ensuring funding is approved to meet these objectives in the development and implementation of Greenkeeper Education, Training and Qualifications," explained David Golding, the GTC's Education Director.

The Technical Committee consists of the following members:-
Chairman - Dr Mike Canaway
Consultants - John Davis, Tony Mears, Course Manager; Kerran Day, Course Manager; Iain Ritchie, Course Manager; David Golding, Education Director GTC; in attendance - Sue Gledson - N/SW Co-ordinator, in attendance

Bob McLaren, the Chairman of the Management Committee, has fully supported the work of the Technical Committee and has recommended endorsement of the Business Plan to the Management Committee. The representative bodies are currently considering the Business Plan including the financial implications to implement the Business Plan.

IOG meeting to welcome one and all

The Bristol Branch of the IOG is to hold a special meeting at St. Mary's School, Cable, Wiltshire at which Steven Bernhard, of Bernhard & Co, will be giving an illustrated talk, "Why lap?" Anyone who uses a cylinder mower should find this an extremely interesting talk.

The Branch will give a warm welcome to any member of BIGGA who would like to attend the meeting.

This is the first meeting the IOG have held in this area, and they would appreciate if those intending to come along would first phone Ted Cavell on 01278 788689, so that they may arrange a room of a size to fit the number attending. (Evening calls to Ted would be appreciated).

Grand Tour Scholarship 2001

The Grand Tour Scholarship invites golf course design and golf course management students for the second time to apply for a journey to leading golf courses throughout the United States in August 2001. The scholarship offers a unique learning experience to future leaders in our industry. TORSO sponsors this year's scholarship that has been organized by Bettina Schrickel, golf course architect (EIGCA) and president of Lioness Golf LLC.

The scholarship offers four students the opportunity to visit a variety of famous historic and modern golf courses on the east coast and west coast, respectively. The two study tours include golf courses such as Augusta National, Harbour Town Golf Links, The Coeur's Club in Bloomington, Cypress Point, Pebble Beach and Castle Pines to name just a few.

Both study tours will take place in August. The Western Route will lead to 70 golf courses in three weeks; the Eastern Route includes 23 courses and takes four weeks. Experience has proven the benefit of two students traveling together per route in order to exchange knowledge and impressions. Students will have the opportunity to walk each course, study the layout and talk to the golf course superintendent.

Edgbaston GC

A verdict of death by misadventure has been returned on Alan Cutler, Deputy Head Greenkeeper and a much valued staff member of Edgbaston Golf Club, who was crushed by a mower after it toppled onto him as he cut round a bunker's edge.

The Birmingham inquest was told that Alan, who had been at the club for 34 years, had been cutting round a bunker on the 15th hole in March last year when the incident occurred. While Alan didn't return from the maintenance facility, Course Manager, Mike Hughes, went to look for him and found him trapped underneath the machine. It took three men to lift the machine off him and he was declared dead at hospital having suffered respiratory failure due to a crushed chest.

The jury, after having been guided by the Coroner, advised that the cause of death was as a result of a crush injury of the chest.

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The investigation of the circumstances of Alan's death is being carried out by the Health and Safety Executive, and it is expected that a report will be published shortly.

The Health and Safety Executive, having considered the circumstances of Alan's death, has published a report that identifies several recommendations for improving safety at Edgbaston Golf Club.

The website can be accessed at: www.theturfdiseasecentre.co.uk

Royal Inverdivot GC...

The third year of the RigbyTaylor sponsored Matchplay Knockout tournament for the South Wales Section members saw 32 individuals equating to 16 pairs from 19 golf clubs. This year's final, as usual at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, was between last year's winners Team Morriston consisting of Daryl Bray and Leigh Davies against Team Penradd consisting of Peter Lacey and Robert Hanford. On this occasion though the Champions were unseated and Penradd clinched the trophy on the 15th green.

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