What’s your number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month’s lucky number...

Tim Fell of Tillers Turf comes under the spotlight

Name: Tim Fell
Company: Tillers Turf
Position: Managing Director
How long have you been in the industry?
26 years.
How did you get into it?
I must have been born with a green gene because I was mowing my parent’s lawns at a very early age. It was a natural progression to grow the stuff.
What other jobs have you done?
Agronomist with Commonwealth Development Corporation, Swaziland. Chemical Representative with Fisons Plc.
What do you like about your current job?
I feel enormous satisfaction when someone compliments our turf. Growing a large area of high quality turf, and achieving consistency year after year, is very challenging. Our production team does an exceptional job.
What changes have you seen in the industry?
The size and automation of machinery have been the most visible. Gone are the days of stacking turf by hand. And the use of 10m-wide GPS-guided mowers means that cutting 200 acres per machine per day is a snip.
The selling of turf on the internet kicked off a few years ago, and is now responsible for a large percentage of sales to homeowners. Our retail site, www.turfshop.co.uk is a useful income stream for the company.
The Turf Growers Association (TGA), of which I am currently Chairman, has made great strides in the last ten years. It is now a very professional organisation which sets the standard for turf production in this country.
What do you like to do in your spare time?
I play trumpet in a jazz band, fish for trout between March and October, and play bridge during the winter.
Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?
I can’t see that far ahead.
Who do you consider as your best friends in the industry?
My very best friends are our customers. Not far behind are our suppliers, who make up a very important part of our team in providing us with great products to work with.
What do you consider to be your lucky number?
I don’t have one.
Pick a number
7.

Assistant Profile

Each month we take a light hearted look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

Portsmouth FC fan, Peter, works at Hankley Common, or at least he did until his Course Manager reads this! From golf clubs to nightclubs, Peter has a wide variety of interests...

Name: Peter Oliver
Age: 24
Club: Hankley Common GC
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Monty!

How long have you been greenkeeping?
7 years

What was it about the career that attracted you?
My brother was a greenkeeper so always interested. Was helping in the pro shop at Old Thorns Golf Club when Derek Cunliffe asked me if I would like to work the summer as a greenkeeper. The rest is history.

If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be?
Not a clue. As I said before always interested in the game of golf.

Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?
Raking bunkers gives me satisfaction when finished as a job well done. Although it’s not something that I look forward to so much after a thunder storm.

Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?
Cutting fairways - I don’t like being on my backside for too long.

What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers’ lot?
In my time things have improved a lot including conditions and education. As in life, long may this continue.

What are your favourite hobbies?
Golf, and I play a bit of football. I also like clubbing.

And your favourite band?
Sterephonics and all dance music.

Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?
Portsmouth FC.

What is your claim to fame?
None really, so far. Was once caught on the TV cameras at a Leicester City v Pompy football match celebrating an away win.