The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.

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Darren Child has a job on his hands at Hawkhurst Golf Club. But he is relishing the challenge.

When Darren took over, the course was certainly in the gutter, but not necessarily looking at the stars – to paraphrase another acclaimed philosopher and wit, Oscar Wilde.

The course had just gone into administration. The Head Greenkeeper and his part-time assistant had to go as part of the old regime. The Administrator had taken what worthwhile machinery was to be had in the ramshackle building which masqueraded as the maintenance facility.

The club had struggled for a number of years, being propped up by the club's owner, who was spending anything up to £50,000 each year, to bail the club out on salaries, overheads etc. The membership had also dwindled from a relatively robust 400 to just over 100. It was then that the owner understandably felt that the situation was not sustainable and that, while he would be happy for the club to continue, he would no longer bank roll it, and so things came to a head.

Looking into a genuine abyss, the Club Professional, Peter Chandler, and one of the club's squash members, James O'Reilly, decided, despite the less than rosy outlook, to try and make a go of the club.

It was to this situation that Darren arrived. A man who had earned his greenkeeping stripes at Walton Heath, under Clive Osgood and latterly, Ian McMillan, and a former junior member of Hawkhurst, Darren Scott MacCallum visits a golf club which so nearly went out of existence but which is now well on the road to recovery.