Your R&A services

Hopefully, by now, you will all have visited the new course management section of The R&A website at www.randa.org/thegolfcourse

The look, feel and content of the site have been designed to appeal to the decision makers in golf facilities with the executive power to initiate and drive change – and that probably includes you! The site is all about how golf can make a positive contribution to the economy, the environment and communities; and how golf can benefit from being proactive. Today’s world of financial troubles, environmental regulation and public scrutiny poses real challenges for golf. Many think that it takes significant additional costs to address these challenges.

The reality can be very different and the website is intended to provide ideas, guidance and evidence as to how this can be achieved and how golf facilities can thrive by confronting these issues head on.

Over time, a library of news items, features and case studies will be built up on the site with the intention of providing you with a resource of real value as you work your way down the path towards greater sustainability. You and your course could be featured on the site, getting on its ‘Global Bulletin May’. Get in touch with us at The R&A if you think your course should be featured.

Course Health Check and Course Health Tracker

The R&A will be demonstrating the website during Harrogate Week, at the Showfloor Theatre, from 12 noon to 12.30 pm. In addition to the features mentioned above, we will also be previewing two new services which are under development: the Course Health Check and the Course Health Tracker. These services are the subject of ongoing refinement, informed by market research. An Edinburgh-based company has been working with us to find out what web-based tools will interest, excite, inspire and be of real value to those involved in ‘managing the business of sustainability’ at golf facilities.

The Course Health Check is a simple, six question, two minute tick box teaser to raise awareness of sustainability. Our market research suggests that users get much more out of it:

“The CRC will reward the superintendent of places where they can improve, which usually could have been overlooked.”

“Good spot check as to how the club was performing and a good argument for underpinning future policies.”

The Course Health Tracker provides an annual audit by which the net balance of revenue brought into the club by its primary asset, the golf course, is offset by what is spent on the course. It also offers the possibility to show where the greening-keeping team’s time is spent on the course over the year and what efforts are being made to enhance biodiversity. The service will enable sensible in-country comparisons, with pooled data that shows average percentage income, spend and time so that you are able to see where your programme sits in relation to others.

The R&A is working with professionals who make the important strategic decisions at golf facilities to provide tools that will make their life easier. Come and see your R&A services at Harrogate Week. We look forward to seeing you and, more importantly, to hearing your ideas as to how we might be of help to you.

This is your opportunity to work at The Open Championship and assist the Lytham and St Anne’s team with the preparation of the course and be a part of the on-course team which accompanies each match ensuring bunkers are raked in a correct and professional manner.

It will be your responsibility to make your way to the team’s base for the week – a hotel in the centre of Blackpool, but after that transport to and from the golf course, accommodation and meals will be provided for the duration of the Championship. Accommodation will be on a shared, twin room basis. You will be expected to report for duty by 5pm on Wednesday, July 18, and be available until the close of play on Sunday – a meal and bed and breakfast will be supplied for the Sunday evening and Monday morning if required.

This opportunity is open to full BIGGA members only. Younger members, relatively new to the Association, will also be actively considered, as will a number of first-time applicants.

To apply please complete this application form and send to: Scott MacCallum, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Acomb, York, YO61 1SF. For further information contact Scott on: 01347 833800 or email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Closing Date for applications for The Open Support Team is February 1, 2011, and you will be notified later in the month.