JERSEY BLOG

We've had a good response to last month's blogging article – and one of the most engaging greenkeeper blogs has emerged on the island of Jersey.

John Critchley, greenkeeper at Les Mielles Golf & Country Club, maintains an impressive blog with frequent updates and images of the team at work on the Championship course which is in a picturesque conservation area of the island.

Read it for yourself at www.lesmiellesgroundscrew.blogspot.co.uk. It’s also pleasing to note that it’s given a very prominent spot on the club’s website – clearly visible at the top of the text on the homepage.

John says: “I started the blog in October last year to make the members aware of what we're doing and educate them on why it’s important to make the members aware we are always doing valuable work.

“The feedback from the Club has been positive. Members who you never thought would come to us say they have been following the blog which is great. I feel the majority of golfers don’t understand what our job entails. When the weather’s bad some believe we either go home or sit in the break room drinking coffee. Actually we’re servicing the machines, setting up mowers, cleaning and organizing store sheds, doing paint work and all manner of other tasks. It’s important to make the members aware we are always doing valuable work.

“The members know they have the option to contact me for more information, it’s easily approachable. It’s benefited the membership, the management and it’s created a kind of buzz within our team.”

GI NEWSDESK

The latest news from around the globe

GCMA APPOINTS NEW CEO

The Golf Club Managers Association is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Chief Executive, Bob Williams.

Bob is well known to many within the Association already, having been in golf club management for 20 years, previously Manager at Long Ashton GC and latterly at Chipping-Sodbury GC.

He is also an active member in the South West Region, notably spearheading their educational activities in recent years. Bob also played an active part in the Association’s planning group for the 2011 National Conference.

He is also currently working with the Association’s Gill Bridle and Bucks New University to help develop the education programme there, including preparation of the course content.

He was already scheduled to help with a presentation at the BTME Show at Harrogate in January, and will be attending the Regional Executive Conference at Weston-super-Mare at the end of January also.

Bob will formally commence work at Weston-super-Mare on the 1st February 2013, initially working closely with current CEO Keith Lloyd for a month’s handover period before Keith departs at the end of February.

GEORGE PITTS BECOMES LATEST MG

George Pitts - Course Manager at Yelverton Golf Club - has been announced as BIGGA’s latest Master Greenkeeper.

George, who is also Secretary for the Devon & Cornwall Section, lives in Okehampton and described how pleased he was to have been awarded the accolade, while highlighting how important education is.

He said: “Achieving the Master Greenkeeper certificate has been my career objective since completing my HND in 2000. It’s a great process, ensuring you meet the highest industry standards and promote professionalism to the wider golfing community.

“Education and training is key to improving the integrity of the profession and the Association. Thank you to Yelverton Golf Club for their support during the process and to various peers in the industry for their help and guidance.”

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

BIGGA volunteers are once again required to help Kenny Mackay and his team at The Wentworth Club for the BMW PGA Championship between May 22-26 2013. Assistance will be required for any period of time during the tournament – from all four days to just one day.

The last two days will feature bunker raking. It’s a great chance to see first hand the preparation for this European Tour flagship event, which will be held on the West Course.

All assistance will be greatly appreciated.

For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator at chegwood@yahoo.co.uk or call Clive on 07841 948410 or 01737 819343.

How can anything so small be so big on results?