



GOOD MOVE FOR MASTER GREENKEEPER PHIL

One of BIGGA's Master Greenkeepers has been appointed Course Manager at Goodwood's two highly acclaimed golf courses.

Phil Helmn MG, former Golf Course and Estate Manager at Heythrop Park, and who featured in GI back in June last year, has taken the reins at the West Sussex venue.

Phil will be working closely with Andrew Brown, Head Greenkeeper of The Downs course, and Simon Berry, Head Greenkeeper of The Parks course, along with the rest of the greenkeeping team.

Phil's extensive experience includes the construction and grow-in of four courses. One was in Florida under the direction of distinguished golf architect Tom Fazio, the second was in Cyprus designed by Tom Mackenzie of UK based architects Mackenzie and Ebert, The Watermark

Club and finally Heythrop Park Resort. Phil's early career saw him work at Morecambe Golf Club, Camberley Heath and Collingtree Park.

He said: "I have been a greenkeeper all my adult life and I love my career choice. Goodwood is a quality brand and specifically the golf courses are highly ranked and revered. It will be a fantastic challenge to help Goodwood improve even further on its recent successes and ranking.

"Myself and the entire greenkeeping team have some big plans for the future so it's an exciting time to be here."

Phil joins Goodwood at a significant time as the James Braid designed Downs Course celebrates 100 years of golf this year, and to mark the occasion Goodwood will be hosting a number of high profile events throughout the season.



LIVERPOOL FAN IN OLD TRAFFORD CHARITY ABSEIL

A greenkeeper Liverpool fan is putting football rivalry to one side for charity when he abseils 140 feet from the roof of Manchester United's Old Trafford ground!

Paul Pearse, Head Greenkeeper at Warrington Golf Club, was undergoing a check-up in April 2012 when doctors noticed a lump indicating testicular cancer, and which had begun to spread. He was operated on within days, and after nine weeks of chemotherapy and a further two months of recuperation he was given the all clear last year.

Now Paul, who says he doesn't like heights, is to plunge 140 feet from the 76,000 capacity stadium's roof in aid of The Christie, an organisation which raises funds for vital cancer research and treats more than 40,000 patients each year.

Paul said: "I wanted to give something back so that other people suffering from cancer have a better chance to be as fortunate as I've been.

"I know some people would gladly chuck a Scouser off the top of Old Trafford but I'm doing this willingly, and hopefully the rope will be sturdy! I'm not a fan of heights and I'm not looking forward to that moment when I have to step off the stand at all, but it's all in terrific cause which is obviously very close to my heart.

"Basically I would urge every bloke to check themselves regularly. As it happened my lump was found when I was having a general check-up, but if you do find something unusual go straight to your doctor, catching it early is so important."

Paul's abseil will be on Sunday 23 March and you can find out more and sponsor him at justgiving.com/Paul-Pearse – all contributions will be very gratefully received!