similar benefits, albeit on a smaller scale.

So, having dug a hole and filled it, what next? A very good question. Life being what it is, the answer to one problem quite often begets another. Right! All that water adds yet another demand to the day-to-day business of golf course management...

That demand comes in the guise of water management — the important task of ensuring that the quality of water stored in-ground does not deteriorate to the point where it can represent a distinct environmental hazard.

Reservoirs and lakes are, after all, living ecological systems in which the control of algae and weed is an important factor in maintaining a natural balance between what is good and that which can be harmful — to man, wildlife and turf.

As a simple example, think of algae ‘bloom’. That thick green stuff which covers the surface of many a village pond. Viewed from a distance, some may feel that it looks attractive but the truth is that its very existence causes trouble down below.

By preventing natural light from penetrating into the depths of the water, algae deprives the water of oxygen giving plants from thriving deeper down.

Since plantlife is an essential and natural method of releasing life-providing oxygen into the water the lack of light begins a process which, if left unchecked, will upset the balance of nature.

As oxygen levels fall, the ‘bloom’ dies off and sinks to the bottom of the pond. More oxygen is needed to combat the effects of decomposing plantlife yet, in reality, the reverse is happening. Allowed to develop further, the water becomes anaerobic — deprived of oxygen. At this stage all natural life in the water including fish is seriously at risk. So too is the quality of water intended for irrigation purposes.

As anaerobic bacteria begins to thrive on waste materials — dying plants, fish and even grass cuttings blown into the water from nearby fairways or greens are digested anaerobically rather than by natural means. (Fertiliser entering the water through run-off doesn’t help either).

You’ll soon know when this stage has been reached because noxious odours are released as a by-product. Yes, the water on your course smells!

Apart from the obvious; murky water clogging filters, valves and sprinklers, the bacteria present in the water also threatens both soil and turf.

Algae present in the water will build-up on soil surfaces to create a perched water table which, if left unchecked, will upset the balance of nature.

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Algae present in the water will build-up on soil surfaces to create a perched water table. Anaerobic bacteria can, as least one well-known head greenkeeper in this country will testify, play havoc with fine turf...

In days of yore, many a lake or pond was left to its own devices until the stinking, slimy contents forced those responsible to take action. Then, it was mostly a question of disposing of the water and dredging the glutinous mess off the bottom and carting it away. Phew!

Latterly, chemicals have been used to control the imbalance created by neglected water. Repetitively expensive, time and labour consuming, this method has obvious limitations.

Today’s answer? Aeration, the method of adding oxygen — and movement — into the water, a natural process aided by man-made equipment which helps rid reservoirs and lakes of the pernicious effects of algae, plant death, suffocating sludge and anaerobic bacteria, automatically.

Aeration, in the form of high-profile fountains, like those at The Belfry, represent one answer to the business of water management. Used as a visual feature in ornamental and in-play lakes, the effect of a single fountain is helpful but conditional on the volume of water it is attempting to re-cycle.

The larger the lake, the more fountains are required to handle the sheer expanse of water involved effectively.

Parallel to introduction of fountains, floating and submersible aspirating and diffused air systems have been developed to increase the below-surface movement of water and add high levels of oxygen on a continuous basis.

Where a breakdown in the quality of water has already taken place, air stripping systems provide an efficient method of dissolving gases, chlorine hydrogen sulphide and other bacteria at the rate of 150 gallons per minute.

In essence, all these systems work on the basis that air pumped into a reservoir or lake assists the natural aquatic rejuvenation processes by increasing dissolved oxygen levels, providing much needed circulation and maintaining aerobic conditions.

What does that mean? Simply this; aerated water gives you the means whereby irrigation can be carried out without the fear of bacteria and the like affecting the quality of your prized turf, the balance of nature can be maintained in and around the water and irate telephone calls from the secretary’s office, complaining about ‘that smell’ will never reach your ears.

Postscript: As this article was going to press the Daily Telegraph published a story featuring scuba diver, 23-year-old Emma Elliott-Pyle, who has obtained a contract (with a dozen golf clubs) to retrieve balls from in-play lakes. Commenting on her task, Emma was quoted as saying; “The lakes are usually pretty disgusting, I have to shut my eyes and feel about in the dark.” Enough said.

Details of Otterbine fountains are available from Golf Course Services; 0858 463153. Readers wishing to learn more about AquaScape fountains, aspirating aerators and air stripping systems should call TIL Irrigation Limited; 0425 476162.
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Here we go with another chance to win £50 with Greenkeeper International!

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Write down the names of the three ads where the £50 notes are located and send your entries on a postcard to: Note the Notes Competition, BIGGA, Aldwalk Manor, Aldwalk, Aine, York, North Yorkshire YO6 2NF, to be received by first post Friday, June 24, 1994. The first correct entry drawn after that date will win £50. It could be YOU! Enter today—and note the notes!

Judges’ decision is final. Not open to BIGGA staff.

Peter Creary, course manager at Hatfield London Country Club, Essendon, Hertfordshire, was the winner of our May competition. A few minutes searching through these pages paid off for him—Will YOU be next month’s winner?

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Brickendon Grange Golf & Country Club

Invites applications for the position of

**Head Greenkeeper**

Applicants should possess recognised qualifications.
The successful applicant will have a sound knowledge of and experience in all aspects of course management and machinery maintenance.
The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and maintain Health & Safety Requirements is essential. Accommodation available.

Apply in confidence with C.V. to:
The Secretary, Brickendon Grange Golf & Country Club, Brickendon, near Hertford, Herts. SG13 8PD.

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THE WATERTON PARK
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require a Head Greenkeeper

This is an excellent opportunity for a fully qualified greenkeeper to develop and manage a newly constructed 18 hole golf course, due for opening in September 1995. The appointed Head Greenkeeper must be fully conversant with all matters relating to turf culture, machinery purchase and maintenance as he will be expected to develop his own team of greenkeepers to a high standard to maintain this very attractive golf course. The course has been built to U.S.G.A. specification. The appointment will commence 1st September 1994, Salary negotiable according to qualification and experience.

Applications with CV to:
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Wychwood House
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OXON OX7 6AG

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Swinley Forest Golf Club

invite applications for the position of

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

For an 18 hole golf course situated in heather and pine surroundings west of London. Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of modern course management and maintenance techniques.
The ability to manage, control and motivate staff is essential.
The salary and benefits are commensurate with this responsible position, family accommodation is provided.

Please reply in writing with full CV to:
The Secretary, Swinley Forest Golf Club, Coronation Road, Ascot, Berks SL5 9LE

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The Grounds Maintenance Service of BRETS has secured a five year contract for the maintenance of three Golf Courses within the London Borough of Ealing. As a consequence, we now require two Head Greenkeepers for the nine hole courses at Horsenden and Perivale.

You should hold a recognised greenkeeping qualification together with five years' relevant experience, two of which should have been in a supervisory capacity. You will also require a full driving licence and appropriate Pesticide Application Certificates.

Earnings will be in the region of £14,000 p.a. according to location.

For further information contact Robert Cox (Grounds Maintenance Manager) on 0831 850091
Alternatively contact the BRETS Personnel Department for further details and an application form at 24 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London W5 2BP. Tel: 081 758 5565. Please quote reference no. BR010
The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers
MUIRFIELD, GULLANE, EAST LOTHIAN

This famous golf club invites applications for the post of:

**COURSE MANAGER**

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

The successful applicant for this prestigious appointment must have a sound knowledge of all aspects of greenkeeping, with particular emphasis on links turf management. A practical knowledge of the use and maintenance of greenkeeping machinery and the ability to lead and motivate staff is essential. The Course Manager will have responsibility for the maintenance and presentation of the golf course under the direction of the Captain and Committee.

An attractive package, which includes a 3 bedroom, centrally heated house adjacent to the course, mileage allowance and other benefits commensurate with a club of this standing is negotiable.

Written application with details of age, qualifications and experience to:

The Secretary,
The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers,
Muirfield, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2EG

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Billingham Golf Club invites applications for the post of

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Applicants must be fully qualified and be able to show a proven record of achievement.

The ability to lead and motivate staff, organise work programmes and an awareness of all relevant Health and Safety legislation is essential.

The successful applicant will also be expected to have a sound knowledge of budgetary control.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Replies in writing together with full CV to

Secretary/Manager, Billingham Golf Club Ltd,
Sandy Lane, Billingham, Cleveland TS22 5NA.
by 21st June 1994

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Newark Golf Club requires an

**ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER**

For an 18 hole heathland golf course. Applicants must be suitably qualified in all aspects of course maintenance. Wage is negotiable dependent upon age and experience. Accommodation is available.

Apply in writing, enclosing a CV to:

Mr JDF Cressey, Chairman of Green, Newark Golf Club,
Coddington, Newark, Notts NG24 2QX

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Meltham Golf Club invites applications for the post of

**HEAD GREENKEEPER**

This parkland course requires applicants who are suitably qualified and experienced in all aspects of course management. The ability to motivate and lead an established team and organise work programmes is regarded as essential.

A practical knowledge of modern greenkeeping machinery and current Health & Safety regulations is also required.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Apply in writing, with full CV to:

The Secretary, Meltham Golf Club, Thick Hollins Hall,
Meltham, Huddersfield HD7 3DQ

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Settle Golf Club require a

**GREENKEEPER**

Applicants must be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and have a practical knowledge of modern machinery. Accommodation is not available. Salary negotiable according to experience.

Apply in first instance with full particulars to:

The Secretary, Settle Golf Club, 9 South Parade,
Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 9AX, Tel: 0729 823596

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I
t is my belief that the vast majority of our present problems are due to the lack of
communication and presentation of our-

ourselves and our staff. If, as we have proved
at Letchworth, this can be largely overcome,
everybody - including member, committee
member and secretary - is much happier and,
dare I say, the greenstaff are better paid.

Giving a presentation such as the one outlined
down below may seem a daunting task but, if
successful, makes all our other tasks much
easier.

Following five years of annual course man-
gager presentations in the clubhouse giving
updates on progress, describing problems,
with the assistance of invited speakers, and
answering sometimes difficult questions, I
believed that there was something more that
could be done to get the message across
regarding what the job of the greenkeeper
was all about.

Then in 1992 I attended an EGU seminar on
policy documents and there was the answer -
Ed McCabe and Arthur King from Brocken-
hurst Manor Golf Club had given their com-
mittee and membership a presentation of the
greenstaff and their equipment.

With great enthusiasm I returned to work
the next day and planned our own presenta-
tion at Letchworth.

Firstly I asked the greenstaff what they
thought. All agreed it was a good idea and
suggested different set-ups to get the most
from the day - even though it was scheduled
for a Friday evening in the middle of summer.

With that sort of backing from our staff I
knew it would work. Permission from the club? No
problems. Huge encouragement from our liai-
son officer. The treasurer even advised me to
set-up a separate budget so
that we could do it properly
(decent PA system, cheese and
wine, etc). Treasurers always
know somehow that a little
money spent now bears fruit
way into the future.

So all the preparations were
made (far too many to list)
and the day arrived.

5pm: Final staff briefing. All
staff including seasonal and
part-time were there.

4.30-6.15pm: PA system
installed and tested.

5.30-6.15pm: All relevant
equipment, machinery and
staff to putting green and in
place for presentation.

5.30-6.15pm: Still and video
cameras set up so that an
accurate record of the event
could be kept - all set up and
monitored by our liaison offi-
cer Brian Hodder (without
whom my position as course
manager would be near
impossible).

6.30pm: The presentation
begins - and the sun was even
shining.

The president of the club,
who introduces all our course
presentations, introduced me
with his usual flair and then it

was down to a very nervous course manager.

Following my brief introduction of what the
evening would hold for our members I started
with our greenstaff.

The staff
I spoke about each of them in turn, probably
embarrassed some, named them, went
through their service history, explained about
training and some of the tasks they had to
carry out and the difficulties they were up
against in getting some of those tasks com-
pleted with golfers on the course.

The machinery
How much it cost. I explained that they are
not just lawn-mowers like greenkeepers are not just grasscutters. How
much the machinery costs to maintain and
more importantly the costs and problems
which would occur if it was not maintained.

Action demonstrations
A pin position was changed all the time a
commentary was done on what the staff have
to think about before a place is selected -
obody I spoke to following this demonstra-
tion had any idea how much was involved.

The differences between triple and hand
mowing were explained along with height
of cut, hand watering, wetting agents and dry
patch.

We even set up a situation on the first fair-
way where one of the greenstaff was cutting a
fairway and an irate lady member (assistant pro
with a skirt on) was trying to play the
first hole.

I could then discuss the difficulties experi-
enced by both parties and explain why - and
more importantly how - they could be over-
come in the future.

I then closed the reasonably formal part of
the evening and invited all present to visit our
workshops for cheese and wine and discus-
sions with all the staff.

The workshop visit
The members were generally left on their
own to look at whatever they liked with the
staff on hand to answer questions - they were
kept very busy and a very good atmosphere
was created.

Some of the attractions were bench set-ups
of vertical cutting units and back-lapping
machinery. We especially took time out to
show some of the behind-the-scenes adminis-
tration involved, ie. year planners for compe-
titions, holidays, maintenance schedules etc,
diaries, day books, forward planners, machin-
ery records and health and safety require-
ments.

When I look back, the good
that was done on that one
evening in June 1993 will last
a very long time - the mem-
bership know much more
about the work that we do,
and that is no bad thing.

Much more importantly they
now see the staff as highly
trained, respectable, profes-
sional people.

The staff themselves got a
great deal from the evening as
well - they now look at our
membership in a different
light - not just aloof golfers
who get in the way of their
work.

It is a fact that the members-
ship pay subscriptions which
ultimately pay our salaries and
if they know that the course is
managed by trained profes-
sionals they will not argue at
any time in the future regard-
ing additional finance to main-
tain and improve golf course
conditions.

We made the effort - I
would urge my colleagues
everywhere to do likewise.
Believe me, it is certainly
worth the hassle.

Duncan McGilvray has been
at Letchworth GC for more than
six years.