Scottish Region
North
This month sees the Scottish Greenkeepers' Annual Tournament at Elite Golf Club in Fife. We would like to congratulate every club's at Royal Dornoch, the section will in Fife. After last year's resounding chance and good luck to us all.

North
we wish him all the best. While on the up a position at Carnoustie Golf Links, Ross has joined me at Tain as a trainee on the Greenkeeping world. My son subject of new members, we have three breaks. Kevin Keith, a trainee at Fortrose, and Colm Parsons, an assistant at Strathlene, Kingussie, rejoining us after a one year break. Michael Reid, a trainee at Newmacher, reporting that Newmacher's George congratulations to two new appointments. Firstly a couple of good wishes and con- 

West of Scotland
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East of Scotland
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Forrest, 4 Robert Hogarth.

The recent outing at Cawder was very time. delights the results were: Scratch – G Beven (E Kilbride) 74. 1st Class – 1st T Johnstone (Cardross) 81-7-74, 3rd K Ferguson (Clydebank) 85-8-77. 2nd Class – 1st B Hillen (Easter Moffat) 87-7-72, 2nd T Hindmarsh (Erskine) 87-14-73, 3rd J Brown (Beardsen) 85-13-73. 3rd Class – 1st R Grainger (Cawder) 92-22-70, 2nd G Searler (Balmore) 97-24-73, 3rd A Young (Douglasstown) 95-21-74. Trade Prize – K Hunter (Huslay)’s 84-72.

Well done to everybody, all these people quality for the Hunter Challenge with the exception of K Hunter.

The last item to mention is the five-a-side tournament, remember those wishing to enter need to let me know by July 31st. As in a team of five, two clubs can join forces. Entries to myself on 0141 942 5554 or Glasgow Golf Club.

Stuart Taylor

East of Scotland
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Stuart Taylor

Ayrshire
The first event of our new year was the spring outing at the Dumfries and County golf course, home of our Chair- man of the day, this was in very good condition, and we hope to see you up and about soon and getting about the courses, all the best from all your friends in the Section. Congratulations to George Thomson (Gowick) who recently got married, so we can all look forward to your handicap going up now and we hope to meet your new wife at the annual dance on the 7th December at the Kilipinde House Hotel, tickets on sale soon so get your order in now to avoid disappointment.

So that’s all for this month, if I have missed anything let me know and it will be in my July issue. I will talk to you next time.

CJ Yeoman

Northern Region
North East
On Thursday April 25 we paid our first visit to the new course at Market Hall for the Spring Competition and Hayter Qualifier. The course has only been open a year and was in excellent condition considering the winter we have had. Everyone was very praiseworthy.

Unfortunately the wind was well and truly blowing and played havoc with the scores.

On behalf of the section I would like to thank Vince Penny, Course Manager, and his staff, for the presentation of the course.

We would also like to thank John Ransome from HGCA, who very kindly visited and his little chat about Miracle Greenkeeper of the Year award.

Donations came from the following, Bryn and Sue Powell from Pinkerton, Border Turf Services, Greenkay, Rileys Aitkens, Bolden GC, Turf Care Supplies and Gerald Brady of Rhoen Pleasers (never the same two).

Our thanks to all those people who gave a donation or project to John Harrison, Director of Golf, for giving us an opportunity to do some charity work.

I would like to wish Ian Hutton, of Cossatt GC, the best of luck on moving to America for a new job as do all the Section.

Results: Best Gross A. McAuley, Whick- 77-7-78; Best Net S. Cram, Slaley Hall GC, 83-7-76; Assistants’ Cup, O. Cuthbertson, South Moor GC, 80-3- 77; R. Black, Westerhope GC, 83-7-76; I. Cairns, Close House GC, 86-7-77; M. Latrubesse, Hixham GC, 79-1-78; S. Pepple, Tyneside GC, 88-7-79; C. Parkinson, Slaley Hall GC, 84-4-80; N. Irvin, South Moor GC, 80-0-4; A. Dalby, Warkworth GC, 89-7-82; B. Wilson, Stocksfield GC, 88-5-83; J. Richardson, Marien Hall GC, 89-6-83; G. Baxter, South Shields GC, 89-6-83.

In August this year Steve Pope, Head Greenkeeper of Tyneside GC, retires after 37 years in greenkeeping – 30 plus of these were at Tyneside GC. It is hope that we shall have a retirement party for him later in the year. It should also be noted that Steve has been a member of the Association for most of this time. Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland
PAR 4 Irrigation celebrated its 15th anniversary with a successful Stableford golf event at Romany Bank at Northallerton GC. The winners included Graham Bor- der from Castle Eden GC, Barry Walker from Weasridge GC, Linda Simmers from PAR 4. A most enjoyable day, thank you to all those involved.

Congratulations to Course Manager Robert Upston, for the excellent condi- tion of the course and to the catering staff who we welcome to BIGGA membership. His boss, farmer Brian Graven, is to be congratulated on developing such a splendid course layout. We had difficulty at the water approach to a par 3 – nice to see the swans.
At Wynyard Golf Course near Billingham, Gary Munroe and staff are hard at work putting the finishing touches to the new course prior to opening later this summer. In a beautiful setting and 200 hundred acres, it will be challenging to the best of players. The club has chosen some golfers to be on his staff and their expertise will be welcome.

We need some warmer weather, as growth is about to begin here in Cleveland Section.

Bruce Burnell

Sheffield

At the beginning of April we held our final winter lecture at Rotherham GC and I would like to thank the club for their hospitality and allowing us our lectures there throughout the winter.

I would like to thank Amazone for giving us a very interesting talk and slide show at Rotherham which was enjoyed by a good number of our members.

On April 15 we held our spring competition at Sherwood Forest GC. It was also the Hayter qualifier. Sherwood was in excellent condition for so early in the year and our thanks go to Kim and his staff for all their hard work.

We would like to thank Sherwood Forest for the courtesy of the course and to the trade members who provided prizes.

Congratulations to everyone who won prizes at Sherwood and to Phil Stain who with an excellent score of 39 points won the spring competition. Well done Phil!


The nearest the pin was won by K Kirkham (with the help of local knowledge)

Congratulations to the following people who won the handicap division of the Hayter Qualifier:


Thank you to the steward and his staff for providing an excellent meal. Also thanks to Hayter for providing the main prizes for the event.

Congratulations to everyone who won prizes at Sherwood and to Phil Stain who with an excellent score of 39 points won the spring competition. Well done Phil!


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Congratulations to the following people who won the handicap division of the Hayter Qualifier:


Good luck to you all in the regional final in Wales!

I've been asked by Barry Heaney to remind people to return entry forms for competitions by the closing date and with the entrance fee as late forms and ones without payment will not be accepted any more. May I also remind people that to play in golf competitions you need to attend a minimum of two lectures throughout the winter.

Our next competition will be our annual competition which will be held at Abbeydale GC on July 9 with a 10.30 tee off. Please return entry forms on time!

Congratulations go to Derek McLanet of Sherwood Forest GC on his selection to represent England in the inaugural Hayter International Cup at West Lancashire GC in September. Good luck Derek!

Finally would like to wish Ron Graham a very happy retirement who at the end of February retired after 19 years as Head Greenkeeper at Tankersley Park GC.

J.V Lax

North West

This year's annual tournament against North Wales was played at Wilsom GC, on April 11. The weather was good, the course was in excellent condition, and the golf was good.

Unfortunately we lost 5-3, allowing North Wales to take the Gem Professional trophy back from the North West. I would like to thank Gem Professional for sponsoring the day, Wilsom GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, Stephen Oultram and his staff for presenting his course in lovely condition, and Owen Chason, Catering Manageress for the superb evening meal, (and the bacon and egg baps).

Mike Sheehan, Course Manager at Mere Golf and Country Club, has a vacancy for a young lad to train as a greenkeeper.

If you would like to borrow any of these videos, contact me on 0151 724 5412.

These videos can also be purchased from: Simon Heppenstall

North Wales

Firstly my apologies for the lack of Section notes in the last few months. This is partly due to my inability to remember journalistic deadlines together with a heavy workload at work and to top it all off organising and getting married! Hopefully now that we are reorganised office wise at work things should settle down.

March saw the Section – some of it anyway – visit Holland. No we didn't see any tulips, for their spring is as far behind as ours. What we did see was the very impressive set up at Monmereesteg HQ at Vlijmen, the new golf course at Eefdeil and the Kupers Turf Farm. Our thanks to our hosts for an enjoyable and informative visit, but special thanks to Phil Davies and Terry Adamson for their hard work making the visit possible.

On a more worrying note the visit nearly heralded financial disaster for the Section because YOU did not support it. It left me in the embarrassing position of having to ask the trade for help yet again and gave some of us an extra workload and headache that we could do without.

Our thanks to John Osman, Major Owan, Gem Professional and Monmereesteg (including Phil Davies on his own account) for their very kind sponsorship of places. I know that the people who were given this opportunity to go are all very grateful to you.

In April the North West/North Wales Match took place at Wilsom GC. We were victorious 5-3 against the home team and now look forward to next year's return match. Many thanks to Wilsom GC and Gem Professional for their help and sponsorship.

Finally would like to congratulate Andrew Leech, of Oulton GC, and his wife on the arrival of their new baby girl. Anybody volunteering for babysitting duties please contact the aforementioned Simon Heppenstall

Midland Region

East Midlands

This year's Spring Tournament was held on April 25th at Rothley Park GC, on a fine spring day 47 members competed for the chance of qualifying for this years Hayter Challenge Tournament.

category winners were:


10-19. 1.

THE UNIQue VERti-DRAIN:

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- Unique patent adjustable parallelogram forced heave
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THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE
An Antony Bindley (Kirby Muxloe) 84 - 15 - 69; 2. Donald Blacker (Manor) 83 - 12 - 71; 3. Martin Hopkins (Kirby Muxloe) 82 - 16 - 64. Trade and Association - Ivan Toon 81 - 12 - 69

Bucks, Berks and Oxford
At last a Golf Day to report on, and what a day it was with the weather throwing everything at us, rain, hailstones and the occasional bit of sunshine. We must be a bit hardy to hang on in that sort of weather (possibly slightly mad). At one stage it looked like a scene from Cad- dyshack when the Priest is playing in the storm, I wonder if anyone had seen the film it’s a must for all greenkeepers.

The venue for this event was South- field GC near Oxford and I had never played before but I would not have played in more favourable conditions than we had, rain, hailstones and strong winds. The opening holes resembled the Sahara Desert during a sand storm as the winds whipped up the light soil from the surrounding fields and blew across the course - the sun wasn’t quite blocked out but those on the back nine had to beware. It has been said, what a marvellous way to have your top dressing applied, direct from the supplier with free delivery! Keith Tit- nalls and his staff are to be congratu- lated on the condition and presentation of the course. The wind was a big enough and with that competition being played off the tees (obviously a low handicap’s decision) there were few players near to a nett par. The overall winner of the Spring Trophy was D. Smith - nett 69.

The meeting will take place on Thurs- day June 27 at 7.30pm at the Raven- wood Hall Hotel, Roughham, three miles east of Bury St Edmunds, just off the A14 trunk road. More details are elsewhere in this issue of Greenkeeper International.

A meeting open to all East Anglia members has been arranged by Head Office to discuss the proposed setting up of an Essex Section. The meeting will be held on Thursday June 27 at 7.30pm at the Ravenwood Hall Hotel, Roughham, three miles east of Bury St Edmunds, just off the A14 trunk road. More details are elsewhere in this issue of Greenkeeper International.

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Our guest for the day was Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer, who updated us on what is available on the education front in the future. I would like to remind you about sending money and confirmation letters in on time. For all future tournaments nobody will be admitted after the dead- line. There will be no exceptions.

On a lighter note I would like to thank somebody at Sene Valley for the stripogram that appeared on the 4th tee just before dinner. We will not be charg- ing extra for this entertainment but we will supply telescopes next time for you.
Around the Green

Wednesday the 19th please contact Steve Evans on 01208 863647 if you would like to attend.

Richard Whyman

South West

It was into cider country that we trav- erse the first morning's Spring Schools (Friday and Hayter section Qualifier held on April 17 at Oakan Manor GC. The blus- ters and eighties did not stand in the way of playing this excellent young course any better, with many challenging holes created by well designed water features presenting themselves as the route to victory. Manager Nigel Pring had prepared the course in first class condition particularly considering the slow start to the growing season and the unseasonable growth on the fairways being the envy of others who have far less after last year's drought.

The second event of the year we were privileged to have the presence of the Editor, who not only put his swing to the test but also had his camera on hand to swap with our unsuspecting competitor. Thanks though are given to Scott for coming so far down country to be with us particularly as he drove back the same night.

The response was phenomenal and we announce the happy and long awaited winner of the morning round of the Westurf 96 was Tony Bremer, Colin Cathy and Jonathan Sales with Mike McQueen as reserve. Congratulations and a god bless you to all on the 6th June. The overall winners of the morning round of the Spring Meeting was Alastair Calle who has now been cut two shots! Raymon Day was to discuss the course and we are trying to figure out how to cut his handicap as well - below the knee! All in the day was a great success with Cultural Cafe and Bigga's most likely sponsoring some wonderful prizes.

A personal note would like to announce the happy and long awaited birth of my daughter Samantha in November last year and Gary Ogilvie's daughter, Charlotte, in March this year.

Stefan G. Aumull

South West and South Wales Region

Regional and Cornwall

With section competed for another winter our section's thoughts turned to the Region's Trade show West- surf. The show allows our Region to offer its members reduced cost educational events and in the past our local Colleges have received grants towards green keeper education.

With this it is important that Westurf continues to thrive, this year's show was to be held at the Cornwall Showground. Michale, and by Ray Saunders, Kent Golf Union, and many Kent Clubs. An enormous success - the course was so good that many of these occasions he would be accompanied by Audrey, and as a result she became as keen a supporter of the golf club as her players and supporters alike. There is no doubt that they both enjoyed every minute so spent.

The funeral took place at Lewisham Crematorium on the 2nd May and among the many present were representatives from the E.C.U., the South-Eastern Group Counties, the Kent Ladies Golf Union, and many Kent Clubs. An enormous success - the course was so good that many of these occasions he would be accompanied by Audrey, and as a result she became as keen a supporter of the golf club as her players and supporters alike. There is no doubt that they both enjoyed every minute so spent.

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Ken Lodge

Sussex

Have we held two events in April this year, as we did last year so successfully. The first was for Head Greenkeepers assistant sponsored by the Sussex Golf which was held at West Sussex Golf Club. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to a busy school term, but in April I have enjoyed Ray's quiet to the point where we found ourselves without the very least of water features, and the green kept to the best of their ability. With the rain pouring down at that stage it cut across our minds that the show may have to be cancelled but within minutes of the show the opening rain eased to just a few showers and was that the sun we saw. Numbers around the stands were of the usual Westurf variety and all day with a good crowd taking place it gave all who attended a chance to walk away with a prize, the new show carefully and the very capable Grassley stations to the day and to all who helped out especially the South Wilts GC on Wednesday June 12.

Trevose Golf Club is the venue for our June summer evening meeting on
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CONCENTRATED ROOTING BIOSTIMULANT

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**ECONOMICAL WATER SOLUBLE IRON**
- One of the most soluble iron on the market
- Easy to handle 6.8Kg bags. (One to the hectare)
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**LIQUID FORMULATION IRON & SULPHUR**
- Chelated liquid iron supplement (8%)
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**Fe8%®**

**FULLY CHELATED IRON & BUFFERING AGENT**
- 100% chelated iron
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- Bioavailability of elemental iron through leaves and roots
- No chemical residue in plants or soil profile
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- Non-ionic wetting agent
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- Natural extract of the yucca plant. Encourages soil microbe activity
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COMPLETE TURF HEALTH SYSTEM
COMBINING MICRONUTRIENTS, BIOSTIMULANT
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- Perfect supplement to any fertiliser program
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Telephone (01734) 510033
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The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations were introduced originally in 1988 and have been progressively revised since then. The most significant revision came in 1994 with some changes in definitions and important additions, but more about that later on. When trying to understand new health and safety regulations it is not a bad idea to ask the question why? Why was it necessary to introduce a special set of Work Act that deal specifically with hazardous substances? The Control of Pesticides Regulations were introduced in 1996 along with a handful of Codes of Practice so the problems of use and exposure to pesticides were being taken care of, or were they? But, there are many other substances hazardous to health to which we are exposed more frequently than pesticides, and these are not subject to the same testing, registration, labelling and use restrictions as pesticides.

The employers general duties set out in Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 do not give details on the specific matter of hazardous substances. There are no definitions, no specific duties with regard to protection, monitoring, risk assessments etc.

So there is a need to raise awareness of the risks to health, both short and long term from exposure to hazardous substances. We need an action plan to avoid and/or minimise exposure and a system for recording, informing and monitoring all work activities involving these substances. That in a nutshell summarises the employers duties as required by COSHH Regulations. The wording of Regulation 6 is interesting:

"An employer shall not carry on any work which is liable to expose any employees to any substance hazardous to health unless he has made a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks created by that work to the health of those employees and of the steps that need to be taken to meet the requirements of these Regulations."

This vital point "shall not carry on any work" is missed by most employers; another vital point usually missed is the duty to assess "the risks created by that work". It is not sufficient to merely record what is being used; to complete a "suitable and sufficient" assessment there must be a study of the work done involving hazardous substances.

A classic example in greenkeeping is the use of diesel fuel. A typical material safety data sheet (MSDS) states clearly:

"The products are defatting agents and contain low concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, some of which are known, from experimental studies, to be carcinogenic. Prolonged or repeated skin contact, and in conditions of poor personal hygiene, may therefore cause dermatitis, and pose a possible long term risk from skin cancers."

Diesel fuel tanks or drums that have no proper means of dispensing except into a makeshift container which is then poured into the fuel tank involve unacceptable exposure during the fuelling of vehicles. Add the fact that this is an operation that takes place one of more times per day, and you have a situation that contravenes the requirements of Regulation 6.

So how can we deal with this situation? The diesel tank will be raised on piers within a bund, or be fitted with a pump. There will be a delivery hose long enough to reach, and designed to deliver fuel, without spilling(l), into a variety of types and sizes of fuel tank. The diesel storage tank will have the warning symbol (Harmful) and any guidance fixed near to the delivery hose and gloves of the correct type nearby for use on every occasion the fuel is dispensed.

I recently carried out a health and safety audit at a golf course and found an old diesel fuel tank sitting on some sleepers in the shed. It was just high enough off the ground to fit a bucket under the tap. The tap was leaking and the greenkeepers stood in a slurry of sand and diesel to fill the bucket which was then poured (mostly!) into the fuel tank of the vehicle. All the vehicles had the typical staining of spilt diesel, not to mention the characteristic smell!

**ACTION PLAN**

Here is a suggested action plan to take to the Greens Committee for adoption, to help the employer to comply with the COSHH Regulations:

1. Those members of the club management team to attend either the BIGGA Courses (see insert), or one of the British Safety Council Tel: 0181 741 1231 one day courses run throughout the year on Risk Assessment and General Health and Safety.
2. Make a complete list of all chemical substances in use for the whole site. Justify the list and dispose of all those substances that are no longer required; amend the list.
3. Set a policy that no new substances will be purchased by the Club until a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) has been obtained first, studied and a decision made that it is not more, and preferably is a less hazardous substance than that previously used. Obtain Material Safety Data Sheets for all the substances on the list.
4. Complete a list of work activities likely to expose staff to micro-organisms and state how these risks can be eliminated, or reduced.
5. Set up a list of those work activities involving exposure to dust and decide if expert help is needed to quantify the degree of exposure. State how this exposure could be eliminated or reduced.
6. Review all personal protective equipment and establish whether it is adequate, up to date and carries the CE Mark. Remember you will need material safety data sheets for this equipment as well to establish its suitability.
7. Prepare risk assessments, where necessary, taking into account the degree of exposure and the actual work activity. Decide if the exposure can be reduced by changing the substance, or the method of working. If necessary prepare written guidance where staff need to follow specific procedures.
8. Put all of this into a Health and Safety File and present it to the appropriate Committee for adoption as part of the Club Health and Safety Policy.
9. Introduce it to all staff as part of a training session giving them enough time to become familiar with the File and their duties.
10. Monitor the use of the File on regular occasions during the first six months of use and report back to the Committee with recommendations for revisions.
The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses. The directory shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses is shown.

Full time courses:
- National Certificate in Horticulture
- National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture
- Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (golf management options)
- Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management Level II
- Part time courses: NVQ Level 2 Amenity Horticulture
- Short courses: Health & Safety Legislation, Turfcare, Machinery and Mechanisation

Full time courses:
- National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 Year
- National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 years
- BTEC National Diploma in Turf Science and Sportsground Management - 3 years
- HNC Golf Course Management - Distance Learning, NVQ Level 1 Greenkeeping
- Day Release, NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping
- Day Release, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping
- Day/Block Release, NVQ Level 4 Golf Course Management
- Day/Block Release, National Intermediate Certificate in Turf Culture
- Day Release, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping
- Short courses: Basic Chemical Safety, Turf Care, Turf Identification, Chainsaws

Full time courses:
- BTEC First Diploma in Horticulture
- BTEC Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Golf Course Management - 3 years
- NVQ Level II Greenkeeping
- NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf Maintenance
- Certificate and Diploma in Turf Irrigation

Reaseheath College
Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF. Contact Dennis Mortram. Tel: 01270 625131 Fax: 01270 625665. Full time courses: Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management - 1 year.

Aspden College
Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan. Tel: 0191 386 1351. Full time courses: Horticulture, Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management - 1 year.

Askham Bryan College

Cambridgeshire College
Milton Centre, Landbeach Road, Milton, Cambridge CB4 6DB. Contact Martin Crimmins. Tel: 01223 867001. Part time - Day Release over two years leading to NVQ Level II (Greenkeeping Options).

Berkshire College
Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6QR. Tel: 01628 824444 Fax: 01628 824695. Full time courses: BTEC First Diploma and National Diploma in Greenkeeping.

Brinsbury College
North Heath, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DL. Contact Keith Rundell. Tel: 01732 850551. NVQ Level II and Level III Part time Day Release with two periods of Block Release or evenings. Level II in Groundsmanship evenings. Level III Golf Greenkeeping.

Haddow College
Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Keith Backhouse. Tel: 01732 850551. NVQ Level II and Level III Part time Day Release with two periods of Block Release or evenings. Level II in Groundsmanship evenings. Level III Golf Greenkeeping.
E COURSES AVAILABLE

Currently GTC approved as Regional Training Centre, offering courses at Craft, Supervisory and Management levels
Currently GTC approved for courses up to Supervisory level
Currently GTC approved for courses up to Craft level only
Pending GTC approval for all courses

KEY TO COLOURS

Please note that all college details on these pages were provided by the colleges themselves. Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided. Contact the colleges direct for prospectuses and comprehensive information.

NESCOT
Nescol North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 0181 394 3099/3111. NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.

OAKLANDS COLLEGE
Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0UA. Contact Ian Merrick. Tel: 01727 850651. Part time courses leading to NVQ Level II Greenkeeping, evening courses leading to City & Guilds Phase IV Business Management. One year full time NC Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management. Courses start September 1996.

OTLEY COLLEGE

PLUMPTON COLLEGE

WRITTLE COLLEGE
Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RQ. Contact Dai Edwards. Tel: 01245 420705, Fax: 01245 420546. Part time courses include: NVQ Levels I, II, III and IV Sportsturf & Greenkeeping; Day Release. Includes training and assessment of Greenkeepers Training Manual. Full time courses include: BTEC First Diploma (1 year), BTEC National Diploma with Option in Sportsturf and Golf Course Management, 3 year sandwich course. BTEC Higher National Diploma with Option in Golf Course Management. 3 year sandwich course. BTEC Higher National Diploma in Sportsturf Management. Also works in isolation, intermediate and advanced courses in Amenity Horticulture; NVQ Level 3 Gardening. BTEC Certificate, Horticulture, Horticultural Mechanics.

CANNINGTON COLLEGE
Cannington Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Contact Nick Rigden. Tel: 01278 652226. HNC Golf Course Management; BTEC First Diploma in Golf Course Management, BTEC National Diploma in Golf Course Management, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, GTC Greenkeeping Certificate. NVQ Level 1 and 2 Golf Greenkeeping. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management. NVQ Level 4 Greenkeeping Management. FEPA Training, Chainaworn Certification, Off Road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics, Otley College - Developing Individuals Achieving More.

HARTPURY COLLEGE


Langsde College Glasgow
Langside College Glasgow School of Horticulture, Woodburn House, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen. G73 3PF. Contact Colin S Urquhart. Tel: 0141 437 5800. BTEC HNC National Diploma - 3 year day release programme at full time. Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management - 2 years day release. NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with Greenkeeping options plus a range of NC and HNC Horticulture programmes including G SQV Level III. Short courses on a range of subjects including Tractor Operations and the Safe Use of Pesticides can be negotiated.

OATRIDGE COLLEGE

GREENMOUNT COLLEGE
Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, BT41 4PU. Contact Henry Shaw. Tel: 01849 425666. Day release courses leading to (a) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsurf Management (b) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision.

TEAGASC COLLEGE
Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Contact Pat Sutcliffe. Tel: 01 8351 8374 38. Phase II Greenkeeping – Block Release two weeks, three times per year. Phase III Greenkeeping – Block Release, one week, three times per year.

WELSH COLLEGE
Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6AA. Contact GM Wright. Tel: 01352 840861. Fax: 01352 840733. Full time courses: BTEC First in Landbase Golf Greenkeeping NVQ Level II. Part time courses: NVQ 4, 3, 2, 1 all available on block weeks. Short courses: Pesticide PAI, PA2, PA6, 1.5 day courses (training and testing); COSHH Assessments; Safe lifting and carrying; FORKLIFT courses. Home study learning at NVQ Level II Option Greenkeeping. All courses are integrated with the GTC Training Manual.

GREAT WESTERN COLLEGES

SOUTH WEST

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE

ELMWOOD COLLEGE
Cavendish, Plymouth PL8 1ET. Tel: 01752 656795. Course Release. Block release and full-time, following SOV Level II and the GTC Training Manual. Six week specialist modular programme (January-February), including Golf Course Construction, Pesticide Application and Plant Protection Procedures. SVQ Level III (Supervisory) Block Release. HNC Golf Course Management available as full time, distance and learning. FEPA, COSHH and Health & Safety short courses also.

LANGSIDE COLLEGE GLASGOW
Langside College Glasgow School of Horticulture, Woodburn House, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen. G73 3PF. Contact Colin S Urquhart. Tel: 0141 437 5800. BTEC HNC National Diploma - 3 year day release programme at full time. Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management - 2 years day release. NVQ Level II Amenity Horticulture with Greenkeeping options plus a range of NC and HNC Horticulture programmes including G SQV Level III. Short courses on a range of subjects including Tractor Operations and the Safe Use of Pesticides can be negotiated.

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WALES

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Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6AA. Contact GM Wright. Tel: 01352 840861. Fax: 01352 840733. Full time courses: BTEC First in Landbase Golf Greenkeeping NVQ Level II. Part time courses: NVQ 4, 3, 2, 1 all available on block weeks. Short courses: Pesticide PAI, PA2, PA6, 1.5 day courses (training and testing); COSHH Assessments; Safe lifting and carrying; FORKLIFT courses. Home study learning at NVQ Level II Option Greenkeeping. All courses are integrated with the GTC Training Manual.

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Making alternations to a golf course is much easier when everyone works together as a team.

Unlike many art forms golf courses are living things. Of course, we know the playing characteristics change with the seasons and the weather but they also differ in other ways to the extent that they rarely ever remain exactly the same as the original architect's design.

Nature dictates that trees grow, changing the look of holes while others have man made alterations - extended or shortened, bunkers added, greens altered, always with a view to refining the original golfing challenge. All this, coupled with less than repetitive natures of most players swings, ensure the only time, unlike the accurate Ben Hogan who was reputed to achieve the feat with regularity, players tend to play from their own divot marks is when the first effort has failed to move the ball.

Golf Course architects are a singularly thick skinned lot and don't seem to mind others tampering with their handiwork. Can you imagine Da Vinci's response to being told that the committee had decided that the Mona Lisa's doppy grin was to be replaced by something more suiry and they'd called in Rembrandt to do the work? Or Beethoven's on being told that the committee had asked Noel Gallagher to rework the middle eight in his Nineth Symphony. Personally I don't think they'd be over the moon. But I'm fairly sure Alister McKenzie would be quite pleased if he saw the way Augusta National now looks or that Harry Colt would appreciate changes made to the West Course at Wentworth.

However, amendments are not just made to the elite golf clubs, it's something which members' clubs have done for many years and now, particularly with the VAT windfall, it is an avenue more clubs have the wherewithal to attempt.

Such a club is East Herts, which has shown that by employing a professional architect and contractor and then working closely with them and the greenkeeping team seemingly wide-ranging work can be carried out without closing the course and to the satisfaction of everyone concerned.

A total of 52 bunkers were involved - remodelling existing ones and putting in seven brand new ones.

"Most of the existing ones have been reshaped because of the amount of sand caused by the banks on them. They just swallowed up vast quantities of sand and that is very difficult to maintain," explained Ian Scott Taylor, the architect charged with completing with the work in concert with constructor, Cousseil Associates Ltd, Head Greenkeeper Bill Sparrow, his team and the members.

"There will be 47 sand bunkers in total the rest of which are grass hollows, the thought behind it is to introduce more strategy into the golf course to make the member think about what he is going to do around the course and to improve course management for the greenkeeper as well. That was the brief that East Herts gave us to work to and I believe it has worked very well."

The fact that the relationship with the club, its members and the professionals was so good speaks volumes for the way the job was tackled because, let's face it, putting in bunkers is a little like getting the job of putting up taxes - you wouldn't expect to win many popularity contests.

"A member said the other day. We must be the only club in the country to spend £100,000 putting in things which no member wants! You can't give him an argument really,” said Ray York, a member of the Green Committee and a man whose work on the project has been so well appreciated he's had a new bunker on the 1st named after him!

The course was originally designed and constructed by the members and their own green staff when the club was relocated 20 years ago and the quality of the layout is a credit to all involved.

"The old course was a figure eight and we wanted to retain that concept here and this site automatically lent itself to that design again," said Ray.

The bunkers at the new East
Herts course were more or less a copy of those at the old course.

"The general feeling was that after 20 years our bunkers were old fashioned and didn't fit in with what they had everywhere else.

"The shaping of them was unfair. In certain times of the year if ball ran in to within 12 inches of the back of the bunker you didn't have a shot. Our plan was to enhance them and bring them up to latter day design," said Ray.

The club decided to put its VAT money to good use and decided on this occasion to commission a professional architect.

The Green's Committee quickly saw the benefits of bringing in professionals to do the work.

"Because the members know we have a professional golf architect on the job we've been able to put in new bunkers which weren't on the original plan. They've gone in and we've had very little problem because the members know they are being done by someone who knows what he is talking about and not Charlie Bloggs from the club who's decided to pop one in there. That has been a terrific help," said Ray.

"My first impressions of the course were that it didn't need a lot doing to it. The members had done an excellent job of routing the golf course. I couldn't have done a better job myself to be honest but it just needed tweaking here and there," said Ian.

"We came back with some proposals and we all went through them with Bill Sparrow. I gave my thinking on each bunker and discussed them all in detail. The good thing about this is that it's been a team effort all the way round. It just proves that the golf architect, constructor, can work with the greens committee and the greenkeeper as a team."

The old adage about a camel being a horse designed by committee was avoided because there was no doubt where the buck stopped.

"The casting vote is with the architect. The buck stops with him and he's got to balance all the opinions of the constructor, greenkeeper and the committee. It has not always been a bed of roses we have had our points of contention on one or two bunkers and I have had to say enough's enough and that is what we are going to do."

Work began on January 29 and was completed by the middle of May in time for a big pro-am at the club in July.

To speed the process all work was being turfed not seeded to come back into early play as soon as possible. David Cousell visited the site twice a week to coordinate the work with his full time on site team, Bill and his team.
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“While the work has been going on we've not had any problem with stopping play. I've been in daily communication with the construction team and we've been able to talk problems get round it one way and another avoid disruprion on the course,” said Bill.

He will also benefiting from the style of the new bunkers which have been installed.

“The new style bunkers will save on maintenance time and it will give me more time to do work on other parts of the course. We will have one or two bunkers which we will still have to fly mow but once I've got into my programme I'll be able to blend the aprons in with the ride on triple when I go around the surrounds. I think it is cutting it down the maintenance of the bunkers.” Previously when it rained the sand is some of the bunkers used to be washed down.

“It looked horrible and I would have to ask staff make sure they shove it back. Another benefit will be that not so much sand will be thrown onto the greens damaging them, smoothing them and getting into the cutters. The whole appearance of the courses should be enhanced with the bunkering,” said Bill.

The work at East Herts shows that extensive work can be carried out while the course remains open and the benefits of working closely with the professional team engaged to do the work.

“We have been very lucky at East Herts because the committee has been very progressive in the way it has looked at things. We can talk to, and reason with, them and we have respected their opinion and they have respected our professional opinion,” explained lan.

MY AMBITION IS...

“To learn to play this silly little game of golf properly”
Richard Saunders, St Neots GC