

Golf Inns Ltd

## Belmont Lodge & Golf Course

Applications are invited for the position of

# FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Belmont Lodge & Golf Course with its 18 Hole Parkland Course, 30 Bedroomed Lodge and other leisure facilities is renowned in the West Midlands for its hospitality and friendliness.

The position, reporting directly to the Head Greenkeeper, will ideally suit an experienced Greenkeeper, with PA 1, 2 and 6 and other recognised qualifications, now wishing to progress their career up the greenkeeping ladder.

Applications in writing with full CV should be addressed to:

**Alan Carver – Executive Manager  
Belmont Lodge & Golf Course  
Belmont, Hereford HR2 9SA**

*(Golf Inns Ltd are working towards achieving equal opportunity status)*



## THE KURPFALZ AG GOLF COURSE

in Germany requires three trained and qualified Greenkeepers for our 27 hole Golf Course and driving range/Golfodrom during the main season (8 months from March until October 1998). Successful teamwork and a positive attitude will also guarantee for future requirements.

Applicants will be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping with appropriate qualifications, having practical knowledge of modern machinery and handyman abilities.

Accommodation is available.

Applications in writing including a current CV and salary expectation to:

**Golfplatz Kurpfalz AG, Birkenweg, 67117 Limburgerhof, Germany**

## Experienced & Qualified Greenkeeper

for an 18-hole course, situated west of London.

The successful candidate will be self-motivated, have a good working knowledge of the maintenance of a parkland course together with experience of irrigation, machine maintenance and preferably hold PA1 and PA2 Certificate.

No Accommodation.

Please apply in writing with current C.V. to

The Secretary/Manager,  
Wyke Green Golf Club (1996) Ltd.,  
Syon Lane, Isleworth, Middlesex. TW7 5PT.



*Invites applications for the posts of*

## Experienced Irrigation Technician

This prestigious 'Jack Nicklaus designed' 36 hole golf club seeks the services of a well organised, self-motivated individual to service, maintain and operate a Rainbird Maxi 5 system. The ideal candidate will demonstrate a strong working knowledge of modern irrigation systems coupled with a sound practical greenkeeping background.

## Deputy Head Greenkeeper & Senior Greenkeeper Positions

The successful applicants will possess relevant professional qualifications and be experienced in all aspects of golf course management.

This is an excellent career move for an ambitious and confident greenkeeper who can demonstrate sound and positive team management skills, self-motivation and a willingness to learn new methods and techniques.

Please apply in writing enclosing a current CV to;

Mr Steve Jones,  
Golf Courses Superintendent,  
The London Golf Club,  
South Ash Manor Estate,  
Ash, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent, TN 15 7EN

*Closing date: 31st March, 1998.*

# Woodbury Park

GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

# ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Woodbury Park is a privately owned high class golf and leisure complex with two golf courses, 18 hole championship Oaks and 9 hole Acorns.

Applications are sought from highly motivated individuals who are able to work within a team environment to assist the Course Manager in the maintenance of both courses at their present high standards.

Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years Greenkeeping experience and have appropriate qualifications to NVQ level 2 or above. Spraying qualifications PA1, PA2 and PA6a, would also be an advantage.

Please apply in writing by March 20, 1998,  
enclosing an up-to-date CV to;

Jeff Mills, Course Manager,  
Woodbury Park Golf & Country Club,  
Woodbury Castle, Woodbury, Exeter, EX5 1JJ

## FIELD SERVICE TECHNICIAN

We have a vacancy for a Service Technician with knowledge in Professional & Domestic Garden Machinery.

The successful applicant must be a good team player and have a clean driving licence. Company van supplied.

Apply with full CV to:

Mr PT Williams, Ernest Doe & Sons Limited  
Whempstead Road, Benington,  
Stevenage, Herts, SG2 7BZ

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## GATTON MANOR HOTEL, GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Invite applications for the position of

### Qualified Assistant Greenkeeper

To join the existing hard working team at the busy 18 hole members club.

The successful applicant will have the following qualifications:  
City and Guilds Phase 1 and 2 / NVQ equivalent, PA1 and PA2A spraying certificates, A minimum of 5 years experience.

The ability to self motivate and work successfully within a team is essential.

Apply in writing with current CV to:-

John Davidson, Course Manager, Gatton Manor Hotel, Golf and Country Club,  
Standon Lane, Ockley, Nr Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5PQ

## STOURBRIDGE GOLF CLUB LTD

Vacancy for

### DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER/ FIRST ASSISTANT

Must have relevant qualifications for post and practical experience.

Must be conversant with modern machinery and computerised irrigations systems.

Apply in writing with CV to:

Mrs M. A. Betts, Secretary,  
Stourbridge Golf Club Ltd, Worcester Lane,  
Pedmore, Stourbridge, DY8 2RB

## Stratford Oaks Golf Club

requires

### 2 ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

Applications are invited for these two new positions which have been created as part of a major upgrading programme for the course.

The successful candidates should have a minimum of two years experience in all aspects of golf course maintenance.

Qualifications preferable but not essential.

Apply in writing with full CV to

Golf Course Manager, Stratford Oaks Golf Club  
Bearley Rd, Snitterfield, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 0EZ

## Muswell Hill Golf Club

### TRAINEE GREENKEEPER

required for Muswell Hill Golf Club,  
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18 hole course established in 1893.  
Good training and prospects are offered.  
Salary c£8,000 per annum.

Applications forms from The Secretary on 0181 888 1764

## CALDY GOLF CLUB

We require an

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will have the following qualifications:

Phase 1 and 2 NVQ equivalent, PA1 and PA2a spraying certificate, three years greenkeeping experience, ability to show initiative and work effectively within a young team.

Apply in writing with full CV to:

Ian Farrall, Head Greenkeeper  
Caldy Golf Club, Links Hey Road, Caldby, Wirral, Merseyside, L48 1NB

## Three Rivers District Council

### INVITATION TO TENDER SELECT LIST OF CONTRACTORS

Construction of a Golf Academy and improvements to the 18 hole and Par 3 Courses

Applications are invited from suitably experienced contractors wishing to be considered for inclusion in the select list for the above project. It is currently anticipated that the contract will be let during the late summer with work commencing by the 1st October 1998.

The Contractor will need to be able to demonstrate that they have previous experience of this type of project. The scheme will be a Sports Council Lottery Funded one and will include the construction of new greens, bunkers, and fairways together with the associated earth works, landscaping, tree planting etc. The Contractor should also be a member of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors, or a similar professional body.

Contractors wishing to be considered for inclusion on the select list are required to complete a questionnaire which can be obtained from:

Director of Planning and Leisure, fao Mr J Wellman Contract Monitoring Officer,  
Three Rivers House, Northway, Richmansworth, Herts, WD3 1RL Tel 01923 776611 ext 1395

Completed questionnaires must be returned by the 1st May 1998

## COVENTRY HEARSALL GOLF CLUB

18 Hole Golf Course  
Invites applications for the position of

### First Assistant Greenkeeper

The successful applicant will be qualified to NVQ 3 or equivalent, Possessing PA1, 2a and 6 spraying Certificates. With a sound knowledge of machinery and maintenance practices. Golfer preferred. No accommodation. Salary Negotiable.

Apply in writing with C.V. to:

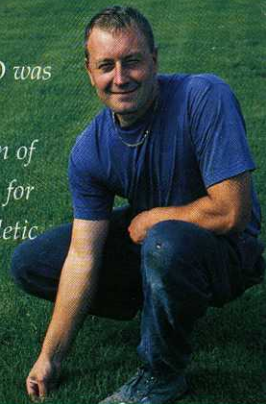
The Secretary, Mrs M. E. Hudson, Coventry Hearsall Golf Club,  
Beechwood Avenue, Coventry CV5 6DF

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Ground.



**Keith Porter**, Head Groundsman, of  
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of grass and in two days, it grew 2-  
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and there was no scorching and it  
kept its moisture."

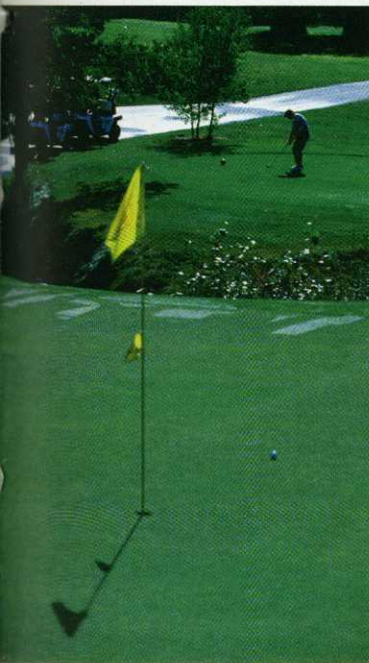
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ENVIGRO is the new organic fertiliser produced by the rapid composting of nitrogen-rich manures and other organic materials. ENVIGRO can be used when seeding areas of very poor soil such as shale, and sand, so avoiding the need to bring in topsoil. A fine grade of ENVIGRO is produced specifically for use on established turf on professional sports grounds.

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Organic matter		95%

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occurring naturally

Mg-140	Zn-175	Mo-1.5	B-8.0	Cu-80
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| Low ground pressure                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6lbs/in <sup>2</sup> footprint pressure       |
| Weight transfer system                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SISIS patented system                         |
| As manoeuvrable as a truckster                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Articulated steering for tight turning circle |
| High workrate   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fast ground speed                             |
| Tipping body  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Option  |
| Low maintenance   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimal                                       |
| As easy to use as a compact                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> And with all the advantages of a truckster    |
| Somewhere to put a drinks can and mobile phone            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Even this! (And lots of optional add-ons)     |



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# sisis DIRECT

# Better by design

When it comes to golf course design it is difficult to say what type of play should be rewarded and what type punished. Should the course favour the long hitter or merely the more accurate among us. Or should it be a requirement to punish the golfer who can do neither. The general consensus would appear to be to reward the golfer who thinks but punish the more heavy handed. To lead one into temptation while always allowing an escape route for the weaker hitter. The game then becomes an exercise promoting the human qualities of self denial and courage while teaching us humility and the art of careful thought.

I recently had the very great pleasure of attending a BIGGA regional course on course design and construction. This was an excellent course in which we the students were taken into the world of the golf course architect and learnt some of the subtleties, and artistic touches that they use to reward the thinker while at the same time punishing the more wayward among us. A strategically placed fairway bunker could guard the side of the fairway that offers the more direct line of entry to the green, that sort of thing. Or perhaps a water hazard could be angled across a fairway so as to tempt the golfer into biting off more than he should in an effort to get closer to the target. Yes, it becomes a psychological art form in which the shrewd intelligent sportsman can plot his way round the course eventually picking off the weaknesses in a golf holes defence and bringing the course to its knees by dint of superior intellect. Well that's the theory but here at Sludgecombe Pay and Play, we have a different breed of golfer. You might recognise the one. He carefully selects the club and goes through his pre shot ritual before painstakingly taking his stance and lining himself up some 23 times. A barely perceptible forward press then paves the way to a power backswing at which point his club collides with his trolley that he has managed to place directly in his path. The offending object is hastily moved and is then proceeded by a long succession of hacks and duffs from one side of

the fairway to the other. Obviously the subtleties of the course designers craft are somewhat lost on this golfer.

There is another breed of golfer that is not so often seen here at Sludgecombe and that is the power golfer. The one that overcomes the designers well placed hazards by simply detonating the ball way over the top of them. Now the designer may argue that any course that leaves itself open to such bullying tactics is not a good or well designed one, but as we can all recall this is exactly what happened to the classically designed Augusta national last year. Even the hallowed turf of St Andrews came in for this demolition treatment at the hands of John Daly a couple of years ago. St Andrews is a very strategic course in that the accurately placed tee shot that skirts the out of bounds on the right hand side opens up the green for the second. The safe option of going left from the tee allows a longer shot over obstacles and so a penalty is taken. However at the hands of big John, it was a case of hitting everything half a mile forward and a quarter of a mile left into the vast expanse of adjacent fairway. A short iron with 3000 rpm of backspin from there over any intervening pot bunker, and the target was never in any shape to defend itself.

Now this is obviously golf that is not exactly taxing on the brain but there is one hole at the home of golf that although not being aesthetically pleasing to the eye due to the fact that the

tee shot is played over a hotel that owes its design influence to Strangeways, it is however one of the most strategic in golf. That hole of course is the 17th or Road Hole. Perhaps not surprisingly it is about the only hole at the venerable links with trouble in the form of heavy rough on the left. Then with the infamous Road Hole bunker guarding the front and left of the green and purgatory putting surface it becomes the most classic of risk and reward holes. The closer one can hit the tee shot to the out of bounds and rooms on the fourth floor of the hotel, the easier the approach to the green. Take the safe option left from the tee and one is left with 180 yards of carry out of heavy rough over one of the world's toughest bunkers with about two foot of landing area beyond. Now this is a hole that gets a man thinking.

Personally such a hole would not affect my particular brand of golf as it would on this hole involve several involuntary lashes followed by a desperate search and so once again the subtleties of this classic risk and reward hole would go some distance over my head, but in the hands of anyone that has some control over the balls final destination, its a different matter.

So how can the course designer and, perhaps more pertinently, we the greenkeepers help in promoting strategic thinking from the golfer what ever his abilities or lack of them. Well, at the above mentioned course I remember the tutors, the renowned course architects Simon Gidman and Howard Swan saying how in the old days the game was much more strategic due to the fact that the old 1.62 inch ball which everyone used was difficult to elevate and difficult to stop on the putting surface. Add the modern balata covers, square grooves, greens that are watered automatically and rough that can be cut more than about three times a year or what ever was the norm in those days and any incompetent can fly greenside bunkers and stop the ball within the confines of the putting surface. In short the

approach shot that has to land short and run onto the green has become obsolete thereby negating the importance of tee shot placement.

Now I have been playing this game for a sufficient length of time to remember courses that had spasmodically watered clay greens that used to dry up something awful in the summer. Any tee shot that left an approach with an intervening hazard and even Seve Ballesteros in his Houdini mode would struggle to hit the green. Going back even further I remember a story Henry Cotton told, of how the parched greens were regularly rolled.

This created a surface with the texture of brick and the speed of lino so it became normal practice for golfers to purposely score the cover of a golf ball in an effort to stop it from continually rolling off the putting surface after any momentum had been imparted.

I am not necessarily advocating a return to those bad old days but maybe we greenkeepers could attempt to firm up our greens while at the same time trying to keep our jobs reasonably long term. Or perhaps fairways could be shaped a little with the original design concept in mind or maybe a tee could be resited as part of a rebuilding programme so as the green becomes slightly offset and thereby putting a greater emphasis on tee shot placement. Just the simple, albeit controversial placement of a small bunker in the middle of a fairway at about driving distance could have an amazing influence on the tee shot of an otherwise plain hole. Instead of an aimless thrash down the middle the golfer would be forced to think, do I go left or right of the bunker and if so which alternative leaves me with the best line in to the flag. Or should I lay up or even have a go at carrying it. In short, to try and create the type of hole so epitomised by the 17th at St Andrews.

Far be it for me a poor Head Greenkeeper to give advice to all you out there, but maybe we could try and introduce back into the game a little of what has been lost over the years. Who knows, maybe one day your members might even thank you for it.

**“ A short iron with 3000 rpm of backspin, and the target was never in any shape to defend itself. ”**



## Feature listing from February '96

**February '96;** Newbury Race Course GC; Health and Safety; Machinery Maintenance; Sprayers; Trees

**March '96;** Industrial Tribunals; Irrigation; Health and Safety; Seed Technology; The Dukes Course, St Andrews; Temple Golf Club; Grass Cutting Technology

**April '96;** Brush Cutters; Ear Defenders; Forest of Arden Golf & Country Club; Golf in Asia; Turf Production; Environment

**May '96;** Aeration; Lingdale GC; Pumps; Security and Vandalism; Furniture and Fittings; Risk Assessment

**June '96;** Compaction; Seacroft GC; Education; Health and Safety; Architecture - East Herts GC; Fighting Annual Meadow Grass

**July '96;** Loaders, diggers and excavators; Royal Lytham GC; Protective Clothing; Modern Apprenticeships; Irrigation

**August '96;** Turf Tissue Analysis; Environmental Communication; Assessors; Tee Mats

**September '96;** Budgeting; Greenkeeping in Finland; Kings Acre GC; Grinding; Role of Training Providers; Blowers

**October '96;** Drainage; The Wentworth Club

**November '96;** Irrigation Equipment; St Andrews; The Oaks GC; Engines

**December '96;** Maintenance Facilities; History of the Mower; Mentmore Golf and Country Club

**January '97;** Trees; Tenby GC; Communication; Addressing the imbalance in Sports Turf; Hiring Equipment

**February '97;** Attending to the Details; Computers; Fertilisers; Rudding Park

**March '97;** Making Machinery Last; Computers; Irrigation; Musselburgh Old Links; STRI; Defining Playing Performance; Compact Tractors

**April '97;** Turf Quality; The London Club; Computers; Electric Greens Mower; Course Accessories; Ecology; Aerators

**May '97;** Data Tagging; Naunton Downs GC; Alternative Spikes; Suspended Water Table Greens; Shallow Aerators; Working in Germany

**June '97;** Drought Survival; Cooden Beach; Monitoring the Weather; Slitters

**July '97;** Royal Troon GC; Speed of Putting Surfaces; Mowers

**August '97;** Maintenance Facilities; Heather Management; Bunker Rakes; Workshops; Architecture; Kedleston Park GC

**September '97;** Accident Reporting; Greens Mowers; Valderrama GC; Links Courses

**October '97;** Environment; Recruitment; Abbeddale GC; Rough Mowers; Soil Analysis

**November '97;** Environment Competition; Bank Cutting; Risk Assessment; Pumps

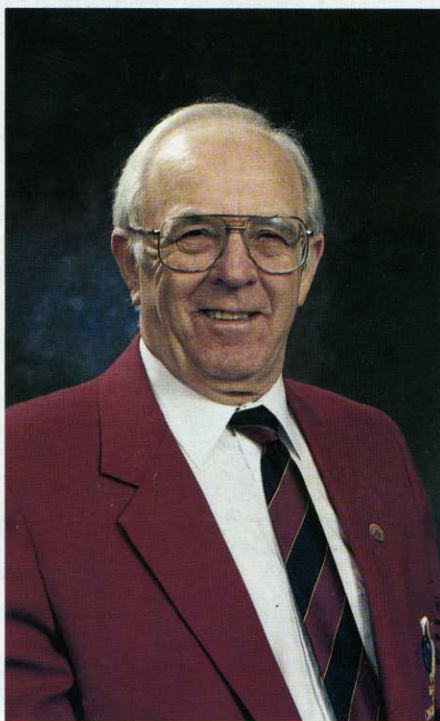
**December '97;** Seed Development; Longhirst Hall GC; Toro Awards; Fertiliser Spreaders; Communication

**January '98;** FEGGA Conference; Buying Power Equipment; Elmwood GC; Mobile Phones; Traffic Management; Spraying; Environment

**February '98;** BTME Review; Overseeding; Royal Mid Surrey GC; Drainage; Thatch



# A view of. America



One of the highlights of my visit to the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in Anaheim was the refreshing comments on course construction and maintenance, along with the fact that in some ways greenkeeper education in the USA is behind that in Britain.

US PGA Tour veteran Peter Jacobsen in his keynote speech made it clear why in his opinion the American Ryder Cup team keep getting stuffed - his words not mine - by the Europeans. It's because in America they build courses that only call for the game to be played through the air, not on the ground. If golf were meant to be played in the air so that the ball stops dead as soon as it lands they would have made it like a bean bag.

He then turned his attention to design and maintenance with a call to build simpler courses with less water and hazards, returning to the more traditional golf courses. On the maintenance side he called for a halt in the never ending search for lightning fast greens. He believes that if you have to have fast greens they should be flat, and not full of

undulations which make putting almost impossible, and he called Augusta a joke, something the club golfer would do well to remember. Then he referred to over watering, which happens all too often, as a waste of money and good turf. It certainly made a change to hear a top Tour player saying what we have been saying for years.

On education, the BIGGA stand had a steady stream of Superintendents wanting to take up our Master Greenkeeper Certificate saying it is a step up from the top level of certification available in the United States. In Canada a media release on national validation

process is down the same lines as our NVQ and SNVQ. Also Australia are looking at the same sort of system for their greenkeepers. So when you look back over the week it was a big plus for BIGGA, our education and traditional British greenkeeping. How this week would have pleased my old friend Jim Arthur, had he been there, just to know all his practical advice over half a century has stood the test of time, and now coming back into fashion even on the other side of the pond. I just had to give him a call on my return.

The only damper on our time in Los Angeles was the rain. We were supposed to leave all that - behind, instead it was much wetter there than at home, but at least the worst of the rain fell at night or when we were in the show, which was quite lucky because many on the trip were without waterproofs. Talking about clothing I only wish more of our members took the same pride as the Americans in wearing their Association merchandise. There was a large warehouse full of clothing with the GCSAA logo and name on. It was almost sold out after the

three days. I know some will say "Yes, but the Americans get far more money than we do" That is not true. The average pay packet in the States is, in fact, very little more than in the UK. Sure, some of the top men earn more but they are in a minority. No, the reason is all down to pride, which is a pity when you consider what we get for our money. I doubt there is a single greenkeeper in the UK who can honestly say that BIGGA has done nothing for them.

Just stop and consider our profile, wages, and the opportunities available in education and comradeship, not to mention help lines, insurance and golf. Yes, we should all be proud of BIGGA. Even the hardest critics of five or 10 years ago must now give credit, even if grudgingly, to the Association's success. I believe we should all take a leaf out of the Americans book and instead of saying what's in it for me, we should be saying what can we do to help and at the same time help ourselves.

On the golf course greenkeepers will all be busy preparing for the coming season, taking every dry day opportunity to get as much mechanical work done as possible and finishing off their winter work programmes. This is the time of year I miss the practical side of greenkeeping more than any other. It always seemed to give me renewed interest and motivation for the year ahead. I must admit however, I have got used to getting out of bed a little later these days, but after 49 years working on golf courses you do tend to miss the satisfaction derived from preparing for the coming season.

Before you all start feeling sorry for me, I can assure you I am enjoying retirement and being your Chairman.

Gordon Child

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