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Mr C J Briggs, Business Development and Marketing Manager, AVONCROP AMENITY PRODUCTS, Northfield, Station Road, Sandford, Winscombe, N Somerset BS25 5NX

Cannon College

SOMERSET

We are looking for the BEST!

Section Manager/Lecturer in Greenkeeping/Golf Course Management

circa £21,000 - £25,000

You will manage the team and teach on a range of courses, from NVQ to HND level, covering greenkeeping and golf course management.

You must have substantial relevant experience of the industry and an appropriate qualification. Teaching experience, together with D32 and D33 would be desirable.

There may also be the opportunity to manage the Colleges commercial golf enterprises.

Contact the Personnel Department on 01278 655060 (20 hour answerphone) at Cannon College, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS.
Fax: 01278 655055.
Closing date: 14th June 1999.

GOLFCUB HOF TRAGES, FRANKFURT requires

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Golfclub HofTrages is an 18 hole, Par 71 Championship Golf Course of 6560 yards set in200 acres of historic parkland.

The successful candidate will be suitably qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent, PA1, PA2 and PA6 preferred and have a minimum of 5 years experience on a course with high standards.

Excellent German language skills are essential as is management and practical knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems, and a sound knowledge of Health & Safety.

An attractive salary package for the right person.

Please apply in writing to Jane Barton, The Tytherington Club, Dorchester Way, Tytherington, Macclesfield, England SK10 2JP.

CLUBHAUS PLC are an equal opportunities employer.
Ipswich Golf Club, established 1895, consists of 27 holes and practice areas set in 230 acres. The successful candidate will have had experience to Deputy Head Greenkeeper, preferably a Master Greenkeeper. Salary and Pension commensurate with position. Accommodation available.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to:-
The Secretary Manager, Ipswich Golf Club, Bucklesham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 8UQ.

Closing Date: Friday 25 June 1999

Hampstead Golf Club

Invite applications for the post of
ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

To join the staff maintaining their pleasant 9-hole private golf course. Experience and qualification to NVQ level 2 would be an advantage but training to this level or further training may be provided. Salary negotiable, depending on experience.

Please apply in writing, including full CV to:
The Course Manager, Hampstead Golf Club, Winnington Road, London N2 OTU

Ashford Manor Golf Club

requires a
DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Well experienced and qualified to NVQ/City & Guilds Level 3 including spraying. A practical knowledge of the maintenance of machinery and irrigation systems will be an advantage together with the ability to manage and motivate staff in the absence of the Head Greenkeeper. No accommodation available.

Please apply in writing with C.V. to:
The Secretary/Manager, Ashford Manor Golf Club, Fordbridge Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3RT

Closing date for applications: 18 June 1999

Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Club Ltd

An 18 hole private course founded in 1894, in the pleasant surroundings of Dulwich, in South London. Have a vacancy for an...

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Qualifications required are Greenkeeping Phase I and II. Experience in the use of modern machinery and a full driving licence are also required and some knowledge of maintenance of automatic irrigation systems would be useful.

No accommodation is available.

Applications in writing enclosing a full CV to:
The Secretary, Dulwich & Sydenham Golf Club Ltd, Grange Lane, College Road, Dulwich SE21 7LH

Kings Hill Golf Club

Has vacancies for
ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

To join our expanding team at this unique development.

A keen interest in golf and a desire to develop a greenkeeping career are essential attributes.

Please apply in writing enclosing a full CV to:
Duncan Kelso, Course Manager, Kings Hill Golf Club, Discovery Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 9AF
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Instantly effective against Fusarium patch, Red thread, Anthracnose, Pink patch and Timothy leaf spot, Vitesse is the faster way to fight turf disease in the growing season.

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Rhône-Poulenc Amenity, Fyfield Road, Ongar, Essex CM5 0HW. Tel: 01277 301115 Fax: 01277 301119.
One of the joys of working as a greenkeeper is the fascination one gets from observing people. Golf clubs in particular seem to attract a strange group of individuals that are not to be found in other walks of life.

Take their clothes for instance. If you saw someone dressed in luminous green, tightly fitting trousers with a lurid yellow jumper and perhaps a totally unco-ordinated bright red shirt going to the local shops, you would find it difficult not to conclude that they were a sad example of care in the community. Yet at a golf club this sort of behaviour is considered completely normal.

Look at the seniors at a golf club. Within this seemingly small and innocuous little section of the golfing species lies a wealth of character and eccentricities not to be found in any other walk of life.

You may have concluded that all senior golfers are essentially the same but let me assure you, within this group there are many sub species all with differing habitats, markings and behaviour.

For example, many years ago I had the pleasure of working at one of those ancient and exclusive clubs to be found not far from the metropolis. Being a keen golfer, the club let me join the artisan section. This introduced me to a very rare but not quite extinct species of senior that still manage to survive to this day in the few remaining artisan outposts and occasionally the odd isolated municipal operation. These people were, to say the least, rough around the edges. Their language was incredibly crude; their clothes were used primarily for the rough trades with which they scraped a living at. Their golf was totally lacking in any subtleties, such as lining up or choosing the right club.

But despite this they were all an utter delight to play golf with. Indulging in pre golf whiskies at 10am, recalling an endless stream of filthy stories and breaking wind on a regular basis seemed to be the standard behaviour of these hilarious characters.

One could not imagine this sort of behaviour among another division of the senior section that is to be found at the other end of the social spectrum. This is the totally fascinating upper class senior, the ex-military types or the wealthy gentry, barristers and lawyers. At one time, this particular group of senior used to completely dominate golf club life throughout the length and breadth of the country. They are now sadly depleted in numbers but do however still manage to keep a stronghold at some of the better links and heathland tracks around the country.

They, like the artisans can be identified by their plumage, which in this case consists of plus fours and a tweed jacket designed by the same person that invented the straight jacket. This particular article of clothing insures that any sort of body turn is impossible without an immediate collapse of the left arm and a type of lurching movement on the follow through. This ensures the ball is never allowed to climb more than about six foot off the ground, perfect for the links golf in which they are so adept.

For starters, they change their shoes in the car park and shuffle into the pro shop.

There is no need to purchase a new glove as the emaciated relic that they wear has got years left in it, and besides, Henry Cotton endorsed it.
and a bottle of claret. They then change back into their tweeds and head back out to the 1st tee for the afternoon round, which takes precisely two hours 35 minutes. The extra five minutes being allowed for relieving themselves of the lunchtime beverages. Actually, this type of senior can during their lifetime of golf be regarded as the best possible members. Their behaviour will always be impeccable, they play golf at such a pace that they hold no one up and they are regularly to be found investing money in the clubhouse services.

Then to cap it all, when they reach the age when they are in danger of slowing their partners down to above the permitted two and a half hours they selflessly permanently retire themselves to the clubhouse. If you ever manage to play Muirfield or St Andrews you can see these gentlemen seated just inside the bay windows complete with pink gin and a copy of The Times. In fact, seeing as one can never manage to play Muirfield or St Andrews you can see these gentlemen during their lifetime of golf be a series of captain/pro matches. In the first one in January the pro told me how the Captain arrived at the club and changed into his familiar jumper and trousers that looked like they were purchased in a car boot sale some time in the 1950’s. At the end of the round they were replaced back in the locker. This procedure was then repeated throughout the year without the clothes once being taken home to be washed. By November he was a walking health hazard but think of the money he saved in washing powder.

This compulsive frugality extends to every aspect of their golf. Their clubs are a mismatch of 1960’s rejects with a sweet spot made up of a small cluster of atoms adjacent to the hosel and the woods are of laminated wood construction with the whipping stuck down with insulation tape. The tee pegs are tied together with old garden string so as to prevent them from being taken home to be washed. Even their golf swings, which are short and prudish, are designed to ensure that the ball never deviates from a straight line so as not to squander their golf ball hoard. What is really frightening about these guys, is how they insist on playing every day. This is a result of some elementary mathematics that they indulged in whereby they calculated that having parted with their annual sub, the more they play, the cheaper their golf becomes.

One such golfer recently imparted the information that he was only paying £1.30 per round. Occasionally when they had had a particularly exhilarating round of golf (a score in the low 120’s without losing a ball they would indulge in the only known nutritional input their frail bodies require; a pot of tea for two with four cups and a slice of toast.

But even these characters have their own particular charm about them, quietly filling every empty space on the course. All they want from life is to play golf 365 days a year or 366 in a leap year. The senior golfers that are to be found throughout this country of ours have become a kind of living part of our heritage. Golf club life would be left with a huge void without them. I for one, hope that these fine old characters remain a permanent fixture at every club. Who knows, in years to come, maybe we will be the ones waiting to tee off in a freezing February gale.
The GTC held its overdue meeting on 15 April. The main topic for discussion was the Lantra Report which had been commissioned by the R&A and the EGU to look at the workings and running of the GTC. This all started by the withdrawal of funding by the EGU as from April 1999. At a subsequent meeting with the R&A it was agreed that the EGU would reconsider its position following an independent report being carried out.

The meeting itself was constructive with all parties trying to reach agreement for the good of all greenkeeper training. However, it was decided to rewrite the Constitution and at the same time introduce a Technical Committee, as advised by Lantra. The Technical Committee functions are to assist the Education Director of the GTC and to propose to the Management Committee of activities of the GTC in line with its objectives and to identify the priorities for greenkeeper training.

The make-up of the Committee will be as follows:
- Greenkeeper Training Committee Internal Verifier
- Representative from the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association
- Representative from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland
- Representative from the Sports Turf Research Institute
- One Educationalist, eg College Tutor

It was agreed that the new revised draft of the Constitution would be circulated to all member bodies for discussion within their organisations prior to the next GTC meeting which was due to be held on 27 May.

The BIGGA Board was called to a meeting on 13 May when it was agreed to recommend alterations to the draft constitution which we considered to be in keeping with our position as the main body and representing the end user of greenkeeper training.

The BIGGA proposals will be put before the GTC Committee at their next meeting, along with any others received. Hopefully then the GTC can get on with the job it was first set up to do, that of raising the standards of greenkeeper training.

It was unanimously agreed that David Golding and his staff have worked hard and moved greenkeeper training to a much higher level than ever before. The Board felt genuinely concerned that they have had to suffer all this uncertainty when it could and should have been handled better.

On the 20 April I spent the day at Westurf at its new venue at Westpoint, Exeter. With all the wet weather it proved a wise decision to move the exhibition indoors. Had it remained at Long Ashton, Westurf may well have been cancelled. The attendance was good and most people seemed pleased. Marion and I had a nice time meeting many old friends, traders and greenskeepers alike. It was also a good PR exercise that the South West and South Wales members could meet with Neil, Ken, Tracey and Cheryl from headquarters staff.

I would like to thank Paula and the Regional Board for inviting us all. I hope it was a successful day for the Region and its trade supporters to promote the sport.

My next engagement should have been the Cumbria Cup at Penritio Golf Club, but it was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute due to heavy rain during the night before.

The rain was so bad that many of the roads in the area were subjected to flooding and some even closed. It was no surprise that the course also had to be closed. I had already travelled to Aldwark on the Tuesdays and was going to continue my journey first thing Wednesday morning, when we received the news of its cancellation. However, all was not lost. I was able to spend time with our staff in preparation for the Regional Board meeting the following day.

I have just been given the sad news of the death of Stephen Noye. Stephen was head man at Purdis Heath Golf Club, Ipswich. He was well respected by all his peers and my sympathy and thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

Gordon Child
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1999-2000

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British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

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