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- Experience at Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper level
- Management, Leadership and Communication skills
- Self motivated with a desire to produce a top quality product for members and guests.
- Full range of relevant qualifications and skills.

The role is demanding and an ideal opportunity for a progressive course manager. An attractive salary package is offered including accommodation.

Please apply by 31st July 2002, in writing with full CV and the names of two suitable referees to:

The General Manager, Langley Park Golf Club,
Barnfield Wood Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 6SZ.

www.langleyparkgolf.co.uk



SHIRLEY PARK GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of COURSE MANAGER

Shirley Park is situated one mile east of Croydon, within twelve miles of the City of London and we are seeking an ambitious Greenkeeper who can develop every aspect of the 6,210 yard course.

The applicant must have at least five years experience as a Greenkeeper and be qualified to S/NVQ level II (HNC or S/NVQ level III would be an advantage). A driving licence, tractor mounted spraying certificate and chainsaw proficiency certificate would be of additional value.

The successful applicant will be responsible for five Greenstaff hence knowledge of training requirements is essential and in this respect, the D32/33 qualification would be desirable. We are seeking someone with initiative and enthusiasm to make significant improvements to the presentation and playing conditions of our parkland course.

Accommodation is available and the starting salary will be £22,000.

Closing date for applications is Friday 19th July.

Please send your CV and a report on your course management philosophy to:

The General Manager, Shirley Park Golf Club,
194 Addiscombe Road, Croydon, CR0 7LB



EAST HERTS GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

East Herts Golf Club is a private members Club with some 700 members. Founded in 1899 it has been on the present site of Hamels Park, in the beautiful rolling parkland of Hertfordshire, since 1974.

The successful applicant will possess the following attributes:

- NVQ level 3 or equivalent qualification
- Sound knowledge of modern golf course management techniques
- Ability to lead and motivate the green keeping team
- Experience of Health & Safety issues

Accommodation available / Salary negotiable

Apply in writing with a full CV to:

The Secretary, East Herts Golf Club Ltd,
Hamels Park, Buntingford, Herts SG9 9NA

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Green-Releaf





Sandy McDivot gives you an insight into the McDivot turf maintenance philosophy

ENOUGH IS enough

I seem to recollect a couple of years ago receiving a call from Old Archibald, my counterpart at Sleepwell on the Weald GC, the club that time forgot. "Sandy" he said with more than a hint of desperation in his voice, "I've got some horrible disease all over my greens, it's all green and furry, you must come over and help me". "Do not panic Archie," I said, "I'm on my way". As I drove over, it did occur to me that the unseasonably wet and mild weather could have been the catalyst to all sorts of mysterious new pathogens, many of which poor Archie would not be overly familiar with. But as I had over the years got to know his greens almost as well as my own, I felt confident that I could come up with something approaching the correct diagnosis.

I met him on his 18th green as he was bent over looking at this horrible affliction. "What on earth is it?" he asked me, with the look of a man

I wonder how many of you have ever actually appreciated the true delights of Old Archibald's traditional bent/fescue dominated sward. Have you ever played on a green with the texture of tarmac, the look of rusty brillo and the wear resistance of kevlar?

in the final throws of a nervous breakdown. I too peered at his turf and did indeed notice something that I had never seen on his immaculate surfaces before. "Archie" I said, "what you have, is grass!"

Now, you have probably deduced from the above, that Old Archibald's approach to turf management leans towards the traditional. You may also conclude that he is a species of green-keeping dinosaur that cannot attain the status of extinction rapidly enough.

Well yes in certain respects you are probably correct. After all, ask him what a risk assessment is and he would probably describe it as an extremely useful decision making tool to be utilised when faced with the dilemma of staying for another pint, weighed up against the possible long term physical damage inflicted to his ear drums during the wife's welcome home speech.

But despite this, I wonder how many of you have ever actually appreciated the true delights of Old Archibald's traditional bent/fescue dominated sward. Have you ever played on a green with the texture of tarmac, the look of rusty brillo and the wear resistance of kevlar? Have you ever experienced the sheer exhilaration of observing one of your members delicately tap a putt only to see it actually accelerate past the hole and into an adjacent pond?

Anyway, to get back to his greens, after some discussion, both Archie and myself decided that this severe outbreak of extraneous leaf material was the result of the aforementioned weather conditions together with a misguided application of organic nitrogenous fertiliser he put down in 1985. "I won't be doing that again in a hurry" he said, before explaining that it was the result of some especially fiendish sales techniques deployed by an unscrupulously attractive female rep.

He then went on to elucidate on how this unfortunate moment of weakness was in direct conflict with his usual feeding programme which consisted of walking around the course on a windy day while waving a piece of partially decomposed seaweed in the air.

But before we dismiss poor Archie and his turf management techniques to the annals of antiquity, should we not examine the potential benefits that could be accrued with the utilisation of his type of feeding regime.

For starters, can you imagine the situation of never having to go home on an October Friday afternoon with the fear that if the mood takes it,

microdochium navale will come in over the weekend and remove both your greens and your career in one fell swoop? Can you also imagine the scenario of learning that your irrigation system has in the middle of July experienced a catastrophic failure without the slightest worry for the long or short-term health of your greens?

Do you in reality fear that without a miraculous repair to the system, your greens would reach their expiry date the following afternoon?

Had you placed a figure of £1000 in the budget column marked fungicide with the absolute certainty that this will give you a grand to spend on more important commodities such as top dressing? Are you able, on a day when the grass is covered in a heavy white frost, to allow play on all of your greens without the least fear that leaf damage will occur.

Have you regular need for such expensive and time-consuming operations as verticutting, scarifying, rolling, hollow tining, overseeding or even switching. Well if you have, perhaps you should consider the option of using a modified version of Old Archibald's methods.

But apart from some of the more obvious benefits, there are the other less obvious advantages to this system. For example, you do not have to concern yourself with the disposal of grass clippings; there won't be any. Then fear not the appalling look of a poorly adjusted mower on your greens. When you aren't cutting any grass, mowing faults are all but invisible. And remember, Archibald's approach is the "green" approach.

Of course it is not all sunshine and roses. Take this type of nutritional policy on board and you will end up with the following problems.

1. For starters the general greens texture can take on an alarming degree of firmness. This does then necessitate the need for your golfers to learn the art of the pitch and run shot on occasion. It also brings with it the requirement that they think

before they aimlessly muller their drives in the rough vicinity of the fairway. Failure to do so could result in them leaving a bunker betwixt ball and green, which on Archibald's surfaces would mean they are all but stuffed.

2. Then there is the problem that the normally innocuous disease known as fairy ring will blend into your greens about as well as Osama Bin Laden at a George Bush tea party.

3. Pitch marks that have not been repaired or improperly repaired can take anything up to a year to fully recover, thereby necessitating the use of fortnightly top dressings.

4. Then there is moss and sometimes clover, which in the absence of competition from grasses can run riot if you let it.

5. It only takes a couple of incontinent ducks to walk over your greens and you end up with unsightly green patches all over them.

6. No dew to help guide you when mowing? Then you had better use greenkeepers intuition, as that's the only way you're going to see your last line.

7. Also, you had better review your verticutting policy. Carry on doing that once a week and by June you'd have nothing left.

By and large though, in my own opinion, these are problems of mere nuisance value when compared to all the benefits one can enjoy. I should of course point out that I am not for one minute suggesting that we all regress to the days of Old Tom Morris. It is just that the traditional approach allied to more modern day techniques should be considered as a potential option and by traditional I do not mean just stepping up the aeration programme and easing back on the phosphate a bit.

Not long ago I took the Sludgecombe team on a pilgrimage to an old links course that I remembered had managed to maintain greens the way I like them. To me they were ideal. Somewhat sparse with the odd bit of clover in them perhaps, decidedly off colour certainly, but always incredibly firm, lightening fast and as true to putt on as any in the world. Yet when we played them, they were not as I had remembered. They were still good but somehow the poa annua had become dominant and they were a bit softer than I recalled and they were greener and the grass appeared to be not so fine.

They simply were not the same. So I contacted the greenkeeper in question, who had only been there for a few years and asked of his management policies. The answer when it came was as I had feared. They were hollow tining a couple of times a year

and they fed them around 120 Kg of nitrogen and they did this and that to them and somehow they had lost what they had. I am not saying he had done things incorrectly because at the end of the day I don't know what his circumstances were. Maybe he had been directed by his committee to change the character of the greens, but they were just not as I remembered and I think that that is a great pity.

So if I have by some miracle persuaded you that there could be something in old Archibald's turf management philosophies, how best can they be put into practice?

Well I believe it all comes down to getting your head around the fundamental principle that the least thing one wants is for the grass to actually grow. A tough one that I know but let me try to convince you. To help, let me list the common pitfalls associated with excessive applications of nitrogen and therefore grass growth. They are according to Dr Beard, poor surface quality, thatch accumulation, poor root growth, reduced tolerance to environmental stresses, decreased wear tolerance, higher evapotranspiration rates and greater susceptibility to disease.

In short if you over do it, your greens will be knackered. One then has to ask the question, why do we lob on loads of fertiliser to create all this grass and then spend the rest of the time trying to groom, brush, verticut, hollow core and scarify it all away again. It just doesn't make sense. You could argue that all these operations are carried out so as to avoid the pitfalls, but why not just stop applying nitrogen. That way you will automatically avoid thatch build up, achieve good root growth, create higher tolerance to environmental stresses, improve the wear resistance, have less need for irrigation and have little disease to worry about.

So what do I perceive to be the correct annual levels of applied nitrogen. Well I would say about 20 to 30 Kg per hectare, or to put it another way about 10% of what the fertiliser companies

recommend. In my humble opinion, that should be more than sufficient on most established greens. If you are getting too much moss and turf thinning, add a bit more, while if you are not getting any, cut the nitrogen down. Now I know what you are all saying and the word begins with "B" and I don't mean balderdash, but it has been done many times before and on all types of greens. Of course I do recognise that I am in no way aware of your own political situation with your members, but it does disappoint me when people simply dismiss the true traditional greenkeeping alternative as not being an option. I am telling you, it can work if the communication channels are in place and it is done properly.

To finish my argument, let me relay an account of a conversation I had with a fellow greenkeeper many moons ago who had two courses to look after. One of them, for one reason or another, was subject to prohibitive laws and regulations that meant he could do nothing

ing to these greens without a visit to the planning department and a lengthy and degrading bout of gaveling. The other course was basically a bog standard parkland layout owned and run by the members. He explained that his greens on the first course were in excellent condition and a pleasure to putt on and that they basically looked after themselves. However, his greens on the parkland course were showing all sorts of problems to the point where he had to constantly hollow core, overseed, topdress, scarify, vertidrain and most importantly of all, feed them on a regular basis. On the first course he had a bent fescue sward while on the other, despite all his work he had a predominance of poa annua and a heap of problems.

I leave the conclusions to yourselves.

Sandy McDivot, Head Greenkeeper, Sludgecombe Pay and Play.



Feature listing from July 2000

July 2000; Open Championship Preview; Dougal Duguid Court Case Report; Pest Control; Aventis profile; Course Conditioning

August 2000; Open Championship review; Water Features; Saltex preview; Charcoal; Malone GC; Royal County Down; Grand Tour Scholarship

September 2000; Blowers and Sweepers; Berkshire College Academy; National Championship roundup; Gordon McKillop interview; Winter health checks

October 2000; Toro Awards Preview; Ronald Fream; Irrigation; Saltex Review; Pest Control; Woburn GC

November 2000; Grass Cutting Machinery; Clandeboyne GC; Drainage; National Championship review; Leatherjacket management

December 2000; Toro Awards; Making the most of your Dealer; Budget Boosters; BTME2001 preview; BIGGA/Bernhards CGSA delegation preview

January 2001; Communication; Tyres; Turf diseases; Kingsbarns Golf Links; Environment Competition Winner - Dyke GC; Talking Heads - Pest Control

February 2001; BTME2001 review; Winter Mowing; Irrigation; Broadstone GC; Hedges; Security

March 2001; York GC; Greens Maintenance; Meland GC, Norway; Greens Mowers; BIGGA Essay Winner; Grass Science profile

April 2001; Lightning detection; Brockett Hall GC; CGSA report; Fairway Mowers; Irrigation; Sward renovation; BIGGA Essay winner; Turf Disease

May 2001; Foot and Mouth Disease Special Report; Maintenance Facility report; Bunker Sand; ATVs; RainBird Profile; Fineturf Genetics; BTME2002 countdown; Electric-powered machines

June 2001; Stoke Park Club profile; Stuart Cagle MG; Tractors; Leaf Spot Disease; Take All Patch; Construction

July 2001; Royal Lytham profile; Tees Mowers; Fertilisers; Green Grasses; John Deere profile; Sandy McDivot; College Listings

August 2001; Aeration Survey; Machrie GC profile; Rough Mowers; Saltex Preview; Dr Alan Gange - environmental research; Hayter Profile; Ponds; Open Championship review; Toro Student of the Year profile;

September 2001; Ryder Cup preview; Chafer Grubs; Drainage; BIGGA National Championship preview; Sandy McDivot; Machinery Maintenance; Soil Analysis; Wild Flowers

October 2001; Major Award for Walter Woods; Royal Portrush GC; Portstewart GC; Irrigation; Soil biodiversity; Leaf collection systems; Scotsturf preview; Saltex review

November 2001; BIGGA National Championship review; Environment Competition winner; Spraying; Toro Awards Preview; Cutting regimes; Dyke GC

December 2001; Toro Award Winners; Southern Gailes GC; BTME preview; Specialty equipment; Thatch removal

January 2002; Walton Heath profile; Greenkeeping in Denmark; Moving materials; A first for Andy Campbell; New products

February 2002; Harrogate 2002 Review; Drainage; Casterlock GC; Trees; Recycling; TurfTrix profile; Barn Owl special report

March 2002; Donnington Valley profile; Utility vehicles; Essay competition winner; Irrigation; Seeds; Sandy McDivot

April 2002; Heyrose GC profile; Bernhards' Scholarship; De-stress your greens; COSHH assessments; Rootzones and topdressing; Maintenance facilities; Essay competition

May 2002; BIGGA Report; Nematodes; Cady GC profile; Multi-tasking machinery; Bunker Sand; Essay competition; Fijian GC profile; BIGGA Minimum qualification

June 2002; Finding Fungi; Greetnam Valley GC profile; Tyres; Calabria GC profile; Lakes and Ponds; Poa Annua - Jim Arthur



Events ROUNDUP!

BIGGA Chairman, Richard Barker reports on Golf Days and Opens... oh and the World Cup

At the time of reading, all the fuss will be over but I am sure you, like everyone else, will have been watching the World Cup, or, even if you are not interested, will know most of the results.

Fortunately I was given a deadline extension to make a last minute amendment and England have just defeated the Danes 3-0 but I am certainly not going to make any predictions for their continued success because by the time you read this it will be old news. Let's hope though that England's good run continues.

A little closer to home we have not experienced the temperatures that Mr Beckham and his team have had to cope with and have had a lot more rain. Despite the problems this may cause I hope that, at least, it has kept your course nice and green.

On the BIGGA front, it has been a relatively quiet time for me, but things are hotting up. I've just enjoyed the annual BIGGA Golf Day and hotting up is an appropriate phrase as it was the hottest day of the year to date. Touching wood frantically, this event always seems to be blessed with good weather and hopefully that will continue for years to come. It was also pretty windy which says all the more for the winning score from the Lincsgreen team of 14 under par gross. Even given the Texas Scramble format, that is a superb achievement and could only be achieved by some incredible golf. As ever it was a fun day and a great chance to get together with the trade in an informal atmosphere. I'd like to thank everyone at BIGGA HOUSE who worked so hard to make the day such a success and an sure it will continue to be a highlight of the BIGGA calendar.

The following day was the quarterly Board of Management meeting and another opportunity to discuss the news and views coming in from around the Regions.

In the last month you should have received a letter from Headquarters with regard to the minimum qualification.

Providing you will all the relevant information with regard to this was a promise we made at the last AGM, the other element is your consultation so please let Ken Richardson or Neil Thomas know your views as soon as possible so that they can be included in the decision making process. Perhaps, then, we can move forward positively at next year's AGM.

You should also have received an entry form for this year's BIGGA National Golf Championship at Hillside and Hesketh Golf Clubs in late September early October. This was a tremendous success last year so please be sure to return your forms to guarantee your place this year. At present we are also short of a couple of sponsors so if you know of any willing companies please put them in touch with headquarters.

The week following the Board Meeting I am attending the opening of a new golf course in Scotland then going on to the Scottish National Golf Championship at West Linton Golf Club. I have heard many a good comment about this course so I am looking forward to playing it while I am also looking forward to catching up with many old acquaintances, as well as making new ones.

Shortly after this it's the big one.



Yes, The Open Championship at Muirfield. For those of you who applied to join the BIGGA Support Team and were successful I am sure you will be in for an unforgettable experience as the chance to walk the fairways with the greatest players in the world is not one which can be bought. For those who were unsuccessful in making the team this year, sorry but we do hope to see you in the BIGGA marquee anyway where there will be a warm welcome for you and your friends.

I would like to wish Muirfield Course Manager, Colin Irvine, and his team all the best in the run up to the Championship and, of course, for the week itself. I am sure that even with the wet weather we have been experiencing in June the players will find links golf at its finest when they arrive in Gullane.