DON'T GET TYRED OUT

Jon McGott gives some excellent advice on tyre maintenance.

Maintenance of tyres and wheels is one of the most important jobs in the workshop, because without working tyres in good condition your expensive machine, is effectively useless, and you then have to start counting the cost of downtime.

A little time spent once a day, or every two days at most, can pay dividends in spotting potential tyre problems before they bring your machine to a stop.

Check the outside of the tyres carefully for any cuts, bulges or penetrating objects. Any of these must be attended to before the tyre is put back into service. If your tyre dealer tells you the tyre is scrap, do not assume he just wants to sell you a new tyre, he may, but if he is worth his salt he will be giving good advice.

When you replace tyres, make sure the replacement is the same in terms of its carrying capacity, and speed rating. Many manufacturers have several versions of one size to suit different applications, and you need to ensure yours is correct.

Do not be tempted to try and re-use a tubeless tyre by inserting a tube. If the damage is sufficient to render the tyre non tubeless, it is probably sufficient to drastically shorten the working life of the tyre, as well as damaging the tube, and also many tubeless tyres have internal ribbing which will chafe tubes and ultimately cause a deflation.

If you are already using tubes, and have a puncture, do not repair the tube - replace it! Make sure the tube is the correct size for the tyre, and always use new tubes in new tyres.

None of this is "rocket science" - just common sense, but at the end of the day it is your licence, your contract, your livelihood, and possibly your life at risk if you do not do this most simple of tasks.

Jon McGott is Technical Support Manager for Trelleborg Wheel Systems UK Ltd.
The time is 7.30am, the year is 1820 and the location is somewhere on a golf course in the UK. A greenkeeper is busily putting the final edge on his scythe, ready for a morning of cutting greens. Today it is hard to imagine this situation, but this was the only method of cutting grass short at that time and it required a considerable amount of skill to achieve reasonable results.

Records show that when scything an acre of grass it would take three men a day and then all the cut material had to be raked up and the lawn rolled. The grass cutting operation was carried out early in the morning when there was plenty of dew about as this helped the grass to stand to the scythe.

Sometime during the next decade, in the Gloucestershire town of Stroud, a mill engineer by the name of Edwin Budding was about to change the playing of sports on turf and garden design, throughout the world. He invented the cylinder lawnmower. These new machines were well received by the gardening fraternity but virtually shunned by the greenkeepers of the day. These first mowers were heavy to use because of their crude gear drives from the rear roller to the cutting cylinder. In most cases they needed two people to operate one to steer and a second, usually a young lad, to pull the machine. It was over 60 years from those first introductions before they were accepted by greenkeepers. One of the reasons claimed was the poor finish; it is hard to believe these machines were not an improvement. Why there was a reluctance to change is not clear, one theory is the lack of money and the acceptance of relatively poor putting surfaces. It must have been a daunting task to cut 18 greens using a push mower especially as most courses had minimal greenkeeping staff. Although petrol powered units had been introduced there was still very little enthusiasm for using them.

Another 30 years were to pass before the first specifically designed mower for cutting greens appeared in 1924 - the Ransomes Certes. Where these specialist mowers were used the difference in the playing surface soon became too apparent and players, through their greens committee no doubt, put pressure on the greenkeeper and his staff.
In 1936, to increase productivity Ransomes introduced the Overgreen. This was a powered towing unit with large pneumatic tyres which pulled three of the Certes push mowers.

Then 1950 saw the launch of the Auto Certes. This was the first purpose built petrol engine mower for producing a good putting surface. Other manufacturers were quick to catch on and a number of this type of mower appeared on the market.

By the 60's society was changing as people had more leisure time and this bought with it an increased interest in sporting activities. With more courses being built throughout the world, there was a need for efficient methods of mowing and by the end of the decade triple ride-on greens mowers were beginning to appear in the UK being imported from America. There was considerable resistance to this method of cutting compared to pedestrian operated greens mowers and in some quarters the pros and cons are still debated today. One argument was that if larger units were used on the green there was the likelihood that increased compaction would occur. The quality of finish was also another area of contention. Some courses compromised, and still do, by using ride-ons generally and pedestrian mowers on match days and other important events.

With the advent of more advanced hydraulics, smaller compact engines and electronics the modern greens ride-on is far removed from those earlier models and is equipped to cover virtually every type of putting surface. One downside is the turning area required.

TRIPLE RIDE-ONS

If all the mowers that are now available from different manufacturers were placed in a line, they will have different body work and covers but the actual nuts and bolts under these are likely to be very similar. The chances are the engines will be from the same stable or closely similar in design, as will be the hydraulic systems, cylinders and bedknives.

Most readers will have their own preferences for certain manufacturers and models but there is a good case for actually carrying out some research and evaluating more than one model before making that final decision. There are a number of areas that need to be taken into account. The possibility of increasing compaction is a major factor, so the total weight of the machine plus operator and full tank of fuel is a good starting point.

The most important areas are the cutting units and the system that operates them. The efficiency of hydraulics depends on a constant pressurised oil flow, so if a single pump has to operate a number of facilities then the mower's efficiency might be reduced. Triples that have hydraulic systems specifically dedicated for lift, power steering and cylinder and wheel motors are features worth taking into account.

The time taken, and how easy it is, to remove or refit a cutting unit to the carrying frame, will have a bearing on servicing and down time. How the units are suspended, determines where any weight is being applied by such components as lifting arms and grass boxes, to either the cutting units or power unit's main frame.

Both cutting height and cylinder adjustments need to be easily accessible and carried out with preferably no special tools.

Ergonomics now play a major part in the design of most commercial machines and a great deal of attention is paid to operator comfort and safety. Fully adjustable steering columns and seats to suit different size operators are commonplace. Another feature, to be on the look out for, is the amount of visibility from the driving seat.

Electronic and computer technology has crept into some of the latest machines, mainly in the form of monitoring systems. These are mainly for analysing the electrical circuitry and hydraulics to identify a failure point if it occurs.

Modern petrol and diesel engines require less servicing than their former counterparts, but they still need to be checked regularly if they are to give optimum performance, long life and minimal pollution.

Modern engines are far quieter and cleaner than those produced a decade ago. Some engine manufacturers have long been turning their attention to alternative fuels such as LPG and specifically designed units that operate on this are beginning to find their way on to the market. Conversion kits to LPG are also readily available for most makes of engine.

The use of alternative materials that lower the weight of the mower which are just as durable and give as long a life as those used previously.

The highly competitive market place that manufacturers now find themselves in, means they have to be continually looking for ways of improving their ranges. This situation tends to lean heavily in the users interest, as each company strives to make their equipment more cost effective, easier to operate and produce exceptional playing results.

Golf green maintenance has come a long way over the last few decades and although there appeared to be slowness in accepting the turf care machinery, especially mowers that were available at one stage, it certainly has caught up today.

Next time you are cutting greens in your mobile armchair surrounded by all those gizmos, spare a thought for your predecessors at the beginning of the last century. I bet you are glad you are managing a course in 2003 and not in 1820.
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Kilboggin, Nurney, Co. Kildare. Tel: 00 353 (0)45 526170 Email: torosales@lely.ie www.toro.com
As a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The range and quality of training now available means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper which should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce quality golf courses.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards, beginning by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC.

There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and if you think that training is expensive then try ignorance.

Ken Richardson
Education and Training Manager,
British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
Tel: 01347 833800
Email: education@bigga.co.uk
Website: www.bigga.org.uk

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) is continually striving to raise the standards of Golf Course Maintenance and Management and they are totally committed to ensuring that the range of qualifications are relevant to the Sportsturf sector and used by Employers for recruitment and by trainees for their own personal development.

The Government endorsed awards range from National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQ's) to the more academic Higher National Certificate (HNC)/National Diploma (ND)/Higher National Diploma (HND) in Golf Course Management and the Degree in Sportsturf Science.

The qualifications are continually under review by the Lantra Sector Skills Council (SSC) in association with the GTC. The quality of the delivery of these awards by the network of GTC Approved Training Providers is also constantly monitored by the GTC.

For up to date independent advice on qualifications, education and training courses contact the GTC on: Tel: 01347 838640
Email: golf@the-gtc.co.uk
Website: www.the-gtc.co.uk

Cannington College is recognised as a Centre of Vocational Excellence for greenkeeping and sports turf science.

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COLLEGE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

course hotline: 01278 655123
www.cannington.ac.uk
e: enquiries@cannington.ac.uk

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Bursaries available
For further details please contact Sue O'Neill, Student Enquiries, Cranfield University, Silsoe, Bedford MK45 4DT. Tel: 01525 863319 Fax: 01525 863399
Email: StudentEnquiries.silsoe@cranfield.ac.uk
www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk
ABINGDON AND WHITNEY COLLEGE - Warren Farm Campus, Horton cum Sturley, Oxford OX13 1BF. Contact: Alan Brown or John Revis Tel: 01865 351794 Fax: 01865 359391 Email: john.revis@abingdon-whitney.ac.uk Web: www.abingdon-whitney.ac.uk Information: Warren Farm Campus is the base for Abingdon and Whitney College's education and training in Greenkeeping, Sportsturf, Amenity Horticulture and allied land based courses for the whole of Oxfordshire. Courses include: NQ Level 2 & 3 in Sportsturf, Landscaping and Nursery. We also offer a range of short courses for the industry including Health & Safety, pest control training and chain saw operation. For more information contact either Alan Brown or John Revis on Tel: 01865 351794 or Fax: 01865 359391.

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE - Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO12 3FR Contact: Central Admissions Tél: 01904 772213 Fax: 01904 772288 Email: info@askham-bryan.ac.uk Web: www.askham-bryan.ac.uk Information: National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Certificate in Horticulture (Golf Course Management) part-time study. Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, NQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management. NQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA sprays, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.

BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE - Hall Place, Burchett Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QT Contact: Andy Williams Tel: 01628 624444 Fax: 01628 624455 Email: enquiries@bca.ac.uk Web: www.bca.ac.uk Information: Located in the Thames Valley. BCA has excellent resources for horticulturally based training including a six-hole golf training facility opened by HRH The Duke of York. Programmes include the First Diploma, National Certificate and National Diploma in Horticulture, with Landscape Design and Greenkeeping options plus Higher National Diploma/Certificate programmes. Part-time programmes include NQ Level 2 and NQ Level 3 Horticulture. Residential accommodation is available.

BRINSBURY CAMPUS, CHICHERST COLLEGE - North Heath, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH23 1DL Contact: Ian Noman Tel: 01243 768321 Fax: 01798 875222 Email: info@chichersettcollege.co.uk Web: www.brisbury.co.uk Information: FULL/TIME: National Diploma Horticulture (Sports Turf), National Certificate Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sport Turf options), BTEC First Diploma New Entente Horticulture. PART/TIME: NVQ Sports Turf Maintenance (Work based), NVQ Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sports Turf options), plus various Short Courses including Chainsaw, Brushcutter/Stimmers, Spray Courses PA1/PA2/PN/PN9/PN9 etc.

BROOKSLEY MILTON COLLEGE - Brooksway, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE14 2JL Contact: jess.linterken@brcol.ac.uk Tel: 01664 850850 Fax: 01664 850355 Email: course.enquiries@brooksmilton.col.ac.uk Web: www.brooksmilton.ac.uk Web: www.brooksmilton.ac.uk Information: Situated on the A607 between Leicestershire and Rutland. Programmes available include NQ Levels 2, 3 & 4 in Greenkeeping. Work based emphasis for all of these programmes. Short courses available in Arboriculture, Chainsaw work, TR2 Training and pesticide application training. Amenity Horticulture NQ Levels 2, 3 & 4.

CANNING COLLEGE - Cannington, Bridgewater, Somerset, TA5 2LS Contact: Philip Sharpe Tel: 01729 655094 Fax: 01729 655055 Email: sharpke@cannington.ac.uk Web: www.canningcollege.ac.uk Information: Edexcel National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (Sportsturf), Certificate of Higher Education in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Turfgrass Science and Technology, NQ Level II Golf Greenkeeping, NQ Level III Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management, NQ Level IV Horticulture (Sportsturf), HNC Staining, Chainsaw Certification, Off-road vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics. Certificate in Irrigation (BTLIA) 1 week course: National Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping (Tyre FT), Note: Certificate of Higher Education and Foundation Degrees both available as part time option.


HADLOW COLLEGE - Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL Contact: Norman Croasdale Tel: 01732 625152 Fax: 01732 635267 Email: normancroasdale@hadlow.ac.uk Web: www.hadlow.ac.uk Information: First Diploma Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf Option) National Award, Amenity Horticulture.

HARTPURY COLLEGE - Hartpury House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL19 3BE Contact: Rosalind Camp Tel: 01452 702313 Fax: 01452 706629 Email: enquiries@hartpury.ac.uk Web: www.hartpury.ac.uk Information: Courses available: College Certificate Greenkeeping, First Diploma Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Award Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Award Greenkeeping & Groundsmanship, National Certificate Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Certificate Greenkeeping & Groundsmanship, National Diploma Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Diploma Sport Performance & Excellence (Golf Studies). Road Based Training NQ Level 3, HNC examinations City & Guilds, TDLB Assessor Awards as well as a full range of amateur, leisure and day release courses.

MEERRST WOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE - Worksop, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG2 3PQ Contact: Joe Paulin Tel: 01430 804080 Fax: 01430 804001 Email: jgpaulin@markwood.ac.uk Web: www.markwood.ac.uk Information: part-time courses: NQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and workplace work placements at Merry Wood and at Crawley. Level 2 Edexcel First Diploma college day release, also full-time for those without qualified workplace accessories, NQ Level 3 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visit placements, Level 3 Edexcel National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace accessories, Edexcel HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years plus various short courses throughout the year. Edexcel HND Turfgrass Science and Management college day release. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice. Career evenings held monthly at the college.

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE - Huttons Green, Preston, Lancashire, PR8 3BY Contact: Carl Storanfield Tel: 01995 642233 Fax: 01995 642313 Email: mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk Web: www.myerscough.ac.uk Information: Full-time courses: BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science. Foundation Degree Sportsturf Science - online option by distance learning. NQ Turf Science & Sportsground Maintenance: National Certificate in Groundsmaintenance and Greenkeeping, also Sports Turf Mechanisation option: First Diploma in Greenkeeping, Turf Science. NQV 2, 3 & 4 Greenkeeping Management delivered both in the work place and over the internet using the colleges’ ‘Mollnet System’. Part-time courses NQ Levels 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance (Work based or fast track work based training quality). All higher education courses can be accessed on a part time basis NQV Turf Science: FEPA Short courses. NPTC: Certificates of competence in the safe use of mowers and turf equipment.

NECTON - NORTH EAST SURREY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY - Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3DS. Contact: Mr Colin S Smith Tel: 020 8394 3220 Email: inservices@necton.co.uk Web: www.necton.co.uk Information: NQ Levels 1, 2 and 3 in Amenity Horticulture (amateur options). Part time Day Release.

OAKLANDS COLLEGE - St Albans Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 4QA Contact: Ian Merrick Tel: 01727 377000 Fax: 01727 377512 Email: ian.merrick@oaklands.ac.uk Web: www.oaklands.ac.uk Information: Full time courses: NVQ Levels 2, 3, 4 in Amenity Horticulture. Contact: Central Admissions Tel: 01452 702133 Fax: 01452 703110 Enquiries at: enquiries@oaklands.ac.uk

OAKLANDS COLLEGE - St Albans Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 4QA Contact: Ian Merrick Tel: 01727 377000 Fax: 01727 377512 Email: ian.merrick@oaklands.ac.uk Web: www.oaklands.ac.uk Information: Full time courses: NVQ Levels 2, 3 & 4 in Amenity Horticulture. Part time courses: leading to NQV Level 2 & 3 in Greenkeeping. Modern Apprenticeships. Evening Courses: leading to NQV Level 4. Short Courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw.

PLUMPTON COLLEGE - Birchington Road, Leaves, East Sussex, BN3 3AE Contact: David Blackman Tel: 01273 890654 Fax: 01273 896071 Email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk Web: www.plumpton.ac.uk Information: HNC (Openpest, subject to validation) National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture. Part-time courses: NQV Level 1; NQV Level 2 in Amenity and Sportsturf; NQV Level 3 Landscaping and Sportsturf; NQV Level 4. Also available are RHS General and RHS Advanced; DC National Technical and Intermediate National Diploma. Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chain saw courses.

REASEHEATH COLLEGE - Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DF Contact: Brian Jones Tel: 01270 613236 Fax: 01270 625465 Email: hort@reaseheath.ac.uk Web: www.reaseheath.ac.uk Information: Full-time courses: College Certificate Horticulture (Sportsturf Options) - 1 year. National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Options) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part time: HNC - contact take for details. NQ Levels 1-4 Greenkeeping with Flexible learning options. Short courses: FEPA, Chemical Safety, Safe Lifting, Chainsaws, Off-Road Vehicle Driving. First Aid. NPTC Certificate of Competence.
Training providers guide

Available courses guide

This guide is not exhaustive and a full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aline, York, YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at http://www.the-gtc.co.uk

ENGLAND

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 7NP Contact: Ray Broughton Tel: 01626 774441 Fax: 01626 774587 Email: rbroughton@sp harsholt.ac.uk Web: www.sparsholt.ac.uk Information: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, National Diploma in Golf Course Management and Golf Studies National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, GTC, Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, EPA. Short courses, Chainaws, Phase IV and NVQ Level 2 are offered on block release and day release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt College provides education and training in the land-based industries.

THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA Milton Campus Contact: Bob Young Tel: 01733 869701 Email: Student Support at King’s Lynn on 01553 761444 Ext 271 Information: The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for greenkeepers including; NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf (Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship), NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance, GTC Craft Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, TDLA Assessors awards, EPA, Chain Saw, M.O.T.

OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE Information: Available both block release and Outreach. FEPA and COSHH, chainsaws, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and Safety short courses also available.

LARGESIDE COLLEGE Information: Course Management available as full-time, block release and distance learning. HNC Golf Facility Management, HND Golf Facility Management, PDA for football and cricket

WARNICKSHIRE COLLEGE Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton Morrell, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, Warwickshire, CV35 9HL Contact: Andy Turnbull Tel: 01926 318258 Fax: 01926 318300 Email: enquir es@warwickshire.ac.uk Web: www.warwickshire.ac.uk Information: Greenkeeping Courses: HNC Sports Turf & Golf Course Management (Day Release 2 year Programme also distance learning option); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Work-based Option (we come to you); two year HD in Horticulture with Turf Option; STUA Certificate in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses; Computing for the Greenkeeper - various times throughout the year - ring for details; FERM, Spraying Certification, Chain Saw Certification; TDLA, FIrst Aid, Allia RHS General and Diploma, PAS, RAZA and PAS. Professional Certificate/Diploma in Greenkeeping. Advanced National Certificate in Sports Turf Management - 2 year day release.

WITTLE COLLEGE Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3BF Contact: David Campbell Tel: 01245 424200 Fax: 01245 420456 Web: www.wittle.ac.uk Information: Sportsturf Programmes: NVQ Level 2 - Sportsturf, NVQ Level 3 - Sportsturf Maintenance. NVQ Levels 2 & 3 - Amenity Horticulture, HNC - Sportsturf Science. HND - Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes: National Certificate, National Diploma with (Sportsturf Option). RSC (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management, BSc (Hons) Horticulture, BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering. First Diploma Agriculture (Mechanisation), C & G Agricultural Mechanics Certificate. EPA, Chainsaw, Tractor Driving.

GREENMOUNT COLLEGE Antrim, County Antrim, Northern Ireland BT41 4PJ Contact: Paul Campbell Tel: 028 94 426794 Email: paul.campbell@grdnir.gov.uk Web: www.greenmount.ac.uk Information: Day release courses to (a) NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf, (b) NVQ Level 3 Golf Course Supervision, (c) Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (Sportsturf), (d) National Diploma & Higher National Diploma turf options EPA, Health and Safety and a range of short courses.

TEAGASC COLLEGE College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, DUBLIN 9, Republic of Ireland Contact: Pat Suttle Tel: 00353 18040201 Fax: 00353 18040212 Email: psuttle@kilmessy.teagasc.ie Web: www.teagasc.ie Information: Courses offered: Level 3 Certificate in Greenkeeping. Level 3 Certificate in Golf Course Management. National Diploma in Horticulture (Greenkeeping Major offered).

NORTHERN IRELAND

GREENMOUNT COLLEGE Antrim, County Antrim, Northern Ireland BT41 4PJ Contact: Paul Campbell Tel: 028 94 426794 Email: paul.campbell@grdnir.gov.uk Web: www.greenmount.ac.uk Information: Day release courses to (a) NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf, (b) NVQ Level 3 Golf Course Supervision, (c) Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (Sportsturf), (d) National Diploma & Higher National Diploma turf options EPA, Health and Safety and a range of short courses.

IRELAND

TEAGASC COLLEGE College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, DUBLIN 9, Republic of Ireland Contact: Pat Suttle Tel: 00353 18040201 Fax: 00353 18040212 Email: psuttle@kilmessy.teagasc.ie Web: www.teagasc.ie Information: Courses offered: Level 3 Certificate in Greenkeeping. Level 3 Certificate in Golf Course Management. National Diploma in Horticulture (Greenkeeping Major offered).

SCOTLAND

ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB Contact: Ann Boll Tel: 01334 658842 Fax: 01334 658888 Email: aboll@elmwood.ac.uk Web: www.elmwood.ac.uk Information: Full time National Certificate Greenkeeping - Block Release SVQ Level II, SVQ Level III Sportsturf block release and Outreach available, and SVQ Level IV. HNC/D Golf Course Management available as full-time release. block release and distance learning. HNC Golf Facility Management, HND Golf Facility Management, PDA for football and cricket available both block release and Outreach. EPA and COSHH, Chainsaw, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and Safety short courses also available.

GOSTA TRAINING LTD 5E Clydeyview Centre, 45 Firminston Street, Glasgow, G3 8UQ Contact: Chris Bothwell Tel: 0141 248 2772 Fax: 0141 248 2453 Email: lemail@gostatraining.co.uk Information: SVQ N. III and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Sportsturf including other options and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day/Block release from November - March. Distance Learning also available. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abatoes Wheels, Full Range of Machinery Courses, Manual Handling and Fire Extinguisher training. Consultancy service for Health and Safety Policy development. Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment.

LANGSIDE COLLEGE Rutherglen Campus, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 3PF Contact: Colin S Urquhart Tel: 0141 647 6300 Email: csurquhart@perseus.langside.ac.uk Web: www.langside.ac.uk Information: SVQ SGA, HNC, HND. Full time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Risk Assessment and Pesticides.

WALES

PENCROYD COLLEGE Pencross, Bridgend, Cardiff, CF35 5LG Contact: Paul Discouer or John Sullivan Tel: 01656 302672 Fax: 01656 302601 Email: pdiscouer@pencross.ac.uk Web: www.pencross.ac.uk Information: NVC Sportsturf Level 2-3, HNCWCD Sportsturf Management. Short courses: PAS, RPKA and Chainsaws. NCH National Certificate in Horticulture. Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture.

WALES

Market Leaders in land-based qualifications

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- Delivering accredited, independently assessed qualifications via a network of approved Assessment Centres
- NPTC accredited qualifications are eligible for funding

Qualifications include:
- Leisure, Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- Pesticides & Related Awards
- Forestry & Arboricultural Operations
- Vertebrate Pest Control

For a full list of our qualifications please contact NPTC:
Tel: 024 7669 6553 Fax: 024 7669 6128
Email: information@nptc.org.uk Website: www.nptc.org.uk

The Grass is Greener with Myerscough Sportsturf!

Why Myerscough?
Pioneers in the UK for Sportsturf education provision at degree level, our facilities for the subject are second to none. Our students enjoy placements at the world's most prestigious golf courses.

What Can I Study?
Higher Education Courses
- BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science
- HNC Turf Science & Golf Course Management
- Foundation Degree in Sportsturf
- On Line Foundation Degree - (by distance learning)

Further Education Courses
- NVQ Level I, II, III & IV* Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- First Diploma Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- National Certificate Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- National Certificate in Sportsturf Machinery
- National Diploma Turf Science & Sportsground Management
*Offered as work-based options when trainees study within the workplace supported by tutor visits and CD/ton line materials.
We also have various short course programmes - please contact us for a short course prospectus.

Come along to one of our regular Open Morning - call 01995 642211 for details!

Ring 01995 642211 for your free prospectus or e-mail: enquiries@myerscough.ac.uk
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We offer the following qualifications in GREENKEEPING, LANDSCAPING and AMENITY HORTICULTURE:

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Are you in possession of a juicy piece of gossip and are just dying to tell someone? Or have you just moved job and want to pass on the good news?

A typical example appeared in a recent Around the Green column: Who was the person who thought they'd overslept on hearing The Counterfeit Stones playing Honky Tonk Woman in the Majestic Hotel during Harrogate? He jumped up, got himself dressed and down to the ballroom only to discover it was the sound check! Let us at Greenkeeper International know and we’ll spread the word. Names could be withheld to protect the innocent... or not so innocent!

The Editor will need to know your name, and in specific cases discrete checks made, but he will protect his sources. Just email your info to: scott@bigga.co.uk titled Whispering Grass.
One comment we often hear from the membership is what is the point of the Legal Helpline? The Helpline is provided to all Greenkeeper Members of the Association and many have used the service and found it of benefit. The Helpline not only deals with large problems but can help if you just have a simple query. Maggie Lawton from General Legal Protection writes about the value of the service.

"Legal Aid is dead! Long live Legal Aid!" I hear you say, but who knows it?

Since the law reforms of a little more than 15 years ago, the Government has been whittling away at removing society's rights to Legal Aid to the point where, by and large, Legal Aid in now non-existent and the key benefit of having a Legal Aid was that one's opponents could not possibly hope to obtain a costs order against you if you lost your case. Inevitably, your opponent would want to settle your claim because it made economic sense to do so.

But behind the scenes of Whitehall, while these reforms were shaping up, a new form of insurance was in the making - legal fees insurance; a new form of legal aid.

Without having to be means-tested, this new form of legal aid, could be purchased to cover just about everything that a family might need to protect its legal rights. BIGGA provides legal fees insurance up to the value of £50,000 for every Greenkeeper Member and their family.

So what are my legal rights which might need protecting against? Well, firstly and foremost, your rights to enjoy your home. Mr Young had to endure over a number of years the constant threats and abuse from a family who were neighbours of his. He had been purchasing legal fees insurance since he first moved into his property but did not realise at first whether this would cover him and so the abuse went on until one day, he snapped! Mr Young telephoned our Helpline and we advised him to see a solicitor immediately, which he did. Within four weeks, Mr Young had secured a court order against his neighbours preventing them from contacting him in any way, but it was not until they moved away several months later that he could feel once again secure in his home.

In the news recently, we heard of some 2,500 people employed by The Accident Group (TAG) losing their jobs. While some of these people would have legal fees insurance, there would have been very little by way of legal help since the company had gone in receivership. But our Legal Helpline would have been able to point these people in the right direction insofar as their rights to state benefits.

TAG was an organisation which built its business on the back of selling "After the Event" (ATE) legal fees insurance. In a recent court case, we hear that one customer of TAG had her injury claim settled at £2,000 but because of the ATE premium, other charges and interest, the customer only received £28.57. Is that justice? Hardly!

So what would have happened if that customer had had the benefit of legal fees insurance as provided to all Greenkeeping Members. Firstly, she would have had nothing to pay towards her legal costs, and more importantly, she would have received the full amount of £2,000.

In a very tragic case, one of our customers who had our legal fees policy, claimed damages on behalf of his then aged six year old daughter. She had been involved in a road accident while sat in her father's car. The girl sustained horrific injuries and was close to dying several times. After months of hospitalisation, the young girl recovered but would be unable to work and would require constant medical attention for the remainder of her life. Six years on, an out-of-court settlement of £3 million was reached.

So what else might we need this legal fees insurance for? Mr Cresswell bought a new Land Rover but his joy was shortlived. During the first 18 months, it spent more time in the garage than it did with him. He was fed up with it and eventually asked the dealer to replace it but they refused. Mr Cresswell rang our Legal Helpline for advice. Two weeks later, Mr Cresswell rang again to advise that he had successfully persuaded the dealer to exchange his Land Rover for another new one!

If the dealer had continued to refuse to exchange the vehicle, Mr Cresswell would have been entitled to claim under our policy the cost of appointing a solicitor to pursue his case.