Letters
Please email your notes to: scott@bigga.co.uk

THE 2009 OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP, TURNBERRY

Through Greenkeeper International Magazine, may I post a few thanks in your letters column.

I would like to express my thanks for all the help from the BIGGA support team during the tournament; it was satisfying to know that they were there in the backgound in case of any emergency.

I would also like to thank my Head Greenkeepers, Martin, Jimmy, Tom, and assistants, Dennis, Johnny, and Morris. Not forgetting Jim & Elfie in the workshop and, of course, Jackie, admin.

Since my arrival at Turnberry I have been most fortunate to have accumulated a professional and dedicated crew over these past 24 years and thank you all for your support over the years.

George Brown
Golf Courses & Estate Manager, Turnberry Hotel

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A big thank you also to all my friends in the trade, some going back more than 40 years! Your support has been invaluable not only to me but the industry in general.

As I hand over the reins to Euan, a special thank you, as he has made these past six months so much more enjoyable by taking much of the strain, his commitment and enthusiasm will put him in good stead to keep Turnberry at the top and I wish him and his Family every happiness for the Future.

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George Brown
Golf Courses & Estate Manager, Turnberry Hotel

CROSSWORD

MONSTER SUDOKO

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

Quick ‘NINE Hole’ Quiz Answers:

Pity the poor Safety Advisor as he lives for the day when he visits a golf club client to find that the club Owners/Directors have actually read his last report, listened to the recommendations of the management team, taken some form of action, and then communicated their proposals for action all the way down the chain of command! Here follows a few grumbles from your dedicated safety advisor!

There is no doubt that there are clear trends in the way golf clubs fail to deal with what are in most cases very straightforward issues that are not going to cost a lot of money; Why is this? Health and Safety Inspectors could not make it more clear to employers that they are looking for evidence that the business is doing its reasonable best to develop and improve, in an ongoing way, a safety management system that is relevant to their level of business activity and the hazards that have been identified by their managers.

A fundamental problem is that I am still finding confusion among the Committee/Directors of some members clubs about exactly who is the employer. This leads to some strange signatures on the Statement of Safety Policy; there is no way round this little problem - this all important document is to be signed by a representative of the employer. So, to help these poor folk to decide I recommend that they ask themselves a simple series of questions.

Who is responsible for forming the policies of the club and setting the direction for its future development? Irrespective of titles, who sits at the ‘top of the shop’? Well sir, it is you, and your colleagues, who are the employer.

Effective communication is a key element in ensuring that all employees know what is going on and this process starts at the top. The employer has a duty to inform his employees of those important decisions that will have an effect on the way they carry out their duties and about any changes to policies, procedures, not to mention physical changes to the site. This important aspect of the management of a business is much neglected and yet it is ‘good to talk’.

A good test for us weary advisors is to ask about our last report. The story of the journey of a report is sometimes bizarre! Having paid a fee for the report it is sometimes lost ‘in the system’ with puzzled frowns on faces as Chairman of Green etc try and remember where it went. “Let’s see now, the report was sent in May so perhaps it is in the June/July minutes? No there doesn’t seem to be a record of it being considered by any Committee or the Board!” ”But it contained a summary of the key recommendations for action on page 4?” Ah yes, well perhaps you could summarise them again in this report?”

But let us not be too critical of the Owners/Directors of the club, what about the staff? Let us look at the worrying increase in accidents involving the use of work equipment on slopes; not just large ride-on machines but the issue of using hand held rotary mowers on slopes using ropes that have firmly tied off the ‘dead man’ handle! In one month alone I had three enquires from exasperated Health and Safety Inspectors asking for my opinion.

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