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Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry.
Recruitment

Clevedon Golf Club
The course to play in Somerset
Course Manager

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the role of Course Manager at our picturesque parkland course overlooking the Severn Estuary. The successful candidate will be responsible for the continuing development of the course and its recently laid sand based greens. You will require to be suitably qualified with the experience to assume responsibility for the management of the club’s course and practice areas.

Accommodation may be available

Please apply with c.v. and covering letter to:
The Secretary, by email: secretary@clevedongolfclub.co.uk or to Clevedon Golf Club, Castle Road, Clevedon, BS21 7AA.

Closing date: June 30th 2010

Royal Cromer Golf Club
divites applications for the position of
HEAD GREENKEEPER

Royal Cromer is a Private Members Club founded in 1888 with the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, being the Club’s first Patron. The “challenging,” cliff-top, 18-hole course lays between Cromer and Overstrand. Originally developed by old Tom Morris, the course was later improved by James Braid and more recently by Donald Steel.

Due to the impending retirement of the current Head Greenkeeper, the Club is seeking to appoint an experienced Head Greenkeeper to deliver the high course standards and attract members and visitors currently enjoy.

Reporting to the Greens Committee and the Secretary/Manager, the successful candidate will require the following skills and qualifications:

- Qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent and spraying certificates PA1/2/6
- Full knowledge of Health & Safety and Environmental legislation
- A comprehensive knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems
- The ability to communicate, work alongside, motivate and lead an established green-keeping team
- Experience of implementing and working to a budget and management plan
- A sound understanding of the needs and interests of members and visitors
- Experience and/or knowledge of coastal golf courses

Salary will be commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate.

Please apply in writing no later than 30th June 2010 including a full C.V., stating present salary and salary expectations to:

Secretary/Manager, Royal Cromer Golf Club, 145 Overstrand Road, Cromer, Norfolk, NR27 0JH.

Web Site: www.royalcromergolfclub.com

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Imagine working in one of the most picturesque and outstanding locations in Devon and Cornwall.

Are you ready for a new challenge?

Work Based Learning Tutor in Amenity Horticulture/Green keeping
Salary: £16,968 - £21,967 pro rata (dependent on hours)
Hours: Part Time (0.4) up to Full Time (1.0)

Set in acres of rolling countryside, Duchy College, Stoke Climsland is looking to appoint someone with a passion for amenity horticulture and green keeping to inspire learners of different ages, experience and capability.

This will be a key role in developing our apprenticeship/work based learning provision and will principally service golf clubs in Devon and East Cornwall.

The successful candidate will have experience within the industry and demonstrate an enthusiasm for the subject that will captivate learners. A relevant level 3 qualification is essential and the successful applicant must hold or be willing to work towards a teaching and assessing qualification. Access to a car and a driving licence is essential.

For an application pack and more information on the above roles please visit: www.cornwall.ac.uk/jobs or contact the HR Recruitment team on 01209 67637.

Closing date: Friday 18th June 2010
Course Manager

Olton Golf Club is an 18 hole private members club, established in 1893, set in nearly 100 acres of parkland in Solihull, West Midlands. An exciting opportunity is approaching for an experienced and ambitious Golf Course Manager to assume responsibility for management of the Harry Colt designed course & to continue to improve its standard, already one of the best in the Midlands. The vacancy arises due to the planned retirement of our long serving Course Manager at the end of this year. We are now seeking applications from persons who are interested in the position and can demonstrate strong abilities in all aspects of greenkeeping. The successful candidate will be capable of organising, motivating and managing the greenkeeping team. He/she will have a fine eye for attention to detail to bring the highest standard of presentation to the course. Whilst the role is to manage the greenkeeping team a willingness to be “hands-on” when required is essential. Candidates will possess all relevant green keeping qualifications (minimum NVQ Level 3 or equivalent), have a history of success in a similar position and will:

• Have a comprehensive knowledge of current Health & Safety regulations and environmental issues and be able to implement all relevant legislation.
• Manage all aspects of the course and clubhouse surroundings to the highest standards (including preparation, presentation, maintenance and improvements).
• Understand and assist in the preparation of an annual budget, manage the agreed budget and contribute to the preparation of longer-term capital expenditure plans.
• Have a proven record in leadership and management skills to motivate, manage and lead the greenkeeping team.
• Have excellent communication and negotiation skills.
• Be computer literate, able to use email & software such as Microsoft Word & Excel.
• Prepare and implement a plan for the establishment of a sustainable environmentally friendly course.
• Prepare and implement training plans to meet the needs of the existing staff.
• Manage and maintain the course machinery and automated irrigation system.
• Be able to demonstrate a knowledge of construction methods to carry out general improvements to the parkland golf course.
• Plan and implement large scale improvement projects, managing contractors where required.

A competitive package is available, dependent on qualifications and experience.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:
Ian Phipps, Chairman of Greens, Olton Golf Club, Mirfield Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1JH
Alternatively by email to IanPhip@aol.com
Closing Date for applications is 16th July 2010 with first interviews to be conducted in the week commencing 16th August.

www.oltongolfclub.co.uk

Amenity Specialist

Sherriff Amenity is the specialist amenity division of Agrovista UK Ltd. We are the leading supplier of turf care and amenity products in the UK.

We are currently looking for an amenity specialist, based in the North East of England, to join our team. This challenging opportunity is a technical sales role in which you will develop and maintain business in your trading area by offering sales support and technical advice to new and existing customers.

Our comprehensive training programme provides professional support, leading to a BASIS qualification, in addition to a full commercial skills training programme. To succeed not only in our training programme but also as an amenity specialist, you will need to be self motivated, able to work on your own initiative, demonstrate commercial awareness and have a flexible approach towards working in an industry where seasonal fluctuations frequently dictate the working pattern.

Knowledge of the fine turf and amenity industry, along with industry recognised qualifications, would be advantageous but not essential as full training will be given.

This role also offers an excellent package including company car, contributory pension scheme and 25 days holiday plus Bank Holidays per annum.

To apply, please forward your curriculum vitae and covering letter to gill.lutton@agrovista.co.uk, alternatively call our HR department on 0115 921 8427 for more information.

www.sheriffamenity.co.uk

In the image provided, there are several advertisements and job postings. Below is a breakdown of the content:

- **Course Manager**
  - Olton Golf Club is seeking a Course Manager with experience and ambition to improve the standard of the course.
  - Candidates should have a comprehensive understanding of greenkeeping, be able to manage budgets, and have leadership skills.
  - The position requires travel and a willingness to be hands-on.

- **Amenity Specialist**
  - Sherriff Amenity is looking for an amenity specialist based in the North East.
  - The role involves technical sales and training.
  - The candidate will need to develop and maintain business in their trading area.

- **NVQ Assessor – Horticulture (Sportsturf/Greenkeeping)**
  - An NVQ Assessor position is available with a salary range from £22,776 to £28,050 per annum.
  - The position is for a fixed term contract until 31 December 2010 with the possibility of extension.

- **Sherriff Amenity, Cambridge House**
  - The company is the leading supplier of turf care and amenity products in the UK.

- **HR department**
  - Contact details are provided for further information or applications.

These advertisements highlight various positions with different requirements and salary ranges, catering to professionals with expertise in horticulture and greenkeeping.
It has long been open to wonder whether Club golfers are aware of the annual contribution they pay to the coffers of their County and National Unions.

Even more doubtful is whether they know how it is spent.

The major proportion is directed at causes from which they derive no benefit but there is one glorious exception.

It lies in the support they lend to The Greenkeepers Training Committee which has brought about a transformation in the way our golf courses are prepared and presented.

All of a sudden, everyone is a winner.

In 25 years, the standard and quality of the greenkeepers’ art has improved to a point where, in many cases, results are little short of perfection.

At the same time, the standing of greenkeepers in the golfing world has risen accordingly.

There are several explanations but none more deserving of praise than the education received both from the GTC and the respected band of Course Managers who set such an excellent practical example.

All golfing administrative bodies exist to promote the playing of the game but, without our golf courses, there would be no game.

Courses are a Club’s priceless asset, the sole reason for bringing us together. They are the fount of our inspiration and enjoyment but, as standards rise, so, too, do expectations. Golfers have always had plenty to say (much in ignorance) on conditions they confront but, as they travel more, and see more on television, most no longer tolerate less than the best.

Not long ago, greenkeeping was more of a job than a calling. Workers were often agricultural recruits on a basic wage, operating from headquarters that were little more than barns and sheds.

Head Greenkeepers invariably had long experience and were undoubtedly men of the soil although they were often reluctant to share their secrets and many took them to their graves.

In consequence, those under them learned as best they could but they weren’t frightened of hard toil. Those used to the technical age might shudder at the thought of cutting greens with push-mowers and walking between holes, raking bunkers on the way.

It is unquestionable that, in addition to organised training, course conditioning has been revolutionised by the ability of modern mowers to cut grass as low as conceivably sensible together with new (or replacement) strains of grasses that allow impeccable playing surfaces.

It bears out five time Open Champion, Peter Thomson’s, contention that greenkeeping is the art of keeping grass down rather than getting it to grow. Not that all the mechanisation has replaced the need for long hours.

The daily schedule during a European Tour event that I attended last year consisted of cutting greens before and after play, being on hand in case heavy rain necessitated emergency measures and maintaining a 24-hour vigil that for some meant sleeping on the premises.

Normal routine at any Club in summer involves getting ahead of the golfers and casting a wary eye over the small items that make the difference between mediocrity and excellence.

The need for better education dates back to the urging of one or two notable individuals in the 1970s and 1980s and to awareness of golf course architects who felt there was no point building fine new courses if there weren’t enough qualified greenkeepers to look after them.

This led to the establishment of the GTC whose Technical Committee compiled a syllabus for lecturers at chosen Colleges to dispense. By that means, young greenkeepers, attending the courses, had new recognised qualifications by the end of them.

These became more and more important as passports to jobs, an increasing number of young men and women setting out their stall in making greenkeeping a career.

Clubs can put forward their own candidates for little more than a registration fee or the initiative can come from the individuals themselves.

However, nowadays lecturers from the colleges make things easier by visiting the Clubs to impart knowledge or students can study from the internet in their own greenkeeping complexes.

Without conveying the impression that greenkeeping is a mystic art, the industry has become more complex.

The principles are the same. It is the way of implementing them that is different.

Co-operation and camaraderie is more evident, showing itself, for instance, in the voluntary efforts of neighbouring support teams who assist with on course work, including bunker raking and divoting during a major tournament.

There is a greater pooling of knowledge in road shows, conventions and exhibitions to highlight the shop window but the main aim is to please the golfer.

One look at any golf course is enough to reveal whether it is tended with love and care.

The same impression is apparent on entering any house or hotel but at least golfers can identify that it is all being directed at them and that their money is being well spent.

It would be cheap at twice the price.
Built to handle even the toughest of jobs, the new Workman HD Series is sturdier than ever. The Workman HDX-D, for example, comes in both 2- or 4-wheel drive options, boasts unequalled load-carrying capacity and can tow up to a colossal 1588kg. The Workman MD Series, meanwhile, is a range of mid-duty workhorses, featuring ‘Superior Ride Quality’ (SRQ) and is the perfect utility vehicle for smaller tasks like moving equipment and materials around the course. A wide range of attachments such as the ProPass 200 top dresser, sprayers and blowers complement the Workman Series and together they provide an unbeatable combination for any job, however tough. Please contact us today for a free demonstration.

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