Fancy improving your IT skills?

BIGGA members can access an official Microsoft® Office 2003 Training Library that includes programs such as Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Outlook.

BIGGA are able to offer these practical and effective online courses at a discounted cost of £15 (+ VAT) (usually £20 + VAT) to BIGGA Members, and £30 (+ VAT) to non-members, thanks to support from the Learning and Development Fund. For further information contact the Learning and Development Department on 01347 833800 option 3.

Microsoft Office 2007 training is also available on request.
Mechanic/Greenkeeper

Bath Golf Club requires a Mechanic Greenkeeper to maintain its fleet of predominantly Toro equipment, as well as helping on the course. (approx 60/40 split). Candidates must have relevant mechanical qualifications and greenkeeping experience. Must be able to work unsupervised and should be capable of managing the Club’s workshop, parts stock and equipment maintenance records. Reporting to the clubs Head Greenkeeper, a full uniform and PPE is provided, salary will be dependent on experience and qualifications. Hours based on a 40 hour week over the year, this will include some weekends.

Bath Golf Club also requires a First Assistant Greenkeeper to work within its greenstaff. Qualified to NVQ2 as a minimum and preferably holding PA1, PA2 and PA6, chainsaw certification and other short course qualifications.

The suitable candidate should be experienced in all aspects of golf course maintenance and be keen to progress within the industry. Reporting to the clubs Head/Greenkeeper, a full uniform and PPE is provided, salary will be dependent on experience and qualifications. Hours based on a 40 hour week over the year, this will include some weekends.

Apply in writing or via email with covering letter and CV To:
Mark Prentice, Head Greenkeeper, Bath Golf Club, North Road, Bath, BA2 6JG
markprentice@bathgolfclub.org.uk

A competitive salary is available - but no accommodation.

www.buckinghamshiregc.co.uk
Buckinghamshire Golf Club, Denham Court Drive, Denham, Buckinghamshire, UB9 5PG

Deputy Head Greenkeeper and Park Supervisor

Warley Woods Community Trust is looking for an experienced greenkeeper to join its small team.
Warley Woods in Smethwick, West Midlands, is managed by a Charitable Trust. The park is 100 acres in size and contains woodland, open parkland and a 9 hole pay and play course golf course. Warley Woods Community Trust would like to appoint a member of staff who will be able to take a full role in the maintenance of the whole site. Because the golf course is such an important part of the site, it is essential the successful candidate has substantial green keeping experience but there are other aspects to this role in maintaining a public park and they will need general horticultural experience as well.

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to contribute to future plans for the site and there is the potential to progress within the organisation. In being involved with the Community Trust they will be looking after a site which forms the heart of the local community.

Salary to be discussed at interview. For more information go to the downloads page at www.warleywoods.org.uk or call 0121 420 1061 for an information pack.

The closing date is: Monday 5th September 2011

COURSE AND GROUNDS MANAGER

Buckinghamshire Golf Club based in Denham is seeking to appoint an experienced Golf Course and Grounds Manager to maintain and develop its 18 Hole Championship Golf Course.

Buckinghamshire Golf Course is a parkland golf course set in the grounds of an old English estate. The Club has hosted numerous European Senior Tour events and the Andersen Consulting World Championship of Golf European Final. Buckinghamshire Golf Club is currently a regional qualifying venue for the Open Championship until 2015.

The role requires a candidate to successfully manage both the Golf Course and the Green Keeping team under the direction of the Executive Committee. The successful candidate will be suitably qualified with at least 5 years experience in a similar role and have a thorough understanding of modern Green Keeping and health and safety legislation.

Maximising team performance, leading by example and setting the highest standards are vital to this role. Excellent communication and motivational skills are a prerequisite for this position. A competitive salary is being offered which is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Please e-mail your CV and salary expectations to: Mrs Dubravka Griffiths, Operations Manager: dubravka@buckinghamshiregcc.co.uk

Buckinghamshire Golf Club, Denham Court Drive, Denham, Buckinghamshire, UB9 5PG
01895 835 777
www.buckinghamshiregcc.co.uk

SHOOTERS HILL GOLF CLUB

is a private members Club situated 7 miles from the centre of London with commanding views of the Kentish Hills.

The appointee would be expected to have the following skills and qualifications:

- NVQ level 3 sports turf management plus spraying certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6
- Chainsaw qualifications
- A sound working knowledge of machinery
- Effective Management skills
- Experience in golf course construction including irrigation systems and Knowledge of Health & Safety regulations.
- A competitive salary is available - but no accommodation.

Applications with a covering letter and CV should be submitted by the 25th August 2011 either by email: craig@shgc.uk.com or
The Course Manager, Shooters Hill Golf Club, ‘Lowwood’, Eaglesfield Road, Shooters Hill, LONDON SE18 3DA

Applications with a covering letter and CV should be submitted by the 25th August 2011 either by email: craig@shgc.uk.com or
The Course Manager, Shooters Hill Golf Club, ‘Lowwood’, Eaglesfield Road, Shooters Hill, LONDON SE18 3DA

A competitive salary is being offered which is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

www.warleywoods.org.uk or call 0121 420 1061 for an information pack.

The closing date is: Monday 5th September 2011

Trevose Golf & Country Club, Cornwall

Head Greenkeeper / Course Manager

Trevose is seeking an experienced Green keeper to manage and maintain / develop its 3 golf courses.

Trevose’s Championship course has hosted a number of prestigious events, most recently The Brabazon Trophy and will be hosting the McGregor Trophy in 2012. The applicant needs a good understanding of Championship golf and what’s required with knowledge of soil chemistry and a modern approach to the game and it’s needs.

Trevose is a very busy venue and for this reason offers a number of different challenges. The applicant should be:

- Fully qualified in all areas to a minimum standard of level 3 with all spraying certificates.
- Competent with machinery maintenance
- An good understanding of Links Golf i.e grass species and their development etc.
- Knowledge and competence of a computerised irrigation system
- An underlying knowledge of golf design and construction.
- An good understanding of Links Golf i.e grass species and their development etc.
- Effective Management skills
- Competent with machinery maintenance
- Qualifications and greenkeeping experience.
- Up to date with H&S requirements and budgeting.
- Knowledge and competence of a computerised irrigation system
- An understanding of modern Green Keeping and health and safety legislation.
- A competitive salary is available - but no accommodation.

Applications with a covering letter and CV should be submitted by the 25th August 2011 either by email: craig@shgc.uk.com or
The Course Manager, Shooters Hill Golf Club, ‘Lowwood’, Eaglesfield Road, Shooters Hill, LONDON SE18 3DA

A competitive salary is being offered which is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

www.warleywoods.org.uk or call 0121 420 1061 for an information pack.

The closing date is: Monday 5th September 2011

Trevose Golf & Country Club, Cornwall

Recruitment
Head Greenkeeper

As a result of the international promotion of our Head Greenkeeper, we are looking for a new expert to join our prestigious, award-winning 5-star golf resort, working alongside Troon Golf, the largest golf management company in the world.

Highly motivated, inspirational and professional, you’re an experienced people manager with the passion to exceed guest expectations as well as the ability to bring out the best in a team. Reporting to the Golf Course Manager, you will also possess excellent organisational skills and proven expertise in managing the administrative aspects of this role.

A Head Greenkeeper or Deputy Course Manager already, your experience is underpinned by qualifications in green keeping / sports turf management, in addition to relevant spraying certificates.

Your career to date has given you expertise in fine turf maintenance practices including sand-based construction and Penn A4 Greens, modern irrigation systems, maintenance and water management, fertilisers and pesticides.

You have a keen eye for detail, as well as a thorough understanding of Health and Safety.

The Grove offers an excellent salary and benefits package, including childcare facilities and opportunities for professional development.

For more information Email: recruitment@thegrove.co.uk | www.thegrove.co.uk

THE GROVE Chandler’s Cross Hertfordshire WD3 4TG

CROSSWORD

MONSTER SUDOKO

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

QUICK ‘NINE HOLE’ QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Fred Daly, who won the 1947 Open at Royal Liverpool.
2. Dame Mary Peters
3. David Healy MBE
4. John Watson MBE
5. Alex Higgins
6. Mike Gibson
7. Barry McGuigan MBE
8. George Best
9. Ronan Rafferty

intheshed answers
Last month Stuart Yarwood MG mounted the Soapbox to talk about soil biology. He was only just getting into his stride when we had to drag him off. This month he’s back to finish what he started...

**A good golf green environment should be good enough to support our beneficial soil ecology and it needs to be nourished.**

In order for the biology to work it needs something to do in order to break down organic matter.

This comes in many forms, and we, as greenkeepers, are striving to reduce it all the time, mainly in the form of thatch reduction, or surface organic matter.

Yes, we hollow core every year, scarify, pencil tine and anything else we can find from the shed, to reduce thatch and we do this every year.

And every year it upsets the surfaces, with golfers following on behind.

But are we working hard just to stand still?

Do we genuinely see an improvement in reduction of thatch?

Maybe with an eye for the biology within the soil and its requirements we can get it to work for us. If only we weren’t killing it off all the time.

There is a need for soil organic matter inputs to feed and grow the biology. Seaweeds, organic fertilisers such as hoof and horn, dried blood, soils or fen peats that can replace or buffer our inorganic fertiliser feeds by being broken down through humification and those nutrients made available to the grass plants.

There is a growing trend, dangerous in my opinion, of trying to dilute surface organic matter with pure sands.

These are cheap to buy, easy and convenient to apply, as they don’t upset the playing surface.

They would appear to firm surfaces in the short term, but with ineffective surface organic matter reduction, these layers will be pushed down causing future problems, such as layering and poor drainage.

One can’t argue with the cries of Auld Tom Morris and “Mair sand Honeyman” calling for the local dune sand to be applied to smooth the local surfaces and dilute surface organic matter, but these, however, contained some form of organic amendments, at varying times, such as seaweed or chimney soot, rich in carbon, the building blocks of life, and great food for the fescue loving fungus.

Many topdressing materials supplied today contain some form of organic amendment, which can serve to grow the soil biology.

One has to question the benefit of these products after they have been sterilised through heat treatment processes to kill off any weeds seeds or pathogens, and importantly any good biology in the dressings that you would want to keep.

Are we simply buying dirty, inorganic, hydrophobic sand, just because its easy and convenient to rub in?

If we are specifying some form of organic amendment within our dressings we need to move away from the ratios eg, 70/30, 80/20’s etc and look at actually what percentage of organic is within.

I think we would all be shocked how little, once we found out! It would make more sense to ensure our quality control measures and specifications, as Greenkeepers, Agronomists and Suppliers are strict enough to support the agronomic direction of the club.

To provide for the future, to remain healthy and to sustain ourselves, we have to eat well and play well. Happy Life!

We would test the resolve of our doctors, although they do have a lot of patience, if we were to tell them at our annual Well Man Clinic that we are getting by on shop-bought ready meals, vitamin tablets and Red Bull!

They would soon be writing us a prescription for bracing walks along the pier, fresh water, and nutritionally-balanced, low fat, home cooked foods with plenty of fresh veggies.

Our playing surfaces are no different, and the best medicine doesn’t always taste the sweetest.

Aeration, drainage, organic topdressings, clearing shade to improve sunlight, limiting chemical and nutritional inputs are all things that can upset our golfing customers but we must resist the convenience route, hoping and trying to keep people happy.

It is difficult in these compromised economic times but if we start to think about how we manage our turf and the consequences it has upon our soils, we may start to see the benefit for our soils, our surfaces, and our balance sheets.

Nutrition, aeration, water management, organic matter and top dressings play an effective role in soil biology, but like any eco system it has to be grown, nourished and nurtured.

We are dealing with nature, a cruel mistress at times, one to work with and not against, and it is folly to think we can just go in and erect something like good soil biology overnight!

It takes teamwork, even down to the smallest microscopic members of your team.

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**Convenience - but who are we kidding? (Part two)**
By the way, did we mention …

no hydraulics.

the only 100% hydraulic-free greens mower available … anywhere!

Other ‘hybrids’ still use hydraulic motors for propulsion, so when we say no hydraulics, we mean it. Traction, reel drive and lift/lower operations are all electrically driven using either a small petrol or diesel engine running a 48 volt generator. And now there’s an all-electric version using a battery pack. It’s stealth quiet and ideal for greens close to housing or hotel rooms.

For greener operation on your greens, less maintenance and lower operating costs, it has to be the Jacobsen Eclipse 322.

By the way, did we mention …

no hydraulics.