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Frinton Golf Club

Frinton Golf Club invites applications for the position of Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager.

The Club comprises two 'links style' golf courses - the 18 hole Havers course and the 9 hole Kirby course. The Club is situated on the Essex coast and is one of the best kept courses in East Anglia, due in equal measure to the highly motivated greens staff and the comprehensive and modern greenkeeping machinery.

The Club seeks someone with the following skills.

- Three years golf course management experience.
- Qualified to NVQ 3 or equivalent.
- Spraying certificates PA1, 2 & 6.
- Proven supervisory and communication skills.
- Understanding of Ecological Management (the course adjoins Holland Marshes and is itself a SSSI site).
- Understanding, maintaining and encouraging growth of fine grasses.
- Computer literate and capable of developing and tightly controlling a Greens' budget.

Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications. Applications to Chairman of Greens, Frinton Golf Club, 1 The Esplanade, Frinton On Sea, Essex CO13 9EP.

Head Greenkeepers Position

Shirland Golf Club is a newly formed private members golf club set within the Derbyshire Countryside. The club is quickly developing with much investment and a progressive approach to business. We are currently seeking to appoint a Head Greenkeeper with the following qualities:

- Qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent
- Spraying PA1, PA2 and PA6
- Knowledge of Health and Safety Legislation
- Mechanical knowledge of machinery would be useful
- Strong supervisory and communication skills
- Good budgetary controls
- Applicants must be self motivated and hard working

The successful candidate will report to the General Manager and will be responsible for the greenkeeping team. Interested parties should forward their CV to the General Manager via email – office@shirlandgolfclub.co.uk or via post to Shirland Golf Club, Pit Lane, Lower Delve, Shirland, Allestree, Derbyshire DE55 6AU.

Please also include a covering letter with current salary and expected earnings in the role as detailed above.

SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB

Head Greenkeeper

Sunningdale Golf Club are looking to recruit a Head Greenkeeper.

- Reporting to Course and Estate Manager
- Minimum of 5 years golf course management experience
- Qualified to NVQ 3 or equivalent preferred
- Spraying certificates PA1, 2 & 6
- Strong supervisor and communication skills
- Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications

Applications should be self motivated, committed and hardworking as well as having the necessary experience and ability to maintain the amenities of a World Top 50 golf club, host of the Open Championship International Final Qualifying -Europe.

Please apply in writing or email with full CV to: Julie Watts, P.A to Secretary, Sunningdale Golf Club, Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berks, SL5 9RR email juliew@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk

Closing date for Applicants 29 July 2011

LIMPSFIELD CHART GOLF CLUB

Senior Greenkeeper

A vacancy will arise for a Senior Greenkeeper at this 9 hole private members club, one of the oldest in Surrey. Our current Senior Greenkeeper retires in March 2012 after 40 years of service

The successful candidate will:

- hold appropriate greenkeeping qualifications and have held the position of Assistant Greenkeeper for at least five years
- understand the requirements of a heathland course
- be ambitious, hard working and reliable
- be computer literate (for reports etc.)

An attractive competitive remuneration package is on offer and on-site accommodation could be available for the successful candidate.

Please apply in writing together with an up to date CV and to arrange a course visit to: The Secretary, Limpingford Chart Golf Club, Westerham Road, Oxted, Surrey. RH8 0SL.

Closing date for applications Monday 15th August

www.limpingfordchartgolfclub.co.uk

WOODCOTE PARK GOLF CLUB

COURSE MANAGER

Woodcote Park is a highly regarded private member's golf club in Surrey and will celebrate its Centenary Year in 2012. At over 6700 yards our 18 hole parkland course is seen as an excellent test of golf and has a substantial practice area. It has been selected to host the 2012 County Championships. The Club is looking for a high calibre Course Manager with a proven track record to drive a team of 7 green staff to achieve the highest standards.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate

- High level of qualifications including level 4 NVQ/HNC or equivalent plus spraying certificates
- Sound leadership and motivational skills evidenced by experience.
- Experience in the training and development of team members.
- Knowledge and understanding of Health & Safety regulations.
- Ability to develop and maintain costs within an agreed budget.
- Formulate and execute a 5 year plan for course policy and resources.
- Strong communication and IT skills and the ability to interact with club members.
- The knowledge to maximise the benefits of a new £1/4m irrigation system
- Salary and benefits negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Accommodation would be available if required.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are seeking to recruit an experienced individual to join our team, who is looking to forward his or her career. The ideal person should possess the following personal & professional skills:

Self motivated and enthusiastic
Reliable and capable of working under own initiative
Minimum 3yrs turf management experience
NVQ 2 or equivalent qualification
PA1, PAZA & PA6

Salary negotiable based on previous experience
Applications for both positions by e-mail only please including CV and covering letter to: The Secretary, Woodcote Park Golf Club - info@woodcotepgc.com

Closing date 10th July 2011
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Greenkeeping is a tough job! It’s not like shark wrestling or being a vegetarian butcher, but it has its tough moments.

We all know it’s tough at the moment. The rain has disappeared and gone on holiday, along with all the money, and were left wondering when they’re coming back! And not so much as a postcard.

It’s not just grim up north anymore!

But we greenkeepers are made of stout stuff, we’ll get through it! Of course we will – Stiff upper lip and all that!

But has anyone told the grasses that we play on or the soils that we work with?

These are the bread and butter aspects of any greenkeepers day, along with the myriad of skills we need to possess, from public relations, to public conveniences (and the unblocking of!),

We get through it with hard work, determination, training, our experience and feel, a bit of good favour and fortune and teamwork. And teamwork doesn’t stop at helping out our colleagues. It extends right down from the Chair of the Board right down to the soils beneath our feet. After all this is the foundation of what our greenkeeping ‘shop window’ is based upon.

How we look after our soils is going to have a direct impact on the grasses we promote and the playing surfaces we provide. If we don’t get the correct balance of air, water, nutrient and organic matter right within our soils then this directly affects how our soils perform... and ultimately how our playing surfaces perform.

But how do our soils perform? How do we help our soils to help us deliver? Again this is down to teamwork, and good soil biology is a very important player.

Our soils can potentially contain an incredible diversity of micro-organisms ranging from the tiniest single celled bacteria, algae, fungi and protozoa to the more complex nematodes and micro-arthropods to the visible earthworms, insects, small vertebrates and plants. They all have a role in life.

As these organisms eat, grow, reproduce, and move through the soil, they have an important job to do. They help clean up the soil, aerate the soil, recycle nutrients, and decompose organic matter.

Others, such as mycorrhizae, act as personal assistants to grass roots making nutrient available to the plants, and make it possible to have clean water, clean air, healthy plants, and drainage.

It’s like a city under our feet and there is always a war raging! There’re predators and there’s dinner. Some things eat, and sometimes get eaten, fungi prey on pathogens, limiting disease attacks, good nematodes predate on grass damaging root feeders and if the soil food web is bang on, then its healthy soil, healthy turf, and making our life easier as greenkeepers.

So why do we as greenkeepers employ practices that upset this balance? It just doesn’t make sense.

We need to look after them and give them something to do. They need to breathe, eat, breed, grow and be entertained.

Some of us limit our aeration to the winter months when it’s least effective and more convenient. Our soils need oxygen all year, so it is important to maintain aeration year round, all the time considering the golfer, the playing surface and ultimately our soils.

We need to aerate at the right times, right frequency and right depths, otherwise it becomes difficult to breathe down there, turns into a bad neighbourhood and folks move out. Not great.

It also may not be convenient for the golfer or the committee when we present our aeration schedules.

The club may not want ANY disruption in these strict economic times, and we are all desperate for perfect putting surfaces to get the new members coming through the door or just to retain the ever increasing nomadic golfer.

So we don’t do the disruptive aeration and the flak goes away? Possibly? Or, we just look at boosting our soil ecosystems with compost teas and expect this applied life to thrive.

The idea being, while the old biology dies off clutching their throats, turning blue and drowning, we send in a fresh batch of lambs to the slaughter! Perfect

And while we try to keep those alive, with sugary carbohydrate supplements, all the time we use salt based, inorganic fertilisers. Salt was used back in the Roman times to sterilise enemies soils so they’re crops would die and starve them out, it’s exactly what we are doing to our soil ecology.

If we are trying to encourage good soil ecology, and I fully agree with the benefits of all a compost tea contains, I don’t believe one can force it into a soil, if that soil isn’t supporting it already. The biology needs a healthy environment and we need to create it as greenkeepers, for it to flourish.

If we continue to use inorganic fertilisers, then we only serve to grow the plant, adding nothing to the soil. Surely we create an Easter egg scenario, where we have undermined the goodness from within the soil, keeping the top looking great, but hollow on the inside. If not managed correctly, it collapses, (through mechanical or environmental stresses) leaving a nitrate and bacterial rich environment only fit for the very grass we as good greenkeepers are trying to discourage, Psa Annu.

So the result of this poa dominant bacterial rich environment? The plant continues to grow, giving nothing back to the soil, resulting in more yield, slower greens so we mow tighter, apply a Programmed Growth Regulator, mixed with more urea based fertilisers, and a fungicide here and there to offset any disease attacks.

All good, but all chemicals all the same.

And do we really know their effects below the surface as well as we know these chemicals affect our balance sheets?

Tight times and we are in a profession that survives from within a bottle. Expensive, but it can save a lot of hard work and is convenient. But for how long and at what price?

Convenience – but who are we kidding?

The views expressed within On The Soapbox are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International.
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