Mick Lathrope – Assistant Profile

Our monthly look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...-

Meet the Greenkeeper: Nickname: Bledger

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper? 15 years
2. What was it about the career that attracted you? Being involved in golf, working out doors and working with tractor!
3. If you weren’t a greenkeeper what do you think you’d be? probably a farmer, although I’d love to have been a course photographer or a musician!
4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why? Picking stones, as a new build and even though we have 97% grass cover we still keep coming up against the surface! I have never seen so many stones! If I never see another riverbed again it will be too soon!
5. What else is important or why is a pay rise important? A pay rise would improve the working conditions, which are already fantastic, but there’s never enough money to go round.
6. What one thing - other than working - would improve your life? Picking stones - stonepickers are never paid enough! I have never seen so many stones!

Mick Lathrope – Golf, playing guitar and writing/recording music

Around The Green

Midland

Well after the unusually dry and hot March/April, the old grass has been well watered back and we are now into the Pin hide again with Paul Smith, Course Manager at Royal Lytham, this week with Adrian Henshaw (LD) for the greenkeeping and Mick Marven won the Longman Driving contest over 30 points, with second Dan Lighthut, and third place was Graham Gaddar, nearest the pin on the 4th to Graham Gaddar, nearest the pin on the 6th to Young and the longest drive on the course to Geoff Bowden. With thanks to my crew for not stopping and my big thanks to Graham Gaddar for his wonderful support of Waldringfield. An absolutely terrific day for Waldringfield and the course has developed into a good test of golf, which is maturing nicely (just like me some say, others tell the truth). Thanks in no small part to Keith Tshabil and his crew.

Some managed to stay out of the golf, unlike me who is still potty crawling from by backside. As they are followings: 0 – 9 Handicap 1:00, 36 Points, 2nd Nick Brewer, 35 Points. 10 – 18 Handicap 1: HANDICAP 1: Handicap 1: Chris Davies, 37 Points, 2nd Tony Thacker, 33 Points. 30 – 39 Handicap 1: Andy Baker, 37 Points, 2nd Keith Titshall, 33 Points.


BB&O

As summer approaches and the golfing season kicks into full swing hopefully many of you will have managed to get your club membership and completed all renovation/maintenance work in that must be achieved by the end of May on record! That said those of you impacted by the baupipe ban will be enjoying the respite and are no doubt breathing a sigh of relief that it has been rather better I have no idea. It is way beyond the biggest influencing factor – the weather! We wait to see what the future holds. Chris Davies

Kirtlington GC played host to this month’s BB&O Section Spring Cup. The day was well-supported with yet another fantastic turn out.

A special mention goes to Brett Moggridge and his team at Oxton heather for superb playing surfaces and a cracking course, which presented some good golfing for all. After some strong scoring throughout the field and a fantastic day Longman Drive to Associates came as soon as we had to cancel.

In other news we welcome a new member back from the dark side to greenkeeping as he has taken a position at The Bird in Leigh, welcome back Jason!”

A few are still around The green and all have been sent out to work under deputy Damian will get the prizes and ball sweep and another day, I don’t think! Such was the wet weather reminds me of an old boy from Harborne, George Harvey from York. Who sent off to move banking etc. on this Tri-king in the rain, under giving him an MBE which I might add, he would take an umbrella with him. Who did he think was he, Mary Poppins? It was so funny though.

I hope that by the time our summer event is here on 11 July at Otley Park G.C. that we have had some sunshine to warm our backs. We should be able to report the results in next month’s notes.

Midland Region

South East Region

Here we go again then. Our rather small, but perfectly formed band of friends have been taken by the rain and all had a good laugh. The new course at Waldringfield. My personal memories of Waldringfield were three very good days and a cracking course, which pre- perhaps a Band entrance for a visit from our old history teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit us for future life. We even had a visit from our old history teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit us for future life. We even had a visit from our old history teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit us for future life. We even had a visit from our old history teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit us for future life. We even had a visit from our old history teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them. We were inmates and how the teachers said, would benefit them.
There is news at last of our planned trip to The Huntingdon Club on Tuesday 12 June. Last week, who spoke at last year’s Regional Seminar and Essex has been given a date to fit in with our other fixtures. Please keep an eye on this in the coming weeks.

South Coast

Hi all, please note we have just had another 22mm of rain and there is water everywhere. Kev Round has expressed his thanks… I can see a photo of his second hole with only the top third of the flag visible in the flood! It is quite likely that when you read this we will be in a heatwave!

The committee last met on 18 April and we have at last finalised the arrangements for giving away a new bank account that will allow us to give online banking facilities. Finding funds to pay for their entry to compete in the Euros, and the organizers to keep tabs on numbers without the problems of collecting money on the day.

As always the committee could do with some new faces also, so if anyone is willing to give us a call, we may also be able to help match you up with some of the other players still available for 19.24 year olds right up to a fully funded Level 2 or 3 depending on your previous qualifications. For an initial 3 hour session pack about any of the Sports Tours turf call Tim Needham on 0778814352 or visit the website. We would also like to thank our partner for again supporting the event, Rob Holland with a photo of his second hole with only the top third of the flag visible in the flood! It is quite likely that when you read this we will be in a heatwave!

Best of British


Our next event is the annual match against the secretaries at Rushmore Park on 7 June, then we have the 26th of June at Liphook GC on the 20th June. The summer invasion is on 11 July at Blackmore GC, please remember to pay in full by the 5th and turn up for the events and ask questions during the preparatory sessions for the Trophy, English Boys Under 16 Stroke Play Championship.

The committee will be holding a meeting at the Boringdon Hall Hotel in Devon on 16-18 September starting on the 16th. This year’s Autumn Meeting at Boringdon Hall Hotel on 16-18 September starting on the 16th.

South West

Rain, rain, go away... come back another day! What is this weather doing? We are only halfway through the season and we have given a house-pipe ban and told us to use less water and come May we will be using new facilities put on by the staff, Sam Young and his team, for the courtesy of the Club for the month of April for the boys in the Greenkeeping! Until next month keep on growing!

Tony Gadd

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There is news at least of our planned trip to The Hullingham Club on Tuesday 12 June. Debs Eggleton, who spoke at last year’s Regional Seminar and Essex Section, is giving us a tour of this extremely prestigious venue. Details are on our website and if you are interested there may still be places available, though we are limited to only 25 people. Contact Ian Wood on 07652-470.861 if you are interested. CPD points are available for those that attend.

Our next golf day is at Rotherfield Lea Golf Club on the 24th June. Mark Grant, Midlands Section, is hosting this event and I must get back to a little of our business, ready for when it does stop raining! Until next month keep on Greenkeeping!

Tony Gadd

 Exodus

Hi all,

As you know we have just had another 22mm of rain and there is water everywhere. Kevin Lunn of West Ham United has passed me a photo of his second hole with only the top third of the flag visible in the flood. It is quite likely that when you read this that we will be in a heatwave.

The committee last met on 18 April and we have at last fixed the dates for our annual qualifying competition. With a new bank account that will give us an online banking facility, entry will be free. Funding will be for pay for their entries to compete. If you are interested should contact one of the members listed on the fixture card.

The spring tournament, more interesting should the weather remain. We have a hose-pipe ban and told me on 07764-862337 or at essxbigga@talktalk.net. I must get back to a little job I am working on this month. Most of the fair weather has remained.

It has been a year since our last meeting and I again find myself working on the Sections Website www.bigga.org.uk. Lee is now the new Secretary, and I again find myself working on the Sections Website www.bigga.org.uk. Lee is now the new Secretary, and I have at your finger tips.

Our next event is the annual National Qualifier, 18-hole Stableford National Championship at Boringdon Hall on the 16 July. Most of the fair weather has remained. I gave us a hose-pipe ban and told me on 07764-862337 or at essxbigga@talktalk.net. I must get back to a little job I am working on this month.

As always the committee would like to stage an event then please contact me asap.

A huge thank you must go to Famura, Rainsomes Jacobs and Huey Southwell South West for their hard work, Ilford Golf Club, our sponsor and the select people to select us to talk to us so please keep coming back to Hampshire Golf Club in October.

Wayne Vincent, section captain, South West, Wayne@Golf.com and the committee would like to thank the 50 delegates undertook education and training at The Enviornmental, was at The Home of the Sports Turf Research Institute and Enviromental, was at The Home of the Sports Turf Research Institute and Enviromental, was at The will gain a better knowledge of the importance of priming the watering system for 16-18 year olds starting in September 2014. The South Coast Section will give us an online banking facility, entry will be free. For an annual Stableford competition. For an annual Stableford competition.

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**Soil organic matter …friend or foe?**

Welcome to STRI’s Research column. My objective with this column is to highlight current research issues and to stimulate discussion on a wide variety of scientific topics relating to the management of the playing surfaces around the golf course.

I thought I’d open with an old chestnut, yet still a very current and problematic issue; soil organic matter accumulation in golf greens.

This is still one of the top three issues commonly encountered when visiting golf courses and discussing the playing qualities of putting surfaces.

As a soil scientist, I can appreciate the importance of organic matter within the soil profile. It is a key component of a soil and plays a vital role in the recycling of nutrients. Organic matter provides an important habitat for a huge variety of soil micro-flora and fauna. A large number of these little bugs and beasties are involved with breaking down the organic matter, thereby releasing nutrients that can be taken up by plants. As a result, organic matter plays a very important role in promoting a healthy soil and therefore a healthy growing environment.

However, from a putting surface performance point of view we know that organic matter tends to hold onto water and, if present in too great a concentration, can lead to soft and spongy greens. Conversely, when these same greens dry out they tend to become too firm and run the risk of becoming hydrophobic. Rehydrating dry organic matter can be very difficult indeed! Consequently, greens that contain excessive organic matter will tend to be less consistent through the year, particularly under changeable weather conditions. If this wasn’t bad enough, there is a correlation between greens with excessive organic matter content and incidence of turfgrass diseases.

Coming back to my title, is organic matter a friend or enemy? Well it looks like it can be a bit of both (is a bit of a cop out I know). We need to maintain a certain amount of organic matter to stimulate soil microorganisms and thereby maintain soil health. Where it is present in too great a concentration there can be significant detrimental impacts on the playability of putting surfaces.

How do we know where the optimum organic matter balance lies? Well, perhaps we need to visit how we measure it. The most common method employed by soil laboratories is to measure the total amount of organic material by loss on ignition. This may sound complicated but it is relatively straightforward. You take a known weight of dry soil, burn off the organic matter and the loss in weight gives you the proportion of organic matter in the soil. These data, when measured at different depths down a soil profile, can provide a potent tool to establish how effective our maintenance programmes are at controlling organic matter in golf greens, we can then evaluate how effective our maintenance programme is at controlling its decomposition or accumulation. As is often the case in science, when you answer one question others pop up that challenge our current understanding. A lot of effort has been focussed on understanding how much organic matter content is to measure the total amount of organic material by loss on ignition. These data, when measured at different depths down a soil profile, can provide a potent tool to establish how effective our maintenance programmes are at controlling organic matter in golf greens, we can then evaluate how effective our maintenance programme is at controlling its decomposition or accumulation.

Soil organic matter itself. What are the key types of organic matter? Do they all behave in the same way and have similar effects? To give one example, it is becoming increasingly clear that there are differences in the composition of organic matter formed under different grass types and that these differences might directly affect the degree to which organic matter influences surface performance. We need a better scientific understanding of the characteristics of different forms of organic matter and how these different forms of organic matter affect the way that the organic matter is used. We also need a better scientific understanding of the characteristics of different forms of organic matter and how these different forms of organic matter affect the way that the organic matter is used. We also need to know more about the nature of the soil and the turf health. This is where I think we need to focus some of our research effort as an industry. If we can better understand the complex inter-relationships between the composition of organic matter, soil organisms and playing quality, we will be in a better position to evaluate the effectiveness of our golf green maintenance programmes. I hope this has provided a little food for thought.
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This is where I think we need to focus some of our research efforts as an industry. If we can better understand the complex inter-relationships between the composition of organic matter, soil organisms and playing quality, we will be in a better position to evaluate the effectiveness of our golf green maintenance programmes. I hope this has provided a little food for thought.

Dr Christian Spring PhD, Soil Scientist STRI
This month, David reviews the most recent GTC’s “employer” focused workshops and how he witnessed how the Senior Managers within some golf clubs present, are clearly committed to ensuring the business is a success through a team effort.

During all 2011 the GTC introduced a pilot programme of three “Chairman of Green” workshops in England, aimed primarily at improving the relationship between the Chairman of Green and the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, by giving delegates an overview of the management programmes, based on best practices that a club should be looking to implement.

Expertly delivered by Laurence Pithie MG, Turf Master One, the workshops certainly proved to me that the GTC had started to seriously address a problem which I am sure many clubs could learn from.

From the very first workshop it was evident that some clubs wasted their Chair of Green and/or Secretary and Course Manager to attend. Whilst Laurence had prepared his workshop to be aimed at the “employer”, he has, in some workshops later, expertly managed to tailor the day to ensure that it not only hugely benefits the employer but also the employee, the vital relationship between the employer and the Course Manager.

The workshop content is based on the highly acclaimed Scottish Golf Union’s Practical Guide for Greenkeepers, which can be downloaded from: http://www.scottishgolf.org/files/Green_Conveners, which can be attended with a monthly update.

There is a pattern taking shape at all of our workshops and that is more and more Chair of Green and/or Secretary/Proprietor to together with their Course Manager/Head Greenkeepers. It has been very rewarding to see clearly how Course Managers have truly benefited from seeing their “employer” attend workshops. The workshops are all designed to improve the importance of understanding each other’s roles and responsibilities in ensuring the golf course side of the business is run effectively and efficiently.

The GTC, following delegate feedback from its workshops, has also considered how best it can provide advice and guidance to golf clubs when the communication system appears to be not convivial to running a successful business.

A “communication triangle” workshop to be delivered by Swan Golf Designs as part of the Continue to Learn programme during Harrogate Week, aimed at Course Managers and Deputies but again keeping on the employer focused “education” workshops. William and Howard Swan (BDG) in association with the GTC recently hosted a Design and Renovation workshop at Ripon City Golf Club.

Once again there were several excellent examples of employer – Course Manager “partnerships” in attendance.

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Greenkeepers Training Committee

David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update
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The workshop content is based on the highly acclaimed Scottish Golf Union’s Practical Guide for Green Conveners, which can be downloaded from http://www.scottishgolf.org/files/Green_Covener_2008.pdf.

The GTC are planning more of this programme with GTC hosting two of its Quality Assured Training Providers to deliver a Health & Safety workshop at The Mere Golf & Spa Resort in Cheshire, with Jon Albutt and Ian Sumpter, Toro’s European Training Manager as the trainers.

Gwynn Davies, the host Course Manager and Cheshire Turf Machinery, the local Toro dealers, were in attendance and provided the facility and support to a very successful workshop.

More Health & Safety workshops are being planned also for the autumn.

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A “communication triangle” workshop to be delivered by GTC Quality Assured Training Provider Frank Newberry, the professional management trainer has been developed to ensure the employer and senior managers are all working together and communicating effectively with their members/visitors/customers.

GTC Workshop dates and venues are all available on the GTC website or by contacting the GTC Education Director.

Twitter @TheOfficialGTC
You can follow the Gtc on www.the-gtc.co.uk
Near York Aldwark Manor GTC Education Director 01347 838640

Greenkeepers Training Committee
David Golding, GTC Education Director, with a monthly update

in the shed
Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained when you’re forced indoors.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Servant employed to do various jobs (6)
2 The thyroid cartilage of the larynx (7)
3 Swing used by cricket bowlers (4)
6 To leave out (4)
7 Type of underwear, also a type of footwear (5)
8 Irish band which launched the album “Out of Body” (4,3)
9 Programming language used for typically small web-based applications (4)
10 Tragic king of Thebes, the subject of a drama by Sophocles (7,3)
11 1986 single by Peter Gabriel (12)
12 Jenny’s surname of the album “Good As Gold” (2,7)
13 Form of dirt track motorcycle racing (8)
14 To leave out (4)
15 To keep on its side (6)
16 Constantly (6)
17 Coventry Telecommunications (10)
18 To leave out (4)
19 Barb-pointed spear used for catching large fish or whales (7)
20 Large Japanese grasshopper (9)
21 Man who played the slave Lurcio (2,7)
22 Arrogant, resistant to persuasion (6)
23 The annual festival in Italy (2,7)
24 Health & Safety” or “Environmental Management” (8)
26 A “communication triangle” workshop to be delivered by GTC Quality Assured Training Provider Frank Newberry, the professional management trainer has been developed to ensure the employer and senior managers are all working together and communicating effectively with their members/visitors/customers.

GTC Workshop dates and venues are all available on the GTC website or by contacting the GTC Education Director.
Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

The entry fee of £95 includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

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Deadline for entry is 11th September 2012.

Completed entry forms should be sent to: BIGGA National Championship, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, medal play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member. The greenkeeper player with the lowest nett score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup.

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd over 36 holes in both the nett and gross categories, additionally after each day of 18 holes there will be prizes for winners of handicap divisions. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores over the first day of play. If you have a poor first day an alternative Stableford competition will be held on the second day of play.

Or E-mail your details to: rachael@bigga.co.uk
Ensure you receive confirmation of entry by return email.

BIGGA members during the 2010 National Championship

The quest to find BIGGA’s best golfer returns in 2012 when the National Championship moves to The Irvine Golf Club, Bognie, Ayrshire, on October 8-9, 2012

Fill in the form below to book your spot

Visit the club westite at www.theirvinegolfclub.co.uk
Please select the relevant category:

- Full Member
- Affiliate Member

The entry fee of £95 includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening. Please note that there is no accommodation provided.

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BIGGA National Championship 2012, The Irvine Golf Club, October 8-9 • Entry Form

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BIGGA National Championship 2012, The Irvine Golf Club, October 8-9 • Entry Form

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