This month, David Golding, GTC’s Education Director, has invited Bernhard & Co, a GTC Quality Assured Training Provider and a wonderful global supporter of greenkeeper education and training for many years, to update readers on their passion for training to support their products.

We talked to Ben Taylor, Technical Training Manager of Bernhard Grinders, to find out more about his role and how it can benefit greenkeepers.

Ben spends most of his year flying around the world, training people on how to use their grinders correctly, but also on how they can get the most out of them.

Fortunately he loves his job. He said that everyone he teaches, including well-seasoned professionals, put their hands up at the end of the training session, when he asks if everyone has learned something new.

He said: “Some people are really surprised to find they’ve learnt as much as they have – but in every industry and profession people continue to train, be they pilots or salesmen, nurses or greenkeepers. We all need to keep fresh and up-to-date, and we all need reminding of best practice. I would not be alarmist if I said that 80% of people who have grinders don’t know, and learn and benefit from each other, as well as learn from me.”

Alongside the college and on-site training and workshops, the Bernhard factory-based training programme is growing by the month and they have had over 100 people through the doors in the first year of opening the centre.

The programme is open to anyone. At the next session they have one delegate coming from Dubai, but regularly get people from all over the UK, Ireland and Europe.

Ben added: “A lot of people want proper factory-based training, and one of the most valuable things about it is getting to see the machines being put together and talking to the people who built them. You’ll be amazed at how much everyone learns from talking to the men who build their actual machines being put together and talking to the people who built them.

“You’ll be amazed at how much everyone learns from talking to the men who build their actual machines. Our factory staff are all very experienced engineers and mechanics – they know more about the grinders and the fine tuning of grinders than anyone I know – so to talk to them and see the machines being engineered all helps the process of understanding.

“It has been invaluable working alongside the GTC to build a regular biannual programme with their Quality Assured Centres, including colleges up and down the country, from the most basic Level 2, setting up mowers and grinders, to practical, hands-on instruction for Level 3 students.

“Alongside this, the GTC’s QA Centres are acting as local venues for training workshops and with their strategic locations across the country, this is ideal for local course managers, groundsmen and greenkeepers to attend.

“Bernhard loan the machinery and supply expert training while they’d never thought about or given credibility to.

“Many delegates attending a training workshop do feel we are offering a valuable service to both today’s and the next generation of greenkeepers.”

Ben concluded “Other ‘quiet’ benefits with these training sessions and workshops are the invaluable relationships that are built up between the GTC’s QA Centres, colleges, industry, student and manufacturer”.

Happy New Year from all at The GTC.

Bernhard & Co will be attending BTME and you can find them on Stand B44.
Huxley Golf, PGA Official Supplier of all-weather golf surfaces, reports that sales of its new Huxley Premier Tee Turf2 (PTT2) all-weather tee turf are continuing at record levels.

Director Paul Huxley explains: “Huxley PTT2 takes a normal tee peg anywhere in the job (even the very long tee pegs for large-headed Drivers), so it’s ideal for use as an alternative or winter tee and it’s also been a great success under trees where natural grass won’t grow. Huxley PTT2 won’t fade, so it looks great anywhere – even in the shade – and is continuing at record levels. Reports that sales of its new Huxley Premier Tee Turf2 (PTT2) all-weather tee turf are continuing at record levels.

To solve your winter tee or practice ground problems, find out about Huxley Golf’s new PTT2 tee turf. Huxley Golf have specialist Distributors throughout the UK and Ireland and also in many other countries. They can install or give advice to customers about self-installation.

For full information and latest list of Huxley PTT2 users contact Huxley Golf:
Tel: 01962 733222
sales@huxleygolf.co.uk
www.huxleygolf.com
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Head Greenkeeper

We are looking for a qualified and experienced person to take on the role of Head Greenkeeper at ‘Dreamland Golf Resort’. This new 18 Hole Course is an undulating inland style course outside Baku, Azerbaijan. The course is designed by ‘Eye Design Group’ and currently under construction.

As part of the Management Team You will be responsible for leading a team who Grow-In and thereafter maintain the course to highest possible standards as set out by our agronomist using modern cultural techniques and machinery. You will be responsible for managing all aspects of the maintenance including Maintenance equipment, The golf car fleet, Clubhouse grounds, landscaping. Other responsibilities include: keeping accurate and complete records on payroll, inventory, weather data, maintenance procedures preparing the annual budgets for the maintenance. Plan all maintenance and project work, applying his or her agronomic and administrative expertise to achieve the agreed-upon maintenance standards and long-range goals, inventory control and oversees the equipment maintenance programs.

You will be expected to demonstrate in your application how you meet each of these criteria

The person:
Ideally you will have at least 5 years minimum previous experience as Golf Course Grounds Maintenance Superintendent. With extensive back ground in Green in. Candidates must be able to adapt and adjust in a challenging environment and have the ability to work with the minimum of supervision using your own initiative and be flexible and patient with day to day issues and local staff. HND Level in Turf management or equivalent is mandatory.

We can offer you

We can offer a generous remuneration expatriate package:

How to Apply
Applications must be made by sending your CV to: recruitment@dreamland.ae
Any additional information can NOT be made available until the final selection procedure commences.

Closing date for applications is January 31, 2014 at 12 noon. All applicants will receive a response only by 15th of February. Interviews will be held soon thereafter.

Head Greenkeeper

Le Touquet Paris Plage, 62520, France

La Touquet Golf Club is a 45 holes resort in northern France that is currently looking to fill the position of Head Greenkeeper. The first 18 holes called La Font was established in 1904 and designed by H.Hutchinson is more of an ‘heathland’ course. The second 18 holes called La Mer designed by H. Colt and open in 1931 is one of the few links course in France. Both courses have hosted the French Open several times and are regularly hosting national and international pro-am or tournament. The successful candidate will be in charge of the two courses.

- The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate high levels of management skills, communication and leadership within a crew of 15 people.
- Experience in the maintenance of a “links” course applying sustainable philosophy.
- Desire and willingness for an effective cooperation with golf course secretary and the consultant (Gordon Irvine).
- Experience in mechanical maintenance.
- Good working knowledge of automatic irrigation systems combined with the repair and maintenance of associated parts.
- General computer knowledge.
- The rules of golf relating to golf course maintenance.
- Have suitable qualifications for the above position

Starting date: as soon as possible to be discussed. A salary based on your skills and qualifications.

All interested applicants to apply in writing or via e-mail, including a covering letter and detailed CV before January 31st 2014 by email cdubeuney@opengolfclub.com to the attention of Mr. Debruyne Charles – Golf secretary.

Closing date: 31st January 2014
Recruitment

JANUARY 2014

Recruitment as set out by our agronomist using modern cultural techniques and machinery. We are looking to recruit a dynamic Course Manager who has the drive and passion to reach new standards of excellence in the management and presentation of our heathland-parkland golf course. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a successful track record in course and man management and will hold relevant greenkeeping and/or agronomy qualifications.

Previous experience as a Course Manager is essential. Closing date for Applications is 31st January 2014

Interested applicants should apply in writing enclosing a full CV no later than Friday 24th January 2014.

Mr Colin Chapman, Chief Executive, Coombe Hill Golf Club, Golf Club Drive, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 7DF

Email: ceo@chgc.net

Interviews are expected W/C 3rd February 2014.

Closing: 24 January 2014

FERENCE GOLF CLUB
HEAD GREENKEEPER

Built in 1904 Fereneze is a fine 18 hole moorland golf course with magnificent views over the Clyde Valley and beyond. The Club is looking to recruit an experienced and highly motivated Head Greenkeeper as a replacement for our present Head Greenkeeper who is retiring. The Candidate should have

- NVQ Level 3 in Greenkeeping
- PA1, PA2 and PA6
- NPTC Chain Saw licence – preferred but not essential
- Knowledge of modern machinery and maintenance
- Up to date knowledge of Health and Safety Legislation
- An ability to communicate effectively with staff, club management and members

Please send your CV and covering letter by post to:

Mr Mitchel Jones
Secretary
Fereneze Golf Club
Fereneze Avenue
BARRHEAD
G78 1HJ

Closing Date for Application: 31 January 2014

Advertise your recruitment here ... and online for one month at www.bigga.org.uk/careers

from £575+vat for an 1/8 advert

Contact Jill Rodham on 01347 833 812
Ian Tomlinson has experienced more snow than most greenkeepers during 27 years working in Switzerland and Denmark. In the first part of a timely two part article, he advises you how to deal with the white stuff.

During the last couple of winters there has been lots of talk about snow on greens. Should you remove it or leave it were it is? What about a layer of ice on the greens, will the grass die under such a layer, should you try to crack it or leave it alone? If you remove the snow and then have weeks of freezing easterly winds will the grass die of desiccation or should we leave it there but risk snow mould damage?

Lots of questions and you will not find the answer in a textbook!

After 14 years working in Switzerland and Denmark and now 13 years in Denmark I have had my fair share of experience but you are always surprised by mother nature. In Switzerland it was normal to have one metre of snow most winters and very low temperatures. Snow could fall any time from October to April. At that time we were all lucky to have a fungicide product containing PCNB (pentachloronitrobenzene). This has since been removed but the results were outstanding. We applied the product hours before the first snowfall then usually dug the greens free of the snow on 1 March... and found perfect greens.

But where do we stand today? In Denmark where legislation has removed almost all pesticides and we have only a systemic fungicide available to use (which is no use whatsoever in autumn and winter) how do we keep greens disease free?

The first issue is to address the botanical composition of the turf on your greens and the growing environments around green sites. It is certain that if you are promoting poa annua dominated areas in our environment you will lose your turf every winter. I am not saying that if you are promoting fescue/bent turf that you will have no problems, you will. The difference is that when the poa is attacked the whole plant is damaged including the crown and you end up with a bare depression on your playing surface. With fescue the plant will be attacked but survives and as soon as favourable climatic conditions allow the greens will regenerate and be perfect again in a matter of weeks. The poa greens will be scarred and bumpy and may take two or three months before an acceptable putting surface can be produced.

Our best greens are the ones with 80% fescue/bent grasses in them and no shading issues from trees. Other greens growing in wooded areas where sunlight and air movement is an issue have more poa annua and invariably end up with major snow mould damage.

We experienced a hard winter in 2009/2010. We were lucky that the greens were frozen before the snow fell. This situation will certainly help limit you disease damage to the turf. You then have another issue as halfway through the winter there is a thaw. But the green is frozen and the melted snow has nowhere to go and you end up with water on the putting surface. Then, it freezes again and you have a few centimetres of ice on top of your turf. Under this situation poa will survive up to 20 days before it dies of asphyxiation. Fescue/bents can go between 60 to 100 days. Another issue is that if there is a great deal of direct sunshine on the ice but it’s too cold to melt it the ice can act as a magnifying glass scouring the grass. On many occasions I have run the verti-drain across the greens with the times set just deep enough to crack the ice and stop at the grass canopy. You cannot remove the ice as the grass leaf blades are frozen into the ice but this will allow for vital air to get through to the grass to avoid suffocation. I prefer to risk a little turf damage by doing something rather than leaving the ice and risk running into scouring greens which happened to me one year in Switzerland.

Next month Ian offers his conclusions on dealing with snow and take us through the past few Danish winters...
It's no surprise that Revolution is trusted by so many turf professionals around the world. It's the only soil surfactant that goes beyond water repellency issues, providing comprehensive water management and plant health benefits as well.

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