Dear Editor,

I am writing to you as a mother of two greenkeeper sons, and thought it would be interesting for you to hear a woman’s point of view on what I have learnt over many years of listening to and being very interested in the young greenkeepers in England.

My two sons have been greenkeeping since leaving school one being 27 years and the other 29 years old. The eldest being at the same private club is on what I call a pittance of a wage.

He knows all aspects of greenkeeping having been to college for two years, and is reliable, efficient and trustworthy, conscientious and takes pride in the golf course, but for "a poor wage packet"!

Couldn’t something be done to enforce clubs to pay the correct wage, a livable wage to these young men. I honestly feel sorry for all young English greenkeepers.

Now to my second son who had worked at his private club for eight years and on the same low wages. Though was enough for him, he was wanting to get married which was quite impossible on his low wage, so he applied for a job in West Germany as an Assistant and was successful.

As soon as he arrived at the club, the German people couldn’t do enough for him. They respected, praised him and his wages are treble to what he got here.

He worked hard, so much so that after two and a half years he is now the Course Manager. He has his ups and downs like everyone else in his position but he expects that for the good wages he is earning, and let’s face it, that is why he left England.

There has many English greenkeeper friends out there and not one would come back home. But can you tell me why should our good young English greenkeepers (and they are who matter) have to go abroad to earn a proper wage.

From what I hear there will be more working abroad than here if the wages in England are not revised.

Having one of my sons living abroad is heartbreaking for me, but there is no comparisons in the two greenkeeping countries and I know my son prefers the respect and equality in Germany. They certainly know a good thing when they see it, and I for the chance, I could write a book about it all, but feel better for writing this letter to you.

So let’s keep English Greenkeeping in England and give the young ones a fair deal with wages, they earn every penny they get.

Kindest regards,
S. GOLDTHORPE

Editor’s note: Thank you for that marvellous letter Mrs Goldthorpe. You merely echo my views on the subject of paying a proper wage to the Continent they are causing.

I wonder how much longer it will be allowed to continue before clubs open their eyes to the economic necessity of paying a fair days’ wage to our skilled greenkeeping staff.

Rest assured Greenkeeping Management will be forwarding this message home until wage levels rise. The alternative is too worrying to contemplate.

Dear Sir,

I am currently employed at the Royal Pahang Golf Club in the Malaysian state of Pahang as a greenkeeper for the last 2½ years. I am also a holder of the GCSAA class B certificate and also furthering my continued education units in golf course management.

Below are the duties entrusted to me:


b. Installation of sprinklers system (Rotary pop up).

c. Maintenance of golf course.

d. Labour co-ordination on site.

e. Hydrosedging and sod planting.

f. Equipment purchase and recommendation and

g. Installation of sub-soil drainage.

It is my sincere deep intention to participate in a work and study programme with a distinguished club for a year and hereby extend my humble request and application for your kind consideration.

I am also prepared to avail myself at your distinguished club for any interview at your convenience.

Thanking you in advance for your highest consideration and in the meanwhile I remain your humble servant.

Yours sincerely,
Palani Manickam
Royal Pahang Golf Club
Golf Road 25700
Pahang Darul Makmur
West Malaysia

Dear Sir,

THANK you for your letter of April 2 and I apologise for the delay in acknowledging.

We are a relatively small "village club" - 9 holes, 150 gents members, 65 ladies members, and 45 juniors. We have one Greenkeeper who has been with us for almost 16 years, who is very hard working and does a good job.

A few of us give periodical "small jobs" to help out. Our Greenkeeper has no formal qualifications - but practical experience and is good on maintenance of our limited equipment.

We hope to start an appren-
tice next year with a view to also attending Elmwood College, Cuper, Fife on possibly block release, or as can be arranged.

Could you please advise me of the following:

1. Qualifications/conditions for Membership of your respective grade.

2. Subscription/Fees for respective grades. Any other information required or available on these points.

Yours sincerely,
S.H. Davidson
Greens Convener
Kilin Golf Club

EDITOR’S NOTE: Thank you for your letter, Mr Davidson. The necessary information is on its way to you.

Dear Sir,

I am a keen believer in traditional methods of greenkeeping but in many situations they just don’t work. There is no shame in having Poa Annua greens, today’s course manager should not expect his members to putt on bare earth as he carries on into links type management on Poa Annua on a parkland course.

Yours faithfully,
Terry Huntley
Course Manager
Ashford Manor G.C.