

To The Editor

I have been a greenkeeper for twelve years, a member of the Northern Section of BIGGA and a serving Section committee member for some time, and a keen attendee of the many winter lectures and year round golf competitions organised for the benefit of our section.

I write to express my disgust at the miserable attendance for the recent lecture on Controlled Release Fertilisers, given by a staff expert from Sierra UK Ltd at West Bowling Golf Club on November 7th.

Why am I disgusted? Because only three Committee members and nine greenkeepers deemed it worth attending!

Imagine the scene. We have an interesting subject, of importance to all who gain their living from greenkeeping, covered in an informative and entertaining way by an expert. He has travelled from Kent to address an audience that might have been a potential 200 or more. He is faced with a gathering of twelve.

The Northern Section has nearly 300 members and I think it is high time they took a positive interest in winter lecture subjects and not only in playing golf competitions.

Those who did not attend, for whatever lame reason, must feel that they have let their section down.

So come on you chaps, let's make these meetings worthwhile by lending support for a couple of hours. Quite apart from the benefits gained, they offer a grand opportunity to meet old friends and join them for a drink or two.

BRIAN D CARR

Head Greenkeeper, Howley Hall Golf Club

To The Editor

The game of golf has, over the ages, been widely known as one where good manners and impeccable behaviour are synonymous. May I therefore point out an unacceptable face which appears to be creeping into the game, at club administrative level.

Youngsters these days spend a lot of time trying to become proficient at their chosen vocation. Upon leaving, they obviously apply for jobs and send off applications. Sadly I have to report that young dedication is not always matched by good administration at certain Golf Clubs.

When a Club advertises a post, for example in this magazine, surely it is only good manners for the secretary to reply to the application – even if it be rejection of the possibility of an interview.

I have come across a number of cases in the last year or so of Clubs simply not bothering to reply. One young lad had made 11 job applications with only one reply, a situation I find disgraceful, don't you?

So, all you secretaries and managers of Golf Clubs, a heartfelt plea to please reply to all the youngsters – and indeed to all others – who write in the hope of making their career in this wonderful sport of golf.

MALCOLM HUNTINGTON

York

● Malcolm Huntington is perhaps better qualified than most to comment on good sporting manners, being a sports journalist, a top level tennis umpire and an Olympic Games official. Like most sports writers, he is in admiration of golf's good manners, witness as he is to many fiery and temperamental outbursts in other sports.

Letters

To Neil Thomas

My name is Jonas Ogvall. I am twenty years old, and I live in Gothenburg, Sweden.

I have been working at Delsjo Golf Club for superintendent Jerker Tobiasson over the past three summers and have found this most interesting and enjoyable. I would like now to learn more about the care of a golf course and I think there is much to be learned by working outside Sweden.

I therefore wonder if you can help me to obtain a job at a golf course in Great Britain. I would be free to work from now until the end of April 1991.

I have played golf for some seven years and have a handicap of 3. Apart from playing a great deal I have recently become a member of the green committee.

JONAS OGVALL

Konsertvagen 13, S-435 44 MOLNLYCKE, Sweden
● Is there a head greenkeeper or course manager that can help? – please make contact with Jonas directly.

To David Golding

I write to thank you and BIGGA headquarters staff for the In-house Management Course which I attended most recently.

The organisation was excellent and the course content was exceptional; from Nick Bisset's humorous look at communications to the very serious subject of health and safety by Graham Oddy, which gave us food for thought. The 'hands-on' experience Fred Robinson gave to us with computers provided more than a glimpse into the future of greenkeeping management, and leaving 8 computers with us for a whole week showed great trust!

All in all it was a very enjoyable time, if not a little exhausting. In fact, the only disappointment came in discovering that only 35 greenkeepers had registered for the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. Does this mean that only 35 greenkeepers in the country consider themselves under qualified?

I believe this certificate programme will become the pinnacle of education for greenkeepers in the future, but only with their utmost participation.

PETER GEE
Nevill Golf Club

To David Golding

May I take this opportunity of thanking BIGGA for the splendid hospitality I received at Aldwark Manor during the finals of the BIGGA/ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

I would also like to express my thanks to ICI for sponsoring this event and long may it continue.

Finally, my sincere thanks are extended to the other finalists for their support – I feel we were all winners of this award.

ANTHONY DAVIES

Head Greenkeeper, Prestbury Golf Club

Opinions expressed in these columns are not necessarily shared by the editor of BIGGA and the Association accepts no responsibility for them.

Letters to the editor are welcome on any topic related to the practice or pursuit of greenkeeping. Write to the editor, Greenkeeper International, 13 Firle Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2HL. Letters should be signed.

We reserve the right to edit for brevity, clarity and good taste.