



Alan Smith, pictured left, Course Tutor at Elmwood College, explains by use of a string diagram the best route through a golf course. Looking on are greenkeepers who attended Elmwood for one week to complete their Distance Learning Supervisory Greenkeeping Course.

The course consists of four National Certificate Modules delivered as a series of packages, sent to greenkeepers as they progress at their own pace. This course, which has proved most popular and attracted 40 greenkeepers from Europe, is to receive extra support staff to meet rising demand.

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Course 'trains golf pro's to become course managers'

As this issue was about to close the news reached us that a press release had been issued by Merrist Wood College regarding an HND in Golf Course Studies – approved by BTEC and supported officially by the PGA and the PGA European Tour – which is to begin in September. As so often happens in these matters, the National Press took hold of the meatier end of the bone and made great play of the fact that the course was as much tailor-made for those aspiring to be golf course designers or course managers as for young tyro's with an eye on Faldo and the glittering prize.

Knowing that David Golding had been in discussion with Merrist Wood over the proposed course and had expressed official concern over both the timing and wording of the press release, our fears were that greenkeepers, upon reading that the HND ... 'could lead students to careers as tournament professionals, clubs professionals, teaching or club repair specialists, tournament officials, golf centre managers, marketing specialists, *course managers, golf course designers* and many others... would view the course as training golf pro's to infiltrate their profession and become Golf Course Managers.

In a subsequent BBC radio interview, George Shiels, Vice Principal at Merrist Wood, and Course Tutor John May were quick to point out, perhaps prompted by the somewhat sensational banner headlines which had appeared, that the course was aimed specifically at aspiring pro golfers or established PGA pro's who sought extra management skills and that the Course Manager and Golf Course Designer aspect would more properly be dealt with in a further proposed HND course specifically aimed at Greenkeeping. They also went on to explain that in the first year of the course – open to golfers with a handicap of five or less and who have studied at least two 'A' levels and passed one – candidates will concentrate on playing skills, the second year will be spent seconded to a club pro and only in the third year would the options aforementioned be offered, i.e. Course Design or Course Management, along with numerous others more akin to the player.

We shall keep you posted as the plot continues to unfold.

Good reading always shows...

While there is no substitute for good practical experience, further knowledge of a chosen subject can be accelerated very rapidly indeed by reading specialist publications – books, papers and lecture transcripts – on turf management and the art and science of greenkeeping. As a fine example 'Golf Course Construction, Turf Establishment and Cultural Practices' by James Beard contains a veritable wealth of knowledge. Though the list given below is by no means complete it will provide both students and mature greenkeepers with a solid core basis upon which a personal working library may be established.

Suggestions for reading:
Fungal Diseases of Amenity Turf Grasses (Smith Jackson & Woolhouse)

Amenity Landscape Management (edited by Ralph Cobham)

Some Essays on Golf Course Architecture (Dr A Mackenzie)

Turf Nutrition '88 (National Turfgrass Council)

Turfgrass Manual (John Shildrick)

Technical Terms in Turf Culture (Dr Peter Hayes)

Sands for Sport Turf Construction (S W Baker)

On Course Conservation (Nature Conservancy Council)

The Way Forward (Royal and Ancient Golf club)

Real Golf (Eddie and Nick Park)

Turfgrass: Science and Culture (J B Beard)

Turfgrass Science (A A Hanson and F K Juska)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. David Blackmur, Plumpton College, Ditching Road, near Lewes, East Sussex

Tel: Plumpton (0273) 890454, ext. 33

The Nature and Properties of Soils

(Nyle C Brady)

Grasses (C E Hubbard)**Trees on Golf Courses** (J D Gilchrist)**Code of Practice for the Agricultural and Commercial Horticultural Use of Pesticides** (MAFF Publication)**Code of Practice for the Use of Approved Pesticides in****Amenity Areas** (NTC and NAAC)**STRI Journals****Turf Managers Handbook** (W H Daniel and R P Freebor)**Fertilizers in Turf Culture** (STRI)**Intermediate Botany** (J F Brimble)**Principles and Practice of Supervisory Management** (John Munro Fraser)**The Social Psychology of Industry** (J A C Brown)**Turfgrass Diseases** (Neil A Baldwin)**Turf Management for Golf Courses** (J B Beard)**Turfgrass Science and Management** (Robert D Emmons)**Turf Culture - A Complete Manual for the Groundsman** (Frank Hope)**The Royal and Ancient** (Pat Ward-Thomas)**Golf Course and Grounds: Irrigation and Drainage** (Jarret)**Golf Course Planning, Design, Construction and Maintenance** (F W Hawtree)**Soil Management: 4th Edition** (B Davies ETAL)**A Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Ireland** (A Mitchell)**Manual of Trees and Shrubs** (Hilliers)

Your chance for Diploma, Certificate in 'Turf Irrigation'

At the Annual General Meeting of the British Turf and Landscapes Irrigation Association just before Christmas, thirteen was a number of good omen.

On that occasion, Diplomas were distributed to the thirteen who had successfully completed the first Diploma course run by the Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture at Myerscough in response to a BTLIA request. Course planning began about three years ago, and the first of four one-week Units was held in February 1989. Another Unit was held later in 1989, and two more during 1990.

Details have just been announced by the College and the BTLIA for the next Diploma Course and for the Certificate which will be obtainable by those who successfully complete the first two Units.

The full Diploma will continue to involve four Units each of one week's duration delivered over two years. It is designed to provide skills in irrigation design, installation and maintenance. Holders of the Diploma are recognised by the industry and the BTLIA as fully trained and skilled practitioners. The Diploma will thus meet the need, recognised for some time by the BTLIA, for a professional qualification for its member companies and other involved in irrigation. The BTLIA collaborates closely with the College to ensure that the award of the Diploma requires a standard of up-to-date practical knowledge and skill that will put the holders and their companies in the forefront of the industry in Europe, and will support the aim of the BTLIA to foster the highest standards in turfgrass and landscape irrigation.

A Certificate in Turf Irrigation will be awarded to those who successfully complete the first two of the four Units and do not proceed to the Diploma. This is designed to meet the needs of users of irrigation systems such as greenkeepers and groundsman. The two Units will enable them to operate and maintain irrigation systems and make the best use of any particular installation.

The Course content is as follows:

Unit 1: Agronomy Turfgrass botany; water in the soil; water requirements for turf and the calculation of irrigation need; pests and diseases associated with irrigation. Water sources, quality and reliability of water supply.

Unit 2: Basic design of irrigation systems Landscape irrigation, water storage tanks, sprinkler types, calculation of precipitation rates and run times, sprinkler spacing, sprinkler selection, solenoid valves, controller types, pipe work and fittings, pump types, valves and pump controls, basic electricity, winterising and

servicing, fault finding. Basic design principles.

Unit 3: Intermediate design Configuration and advanced types of sprinklers, sprinkler selection, control systems and schedule of time calculations, selection of controllers, calculation of schedule of flow, static and working pressures, frictional loss calculations, mains layout, pump performance, selection and operation, filters, selection of electric motors, cable types and sizing, types of reservoirs, pump house construction, pump control systems, laying and joining pipes, water hammer, health and safety, contract management and insurance. Intermediate design work.

Unit 4: Advanced design Irrigation design for sports facilities, golf courses and complex landscape sites. A major design exercise is included.

The complete course will run over four separate weeks at the College. Units 1 and 4 will normally be delivered around Easter, and Units 2 and 3 just before Christmas. Programme for 1991-2 is:

Unit 1, 8-12 April 1991

Units 2 and 3, 9-13 December 1991

Units 1 and 4, April 1992: dates to be notified

Units 2 and 3, December 1992: dates to be notified

The Course hours are 9 am to 7 pm from Monday to Thursday, and 9 am to 3 pm on Friday. College accommodation will normally be available for Course participants, as Units will be held out of term, and this will obviously be advantageous in view of the evening sessions and the regular project work.

The fee for Unit 1 in April 1991 is £220.00 (plus VAT) for the Unit itself, including daytime refreshments and lunch, and £120.00 (plus VAT) for accommodation, including bed and breakfast and evening meals, making a total of £340.00 (plus VAT).

Further information and application forms can be obtained from the College or the Secretary of the BTLIA:

Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Myerscough Hall, Bilsborrow, PRESTON, Lancashire, PR3 0RY. Tel: 0995 40611, Fax: 0995 40842; Secretary, BTLIA, 3 Ferrands Park Way, Harden, BINGLEY, West Yorkshire, BD16 1HZ. Tel: 0535 273188.

Greenkeepers seeking to qualify for the BIGGA Master Greenkeeper Certificate should be aware that 8 credits per unit will apply to the BTLIA Irrigation Course outlined above. Those taking the Diploma will receive 32 credits (4 weeks x 8), and for the Certificate 16 credits (2 weeks x 8) will be awarded.



All set for Education Conference

'The Golf Course - from Conception to Completion' is the subject that Geoff Hodson, (pictured) of Lindum Turf and his Associates have chosen to expound upon at York, this but one of a multitude of lecture titles that form the basis of the mammoth three day BIGGA Conference to be staged on March 22nd-24th.

Much has already been written about this event, probably the most important in the BIGGA educational calendar, for the Association has the knack of bringing to the rostrum with amazing regularity those who can entertain as well as teach - a rare breed.

Thus as Geoff and other speakers put the little finishing touches of preparation to their presentations, we take this opportunity to remind you that there are still a few places available. Give Samantha Fiint a call now on 03473 581.

Geoff is the power behind Lindum Turf and with his Associates - the joint sponsors with BIGGA of a wonderful weekend of seriousness without stuffiness.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held on
**Thursday 25 April
1991 at 2.30pm**
in The Royal York Hotel, York
immediately adjacent to the
Railway Station

**Membership cards
must be produced**

- NEIL THOMAS
Executive Director