



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.

GTC APPROVED
COLLEGES



FIFE • REGIONAL • COUNCIL

Fife Regional Council — Education Committee

ELMWOOD COLLEGE, Cupar, Fife

**NEW!
ONE YEAR FULL TIME
NATIONAL CERTIFICATE COURSE
IN GREENKEEPING**

Suitable for school leavers and adults wishing
a change in career direction.

Starts September 1991

Contact: Carol Borthwick, Horticultural Division
Tel: (0334) 52781 Ext. 224
Fax: (0334) 56795

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)

PLUMPTON COLLEGE



DAY
OR
BLOCK
RELEASE

WE OFFER DAY OR BLOCK RELEASE
TURFCULTURE COURSES IN:

- Phase I - with a Greenkeeping Bias
- Phase II - Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management
- Phase III - Enterprise Management
- Phase IV - Business Management

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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

Tel: Plumpton (0273) 890454, ext. 33