A tongue-in-cheek observation from **Willie Blair,** a greenkeeper of the bold school

Quick way to God-like wisdom

I often wonder if members of BIGGA think as I do, that the excellent greenkeeping education I have received over the past years has been a complete waste of time?

When I recall the vast number of years I've spent in greenkeeping, the educational lectures attended, the nights and days (including weekends) learning my craft, about grass species and how to treat and cut them, the technology of new machinery and products, applied man-management, water measurement and application, together with time spent on absorbing technical articles and journals, I am prompted to think 'what a waste of time it all was'.

Who needs education? *Anyone* can look after a golf course, so why are we sending our youngsters to college? Surely now is the time for us clever greenkeepers to really start using our brains.

Instead of education and college attendance, take a look at my tip for the future. My unique way means no more lectures, more time with loved ones, more time for leisure, more time for golf.

How do you do it? It's easy: ***Become a member of a Golf Club.*** Within weeks you will know all there is to know about grass, fertilisers, machinery and everything else associated with a golf course. Better still, be a talker and soon your friends will vote you into Club office. Looking for more? Okay, this is the big one. Persuade the Club officers you are the man for the job of green convener/chairman.

Believe me, you will become an expert overnight, with nothing missing from your knowledge. You will have total command of the subject, in fact you will be far more expert than the green staff and instantly capable of instructing the head greenkeeper on how the course should be managed and presented and how it can all be done on a shoe-string.

Weekends will become even better, for you will sit around the clubhouse following your round, taking well-earned praise from friends on the condition of *your* course. Members will buy you drinks and thank you for keeping the course open during the last tidal wave, dismissing the little matter of having to wear wellington boots. 'How could the educated green staff be so stupid as to suggest closing the course for such a little water' they will say, and you will agree, echoing the cries of 'never'! 'So what if it snows, we can always use yellow balls, can't we?'

Believe me, my finest education has come from listening to the golf club member: what he doesn't know about greenkeeping is not worth knowing. So fellow professionals, forget about training and education, we don't need it. To be an expert you need just one qualification: membership of a Golf Club.

Willie Blair, Kingsknowe Golf Club
(a greenkeeper, not a member!)

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