

To be a Golf Course Manager...

Few will deny that the title 'Course Manager' is one that is open to misinterpretation. The Association believes that to justify such a title it is vital that a course manager should be fully conversant – and be properly tested and certificated as competent – in such matters as the pesticides and legislation. In addition to demonstrating sound agronomic knowledge, the modern course manager should also give careful consideration to those management skills which fall under the broad umbrella of communication, motivation and stimulation. To the head greenkeeper, young or old, we put the following questions:

Have you the craft skills of greenkeeping but wish you could communicate more skilfully with your staff and green committee? Would you like to be a better manager, with the ability to prepare monthly reports and make verbal presentations at green committee meetings?

To the Chairman of Green or Course Convenor we ask: Does your greenkeeper require better management skills – especially those of communication – and the ability to make presentations in both written and verbal form? Would not such skills make your Club life more pleasant and productive – and your golf more enjoyable?

The Association has the answer. Following critical acclaim at both BIGGA headquarters and the BTME seminars in Harrogate, we have negotiated with two acknowledged experts, Paul Whiteley and Frank Newbury, who have the supreme skill of training others in the art of communication, stimulation and motivation, to present a week long course for Head Greenkeepers who genuinely want to become Golf Course Managers.

Because the programme is a personalised and intensive one, places will be limited to the first twenty applicants and would-be attendees are urged to confirm a place without delay. The inclusive cost: accommodation, meals and wonderful training sessions, is £495 including VAT. Cheques should be made payable to BIGGA.



■ The Royal Birkdale Golf Club tell us that 63 year old Tom O'Brien, their head greenkeeper for the past 14 years, has expressed a desire to take early retirement in 1992, the Club having been unable to persuade him to change his decision. Tom joined Royal Birkdale from Gullane in 1978 and has prepared the course for two Open Championships.



■ Amenity management PR man, Mike Saull, has established a new public relations business – Landline PR – based in Shrewsbury. Previously a director of a specialist division of Agrafax PR, he has handled work for companies including ICI, Nomix-Chipman and Maxicrop International. A soil scientist and drainage specialist by training, he also held the post of Technical Secretary to the Soil and Water Management Association.



■ Let's not forget to congratulate Howard Swan on being admitted to the regulatory body for golf architecture, the British Institute of Golf Course Architects, as a full member. Howard, the son of a greenkeeper, worked for 16 years in design and construction before setting up his own practice in 1987. He founded the British Association of Golf Course Constructors in 1980 and for five years, until 1990, was Chairman of the National Turfgrass Council.



■ Phil Baldock, Chairman of the Surrey section of BIGGA and a member of the SE Regional Board, is moving from Hankley Common to take up the prestigious position of head greenkeeper at the delightful Harry Colt masterpiece, Royal Portrush. We are sure he'll find no difficulty in negotiating 'Calamity Corner' or enduring 'Purgatory' and will thoroughly enjoy managing the only Irish course ever to stage an Open Championship. If things get too tiring, he can always turn to the famous eleventh, the notorious 'Feather Bed'. Phil had long ago set his sights on Royal Portrush (he is married to Anne, a fair colleen from Northern Ireland), and having achieved this first ambition, his next is to see The Open return to Royal Portrush.

Members of the Northern Ireland Golf Greenkeepers Association (NIGGA), and indeed all greenkeepers in Northern Ireland, will quickly learn of Phil's enthusiasm for our Association, with Phil no doubt embarking on a personal crusade to



bring NI under our international banner.

■ Winner of the Kubota (UK) Cup for Best Machinery Student at Lancashire College of Agriculture is Richard Ellis Haynes. Richard, who gained a distinction on the

National Diploma Turf Science and Sportsground Management course, is pictured being presented with his cup at the college's annual award ceremony by Kubota's Russell Mellor. Richard is now employed as a mechanic at Bourne Country Club, Hertfordshire.

■ David Woods, head greenkeeper at Holtje and currently a Phase 3 (Enterprise Management and Greenkeeping Supervision) student at Plumpton College, has gained the rare distinction of being the first greenkeeper to gain the prestigious Top Student of The Year Award – The City and Guilds Silver Medal – awarded by none other than the examining body itself, The City and Guilds of London Institute Examination Board. Greenkeeper International share in David's delight and send him heartiest congratulations.

■ A new post – Scottish Office Co-ordinator – is announced by SISIS with the appointment of Duncan Crawford. It will be Duncan's responsibility to co-ordinate the activities of the Scottish demonstration and services teams and liaison with area sales representatives. The supply of spare parts will also form part of his duties.

■ Michael Peters, Aldeburgh's head greenkeeper, scored the second hole in one of his golfing career last month, using a wedge at the 116 yard second on the River course.

■ Members will be saddened to learn of the death at the age of 80 of one of Britain's greenkeeping stalwarts, the legendary Doug Pate, who was for 23 years (1953-1976) head greenkeeper at Royal Birkdale. His was a record that may be hard to surpass, having been responsible for the preparation of no less than five Open Championships and two Ryder Cup Matches, together with countless other major tournaments, and his legacy to the greenkeeping craft is one that will always be remembered. Greenkeeper International offers sincere sympathy to Mrs Pate on her sad loss.

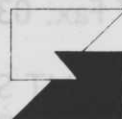
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