

Jemima
Puddleduck
saves
thousands
for golf club

NEWS



When a 10,000,000 gallon lake at the Lambourne Golf Club in Burnham, Bucks, cracked as a result of the hot weather, greenkeepers took a leaf out of Beatrix Potter's book, bringing in "Jemima Puddleduck" and 22 of her friends.

In just three weeks the paper-white Aylesbury ducks, halted a 20,000 gallon a day leak and reduced the cost of repairs from

£75,000, for draining and lining the lake, to just £80, the price of an electric fence to keep foxes at bay.

"A time honoured country tradition has beaten all modern technology," said John Millen, Head Greenkeeper for ClubPartners International Plc which owns the course. "Aylesbury or 'puddle' ducks, as they are often known, have been used to maintain farm

ponds for centuries. In hot weather, the sun dries out the banks and leaves thousands of tiny cracks along the bank through which the water seeps away. Puddle ducks, with their big feet, keep the shore wet and compress tiny bits of mud into the cracks, cementing all the holes."

Staff and members at the exclusive club have put forward Jemima's name for the August Employee of the month award.

"She'll probably be the first duck in history to win a recognition award from a Plc but we don't see why not. She's down on the payroll for a sack of premium quality corn each month and has worked hard on several important areas including ecology, conservation, economy and good member relations - even if it did take a little gentle persuasion to convince her that a ball which landed near the shore once was not, in fact, an egg."

Jemima's prize for her efforts is a beautifully framed certificate by the lake and her own nesting box on the small island, well away from the danger of troublesome foxes.

● Pictured: John Millen with the ducks which saved the day.



■ GTC Chairman Bob McLaren presents NVQ assessor certificates to the Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers from the North Wales golf clubs who have all successfully achieved the D32/D33 assessor units.

The presentation took place at the Welsh College of Horticulture in Mold.

The GTC has recently become a registered centre to offer National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications and all enquiries should be directed to the GTC Education Unit based at Aldwark Manor, York Tel: 01347 838640.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Otterbine/Barebo Inc., the aeration and water quality management product specialist, has announced that Rainbird Europe has been awarded the Otterbine distributorship for France and North Africa. "We're very proud to welcome Rainbird Europe to our distribution team. It an excellent company which enjoys a fine reputation," said Charlie Barebo, President of Otterbine.

■ Eamonn Wall & Co has appointed John Nicholson as Associate Consultant based in Durham. He is a keen ecologist with specialised knowledge of tree pests and diseases and is currently writing a book about trees on golf courses. He has undertaken studies in golf ball damage and its effect on tree health resulting in a knowledge of which species of tree are resilient to damage.

■ Nigel Tyler has been appointed Technical Sales Representative to the Amenity Division of County Crops Ltd. He was previously employed by Rufford Top Dress Supplies Ltd. He will cover the Midlands area.

■ Geoff Whalley has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at the shortly to open Mobberley GC.

■ Ian Greenfield, Head Greenkeeper at Goodwood GC, has retired after 28 year's service.

■ Applications are now being accepted for Pennsylvania State University's two year Turfgrass Management Technical Programme for the class beginning September '96. The application fee is \$35 and the deadline for applications is December 31, '95. Application forms can be obtained by calling United States 001 814 865 8301 or by writing to: Turfgrass Management Technical Program, The Pennsylvania State University, 306 Ag, Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802-2601.