

General requirements for golf clubs and greens staff

by Tony Rees MIOSH, Health and Safety Consultant & Senior Instructor with ATB Landbase Training Services.

This month I will concentrate on the employers duty to others and the duty placed on persons who design, manufacture, import or supply any article or substance for use at work.

Employers Duty to Others

Section 3. "An Employer or Self Employed person must not expose a Non Employee to a risk to health and safety who may be affected by the activities of the employer's business."

Employers and the self employed have a duty to conduct their Undertaking to ensure that any non employee eg Visitors, Contractors or Public are not exposed to any risk to their health and safety. They must also, when prescribed by a regulation provide information to non-employers about how the undertaking may affect their health and safety.

The above section requires employers and any self employed individual to ensure SO FAR AS IS REASONABLY POSSIBLE the health and safety of anyone not in their employment. In the context of golf clubs this includes:- Members of the Golf Club; Contractors working on the grounds or buildings; Visitors to the club and Members of the public.

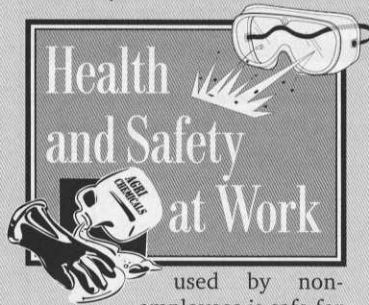
We must take account of any work that is being carried out and identify if this work will affect the health and safety of any of the above. For example, if machinery is in use which could endanger others we must ensure so far as is reasonably practicable that we inform all persons, likely to be involved, of the hazards and the possible risks associated, or, if we are using chemical sprays or similar, that account is taken of the non members of staff and how they may be affected by these substances. In some instances signs and notices should be prominently displayed warning of the work that is being undertaken or the areas of work cordoned off. This is particularly important if there are any footpaths and/or rights of way that permit public access.

We should also remember that this section of the act places a duty on contractors or the self employed not to expose us, our staff, club members or any others to any undue risks from their work. This should be achieved by ensuring that they carry out a risk assessment on the work to be undertaken before the work commences and convey all this information to us.

Section 4. Duty of persons in control of premises and sites to non employees.

Those persons in control of premises and sites must provide safe Access/Egress and ensure that the premises and site are safe for use and also that Plant and Substances are safe for non employees' use.

Which will mean that we must ensure that all equipment provided by us and



used by non-employees is safe for them to use for example a powered golf buggy. We should also ensure so far as is reasonably practical that all this equipment is used safely. For example, if someone overturned a golf buggy on sloping ground, the buggy which we had permitted them to use without ascertaining their competence, we could be deemed to be responsible.

This will also apply to building use, the clubhouse and changing facilities must be so far as is reasonably practicable be safe for all users by ensuring that the access and egress is adequate, electrical systems and equipment are safe and the structure of the buildings themselves are safe for use.

It is important that when we have contractors working on our site we should ensure that they use their own equipment for the work they are undertaking. This is an important factor as we can ensure that the equipment they use is safe but as they are not directly under our employ we

can not ensure that they are competent to use the equipment and this is a major factor which should be considered by all contractors.

Duties of Designers, Manufacturers, Importers and Suppliers

Section 6. The duty of any person who designs, manufactures, imports or supplies any article or substance used at work shall be to:- ensure they are safe and without risks when used at work; carry out any tests and examinations as may be necessary; provide any information about the safe use of the product and anyone installing or erecting the article you use at work has the same duty to ensure that on completion the article is safe to use.

The above section of the act requires persons who design, manufacture, import or supply equipment or substances to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable that the articles or substances supplied are safe and without risks to health and safety.

This means that anyone supplying equipment must ensure so far as is reasonably practicable that all dangerous parts on equipment are guarded to the required standard (BS 5304 Safe Guarding of Machinery) also they must provide information on the safe use and maintenance of the machinery. They should also indicate the presence of any hazard (noise, fumes etc) which could be present with the machinery. The safe use of machinery will be covered in future columns.

With substances supplied for our use we should be provided with a Substance Health and Safety Data Sheet which will give us information to enable us to take the required precautions and enable us to use the substance safely. This will also enable us to comply with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations which we will also be covering later.

■ Next month we will look at employees duties.

■ Further information on training courses and consultancy contact ATB - Landbase Training Services - Jean John on 01282 617466 or Tony Rees on 01686 622799.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER Profile

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club. Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star...

Name: **Robert Purll**

Age: **26**

Club: **Wilderness Golf Club**

Position: **Assistant Greenkeeper**

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

Six and a half years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

NVQ Level 3

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

Construction and renovation

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Divoting fairways

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?

Banking

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

Wilderness Golf Club

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?

More money and fewer golfers!

8. What are your hobbies?

Gym, golf, reading and socialising

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Golf, education, magazine, seminars

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?

Course Manager.