

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: Paul Davies

Club: Tiara Rado, Colorado, USA

Position: Assistant

Age: 40

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
Eight years.

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
HNC Golf Course Management, Distance learning through Elmwood College in Cupar, Scotland

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Walk mowing at sunrise and improvement projects

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Cleaning ditches - we have miles of them!

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

Logistics - materials and financial resourcing

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

Geoff Porter, former Head Greenkeeper of Golf Club Issum, Germany, now in India

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

Give golfers a handout detailing what greenkeeping involves

8. What are your hobbies?

Golf, cross country skiing, white water rafting, travel photography, cooking and music

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Keep in touch with UK greenkeeping

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

Remodeling golf courses or Superintendent

Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF. You can also fax them to 01347 838864, or e-mail them to general@bigga.co.uk

Letter from America

The reason I write is that I saw the announcement in the February issue of the current location of Geoff Porter and his e-mail address, which was great as I'd lost contact with him. Geoff is responsible for introducing me into the profession over in Germany. His great enthusiasm and knowledge got me hooked and resulted in me running my own course and progressing to owning my own greenkeeping business in the UK.

I have recently moved to Colorado to settle down into "married life" and have been fortunate to secure a job here, albeit at assistant level. I think this could be a good way of telling all of the greenkeepers and other wonderful people I have met over the years know of my whereabouts and extend an



open invitation to contact me (or drop in!) and hear 'how it's done' here in the desert. Also, at some later date, I would like to attempt to write a short article about greenkeeping Colorado style and illustrate some of the vast differences due to our extremes of climatic conditions.

Paul Davies
BIGGA Member. 4445.

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An unfair dismissal?

Question - What's the difference between:- a) Head Greenkeeper, b) Course Manager, and c) Senior Greenkeeper?

Answer:- P45

This is a scenario which has occurred all too often. For some reason the committee has held a meeting and decided that you are, due to whatever reasons, made redundant, and a reshuffle of staff takes place. Soon afterwards, the position is advertised in our own magazine with a new job title but the same old job.

What can we do to stop this? How can we protect ourselves, and how is BIGGA supporting its members in such cases?

A.W. Peel
 Bull Bay GC
 Isle of Anglesey

Editor's Note: I can appreciate fully the sentiments contained in your letter, however, we can only take action if we know there has

been, or is, a problem at a particular golf club. A call to Headquarters will alert us to the possibility that an advert may be forthcoming.

Before it has reached that stage, however, members should remember to make full use of our Legal Helpline which can offer advice and, in some cases, legal representation can be arranged which can often prevent a situation reaching the stage that a job is lost. Additionally, it is always wise to have a written contract of employment and a job description which can act as evidence if it is suspected that someone has been employed to do exactly the same job as the one from which you were made redundant.

A stinging letter...

I'm the Golf Course Superintendent at Saratoga Country Club in Saratoga, California. Terry Buchen, of Terry Buchen Golf Agronomy International, has referred BIGGA

as a potential source of remedies and/or advice for controlling a perennial yellowjacket (hornet) problem we face every summer. It is my understanding that the United Kingdom has a serious problem with these aggressors and I am hopeful that you might offer some suggestions for us to develop a plan of attack.

We are located in the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, just outside of San Jose. Typical of California, we have a rainy season from November through March and usually a very dry season from April through October. We are on a hilly terrain, bordered by an "Open Space Reserve" with very few homes and population surrounding us. Every summer there are great populations of yellowjackets that inundate the golf course. This past summer was very tough as we had numerous stings reported, including two rather serious allergic reactions.

To this point, the club has placed hundreds of yellowjacket traps around the property during the high season, mostly in low play/activity areas, with "bait" freshened regularly. They are rather successful in that

we are forced to empty the traps on a regular basis as well. Due to the expanse of land and severe terrain immediately surrounding us, not to mention a large amount of poison oak, it is unrealistic and unaffordable to attempt a nest specific eradication program. The only other item I have covered with the membership is to use caution and visit their physician for either an allergy kit or recommendations in the event that they are stung. For maintenance, we make our best attempt to retain cleanliness, including as few clippings, trash and standing water as possible.

As mentioned earlier, our consultant, Terry Buchen, suggested that you may have some recommendations for reducing the possibilities of stings to our players. I would greatly appreciate any "tricks of the trade" you may have heard or might be utilising to combat the problem.

Tracy Shanahan
 Superintendent
 Saratoga Country Club

Any suggestions should be sent to Ken Richardson at Headquarters and he will pass them on to Tracy.

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