

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER 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:** Chris Hutchinson

**Club:** Newark, Notts

**Position:** First Assistant

**Age:** 19

**1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?**

I started full-time employment in July 1997, after college

**2. What education are you currently undertaking?**

Preparing for PA1, 2 and 6 certificates

**3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?**

Course construction and improvement

**4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?**

Repairing divots

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

Always wanted to do Course Management/Greenkeeping. Saloon car racing would be good, but it's difficult to get the sponsorship

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

Charlie MacDonald, now Course Manager at Crieff, and everyone at Witney Lakes

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

Later tee-off times for players - so we can get on with the job!

**8. What are your hobbies?**

Go-karting, golf, playing drums, basketball, squash, kick-boxing

**9. What do you get out of BIGGA?**

I've borrowed training videos and enjoy GI's up-to-date product, course and career information

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

Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper at Newark. The Lottery win will have come in very handy!

# A new man at Whitby

Thanks to the NVQ system Whitby Golf Club discovered a "new man" amid their existing staff.

Two years ago, Robin Evans saw the benefits that could be gained by going down the road of NVQ.

Prior to this decision he had been finding it hard to proceed through the normal system because he found, as many do, it difficult to express his ideas on paper. The NVQ system seemed to be the answer, offering a practical hands on way of proving his technical ability.

Robin took it upon himself to finance his way forward and prove himself by means of the NVQ System.

Within a week or so, in the capable hands of Head Greenkeeper, Ian Lavelle, the golf club noticed a big change in, not only the attitude, but also the once hidden talents of their, now it seems revitalised, greenkeeper.

"Robin's whole outlook has changed. He has begun to display a renewed personal motivation in his job, pride in his work was evident and his previously subdued skills were now coming to light once more," said Ian.

The delight of Whitby Golf Club in his new attitude spurred Robin on and he constantly looked for new ways to improve his new standards.



Robin states, "All I knew about the job was down to Ian's training and the time he made for me to learn the required skills. However, I thought it was about time I achieved a formal qualification in my own right and sought out details of the NVQ Course

Robin's assessor, Andrew Boyd, Head Greenkeeper of Bridlington Golf Club, was delighted with his response, especially now Whitby Golf Club could see the worth of the NVQ way forward.

"What is most rewarding to me as Robin's Assessor is to see the system in place and working to produce a professional man with a whole new outlook and motivation. Added to this is of course the valuable help

given to both Assessor and Candidate in the skilful hands of the G.T.C. and support throughout the two years of hard work."

Geoff Cooling, Whitby's Greens Chairman said, "The Committee is delighted at Robin's success. At a time when a man of his practical experience might reasonably be expected to rest on his laurels, it is pleasing to see that he has made this tremendous effort to improve his knowledge. Both he and the Club must benefit in the long term."

Ian Lavelle added, "Robin has served Whitby loyally for many years and I and the other members of my staff are delighted at his achievement."

# Practical Greenkeeping given a boost

Following the decision re-print Practical Golf by Jim Arthur, R&A Secretary Sir Michael Bonallack, has written to all greenkeeping colleges explaining that the book promotes sensible greenkeeping practices and should be made available to students.

"It is an excellent book and we have agreed to a re-print and I wrote to all the colleges to let them know of its availability," explained Sir Michael.

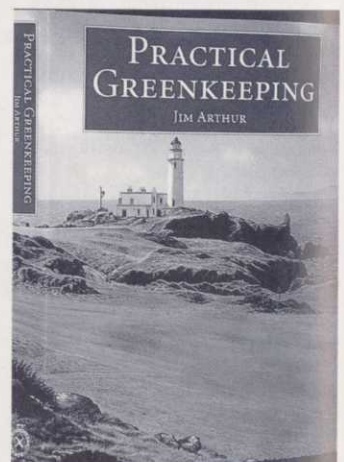
"Jim Arthur's book promotes sound greenkeeping practices and the colleges should use it as part of their teaching tools," he added.

While carrying Jim Arthur's name the book, in addition to containing

Jim Arthur's philosophies on greenkeeping gathered and honed from a lifetime in the industry, is a collection of views and writing from acknowledged experts in many different fields of the game including Donald Steel, Neil Baldwin, Barry Cooper, John Allbut and Jim's own son, Richard Arthur.

"The original idea for the book came from current BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, and it has become a compendium of views from top experts in their respective fields," said Jim.

Autographed copies of the book are available from BIGGA HOUSE priced £29.95 plus £3 p&p.



## Royal Inverdivot GC...

by Tony Husband

