

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: Ralph Proverbs

Club: Lilleybrook GC

Position: First Assistant

Age: 32

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

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
NVQ Level III at Cannington College

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

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

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

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
John Lowe, Hartpury College

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
More First Aid training in case of accidents at work!

8. What are your hobbies?
Triathlon, tennis, weights and golf

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Education, excellent magazine and BTME

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
General Manager of a golf complex

Ian goes for an early bath – almost!

You never know what's around the corner. One minute Ian Toop, an assistant at Donnington Grove GC, was happily cutting the 14th green on his Toro greens mower, the next he was sliding down the hill toward the lake which guards the green.

"He tried to right the mower but wisely decided to jump off just before it plummeted over the sleeper wall and into the lake," said Course Manager, Ross Wilson.

"It is just as well he jumped off because the machine turned over and had he stayed on, he may well have drowned.

"The main thing was that he wasn't injured other than a white face one minute and a red face the next!" said Ross.

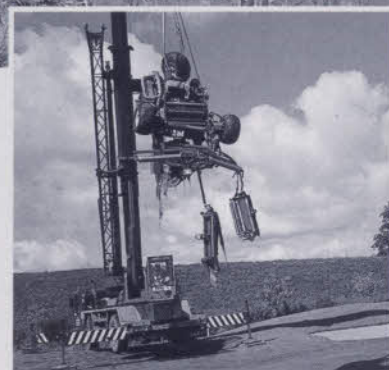
The machine wasn't quite so lucky and after being pulled from the lake - they hired a 35 tonne crane to do the job - it is now at the local Toro dealer having the damage assessed for insurance purposes.

"If these photographs and indeed this incident serve as a warning to young greenkeepers about the dangers involved in the simplest of tasks, then it may have served some purpose," said Ross.



Above: Thankfully, Ian jumped to safety before the Greensmower entered the lake.

Right: A new hazard on the 14th, as a 35 tonne crane rescues the mower from the lake.



New post for Michael



Etesia has appointed Michael Vjestica, right, as Head of Parts & Service for their UK headquarters in Warwick.

Mike has many years hands-on experience of the industry and until recently worked for Jacobsen Division of Textron as IT/Parts Manager. His new duties will include co-ordination of the day-to-day operation of the parts warehouse; dealing with technical and service matters; and liaison with dealers on replacement parts stocking. Preparation for his new

role will include a fortnight's in depth training at Etesia's factory in France.

This appointment is part of Etesia's policy of improving and expanding the company's back up service for dealers and customers in the UK, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

In addition, as part of the company's planned growth programme, Robin Taylor has been appointed UK Sales/General Manager, and is setting up a new Sales Department at Warwick.

Scotts unveil new distribution network

Scotts has reorganised its distribution network in the turfcare and amenity sector.

The changes are a result of a thorough review of the business' distribution needs, following the purchase of Levington Horticulture by Scotts in December 1997, and come into effect this month.

The Scotts Master Distributors appointed to serve the turfcare and amenity market in mainland Britain comprise: Avoncrop Amenity Products Bristol and Bracknell, Richard Aitken (Seedsmen) Ltd Scotland and Aitken Sportsturf Ltd Northern England, E T Breakwell Ltd and R E Rushbrook & Son. In Ireland, John Lindsay Professional Sportsturf and National Agrochemical Distributors Ltd are located North and South respectively and the Channel Islands are covered by Stan Brouard Ltd on Guernsey and David Dumosch on Jersey.

Commenting on the improved network, Scotts UK Professional Vice President Europe, Middle East and Africa, Louis de Kort, said: "The products needed to service the requirements of our professional customers are becoming ever more technical. The new network of Master Distributors ensures that we can provide the higher levels of advice and service that will be needed today and in the future."