

A new career in Germany for Andrew Jeffrey together with Peter Haggarty has opened the door to a whole new set of challenges ...

Under one roof

As an experienced Landscaper of 15 years and pretty set in my working ways, starting my first day's work as a Greenkeeper was very daunting.

I had decided some six months prior to April '98 to try and find work on a golf course, firstly because I am fascinated with the sport, and secondly I wanted a new challenge and considered that perhaps a golf course could use a landscaper from time to time.

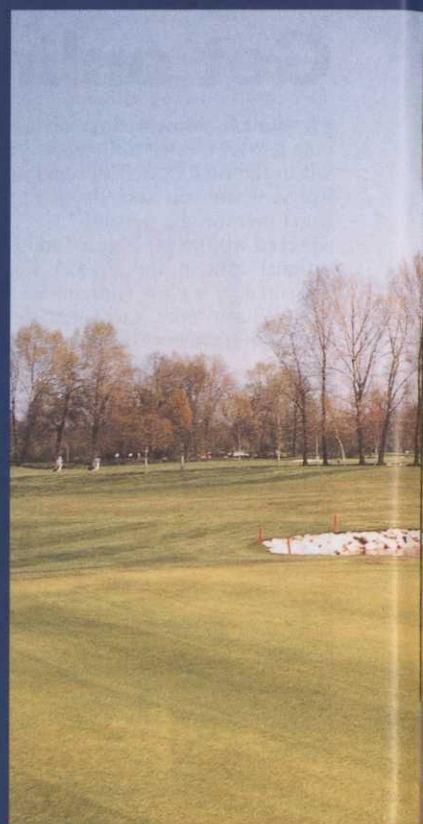
I was very lucky to be offered a job as Greenkeeper/Landscaper at Golfplatz Munchen Nord-Bichenried in March '98. I had lived in Germany since October '92 so I could speak German fairly well but nevertheless I was very relieved when I met the Assistant Head Greenkeeper who turned out to be Peter Haggarty, recently moved over to Germany from Helensburgh Golf Club in Scotland.

I learned very quickly that Peter is a very talented golfer (plays off scratch) and has a terrific enthusiasm

for everything in greenkeeping and in particular course development and construction. Like me, Peter is constantly trying to find ways in which you can improve on things, or how you can do something better next time. One thing, however, struck me after a fairly short while which was every time a new bunker was constructed, or if ideas for course upgrading were to be considered, the Club would ask outside companies for advice and eventually a quote. My thinking then was "we could do that" and "why should we bring in outside help when we are capable of doing the work ourselves".

Essentially, keeping everything "under one roof" seemed to be an obvious way forward for a number of reasons. Firstly, if you have experience in construction and a sound knowledge of up-to-date construction techniques, then why would you bring in outside help? Secondly, I am convinced that if you are passionate about something you will always give 125% to achieve the best possible result. Also, you can be justifiably proud if you have been directly involved and the finished product works and looks good, and finally the cost savings to the club are enormous.

With this in mind, we started talking to our Club Manager, Dieter Von-Restorff, who listened to what we had to say and didn't dismiss the idea as ridiculous as we had feared. The outcome was that there was indeed work that we could undertake and our first project was to make a feature out of a very neglected pond sitting very close to our 4th green. I saw it as an opportunity to really upgrade the area while Peter saw it as an opportunity to really enhance the hole from the perspective of playability. We worked together on



Main picture: The par 5, 6th hole, completed, prior to opening. Myself (Andrew Jeffrey) on the right of flag, and Peter Haggarty, left

Far right: Construction of a dry stone retaining wall around the first tee

Below: The almost complete first tee, shortly before opening



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features are of course very usable but we see them as a natural development of our golf course and as such can offer much more to our members and guests and indeed the Pros when they are here. We think it is essential that people should be offered the most that the Club can provide and we are always looking at ways in which we can improve our product, which in turn keeps members interested and generates much needed cash to help the Club stay healthy.

Perhaps we are lucky here in Bavaria because the winters can be quite long which allows us to undertake construction projects when active greenkeeping is not possible but I think it is very refreshing to have club management who are prepared to lis-

ten to what greenkeepers have to say. After all, we are all members of the same team and the success of the team is only as good as the people within it, so if you all work together then surely you will be successful.

We are currently building a new 9-hole course and the Club has asked that Peter and I oversee the construction. Again, a very positive approach, in respect that although this is a huge responsibility, the Club appreciate that we will have to manage this Course when the constructors have gone home so it is essential we know how it is constructed so we can plan maintenance schedules more precisely for the future. A good argument then for "keeping it all under one roof".

