

Training priorities recommended by GTC Technical Committee

The GTC Technical Committee has set out its recommendations for Greenkeeper training priorities in a three year Business Plan.

"The work of the new Technical Committee within the GTC structure chaired by Dr Mike Canaway will enable the Management Committee to consolidate its position as the Leading Industry Body for Greenkeeping by achieving set objectives and ensuring funding is approved to meet these objectives in the development and implementation of Greenkeeper Education, Training and Qualifications," explained David Golding, the GTC's Education Director.

The Technical Committee consists of the following members:-

Chairman - Dr Mike Canaway
 Consultants - John Davis, Tony Mears,
 Course Manager; Kerran Daly, Course
 Manager; Iain Ritchie, Course Manager;
 David Golding, Education Director GTC, in
 attendance and Sue Gudgeon - N/SVQ
 Co-ordinator, in attendance

Bob McLaren, the Chairman of the Management Committee, has fully supported the work of the Technical Committee and has recommended endorsement of the Business Plan to the Management Committee. The representative bodies are currently considering the Business Plan including the financial implications to implement the Business Plan.

IOG meeting to welcome one and all

The Bristol Branch of the IOG is to hold a special meeting at St. Mary's School, Cable, Wiltshire at which Steven Bernhard, of Bernhard & Co, will be giving an illustrated talk, "Why lap?". Anyone who uses a cylinder mower should find this an extremely interesting talk.

The Branch will give a warm welcome to any member of BIGGA who would like to attend the meeting.

This is the first meeting the IOG have held in this area, and they would appreciate if those intending to come along would first phone Ted Cavell on 01278 788689, so that they may arrange a room of a size to fit the number attending. (Evening calls to Ted would be appreciated).



The third year of the RigbyTaylor sponsored Matchplay Knockout tournament for the South Wales Section members saw 32 individuals equating to 16 pairs from 19 golf clubs. This year's final, as usual at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, was between last year's winners Team Morryston consisting of Daryl Bray and Leigh Davies against Team Pennard consisting of Peter Lacey and Robert Hanford. On this occasion though the Champions were unseated and Pennard clinched the trophy on the 15th green.

Grand Tour Scholarship 2001

The Grand Tour Scholarship invites golf course design and golf course management students for the second time to apply for a journey to leading golf courses throughout the United States in August 2001. The scholarship offers a unique learning experience to future leaders in our industry. TORO sponsors this year's scholarship that has been organized by Bettina Schrickel, golf course architect (EIGCA) and president of Lioness Golf LLC.

The scholarship offers four students the opportunity to visit a variety of famous historic and modern golf courses on the east coast and west coast, respectively. The two study tours include golf courses such as Augusta National, Harbour Town Golf Links, The Count' Club in Brookline, Cypress Point, Pebble Beach and Castle Pines to name just a few.

Both study tours will take place in August. The Western Route will lead to 20 golf courses in 23 weeks; the Eastern Route includes 23 courses and takes four weeks. Experience has proven the benefit of two students traveling together per route in order to exchange knowledge and impressions. Students will have the opportunity to walk each course, study the layout and talk to the golf course superintendent.

Golf course design and turfgrass management students from all over the world are invited to apply. Applicants shall be at least 21 years old and have demonstrated significant efforts and results in their educational career.

The scholarship covers costs for air-plane tickets, rental cars, hotel accommodation and cellular telephones for the duration of the journeys and provides students with the Scholarship Route Book that includes detailed directions, useful information and safety advice.

Applicants must be in possession of a valid passport and an international drivers licence. It is the students own responsibility to obtain a tourist visa for the United States, if applicable, and full health and travel insurance prior to departure.

The deadline for completed applications is April 15, 2001.

The Grand Tour Scholarship Committee will select successful candidates according to the contents and quality of application documents.

For application forms or further information, please contact Bettina Schrickel by phone on (+1) 954462 0157 or via email: fbjbettina@aol.com

Edgbaston GC

A verdict of death by misadventure has been returned on Alan Cutler, Deputy Head Greenkeeper and a much valued staff member of Edgbaston Golf Club, who was crushed by a mower after it toppled onto him as he cut round a bunker's edge.

The Birmingham inquest was told that Alan, who had been at the club for 34 years, had been cutting round a bunker on the 15th hole in March last year when the incident occurred.

When Alan didn't return to the maintenance facility Course Manager, Mike Hughes, went to look for him and found him trapped underneath the machine. It took three men to lift the machine off him and he was declared dead at hospital having suffered respiratory failure due to a crushed chest.

The jury, after having been guided by the Deputy Coroner, took 45 minutes to come to its unanimous verdict. Earlier it had been told that it was the club's normal practice to mow to within at least a foot of a bunker's edge and then hand mow the remainder but that on the occasion in question it was apparent that Alan had been mowing to within one to three inches of the edge.

The Environmental Health Inspector, Pauline Beever, advised that she was not proposing to prosecute as the club had demonstrated that it was a responsible employer and had implemented all recommendations since the accident.

The club had a Health and Safety Policy in place but has tightened its practices still further on the strength of what the HSE had said following the accident.

It has also bought a new machine with a sidewinder mechanism which means operators stay further away from the edge of banks while roll bars have been fitted to every piece of machinery which could accommodate them.

"I think one of the main lessons that other clubs could learn from our very sad experience is to keep in regular contact with the local Health and Safety Executive and see any input as a positive contribution to the working of the club and not a hindrance," said Edgbaston Secretary, Peter Heath.

"We have always had a good relationship with the HSE but having had such an accident on our golf course it has made us even more aware of the need for good practice," he explained.

A civil compensation claim is currently being pursued by 56-year-old Alan's family through the Club's Employer Liability policy.

Website clarification

Anyone finding difficulty accessing Dr Kate Entwistle's website which was listed in last month's magazine may have been confused by a dash which appeared at the end of the line but in the middle of the address.

The website can be accessed at: www.theturfdisseasecentre.co.uk

Royal Inverdivot GC...

www.tonyhusband.co.uk



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