

OnCourse

BIGGA has been joined by Cobalt Concepts to sell OnCourse Golf Course Management software in the UK. Selling for just over a year in the UK the OnCourse Management package is now being used at 10 golf courses and at 14 colleges. Designed by greenkeepers for greenkeepers, the package has a range of facilities to help you to manage your golf course including:

- Staff Records
- Time Sheets
- Supplier Database
- Machinery Inventory and Service information
- Stock Inventory
- Golf Course Details
- Golf Course Maintenance
- Diary of Events
- Budgets and Finance
- Report Generation

Each module links to all other modules and updates any changes. For further information, contact me at BIGGA House or visit the BIGGA Education Stand in Hall M or the Cobalt Concepts Stand in Hall D, at the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions, where you can also see demonstrations of OnCourse.

Liaison Officers

The GTC is still looking for liaison officers. The Role of Liaison Officers is to:

- Liaise with GTC Headquarters on any matters affecting greenkeepers training
- Be the GTC representative within designated areas of the country, to visit Training Provider Centres twice each year and communicate with greenkeeping lecturers and students.
- To attend liaison meetings at Training Provider Centres
- To act as a GTC advisor.
- To co-ordinate moderation meetings for assessors.
- To attend annual update meetings at GTC HQ.

Liaison Officers are still required in the following areas: Cumbria and Lancashire; Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire; Devon and Cornwall; Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk; Dorset; Gloucestershire and Wiltshire; Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire; Leicestershire and Northamptonshire; Shropshire and Herefordshire; Bedfordshire; Cheshire and Isle of Man and Warwickshire and Worcestershire

These are part-time posts and attract payment of £12 per hour and 40p per mile expenses.

Anyone interested in becoming a GTC Liaison Officer should contact the GTC on 01347 838640.

Sami and Ken wish all of their readers a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in Harrogate next month.

Free Money for Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has launched a pilot scheme to help small businesses to improve their health and safety standards. It aims to help plug the Health and Safety gap by providing businesses with matched funding of up to £1000. The Small Firms Assistance Scheme is open to those thinking of starting a new business and small companies with fewer than 10 employees. Companies must have an annual turnover

not exceeding £4,500,000 or an annual balance sheet not exceeding £3,200,000. Pilot areas are West Yorkshire, Essex and Devon and Cornwall. For further information contact the local Business Link:

West Yorkshire 0113 3837733

Essex 01245 241400

Devon and Cornwall 0845 6009966.



Address letters to: **Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF**, or email them to: scott@bigga.co.uk

How can we Progress?

Am I the only reader to see the connection between the Neil Thomas' piece (November issue page 19) and that incredible feature on St Andrews Bay project (pages 14-18)? We note that the owner of this project, Dr Panos, laid down his prime remit that they "have to maintain the golf course with stripes and make them green". This surely says it all! Admittedly Neil Ballingall does not claim that his courses are links. Planting 30,000 trees proves this! The whole project is a travesty of good greenkeeping and traditional standards. The site is no more exposed and subject to much less traffic than scores in the same area. Ryegrass fairways forsooth. There is an old (Scottish) proverb that you cannot play a golf shot off a football pitch. Ryegrasses (dwarf or not) are not golf grasses. They are not natural and never blend with native species to form fine turf. Neil (Thomas) comments, as I have for decades, on the iniquity of Chairmen of Green sacking competent head greenkeepers because they want to impose their ideas (stripes and lush green) over sound good practices. I note an article 16 years ago pointing out that the real enemies of greenkeeping were yobs and yuppies. They start playing at an age too

advanced to receive a clip on the ear when transgressing rules and traditions. Their ambition is to be Captain - and they will use any step on the ladder to achieve it. They will take no advice yet listen to all the latest gimmicks and if opposed, move the earth to move the offender. I know! It is not only head men who are wrongfully sacked (and what paltry compensation is awarded those who win wrongful dismissal claims). I have had my share - a brief note from a secretary (after 30 years of advisory connection with the Club) to say "so and so is now our adviser with immediate effect. Thank you for your past help". Not even management programmes with constitutionally backed authority can save those who speak their minds and expose "new golfers". Whether you are a traditionalist (as I and many others are), or an opportunist prepared to prostitute science to commerce the news is that new golfer is your enemy and exposing him risks the sack. How can we progress in this atmosphere?

J. H. Arthur
Honorary Member
Budleigh Salterton