



YOUR LETTERS ARE NEEDED!

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

A Positive Advertisement

The article "Looking After Your Sand" by Alistair Beggs which featured in the April edition of Greenkeeper International highlighted some common sense guidelines to bunker maintenance. However, the statement "if you do have problems with the construction and/or form of your hazards or they do not drain sufficiently then the first step must be to contact a golf course architect..." needs addressing. This statement clearly implies that greenkeepers are unable to undertake any kind of bunker reshaping or drainage improvements without the help of an architect: this is obviously not a reflection of reality.

While I accept that there is a place for golf course architects in the appropriate circumstance, the work we have undertaken at Highgate in recent years is, I feel, a positive advertisement for in-house renovations. I am happy to extend an open invitation to Mr Beggs, or indeed any greenkeeper, architect, consultant, etc, to come and cast a critical eye over the improvements we have made at this course.

I would be interested to know whether Mr Beggs would feel that "the first step" we should have made would have been to contact a golf course architect.

Richard Andrews, Highgate Golf Club

No Apology Needed

Joe Findlay has no need to apologise for his long-winded essay in your latest issue. After 30 years learning how to produce greens as good as those at Portrush, it would be a shame if he felt he could not use our magazine as a vehicle to pass on what he has learned to "youngsters" like me.

As I've mentioned before, it has been a tough learning experience for me to make the transition from parkland to links greenkeeping with only an open mind, some helpful and enthusiastic staff, an understanding boss and Jim Arthur's rantings to help me out, so any snippets of information people like Joe or "Chairman George" can send my way will always be gratefully received.

It is reassuring to note the similarities between the programmes Joe and I currently favour (although his is obviously more intensive as he has more wear to deal with, and a bigger budget to utilise), as we are both dealing with exactly the same weather and working with exactly the same sand (Portrush is only about 30 miles from Islay).

Anyone who feels they have anything to offer that can help their fellow greenkeepers should do what Joe has done and pass their ideas on - we cannot expect Scott to do ALL the work now, can we?

Simon Freeman, Head Greenkeeper, Machrie GC, Islay

Editor's Note: Like Simon, I would be delighted to hear from any greenkeeper who wishes to do an informative article along the lines of Joe's.

Thanks to Ransomes Jacobsen

I am thrilled to hear that I have been awarded a Ransomes Jacobsen Higher Education Scholarship. I am looking forward to investing it in the realisation of my dream: to be educated at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland, which will result in an MSc grade in golf course architecture.

Thank you so much!

As a matter of course I will keep you informed on any progress and all relevant ins and outs.

Thank you once more for your generosity.

Cees van Nieuwenhuizen, The Netherlands

Thanks to All

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone I have been fortunate to have been involved with in my four years in the trade. To Drew Harkness and everybody at Sherriffs; everyone at John Deere, and all the UK dealers that I have met. The guys at Wiedenmann UK and all the companies I have dealt with.

Finally, a big thank you to all the customers who I have had the pleasure in dealing with. I will miss you all. Thanks a million.

Wullie Ness

Recruitment

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