

SALISBURY SERVICE CELEBRATED

25 years and still greatly enjoying it was the message from David Salisbury as he celebrated a quarter of a century of service at Burghley Park Golf Club as Course Manager. As a mark of the achievement, the club held a Silver Jubilee Golf Day in David's honour.

In the trade for 33 years, Burghley Park is only David's second greenkeeping job, but it could have been so different for this modest man. A qualified electrical engineer, David worked as a Site Manager on building projects in Birmingham up until 1972. The knock on effects of the coal strikes at the time forced him to look for alternate work and it became a toss up between a greenkeeper at Burton on Trent GC or a gardener at a local school. Luckily for greenkeeping Burton got in first and David has never looked back, being promoted to Head Greenkeeper in 1977 and then moving onto Burghley in 1980, where he has turned the course around entirely.

"When I joined we didn't have one tree or sand bunker on the course, it was just a piece of grass land. Sheep grazed on the course resulting in electric fencing being placed around all the greens. I like to think we have moved the course on since then," said David proudly, who has worked with no less than 11 Greens Chairmen during his 25 years.

Moved on is certainly what they have done, the sheep are no longer residents, the fencing has come down, sand bunkers are strategically littered around the course and trees are plentiful, adding



L-R: John Magman, Club Chairman, Paul Wilkinson, Greens Chairman, and Gary Salisbury, David's son and Burghley Park greenkeeper, with David.

much character to this testing course. This has all been done with five staff.

"I've been luckily to have worked with some excellent members at the club, which has allowed me to push the course forward, make needed changes and really develop it. I have had their support throughout my time here and have also had some great staff on my side.

"It's funny, this celebration feels like it's the end of an era, but it's only the start. There is plenty more to do here and I plan to develop the course further within the next 10 or so years."

BACK TO GRASS ROOTS

Andrew Bowey, Course Manager at Oake Manor Golf Club, has recently enrolled two new Greenkeepers on the Modern Apprenticeship scheme. These are David Horrell, 19, originally from Cheltenham, and Charlotte Pring, 16, from Hillfarrance.

Charlotte is following in her father's footsteps, as Nigel Pring was the Course Manager at Oake from the opening of the course 12 years ago. He left the course five years ago and is now the Course Manager of Farrington Golf Club, North Somerset.

"It's a real novelty having Charlotte here. Not just because of the history of her dad working here, but mainly due to the fact that there are very few ladies within the industry. The last time I had any involvement with a lady Greenkeeper was when I was assessing NVQ students at the Belfry many moons ago. There appears to be only a hand full of female greenkeepers in the whole of the southwest. Therefore I am very pleased and proud to have Charlotte on the team," said Andrew.



Oake Manor Greens Team; Back row: First Assistant John Byrne, Ben Scully, Ian Larcombe and Deputy Course Manager James Williams. Front row: David Horrell, Course Manager Andrew Bowey, and Charlotte Pring

David and Charlotte will be studying for their NVQ level two in Greenkeeping over the next two years. Andrew has high expectations for them both and is looking forward to them starting College in October at Cannington College.

GLASS ALWAYS GREENER

Allerton Municipal Golf Course in South Liverpool has become the first Merseyside club to pilot bunker sand made entirely from finely crushed recycled glass.

The scheme has also been rolled out to two other clubs, Caldy on the Wirral and Blundells Hill Golf Course, in St Helens, in what are the United Kingdom's first full scale trials of recycled glass in bunkers. Organisers are looking for feedback from both greenkeepers and players.

The six month pilot has been organised by the Clean Merseyside Centre, a not-for-profit organisation that works to develop alternative markets for recycled products and materials in Merseyside. The trial aims to build on research carried out last year by STRI, which was funded by WRAP. But the scheme is not only helping Allerton's commitment to going greener it's also reaping benefits for players.

"It's early days and the bunker is performing OK so far. Nobody has come up to any of my greenkeepers and made any comment, so it's obviously as good as normal sand as far as they're concerned," said Dave McCormack, Head Greenkeeper at Allerton.

INDEPENDENT INSPIRATION



Tim Lodge, Senior Agronomist with the STRI, has left the Institute to set up his own independent turf consultancy, Agrostis. Agrostis, based in Suffolk, will cover the whole of

the South of England, going north to Nottingham and west to Bristol.

Dr Lodge, who has been with the STRI for over 16 years, gaining a PhD in the construction, irrigation and nutrition of golf greens in 1994, has extensive experience in all technical areas of turf management, including golf, football, rugby, polo, cricket, parks and gardens.

"This is a great chance to advise on all aspects of sport and amenity turf rather than be confined to just one area. Agrostis will tackle any turf, either to recommend treatment for specific problems or take a new project from feasibility study through construction and build. Most turf practitioners are passionate about grass, and my aim is to inspire them to enhance the turf they look after, both for their own pleasure and that of others," said an excited Tim.