

# As Easy as ABC



You never stop learning so, in conjunction with the GTC and lecturers from some of the UK's top greenkeeping colleges, GI has launched a new series which gives the developing greenkeeper the chance to add to their knowledge with some useful advice.

## DEVELOPING A WORK ETHIC

Andy Turnbull, Course Manager for Sports Turf at Warwickshire College offers his advice.

The most important thing any young greenkeeper needs to learn is a work ethic and willingness to learn. When I was a Golf Course Manager, my biggest frustration was the attitude of some young greenstaff. Turning up late, finding any excuse to sit on their backside, having to always get them going after break times - all contribute to the conclusion that this person does not want to follow a career in greenkeeping.

So, how can young greenkeepers show that they can work hard, are reliable and would be missed if they left?

1. Be the first at work waiting for the gates to be unlocked, showing you want to be there.



Clipping edges - a simple job but one that has a great effect on overall course presentation if carried out conscientiously



2. When allocated a task don't moan about it but do the best you can.
3. If you finish the job early and no one is around find something else to do, for example, pick up a broom and sweep the shed or yard or clean some machines and check oil levels.
4. Ask questions, showing you want to learn about the job.

Golf greenkeeping can provide a worthwhile and rewarding career. Wages for a Course Manager are generally above many other professions, e.g. teaching, and the opportunities are available to achieve any level of qualification you are capable of - from NVQ to Masters Degrees. However, the higher you progress in greenkeeping the fewer the opportunities for advancement. By showing initiative and gaining a reputation for working hard and being reliable, you will give yourself a good chance to progress in your career.

## Letters ▶▶

### Thank you Hoylake!

I am sure that many of my colleagues, like myself, suffer from Augusta Syndrome. It always strikes during that awful hiatus between winter and soil temperatures rising. Suddenly we are besieged by telly watching members all asking "Why aren't our greens, tees shrubs et al like Augusta?"

My stock answers of,

a) "We are on 300 feet of clay and have a climate more akin to Alaska than Augusta", or...

b) "We don't have six members, a course closed for half the year for preparation or a 20 zillion dollar budget", just don't seem to cut the ice.

This year at Hoylake we were treated to a fantastic display of golf. The best man won, not just because he is technically great, but he also worked out the nuances of links golf better than any other player.

So I say God bless you Hoylake. For the great golf? Well, yes for that, but more for producing a brilliant course where, to this date, not one of my members has asked, "Why can't our course look like that?"

A very grateful Greenkeeper!

Tony Leinster

Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Bearwood GC

### It Need Not Be Green To Be Good

I just wanted to write to you to thank you and the Association for selecting me to be part of the BIGGA Open Support Team, for the recent championship at Hoylake.

The five days were everything that I hoped they would be and more. From the moment we turned up, the level of expectancy and professionalism was to the fore, as one would expect for such an event. The organisation was first class for the whole week. The catering arrangements were excellent - the ladies in the cathedral kept us well stocked.

As this was my first time, it was very good to have seasoned Support Team workers to encourage us along. The level of professionalism shown by all attending the championship was very encouraging for our Association. The camaraderie of all the volunteers was wonderful and added to the experience.

The work was hard and the hours long, but the opportunity to walk inside the ropes in the Open Championship eased the pain of the blisters and the heat. If anyone is considering volunteering for next year's Open, I heartily recommend it, it's an experience quite unlike any other.

On a final note, congratulations must go to Craig Gilholm and his team for giving us a traditional golfing experience of the highest calibre. The work of the green staff at Royal Liverpool should go to exemplify the fact that it need not be green to be good.

A great many thanks once again.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Scruton