



## OHIO ARTICLE

My name is Jack Critchley from Royal Jersey GC in Jersey CI. I have just recently gained my NVQ level 2 in Sportsurf with Myerscough college.

I want to thank you for the excellent article you published recently about Pinehurst. This is exactly what I need in my career, as I can not find that level of management, pressure and training (6 Courses) on the Island of Jersey. I am really keen on getting recognised for this as

I am the first person to be enrolled on the program from Jersey CI And think something like this would be extremely beneficial!

I have since been accepted by The Ohio State Program and they are placing me at a very famous course, Scioto Country Club, home course of Jack Nicklaus when he was growing up in Columbus Ohio. I met the Superintendent at your conference in Harrogate, as he was over for your show, which I flew up from Jersey to attend, and I really enjoyed it.

Thank you again for your help and would be grateful to hear from you in the near future.

Kind Regards  
**Jack Critchley**

## THANK YOU

Dear Editor

As a past member of BIGGA and former Langland Bay Golf Club greenkeeper, I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all club members, especially Mrs Gifford, Lady Captain 06 and Mr S Jones, Club Captain 06, for such as generous donation to the Ann Conroy Trust charity. Your support has been superb.

Yours sincerely  
**Paul Houlton**

## Course Feature

### Chance of a Lifetime

The Ohio State University Turfgrass Intern Programme, has brought together seven interns from the UK for hands-on training at The Pinehurst Resort, North Carolina.

Robert Lucas - Course 3, Niall MacDonald & Tom Freeman - Course 4, Craig Hay - Course 5, Jaime Smith - Course 6, Stephen Borgan - Course 7, Neil Kennedy - Course 8 give you an idea of what life is like on an internship at Pinehurst.



Left to right, back: Thomas Freeman, James Smith, Neil Kennedy, Stephen Borgan, Front: Niall MacDonald, Craig Hay, Robert Lucas

The aim is to equip the interns with the skills, experience and knowledge they need to succeed in the Turfgrass Maintenance Industry worldwide. The programme is also a great opportunity to have fun, learn, and make contacts with people who can extend your support network, both professionally and personally, from around the world.

Our visa allows us to undertake work based practical training for 12 months with the option of extending for another six months.

Accommodation is arranged by Pinehurst Resort and we live together in the same apartment complex, only five miles from the golf courses. There's lots to do when not at the course. We are all really keen golfers and spend most of our spare time playing. At Pinehurst employees, we get free use of the golf courses and practice facilities - the only cost is \$2 for a golf cart.

The hours we do and the amount of overtime varies throughout the year. During spring, summer and autumn we start at 6am and finish at 3pm, Monday - Friday. During winter we start at 7am. Weekend duty is compulsory and, although you are only asked to be on duty every other weekend, most interns go in every weekend for the experience. We do a lot of overtime during the summer months, it's not physical work but it is very responsible and an important duty - "walk watching" and spraying greens (more later).

Interns are trusted with a lot of responsibility because we have all been to college and have a qualification. We also use machinery and equipment that we had never used before and carry out topdressing, aeration,

irrigation, spraying fungicide, herbicides, to insecticides and fertiliser.

The Pinehurst Resort is the largest golf resort in the US, with eight golf courses and three hotels in 1900 Donald Ross came to Pinehurst and stayed for 48 years, during which time he re-designed course 1; was the architect for the world famous course 2, which opened in 1907, and Course 3 which opened in 1910. Course 5 was designed by Ellis Maples in 1961. Courses 4, 6 & 8 were the work of Tom Fazio. Course 7 was designed by Renee Jones in 1986.

Pinehurst has mild winters, allowing for a long golfing season so golfers from the northeastern states use it as a winter retreat. It is on sandy soil which provides great drainage all year round.

In 2005 it hosted the US Open Championship won by Michael Campbell with a score of even par.

The climate of North Carolina is mild winters and very hot summers which means Pinehurst is in a transition zone. They use warm season turfgrass during the summer months and cool season turfgrass during the winter months, which is a great experience for us to be exposed to from a management perspective.

#### PINEHURST THROUGH THE SEASONS

##### SUMMER

Summer temperatures frequently hit 80°C so bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*) is used as the warm season turfgrass. A hybrid bermudagrass called Tifway 419 is used because it has a finer leaf blade, produces a tight sward and is more drought and shade tolerant than common bermudagrass. It grows on the tees, fairways, roughs, collars, and approaches.

We started to notice "green-up" and recovery of bermudagrass in late February when night temperatures remain above 15°C for several days, soil temperature also needs to reach 18°C at the 10cm depth. By the last week in June 99% of the ryegrass had wilted out of the golf courses.

The greens are cut everyday during the summer, the other areas such as fairways, rough, tees, collars and approaches are cut every other day.

The greens at Pinehurst are seeded with Penn G-2 creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) because it provides a high quality putting surface and year round colour. We cut the greens very low - 3.1mm is the usual cut height.

G-2 is a very heat tolerant cool season turfgrass so is able to tolerate the high summer temperatures, but only if a lot of effort is made to cool the greens by syringing to replace lost water from the leaf and reduce the temperature of the canopy.

We are given the responsibility of syringing the greens, which involves hand watering areas of the greens that begin to wilt. These areas are called "hot spots" and are syringed over and over all afternoon usually from

## ASTHMA UK

My name is Andy Reason. I work at Sunningdale Golf Club, Surrey, as First Assistant Greenkeeper and I have suffered from Asthma all my life (26 years now). I am just one of 5.2 million people in this country that suffer with this condition, one person dies every seven hours from asthma. When I was younger I was often in hospital with the condition and I am very thankful for all the research that had been done, and continues to be done, that allowed me to be treated.

So that is why I have decided to help by running the Flora London Marathon 2007 in aid of Asthma UK, along with my friend Steve Richardson who also works at Sunningdale as a Head Greenkeeper.

We have been training for a couple of months now, but before we actually take on the 26 miles we have to reach another finishing line, our fundraising target of £4,000. Yes, it is a lot of money, but we are committed to the challenge and we are getting there. However we still have along way to go and this is the reason for this letter. I would be grateful if BIGGA could print this letter in Greenkeeper International asking for sponsorship from fellow members and companies, to help Asthma UK continue to improve people's lives with Asthma.

I know you must get letters like this all the time but I do hope that you will be able to make a contribution towards our goal of £4,000 no matter how small, every penny counts. If you would like more information about the race or the vital work of Asthma UK just visit the website at [asthma.org.uk](http://asthma.org.uk) or call the charity on: 020 7786 5000. If you want to contact me directly to discuss this further or maybe just tell me that we are crazy to run 26 miles please feel free to call me on: 07725954411.

Many thanks for your time I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully  
**Andy Reason**