

# Assistant Profile

Each month we take a light hearted look into the life of an assistant greenkeeper...

**Portsmouth FC fan, Peter, works at Hankley Common, or at least he did until his Course Manager reads this! From golf clubs to nightclubs, Peter has a wide variety of interests...**



**Name:** Peter Oliver  
**Age:** 24  
**Club:** Hankley Common GC  
**Position:** Assistant Greenkeeper  
**Nickname:** Monty!

**How long have you been greenkeeping?**  
7 years

**What was it about the career that attracted you?**  
My brother was a greenkeeper so always interested. Was helping in the pro shop at Old Thorns Golf Club when Derek Cunliffe asked me if I would like to work the summer as a greenkeeper. The rest is history.

**If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?**  
Not a clue. As I said before always interested in the game of golf.

**Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?**  
Raking bunkers gives me satisfaction when finished as a job well done. Although it's not something that I look forward to so much after a thunder storm.

**Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?**  
Cutting fairways - I don't like being on my backside for too long.

**What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?**  
In my time things have improved a lot including conditions and education. As in life, long may this continue.

**What are your favourite hobbies?**  
Golf, and I play a bit of football. I also like clubbing.

**And your favourite band?**  
Stereophonics and all dance music.

**Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?**  
Portsmouth FC.

**What is your claim to fame?**  
None really, so far. Was once caught on the TV cameras at a Leicester City v Pompey football match celebrating an away win.

# What's your number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month's lucky number...

**Tim Fell of Tillers Turf comes under the spotlight**



**Name:** Tim Fell  
**Company:** Tillers Turf  
**Position:** Managing Director

**How long have you been in the industry?**  
26 years.

**How did you get into it?**  
I must have been born with a green gene because I was mowing my parent's lawns at a very early age. It was a natural progression to grow the stuff.

**What other jobs have you done?**  
Agronomist with Commonwealth Development Corporation, Swaziland. Chemical Representative with Fisons Plc.

**What do you like about your current job?**  
I feel enormous satisfaction when someone compliments our turf. Growing a large area of high quality turf, and achieving consistency year after year, is very challenging. Our production team does an exceptional job.

**What changes have you seen in the industry?**  
The size and automation of machinery have been the most visible. Gone are the days of stacking turf by hand. And the use of 10m-wide GPS-guided mowers means that cutting 200 acres per machine per day is a snap. The selling of turf on the internet kicked off a few years ago, and is now responsible for a large percentage of sales to homeowners. Our retail site, [www.turfshop.co.uk](http://www.turfshop.co.uk) is a useful income stream for the company. The Turf Growers Association (TGA), of which I am currently Chairman, has made great strides in the last ten years. It is now a very professional organisation which sets the standard for turf production in this country.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
I play trumpet in a jazz band, fish for trout between March and October, and play bridge during the winter.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?**  
I can't see that far ahead.

**Who do you consider as your best friends in the industry?**  
My very best friends are our customers. Not far behind are our suppliers, who make up a very important part of our team in providing us with great products to work with.

**What do you consider to be your lucky number?**  
I don't have one.

**Pick a number**  
7.

*Tim has picked Derek Boulton, from Hayter, to take part next month.*