

Assistant Profile

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

When he's not bumping into Professional Golfers in Pro Shops, this month's interviewee, Ben Wallis, is looking after the greens at Rookery Park

Name: Ben Wallis
Age: 20
Club: Rookery Park
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Nickname: Greenfinger



- 1. How long have you been greenkeeping?**
Three and half years
- 2. What was it about the career that attracted you?**
Opportunity came up at the club at the right time. Part time became fulltime.
- 3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?**
Golf Professional
- 4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?**
Mowing semi rough with the new Toro Sidewinder because you are sitting down and hand mowing greens because it is good exercise and it always looks good.
- 5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?**
Raking bunkers.
- 6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?**
Having all the necessary equipment to do the job.
- 7. Hobbies?**
Golf (1 handicap), swimming, gy and carp fishing 25 pounder best so far.
- 8. Favourite Band?**
Nickleback
- 9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?**
West Ham United
- 10. What is your claim to fame?**
Spoke to Open Champion Paul Lawrie in the pro shop at The Belfry.

What's your number?

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

Rod Feltham of Avoncrop Amenity comes under the spotlight



- 1. What is your position within the company?**
Managing Director
- 2. How long have you been in the industry?**
Over 30 years
- 3. How did you get into it?**
In 1978 I joined a Bristol company as Sales Manager, responsible for growing the business in Amenity Horticulture and in 1990 formed Avoncrop Amenity Products.
- 4. What other jobs have you done?**
I spent my early working years in agriculture/horticulture, selling pesticides and fertilisers and for 8 years was an Area Manager for Pan Britannica Industries (PBI).
- 5. What do you like about your current job?**
The challenge customers create in modern day turf management along with the huge satisfaction of heading up a very successful team.
- 6. What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?**
The management of sports turf has changed during recent years due to many opportunities available for training, greater expectations of the golfer, leading to a more professional approach and greater depth of knowledge with budgetary skills & presentation.
- 7. What do you like to do in your spare time?**
I enjoy spending time with my young grandson and when the time allows, walking in the Lake District and playing Lawn Bowls. I am also a keen supporter of Bristol City FC.
- 8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?**
Retired I hope!
- 9. Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?**
Many customers have been with us since in 1990 and without them, we could not have succeeded. These are my friends.
- 10. What do you consider to be your lucky number?**
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Rod has picked Nigel Wyatt of Abbots