

Assistant Profile

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

If he hadn't become a greenkeeper, Richard Larkin might have been running his Dad's business by now ...either that or playing for Millwall FC! This month's Assistant once played for their junior team...



Name: Richard Larkin

Age: 20

Club: Tenterden Golf Club Kent

Position: Greenkeeper

Nickname: Granny!

1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

Two years

2. What was it about the career that attracted you?

Originally worked in the Pro Shop but soon wanted to get out on the course.

3. If you weren't a greenkeeper what do you think you'd be?

Not sure but would probably be helping with my Dad's business. Always wanted to be outdoors and active.

4. Which task do you most enjoy doing and why?

Cutting the rough, gives me time to think, plus the odd golf ball.

5. Which task do you least enjoy doing and why?

Bunker raking especially after a bad storm.

6. What one thing - other than a pay rise - would improve the greenkeepers' lot?

There is always room for improvement. Perhaps one day in the distant future we could be able to control the weather!

7. Hobbies?

Playing golf (5 handicap), football and clubbing.

8. Favourite Band?

Various bands but particularly like Garage/Dance music.

9. Which team do you support (football or otherwise)?

Charlton Athletic FC and Millwall FC – I played for Millwall Juniors.

10. What is your claim to fame?

Played football with one or two Millwall up and coming stars and golf with European Tour Player Benn Barham. But watch this space!

What's your number?

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

Patrick Vivers, of Etesia comes under the spotlight



1. What is your position within the company?

President of Etesia SAS and MD of Etesia UK Ltd

2. How long have you been in the industry?

I joined Outils Wolf in Wissembourg, France in 1976; then started with Etesia in 1988, when the Wolf family decided to invest in a new factory/product/brand.

3. How did you get into it?

One of the Directors of Outils Wolf was introduced to me by a German Politician during a study-exchange with the University of Saarbrücken and my Business School in Chambery.

4. What other jobs have you done?

Sales & marketing were always my main activity. Since I joined Etesia I have added export to my favourite activities, as I am fluent in French, German, English and Italian. Export nowadays represents 50% of Etesia's business, whilst Etesia UK is our second biggest export country.

5. What do you like about your current job?

What I like most is the diversity, with all management aspects including R&D, production, sales & marketing, after-sales, finance...Secondly the fact I work for a family-owned company where return on investment is seen as long term, with very little shareholder pressure.

6. What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?

Modern distribution, Chinese imports and pressure on price, production de-localisations and new manufacturing technology.

7. What do you like to do in your spare time?

Motorcycling, walking

8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

Drawing my pension, and maybe set up a new own-business with my sons (25 year old twins)

9. Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?

I'm not sure we can talk about friends in business, but I do have many good work colleagues. Of course, over the years some excellent relationships have been built with dealers and suppliers.

10. What do you consider to be your lucky number?

Seven, my birth month

Patrick has picked Rod Feltham of Avoncrop