

Assistant Profile

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

Robbie "Rab" Murdoch, a Raith Rovers fan, is into Rock band, Oasis and was a star guest on Chris Evans' Radio Show!

Name: Robbie Murdoch

Age: 29

Club: Dundas Park GC

Position: First Assistant

Nickname: Rab, Bob, Bobski.



1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

9 years.

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

My big brother David is the CM at Liphook GC, I worked six summer seasons at Liphook before I started full time and really enjoyed it!

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

I studied design at College and University, so probably something along that line.

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

I enjoy all aspects of my job, especially when the sun is shining!

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

Not much really. Probably mowing fairways, the machine seems to be a magnet for flying golf balls even when there is nobody playing the hole your working on!

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

Better communication and understanding of our job between club officials and golfers.

7. Hobbies?

Playing golf (or should that be trying to play!), I love my PS3 (although the wife doesn't), anything that involves eating and drinking!

8. Favourite Band?

Oasis

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

Fife's finest, Raith Rovers

10. What is your claim to fame?

Star guest on the Chris Evans radio show, when he did his Radio Two show live from my parents' house.

What's your number?

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

David Snowden of Agronomic Services comes under the spotlight



1. What is your position within the company?

MD of Agronomic Services Ltd. and European Technical Director for Floratine Products Group.

2. How long have you been in the industry?

20 years.

3. How did you get into it?

I started as sales manager for probably the best turf production company in the UK, Lindum Turf.

4. What other jobs have you done?

The Snowden family has farmed for five generations, so pig and arable farming mainly, lumber jacked in Canada, sold John Deer tractors in Nebraska, Ski Instructor, and waiter for 50 minutes!

5. What do you like about your current job?

People in the turf industry, in many ways are like dealing with farmers, which is always entertaining, and they're full of passion!

Mother Nature makes the job interesting, as you're never quite sure what she's going to do next.

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

Pioneering companies like Floratine, successfully introducing the concept of foliar feeding.

Environmental issues, European bureaucracy, and legislation gone raving mad.

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

Played Rugby all my life, now watch it because, I'm too old to play, skiing with the family, golf, shooting, and motor sport.

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

I think we had better make it 5 years! Still here I hope. Definitely spending more time playing golf, and skiing all winter. "You are allowed to dream".

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

There are many, but I would like to mention the Cavanaugh brothers, and Stephan Breisach in Austria, who has given me great advice over the years.

10. What do you consider to be your lucky number? 13

11. Pick a number. 13

Bill has picked Bill Hawthorne of 2ic