

Assistant Profile

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

Red Devil, Mike, wants to be a Firefighter, and when he's not watching Man United play, he enjoys repairing cars!



Name: Mike Stewart

Age: 44

Club: The Tytherington Club

Position: First Assistant

Nickname: "Stumpy"

1. How long have you been greenkeeping?

28 years

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

Outdoor Life

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

A Firefighter

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

Cutting holes and setting a good test of golf.

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

None.

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

People having a greater understanding of what we actually do.

7. Hobbies?

Golf, car repairs and walking

8. Favourite Band?

Beautiful South

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

Man United

10. What is your claim to fame?

Appeared in various golf related magazines

What's your number?

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

Bill Hawthorn of 2iC comes under the spotlight



1. What is your position within the company?

I am the founder of 2iC Consultants and also a Director

2. How long have you been in the industry?

Since 1964 when I became the General Manager of BOIL.

3. How did you get into it?

I was an engineer at The Harland Engineering Company and Wright Rain was one of our clients. I used to design hydraulic and electrical systems for Jack Wright. One day Jack offered me a job and he said he had secured the distribution rights for Toro popups. He wanted me to find a market for them. I proposed golf and developed an electrical automated system. The first course to have one was Handsworth.

4. What other jobs have you done?

I was the founder of Watermation, (which I ran for 25 years), who developed the first practical two-wire irrigation control system and the first hand held remote control. I was also one of the founders of EGGA.

5. What do you like about your current job?

The opportunity and freedom to be a creative engineer over a wide range of challenges. Nothing gives me more pleasure than being called in to solve a problem.

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

The move from irrigation being seen as an ad hoc affair to properly designed systems incorporating advanced technology.

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

I am a very active member of Cranleigh Baptist Church. I also project managed building a new church.

8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?
Hopefully still alive and active!

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

Greenkeepers. It has been a pleasure to work in an industry where everyone is so pleasant and friendly.

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

Well I'm not really one who thinks of luck as such. I am more with "The harder you work the luckier you get" philosophy. I was born on Friday the 13th! so I guess that number will do.

11. Pick a number. 15

Bill has picked Maarten de Vroom from Greentoi