



## JERSEY BLOG

We've had a good response to last month's blogging article – and one of the most progressive greenkeeper blogs has emerged on the island of Jersey.

John Critchley, greenkeeper at Les Mielles Golf & Country Club, maintains an impressive blog with frequent updates and images of the team at work on the Championship course which is in a picturesque conservation area of the island.

Read it for yourself at [www.lesmiellesgroundscrew.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.lesmiellesgroundscrew.blogspot.co.uk). It's also pleasing to note that it's given a very prominent spot on the club's website – clearly visible at the top of the text on the homepage.

John says: "I started the blog in October last year to make the members aware of what we're doing and educate them on why we follow certain practices. For example, when hollow coring greens you always tend to hear the same things from unhappy golfers. However when they are informed in advance via the blog, and we explain the benefits, they are more understanding. We also have a busy schedule ahead of us, including rebuilding and adding

a few bunkers, tee renovations, and drainage works, so it's a good portfolio for our greenkeeping team. It has certainly created a good communication link between the members and our team, I believe it's shown them we are dedicated and take pride in what we do.

"The feedback from the Club has been positive. Members who you never thought would come to us say they have been following the blog which is great. I feel the majority of golfers don't understand what our job entails. When the weather's bad some believe we either go home or sit in the break room drinking coffee. Actually we're servicing the machines, setting up mowers, cleaning and organizing store sheds, doing paint work and all manner of other tasks. It's important to make the members aware we are always doing valuable work.

"The members know they have the option to contact me for more information, I am easily approachable. It's benefited the membership, the management and it's created a kind of buzz within our team."

