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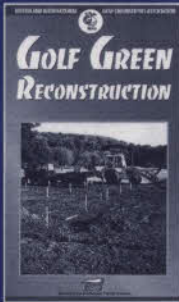

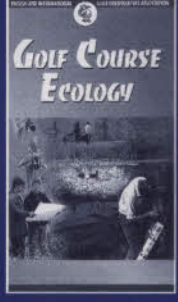
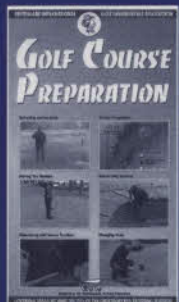


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For further details and application form, contact:  
Elmwood college, Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB. Tel: 01334 658800  
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# Course Manager

### The Course:

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Please apply in writing stating existing salary to  
A M Thresh, General Manager, The Westerwood Hotel, Golf & Country Club, 1 St Andrews Drive, Cumbernauld, G68 0EW Tel: 01236 457171

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Has a vacancy for a

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An excellent opportunity has arisen at this prestigious 18 hole golf club for an enthusiastic and ambitious greenkeeper seeking career progression.

The successful applicant, will be qualified to at least NVQ level 3 or equivalent, possess PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates, and have a minimum of 5 years experience on a course with high standards. They shall be familiar with the latest greenkeeping technology and be able to demonstrate an ability to lead, motivate and organise staff. A knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems would also be an advantage.

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Gordon Hogg, Secretary/Manager, Burhill Golf Club, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 4BL  
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Please apply in writing enclosing full CV no later than Friday 31st July, 1998, to:  
D. A. Peacock, Secretary Manager, The Chesterfield Golf Club, Walton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire. S42 7LA.

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TILLINGTON ROAD, BURGHILL, HEREFORD HR4 7RW  
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Ingon Lane, Snitterfield, Nr Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire CV37 0AQ



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## ELLESBOROUGH GOLF CLUB

Has a vacancy for an

# ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicant should have a minimum of two years experience in all aspects of golf course maintenance NVQ Level 2 or equivalent. PA1A, PA2 and PA6 preferred.

Apply in writing with full CV to:  
A JOHNSON, COURSE MANAGER, ELLESBOROUGH GOLF CLUB,  
BUTLERS CROSS, AYLESBURY, BUCKS HP17 0TZ

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## CHALFONT PARK GOLF CLUB

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The successful applicant must have a minimum of three years experience, qualified to Phase 2 and PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates and hold a clean driving licence.

No living accommodation.

Apply in writing enclosing CV to:-  
Perry Harvey, Head Greenkeeper, Chalfont Park Golf Club,  
Threehouseholds, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks HP8 4LW



**Sandy McDivot, Head Greenkeeper at Sludgecombe  
 Pay and Play recalls some of the comments directed  
 at greenkeepers over the years...**

# Often Over

Many years ago when I was a mere school leaver, I came to that inescapable situation where employment was required. Like many school leavers at the time it slowly dawned upon me that the vocations that I was pursuing were not often available to an acne ridden, streak of unmentionable liquid substance, that made Rodney Trotter look positively dynamic. Formula One motor racing driver, golf pro who could not play golf or one of those people that rub oil into the page three models before a photo shoot. These were all careers that I had informed my career adviser to

which I was well suited but he suggested I try being a waiter in the short term until one of the above jobs came my way. The job of waiter, like other dregs of the employment world is a job that involves constantly being nice to members of the public. This is a quality that did not come naturally to me and so after two years of teeth grinding and tongue biting I mutually agreed with my employer to terminate my employment so as to avoid possible physical injury.

I then found myself in the more fulfilling occupation of Greenkeeper. To my slight disappointment, however, I discovered that the greenkeeping industry also involves the task of dealing with members of the public. This is

made doubly difficult for us by the fact that our

members of the public are also members of a golf club. As we are all aware, golf club membership brings with it total wisdom in all matters relating to golf course management but also appears to give them certain rights that are not bestowed upon others that make up the general populace. These rights include being allowed without hindrance, to tell all golf club staff of their inherent short comings and to advise accordingly. It also gives them the right to exhume worn

out jokes at will and to receive ribald laughter from those unfortunate members of staff within earshot.

So we greenkeepers are burdened with an endless stream of witticisms and remarks that we are obliged to take in good humour. The first time I heard that classic remark when moving the tee markers; "Put them forward" it was almost amusing. But after 20 years of its continued use, forcing a grin becomes physically demanding.

The same applies to that constantly repeated one liner; "Couldn't you kick it back onto the fairway?" usually heard after nearly being decapitated by an errant golf ball while innocently working in the rough. Or that all time great of the past, present and no doubt future one so often hears when applying seed or fertiliser by hand; "Feeding the chickens?" Then there's the one that I am sure you will all recognise after top dressing a green; "Come and do my lawn next."

Now I have to apologise to any members that may be reading these lines but these remarks were never of side splitting proportions when it comes to their jocularity and when they are heard for that thousandth time they can be, to be quite frank, a trifle tedious if not down right irritating. But despite this, in the line of duty we all manage to raise a smile and even a slight snigger if pushed to do so. I often thought about falling about helplessly in uncontrolled hysterical guffawing as a response to these remarks, but felt the issuer may detect a hint of sarcasm and so take this reaction unkindly.

But I must not be so derogatory to our golfing friends, after all, as they are so quick to remind us, it is they who pay our wages. In fact when one really analyses the subject of golfer and greenkeeper interaction it becomes clear that it is the members who are often on the receiving end of our remarks. For example, at one club that engaged me many years ago during my formative years, we had one of the local lads working for us. He was mowing a green and had to wait for the Lady Captain to play through. He waited and waited until





# heard

impatience got the better of pure thought and he eventually quietly muttered that familiar phrase that must of crossed all of our minds at one time; "Come on you stupid old battle axe."

Now one thing that all greenkeepers must recognise is that nature has a funny little peculiarity whereby it seems that if someone is working with a machine going, they think that no one could hear what they are saying, when in fact they can. Of course, if another person were to speak to them they couldn't hear a word, but it does not work the other way round. The advent of ear defenders has further exaggerated this phenomenon. It is all about proximity to engine noise or something. I am sure Newton or Einstein had a law for it but it is clear that this particular greenkeeper was unaware of its existence and so the Lady Captain was able to hear every word. Being a true Londoner he was able to bluff his way through her understandable objections to being called a battle axe, claiming that someone hidden in the bushes behind had used these well chosen words and not him.

What about the replies we give to some of those classic remarks we hear on a regular basis. Well at this same club the then Head Greenkeeper told me of a response he and his colleagues once gave to the perennial exclamation of horror from a member; "What are you doing to the greens?" following the annual hollow tine. "We are killing worms." came the reply from the greenkeepers. "What do you mean killing worms?" questioned the member. "Well, we make all these holes in the greens and then bang on it with a shovel, then when the worms poke their little heads out of one of the holes to see what is going on, we shoot the buggers." I was not informed of the response the member gave to this story but the beauty of this explanation to hollow tining, is the recipient has insufficient knowledge to know whether his leg is being pulled or not and so they go away with a slightly bemused look. Remember though, comments

like this can be a great source of irritation to the members.

Another good way of irritating members is with this comment. This was told to me by the same Head Greenkeeper from the above club and was the response given to that other remark perpetually given out by members as soon as spade meets ground, "Are you building a bunker?" Amazingly, on this occasion the greenkeepers in question were, actually building a bunker but they decided to give the member some alternative information. "No, we are building a nuclear fall out shelter for the committee," they replied. "What, a nuclear fall out shelter for the committee," said the alarmed member. "Yes," they said, "It has all been approved."

Incredible though it may seem, this member fell for it hook, line and sinker and hurried off to the clubhouse to try and insist he was included in the shelter when Leonid Brezhnev or whoever it was at the time, decided to go out with a blaze of glory. Personally, the thought of sharing a hole for several months with the golf club committee would make slow death by radiation poisoning seem positively inviting but obviously this member had other ideas.

But before anyone gets ideas that I am opposed to the average club committee I must just tell you of one of their little gems they once came up with. This concerns a particularly stuffy club in the Midlands that was still back in the dark ages when it came to sexual equality. At this club, there was a sign on the driveway that stated: NO WOMEN OR DOGS ALLOWED ON SUNDAYS.

Now somewhat understandably, the women were a

little concerned at this sign. It was not so much that they were not allowed to play on Sundays but more because the sign seemed to infer that they were of the same social standing as our four legged friends. So a sub committee was formed and the Lady Captain sent to the Secretary to make the relevant protestations.

The Secretary said that of course the sign would be changed and that it would be brought up at that evenings committee meeting. So the Lady Captain went away happy with the knowledge that the first inroads had been made and that the

walls of male chauvinism would soon be crumbling away. The following week she came up to the golf club eager to view the spoils of her good work and upon entering the driveway gazed upon the new sign. It read: NO WOMEN ALLOWED ON SUNDAYS. DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON A LEAD.

Well, you've got to admire their wit.





## Feature listing from June '96

**June '96;** Compaction; Seacroft GC; Education; Health and Safety; Architecture - East Herts GC; Fighting Annual Meadow Grass

**July '96;** Loaders, diggers and excavators; Royal Lytham GC; Protective Clothing; Modern Apprenticeships; Irrigation

**August '96;** Turf Tissue Analysis; Environmental Communication; Assessors; Tee Mats

**September '96;** Budgeting; Greenkeeping in Finland; Kings Acre GC; Grinding; Role of Training Providers; Blowers

**October '96;** Drainage; The Wentworth Club

**November '96;** Irrigation Equipment; St Andrews; The Oaks GC; Engines

**December '96;** Maintenance Facilities; History of the Mower; Mentmore Golf and Country Club

**January '97;** Trees; Tenby GC; Communication; Addressing the imbalance in Sports Turf; Hiring Equipment

**February '97;** Attending to the Details; Computers; Fertilisers; Ridding Park

**March '97;** Making Machinery Last; Computers; Irrigation; Musselburgh Old Links; STRI; Defining Playing Performance; Compact Tractors

**April '97;** Turf Quality; The London Club; Computers; Electric Greens Mower; Course Accessories; Ecology; Aerators

**May '97;** Data Tagging; Naunton Downs GC; Alternative Spikes; Suspended Water Table Greens; Shallow Aerators; Working in Germany

**June '97;** Drought Survival; Cooden Beach; Monitoring the Weather; Slitters

**July '97;** Royal Troon GC; Speed of Putting Surfaces; Mowers

**August '97;** Maintenance Facilities; Heather Management; Bunker Rakes; Workshops; Architecture; Kedleston Park GC

**September '97;** Accident Reporting; Greens Mowers; Valderrama GC; Links Courses

**October '97;** Environment; Recruitment; Abbeydale GC; Rough Mowers; Soil Analysis

**November '97;** Environment; Competition; Bank Cutting; Risk Assessment; Pumps

**December '97;** Seed Development; Longhirst Hall GC; Toro Awards; Fertiliser Spreaders; Communication

**January '98;** FEGGA Conference; Buying Power Equipment; Elmwood GC; Mobile Phones; Traffic Management; Spraying; Environment

**February '98;** BTME Review; Overseeding; Royal Mid Surrey GC; Drainage; Thatch

**March '98;** Trees, Golf Course Accessories, News from GCSAA, Leamington & County GC, Trevor Smith's BTME Talk

**April '98;** Gleneagles Hotel, Compact Tractors, Environment, Protective clothing, Rain bird, Internet

**May '98;** Greens Mowers, Suspended Water Table Greens, Seeds, Letham Grange Resort, Charterhouse profile, Security and BIGGA's Fund Raising Campaign

**June '98;** Interview with Nick Park, Earthworm special, ATVs, Royal Portcawl, Grinding



# Fitting tributes



As most of you are aware Viscount Whitelaw is standing down as our President after ten successful years. It was, therefore, a great honour for me to make a presentation to him on your behalf, at Penrith Golf Club, the venue of the Cumbria Cup run by the North West Section.

Lord Whitelaw has not just been a President in name, his support and guidance over the years have been immense, and we will certainly miss him. To my mind there is no doubt he has been a major factor of BIGGA's success from which greenkeepers everywhere have reaped the benefits. We can count ourselves very fortunate that Lord Whitelaw took time out from a very busy life to be our President for so long.

Much of his early life was spent at Nairn Golf Club in Scotland where he learned his golf. So it was fitting that we presented him with a picture of the 13th hole at Nairn. A gift which both he and Lady Whitelaw appreciated very much. I know I was speaking for you all when I wished both Lord and Lady Whitelaw the best of health and happiness in the years to come, and thanked them for all they have done on our behalf.

The Cumbria Cup was a big success. John Pemberton and I had the pleasure of playing with the Captain and Secretary of Penrith Golf Club who left us in no doubt about their

love for the club and the high esteem they held John Berry, who is Head Greenkeeper there. The course was extremely well presented. The food was excellent and the scenery out of this world. Anyone who has not played Penrith should put that right at the earliest opportunity. My thanks to the North West Section for inviting me and presenting me with a lovely glass vase for which I am told I have to buy a constant stream of flowers. Last but not least, many thanks to Course Care, the sponsors who made us so welcome and made it a day to remember.

I would like to personally thank all who have contributed to our Building Fund over the past few months. It's very encouraging to see those committed to greenkeeping and their own future within the industry, come forward to help. A special thank you must go to the Life members of our Association who in response to my appeal have sent in many donations, some from elderly retired members who have little enough cash to spare, but still feel they want to help. We are very grateful indeed and I intend to write and thank each one of them personally as soon as I can. Perhaps it's time to ask all Course Managers/ Head Greenkeepers, to see what they can collect from themselves and staff at their clubs. After all it's your future, and any amount large or small will indirectly benefit you all. Cheques should be made out to BIGGA Building Fund and sent to HQ or myself at Archways, Churston Road, Churston Ferrers, South Devon TQ5 0HU.

I am looking forward to meeting all the members who are on Greenkeeper Support duty at The Open, later this month. Hopefully the weather will be as good at Birkdale as it was last year at Troon, and we can all enjoy it as much. While on the subject of tournaments, thanks to all of you who turned out at Wentworth for the

Volvo PGA Championships, you did a fine job. The course at Wentworth looked excellent on television, and received high praise from commentators and players alike, which is always nice to hear. (Chris and his staff must be justly proud of their achievement. Presentation is so important on most inland courses and in particular parkland type.

There is much debate about how far we go in the pursuit of presentation, and I have no wish to get involved except to say that the quality of turf should never be sacrificed just for looks. We are the guardians of the turf on golf courses and the golfer play on it and hopefully enjoys it. Just like an artist who paints a picture, he or she is the creator and we enjoy the end product.

It is with sadness I have to report that your Vice Chairman George Brown, has had to stand down due to a change in work commitments. After a lot of heart searching and many long conversations George did not have any choice but to stand down. I know you will all join me in wishing him all the very best. On a personal note, I know George feels he has let me down, but I can assure you that is not the way I see it, and I look forward to seeing him and having a few jars later this year at Turnberry.

As the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining and my new Vice Chairman is certainly that. So, it is a pleasure to inform you that Elliott Small has accepted the invitation to become Vice Chairman, and the National Board fully support his election. No one has done more for BIGGA than Elliott, and he fully deserves this honour. His work as the Regional Administrator for Scotland over more than eight years is only one part of his commitment to greenkeeping, and I look forward to working with him again.

Gordon Child





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