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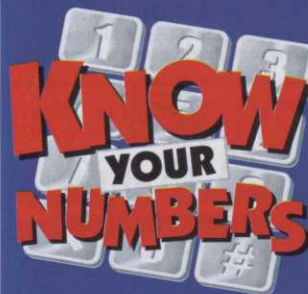
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- b. 0181 8909172
- c. 01277 896229

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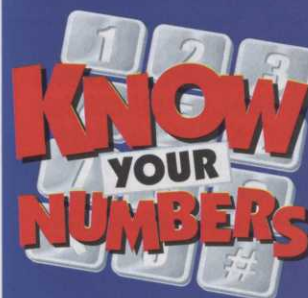
Know Your Numbers, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Airedale, York YO61 1UF

Entries to reach us no later than Wednesday, April 14, 1999. The first correct entry drawn will receive a cheque for £50!

The judges decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. This competition is not open to BIGGA staff or non-members.

Last month, Mr G Arnold of Erewash Valley GC, certainly knew his numbers when he correctly identified all three telephone numbers.

Our congratulations and a cheque for £50 are on their way to you!



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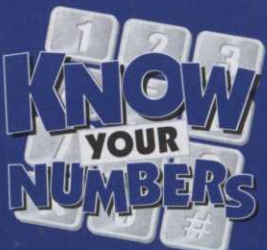
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Greenkeeper



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Invite applications for the post of

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to succeed Jimmy MacDonald M.B.E. who will retire in August 1999 having held the appointment for twenty six years.

The successful candidate will have had experience in Management of a Links and preferably, but not necessarily, should have been involved in course preparation for major tournaments.

Salary and pension commensurate with position, no accommodation available.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to:-

The Secretary, Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club, Links Gate, Lytham St. Annes, Lancs, FY8 3LQ.

Oakmere Park Golf Club

Invites applications for the position of

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Candidates must be qualified to a minimum of NVQ/GTC level 2 and be in possession of PA1, PA2A, and PA6. You will also need a minimum of five years experience in golf course maintenance.

This is an excellent opportunity for an existing deputy head or first assistant to promote their self-development and professional skills.

Oakmere Park is set within a 300-acre site and consists of 27 holes, practice area and driving range. This complex has an ongoing development program and experience in Construction would be advantageous.

Responsibilities include monitoring, setting tasks and motivating a small team of Greenstaff. To assist the course manager in further development and maintaining the complex to the highest standard.

Further training may be available to the successful candidate.

Salary negotiable.
No accommodation provided.

Apply in writing with full C.V. to:

Andrew Bowey, Course Manager, Oakmere Park Golf Club, Oaks Lane, Oxton, Southwell, Notts NG25 0RH

Closing date 30th April 1999

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COURSE MANAGER

The Royal Malta Golf Club established in 1888 is a compact 18 hole course set in a unique sports complex, it is presently Malta's only golf course with a very active playing membership. The club is committed to further course developments which demand a suitably qualified person to implement those plans and manage existing staff.

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Application with a full C.V. should be submitted within fourteen days to,

"The Captain", Royal Malta Golf Club, Aldo Moro Street, Marsa HMR 15 Malta
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HEYDON GRANGE GOLF CLUB

HEAD GREENKEEPER

required

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The position requires a hands on Head Greenkeeper, hard working, self-motivated with a positive attitude towards their work.

Salary negotiable, accommodation available.

Course established in 1993, facilities include a 3 nine hole course.

Apply in writing with a full C.V. to:

Mr Akhtar, Heydon Grange Golf Club, Heydon, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 7NS
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require an

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Busy established 18 hole Course. We are looking for a Greenkeeper with NVQ level 2 qualifications and spraying certificate, to join our existing team.

Salary and conditions negotiable, but no accommodation.

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The Secretary/Manager, Mid Kent Golf Club, Singlewell Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 7RB



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Require a

GREENKEEPER

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(No accommodation)

Applications in writing with CV to:

The Course Manager, Purley Downs Golf Club, 106 Purley Downs Road,
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Telephone: 0181 657 8347

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We currently have a vacancy for an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The applicant must have a minimum of three years experience and hold a full driving licence. Phase 1 and 2 qualifications preferred but not essential.

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Mr P Sproston, Sutton Hall Golf Club,
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Sandy McDivot responds to the flood of letters which appeared after his January article on Sand Based Greens

Drawing a line in the sand

Oh dear! I seem to have caused a bit of disturbance with my January article. Now I know how Glenn Hoddle must feel.

Firstly, can I say I quite obviously miscalculated somewhat on this particular article and I apologise to anyone who took exception to my words.

Please believe me when I say that no offence was ever intended. But in my defence can I point out that it has never been my intention for the articles to be taken as a statement of fact.

I have in the past written the odd one or two articles under my own name but on answering the general

As in my previous articles, this one was so over the top that I wrongly, as it happened, believed no one would accept it as completely factual. Rightly or wrongly I believe that it is sometimes good to have a bit of a laugh at oneself. My style may be condescending but it is also self-deprecating. Look at the great TV comedies we have in this country for instance. Fawlty Towers, Father Ted, Rising Damp or Home Front for example. Do they not painfully parody the worst aspects of us as a society? Are they not self-mocking but at the same time made all the more hilarious because there is a recognisable element of truth in

the facts get in the way of a good story. Sure there are huge generalisations in the article but I believed the readership would be able to decipher fact from fiction.

What I perhaps should have called the article was "Sand based and mainly non USGA specification greens at hugely underfunded, understaffed and colossal overplayed golf courses in Britain with typical British weather". Somehow though it did not quite have the same ring.

However I do still believe there are inherent weaknesses in sand based greens that can lead to problems particularly given our climatic conditions.

■ They do, initially at least, all suffer from a low CEC that will require additional feeding.

■ Spike and pitch marks are far more of a problem compared with good soil based greens regardless of the water that is applied to them. As a matter of interest I applied a maximum of one minute per sprinkler to my greens per night last year during a couple of weeks in August.

■ Given average playing levels and a realistic operating budget Poa annua invasion is almost inevitable and can end up dominating the sward in the long term. Initial poa annua invasion is by the annual form (poa annua annua) which always looks unsightly and greatly affects the quality of the surface.

■ Tolerance to wear is lower than that of a good soil based green. This is a point highlighted by Mark Jones in his response when he said that pin positions should be changed more often to limit wear and that the use of triplex mowers should be

What I perhaps should have called the article was "Sand based and mainly non USGA specification greens at hugely underfunded, understaffed and colossal overplayed golf courses in Britain with typical British weather". Somehow though it did not quite have the same ring.

call from the magazine for more articles by greenkeepers, I decided to submit a few under the pseudonym of Sandy McDivot from Sludgecombe Pay and Play. I did this as the articles were of a light-hearted nature and chose this particular name so as no one would take them too seriously. Obviously in this respect, I did miss the mark by a mile. They are, at the end of the day, meant as a bit of light relief and are quite correctly placed at the end of the magazine after the more informative articles.

what they portray?

Of course I can in no way compare my simple offerings to these comic classics but I believe they do give balance to the magazine and are enjoyed by at least one person (thank you Richard Heaslip).

I must admit that in this last article and all the others that preceded it I have been guilty of writing the odd terminological inexactitude, as a politician may say. But as I am now a fully paid up member of the tabloid press may I borrow their motto and say you should never let