# Recruitment



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You must have substantial relevant experience of the industry and an appropriate qualification. Teaching experience, together with D32 and D33 would be desirable.

There may also be the opportunity to manage the Colleges commercial golf enterprises.

Contact the Personnel Department on 01278 655060 (20 hour answerphone) at Cannington College, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Fax: 01278 655055.







# HEAD GREENKEEPER

An outstanding candidate is required to manage an existing team of seven. Controlling the maintenance and development of an 18 hole championship course and a new 18 hole development to be opened in May 2000. A hands on approach is required, working within a commercial environment.

Applicants should submit their full CV to:

Mr A Bryan, General Manager, The Murrayshall Hotel, Scone, Perth PH2 7PH



# Recruitment



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# Invite applications for the post of COURSE MANAGER

Ipswich Golf Club, established 1895, consists of 27 holes and practice areas set in 230 acres. The successful candidate will have had experience to Deputy Head Greenkeeper, preferably a Master Greenkeeper.

Salary and Pension commensurate with position. Accommodation available.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to:-

The Secretary Manager, Ipswich Golf Club, Bucklesham Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 8UQ.

Closing Date: Friday 25 June 1999

## ASHFORD MANOR GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Well experienced and qualified to NVO/City & Guilds Level 3 including spraying. A practical knowledge of the maintenance of machinery and irrigation systems will be an advantage together with the ability to manage and motivate staff in the absence of the Head Greenkeeper. No accommodation available.

Please apply in writing with C.V. to:

The Secretary/Manager, Ashford Manor Golf Club,

Fordbridge Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3RT

Closing date for applications: 18 June 1999

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No accommodation is available.

Applications in writing with a CV to:

The Secretary, Dulwich & Sydenham Golf Club Ltd, Grange Lane, College Road, Dulwich SE21 7LH

# WINDEMERE GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

**1ST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER** 

Applicants with appropriate qualifications and experience for the above position should forward a written application together with a curriculum vitae including references to:

> The Secretary, Windermere Golf Club, Cleabarrow, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 3NB

Closing date for applications: June 21, 1999

## HAMPSTEAD GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the post of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

To join the staff maintaining their pleasant 9-hole private golf course. Experience and qualification to NVQ level 2 would be an advantage but training to this level or further training may be provided.

Salary negotiable, depending on experience.

Please apply in writing, including full CV to:

The Course Manager, Hampstead Golf Club, Winnington Road, London N2 OTU

# **BISHOPSWOOD GOLF CLUB**

est 1976, 9 hole, par 72 -

# QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

Enthusiastic and self motivated greenkeeper required for quality parkland course. The applicant must have a sound practical approach to all aspects of modern greenkeeping and machinery.

> Salary negotiable depending on experience. No accommodation.

APPLICATIONS IN WRITING WITH A FULL C.V. TO: The Manager, Bishopswood Golf Course Bishopswood Lane, Tadley, Hants RG26 4AT

# KINGS HILL GOLF CLUB

Has vacancies for

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

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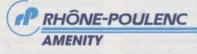
Duncan Kelso, Course Manager, Kings Hill Golf Club, Discovery Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 9AF

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Sandy McDivot sees some interesting sights, as he takes up a spot of people watching while tending to his course at Sludgecombe Pay and Play

# Senior . Service

One of the joys of working as a greenkeeper is the fascination one gets from observing people. Golf clubs in particular seem to attract a strange group of individuals that are not to be found in other walks of life.

Take their clothes for instance. If you saw someone dressed in luminous green, tightly fitting trousers with a lurid yellow jumper and perhaps a totally unco-ordinated bright red shirt going to the local shops, you would find it difficult not to conclude that they were a sad example of care in the community. Yet at a golf club this sort of behaviour is considered completely normal.

Look at the seniors at a golf club. Within this seemingly small and innocuous little section of the golfing species lies a wealth of character and eccentricities not to be found in any other walk of life.

For starters, they change their shoes in the car park and shuffle off to the 1st tee without ever entering the pro shop.

There is no need to purchase a new glove as the emaciated relic that they wear has got years left in it, and besides, Henry Cotton endorsed it.

> You may have concluded that all senior golfers are essentially the same but let me assure you, within this group there are many sub species all with differing habitats, markings and behaviour.

> For example, many years ago I had the pleasure of working at one of

those ancient and exclusive clubs to be found not far from the metropolis. Being a keen golfer, the club let me join the artisan section. This introduced me to a very rare but not quite extinct species of senior that still manage to survive to this day in the few remaining artisan outposts and occasionally the odd isolated municipal operation. These people were, to say the least, rough around the edges. Their language was incredibly crude; their clothes were used primarily for the rough trades with which they scraped a living at. Their golf was totally lacking in any subtleties, such as lining up or choosing the right club.

But despite this they were all an utter delight to play golf with. Indulging in pre golf whiskies at 10am, recalling an endless stream of filthy stories and breaking wind on a regular basis seemed to be the standard behaviour of these hilarious characters.

One could not imagine this sort of behaviour among another division of the senior section that is to be found at the other end of the social spectrum. This is the totally fascinating upper class senior, the ex-military types or the wealthy gentry, barristers and lawyers. At one time, this particular group of senior used to completely dominate golf club life throughout the length and breadth of the country. They are now sadly depleted in numbers but do however still manage to keep a stronghold at some of the better links and heathland tracks around the country.

They, like the artisans can be identified by their plumage, which in this case consists of plus fours and a tweed jacket designed by the same person that invented the straight jacket. This particular article of clothing insures that any sort of body turn is impossible without an immediate collapse of the left arm and a type of lurching movement on the follow through. This ensures the ball is never allowed to climb more than about six foot off the ground, perfect for the links golf in which they are so adept.

There are several other behavioural patterns that enables the educated greenkeeper to identify this type of senior golfer. One is their strange perception of chronology, whereby they see any one of their own sorts as being young, right up to the age of about 65. Before that they are referred to as "Young Parsons" or "Young Critchlow".

In fact I believe at places such as Muirfield or Little Aston where these marvellous gentlemen still dominate, you only come out of the junior sec-tion at about the age of 50. After an apprenticeship of 40 or so years they are drafted into one of the foursomes groups that meet on a regular basis. These congregate in the clubhouse at about 7am complete with navy blazers old school ties etc. They then change into their straitjackets and head for the 1st tee where they play foursomes golf at breakneck speed. They play it to an incredibly high standard given their age. They are round the course in two and halfhours exactly, change back into their blazers and retire for lunch in the clubhouse. This will usually consist of roast mutton; potatoes that look like they have been cooked by laser beam and cabbage that cook put on to boil the evening before. This food reminds them of their days at Eton or Harrow or one of those other educational establishments that prided itself on preparing some of the most ghastly food known to man. This assault on the digestive system is then all washed down with a few pink gins

and a bottle of claret. They then change back into their tweeds and head back out to the 1st tee for the afternoon round, which takes precisely two hours 35 minutes. The extra five minutes being allowed for relieving themselves of the lunchtime beverages. Actually, this type of senior can during their lifetime of golf be regarded as the best possible members. Their behaviour will always be impeccable, they play golf at such a pace that they hold no one up and they are regularly to be found investing money in the clubhouse services.

ing money in the clubhouse services. Then to cap it all, when they reach the age when they are in danger of slowing their partners down to above the permitted two and a half hours they selflessly permanently retire themselves to the clubhouse. If you ever manage to play Muirfield or St Andrews you can see these gentlemen seated just inside the bay windows complete with pink gin and a copy of The Times. In fact, seeing as one can play a complete round of golf and return to find them still in the exact same position and still apparently reading the same page of the Times, one could conclude they have been ceremonially stuffed upon their departure of this world and placed in a permanent position in their favourite chesterfield.

There is another sub species of senior that has always fascinated me. This is the one whose whole life is dedicated to the art of thrift. They are, as the French would say, as tight as the derriere de le canard, or words to that affect. Far from being few in number, these seniors can be found at every club throughout the country, provided that is, the annual sub is reasonably low.

They can be very easily identified at any club. For starters, they change their shoes in the car park and shuffle off to the 1st tee without ever entering the pro shop. There is no need to purchase a new glove as the emaciated relic that they wear has got years left in it, and besides, Henry Cotton endorsed it. I used to work at a club in the south of Devon where these seniors were rife.

The club pro told me of how they once had a club Captain who fell right into this category of golfer. During the year it was customary for there to be a series of captain/pro matches. In the first one in January the pro told me how the Captain arrived at the club and changed into his familiar jumper and trousers that looked like they were purchased in a car boot sale some time in the 1950's. At the end of the round they were replaced back in the locker. This procedure was then repeated throughout the year without the clothes once being taken home to be washed.

By November he was a walking health hazard but think of the money he saved in washing powder. This compulsive frugality extends to

This compulsive frugality extends to every aspect of their golf. Their clubs are a mismatch of 1960's rejects with a sweet spot made up of a small cluster of atoms adjacent to the hosel and the woods are of laminated wood construction with the whipping stuck down with insulation tape.

The tee pegs are tied together with old garden string so as to prevent the loss of a penny investment and the golf balls come out of the vast collection they have built up over the years of scavenging through the undergrowth when the course is cl

the course is closed.

Even their golf swings, which are short and proddy, are designed to ensure that the ball never deviates from a straight line so as not to squander their golf ball hoard. What is really frightening about these guys, is how they insist on playing every day. This is a result of some elementary mathematics that they indulged in whereby they calculated that having parted with their annual sub, the more they play, the cheaper their golf becomes.

One such golfer recently imparted with me the information that he was only paying  $\pounds 1.30$  per round.

Occasionally when they had had a particularly exhilarating round of golf (a score in the low 120's without losing a ball) they would indulge in the only known nutritional input their frail bodies require; a pot of tea for two with four cups and a slice of toast.

But even these characters have their own particular charm about them, quietly filling every empty space on the course. All they want from life is to play golf 365

days a year or 366 in a leap year. The senior golfers that are to be found throughout this country of ours have become a kind of living part of our heritage. Golf club life would be left with a huge void without them. I for one, hope that these fine old characters remain a permanent fixture at every club. Who knows, in years to come, maybe we will be the ones waiting to tee off in a freezing February gale.

Sandy McDivot. Head Greenkeeper Sludgecombe Pay and Play.

#### Feature listing from June '97

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, Learnington & 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 Porthcawl, Grinding

July '98; Aeration, Royal Birkdale preview, The importance of research, Architecture

August '98; Mill Ride, Fescue, Blowers, Textron, Open Review, Nematodes, Training

September '98; Nine holers – Tolladine and Fingle Glen, Turf, Steve Clement profile, Drainage, World Scientific Congress report

October '98; Saltex Review, BIGGA Retrospective, Stirling GC, Toro Awards Preview, Tree grants

**November '98;** Royal Opening, Ramside Hall GC, Gang Mowers, Hayter International report, Irrigation Systems

December '98; Toro Awards, Environment Awards, The Appliance of Science, Engines, Architects, BTME Preview

January '99; Pesticide Usage, Life in Colorado, Lyshott Heath GC, Worm Research, Stylo Matchmaker profile, Temporary Greens

February '99; Westerham GC; R&A questionaire results; Finland; grass cutting; BTME99 Review; Bernhard and Co

March '99; Loch Lomond, Worm update, GrassRoots, Softspikes, Maintenance facilities, Environment review, Architecture

April '99; Carden Park, Telecommunications, Water Management, Rolawn, Seeds

May '99; Security; Bude and North Cornwall GC; Spraying Regulations; Jim Arthur; The Acid Theory; Amenity Technology profile



# GTC interesting the second sec



The GTC held its overdue meeting on 15 April. The main topic for discussion was the Lantra Report which had been commissioned by the R&A and the EGU into the workings and running of the GTC. This all started by the withdrawal of funding by the EGU as from April 1999. At a subsequent meeting with the R&A it was agreed that the EGU would reconsider its position following an independent report being carried out.

The meeting itself was constructive with all parties trying to reach agreement for the good of all greenkeeper training. However, it was decided to rewrite the Constitution and at the same time introduce a Technical Committee, as advised by Lantra. The Technical Committee functions are to assist the Education Director of the GTC and to propose to the Management Committee of activities of the GTC in line with its objectives and to identify the priorities for greenkeeper training.

The make up of the Committee will be as follows:

a) Greenkeeper Training Committee Internal Verifier

b) Representative from the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

c) Representative from the Golf

Course Superintendents Association of Ireland d) Representative from

the Sports Turf Research Institute

e) One Educationalist, eg College Tutor

It was agreed that the new revised draft of the Constitution would be circulated to all member bodies for discussion within their organisations prior to the next GTC meeting which was due to be held on 27 May.

The BIGGA Board was called to a meeting on 13 May, when it was agreed to recommend alterations to the draft constitution which we considered to be in keeping with our position as the main body and representing the end user of greenkeeper training.

The BIGGA proposals will be put before the GTC Committee at their next meeting, along with any others received. Hopefully then the GTC can get on with the job it was first set up to do, that of raising the standards of greenkeeper training.

It was unanimously agreed that David Golding and his staff have worked hard and moved greenkeeper training to a much higher level than ever before. The Board felt genuinely concerned that they have had to suffer all this uncertainty when it could and should have been handled better.

On the 20 April I spent the day at Westurf at its new venue at Westpoint, Exeter. With all the wet weather it proved a wise decision to move the exhibition indoors. Had it remained at Long Ashton, Westurf may well have been cancelled. The attendance was good and most people seemed pleased. Marion and I had a nice time meeting many old friends, traders and greenkeepers alike. It was also a good PR exercise that the South West and South Wales members could meet with Neil, Ken, Tracey and Cheryl from headquarters staff. I would like to thank Paula and the Regional Board for inviting us alone and I hope it was a successful day the the Parity and the successful day the

the Region and its trade supporters to My next engagement should havas been the Cumbria Cup at Penritlo Golf Club, but it was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute due to heavy rain during the night before. The rain was so bad that many of the roads in the area were subjected to flooding and some even closed. It was no surprise that the course also had to be closed. I had already travelled to Aldwark on the Tuesday and was going to continue my journey first thing Wednesday morning, when we received the news of its cancellation. However, all was not lost. I was able to spend time with our staff in preparation for the Board meeting the following day.

I have just been given the sad news of the death of Stephen Noye. Stephen was head man at Purdis Heath Golf Club, Ipswich. He was well respected by all his peers and my sympathy and thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

1.7.6

**Gordon Child** 

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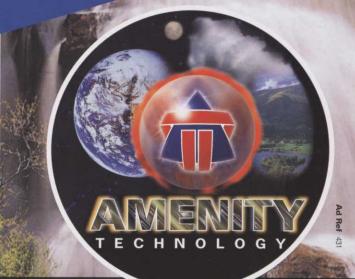
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