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Please note: The deadline for inclusion in the May 2001
Classified section is, Friday, April 13, 2001

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NORTHWOOD GOLF CLUB

Requires a

COURSE MANAGER

Northwood Golf Club is an 18 hole, 6535 yard course situated in the north-west corner of Middlesex. The course has undergone a programme of major improvements in the past 5 years, and the successful applicant will be expected to continue the enhancements to the course and its reputation.

The position requires an outstanding candidate, hard-working and self motivated with the necessary supervisory skills to lead a team of five in all aspects of maintenance and development of the course.

The successful candidate must possess the following qualifications.

- A recognised qualification in Agronomy, Horticulture with specialisation in Golf Course management.
- A minimum of 10 years experience, with at least 3 years as Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager
- A proven ability to prepare and monitor budgets, inventories and expenditure
- A strong working knowledge of all modern golf course management practices, with the ability to train, motivate and direct staff.

Please apply in writing, including a full CV and an indication of salary expectation to: The Secretary, Northwood Golf Club, Rickmansworth Road, Northwood, Middx, HA6 2QW.

Accommodation on the course will be available

Closing date for applications: 23rd April 2001

NEW ZEALAND GOLF CLUB

Requires a

QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be qualified to NVQ Level 2. Salary and conditions are negotiable but no accommodation. Please apply in writing, enclosing a full CV to:

The Secretary, New Zealand Golf Club,
Woodham Lane, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 5QD



CHILTERN FOREST GOLF CLUB

Require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for a qualified and experienced Head Greenkeeper. The successful applicant will be experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and woodland management. Knowledge of machinery and irrigation is also essential. Reporting to the general manager, the post requires a self-motivated person capable of man-management.

Applications in writing please with full CV to:
The General Manager, Chiltern Forest Golf Club,
Aston Hill, Halton, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 5NQ
Closing date for applications: Wednesday, April 18th, 2001



Course Manager

The Abbey Hotel Golf & Country Club requires a capable and qualified individual to manage a team of six on an up and coming Midlands course. Excellent package including pension, private health cover and concession on golf and health club memberships.

Apply in writing to:

M I Blake, Managing Director,
The Abbey Hotel Golf & Country Club
Hither Green Lane, Dagnell End Road,
Redditch, Worcestershire B98 9BE

OLTON GOLF CLUB LTD

Require an

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will be self motivated, hard working, with a sound knowledge of turf maintenance practices. NVQ an advantage.

Apply in writing with CV to:-

Course Manager, Olton Golf Club Ltd,
Mirfield Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 1JH

REDBOURN GOLF CLUB & DRIVING RANGE

Require a

GREENKEEPER

NVQ I and II trained.
Spraying certificate an advantage

The successful candidate will be enthusiastic, conscientious and able to work well with an established successful team.

Further training is available.

Apply in own writing to;

Mr N Collins, General Manager,
PO Box 376, Redbourn, Herts AL3 7ZX



MOUNT MURRAY HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB

Require two

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

SHOULD BE QUALIFIED TO NVQ LEVEL 2

Please apply in writing with CV to:-

Brian Hall, Mount Murray Hotel and Country Club
Santon, Isle of Man, IM4 2HT

BRAMLEY GOLF CLUB

Require a

Deputy Head Greenkeeper

We are looking for an ambitious, self motivated, enthusiastic person with a minimum of 5 years experience. The applicant will have a sound knowledge of all turf maintenance practices including irrigation systems and will be qualified to NVQ level III or working towards this qualification. PA1, PA2 & PA6 will also be required. Salary is negotiable. No accommodation is available. Please apply in writing with full CV to:-

Mr P Smith, Head Greenkeeper, Bramley Golf Club,
Bramley, Nr Guildford, Surrey, GU5 0AL



HANBURY MANOR

HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB

Marriott Hanbury Manor Hotel & Country Club is an exclusive 5 star Hotel and leisure resort situated 10 miles north of the M25 in Hertfordshire. We have an 18-hole Golden Bear Design Championship golf course, which has hosted the English open and the ladies European tour.

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Hanbury Manor offers competitive salary and package and an active social calendar.

Applications in writing no later than Friday 4th May 2001, to;

Kneale Diamond, Golf Course Manager, Marriott Hanbury Manor, Ware, Herts SG12 OSD



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Please apply in writing with your CV to:

Mrs Sue Armstrong
Advanta Seeds UK, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7HA
Closing date for applications 13th April 2001

SILVERMERE GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the position of

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

To join a hard working team at this 18 hole public and members course.

All applicants must have City & Guilds/NVQ Levels 1 and 2. PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates, sound knowledge of course management, modern machinery and irrigation systems.

ALSO EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPERS REQUIRED

Apply in writing with C.V. to: -

Mark Logan, Slivermere Golf Club, Redhill Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 1EF



Invite applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

A top quality candidate with a proven track record in greenkeeping is required to manage this 45 hole complex. The successful applicant must have a minimum of 10 years experience in greenkeeping, 5 years as Course Manager, and must be experienced in the use of all sports turf machinery and computerised irrigation systems. They must be self-motivated and have the ability to lead a large enthusiastic team. Minimum NVQ level 3 or equivalent is required, with PA1, 2 & 6. D32/33 would be an advantage.

Canford Magna is a relatively new complex, with all greens having been built to USGA type specification. Experience working with USGA greens would be an advantage.

The club is privately owned and the Course Manager will report to the General Manager.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation available.

Reply in writing with full CV and any relevant references to:

Mr Trevor Smith, General Manager, Canford Magna Golf Club,
Knighton Lane, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3AS

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 15TH APRIL 2001



OGBOURNE DOWNS GOLF CLUB

Requires a

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Qualifications up to NVQ level 3 are desirable as well as a minimum of 3 years experience of greenkeeping. The applicant will have a thorough knowledge of machinery and irrigation system maintenance. The successful candidate will be expected to take on the duties of the Head Greenkeeper in his absence.

Salary will be negotiable, based on qualifications and experience

Apply in writing with C.V. to:

Mr. Nick Pusey, Head Greenkeeper, Ogborne Downs Golf Club,
Ogborne St. George, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1TB

Not long ago, Mrs McDivot and myself decided the unrelenting stress of being, necessitated a much needed vacation...

Service industry



As it was the middle of the winter months and we were in great requirement of some change in scenery and temperature, so we chose the ever-popular semi paradise known as Tenerife and one of those late deals that allocate your destination upon arrival.

Allocation on arrival always fills me with the fear of the unknown but as we had stipulated a four star hotel we were reasonably confident of meeting with a degree of success. I am glad to say we were not disappointed, as we discovered our stay was to be in a small resort in the most agreeable Hotel Los Gigantes, an establishment that catered for the mature guest and was as a result totally devoid of screaming little urchins and marauding teenagers desperate for some nocturnal activity.

We therefore settled down to a delightful week of sunbathing, coastal walking and the occasional sojourn in our little hired car to another part of the island. This particular activity I found to be most entertaining, as it involved heading in a roughly vertical direction for about half an hour up the side of a mountain along a highly precipitous road with a drop of about a thousand or so feet down the unprotected side.

Some of these roads, particularly when we got to about 7,000 foot were in places already starting to make their own way down the mountainside. This added greatly to the amusement value, especially when confronted as we were on a regular basis, by oncoming vehicles approaching at about 60 mph on the wrong side of the road or dirt track as it became. I must say some of the locals seemed to inject a great

Right: Hotel Los Gigantes' resident house band, Blackjack in full flow

deal of humour into their motoring, something that was not altogether shared by Mrs McDivot as we narrowly avoided our imminent demise on several occasions.

As we continued to survive each approaching hairpin bend and the weather and vegetation became indistinguishable from that found in the Scottish Highlands, I could not help but wonder if the local government officials had normally embraced the concept of risk assessment with quite the enthusiasm as we greenkeepers.

But when we got back to our hotel, we were always greeted by the inexhaustible politeness and charm of the hotel staff and a gargantuan evening buffet that invited a degree of indulgence not normally associated with life at home. It was at the end of one of these feeding frenzies, that Mrs McDivot came over somewhat faint and proceeded to pass out in front of about 200 other diners.

The next day having regained her health, we went down to breakfast and were greeted by a number of the hotel waiters all of whom showed genuine concern for her well being following the previous night's drama. Her own investigation of the causes of her blackout, revealed that a rare virus with an exotic sounding name like Camilla or something, had blown in on a Saharan sirocco causing a temporary lowering of her blood pressure. Personally I attributed the episode and resultant £50 doctors fee, to the effects of her success in fulfilling her personal ambition of sampling every one of the 20 or so puddings on offer that night. But using her usual powers of persuasion, it transpired that the romantic African microbe was the cause of her unconsciousness and not my theory of undiluted gluttony.

Following the evening's culinary extravaganzas, we made it our practice to partake of the odd cognac and cafe con leche to aid the digestive process. This we did along with all the other guests in the lounge area while listening to the syncopation's of "Blackjack", the hotel's resident musical duo. Aided only with a guitar, and a few thousand megabytes of Yamaha keyboard, this Swedish husband and wife team could, knock out orchestral masterpieces such as "Chirpy, chirpy, cheep cheep", "Quando quando quando" and Dawn's immortal, "Tie a yellow ribbon round the old oak tree".

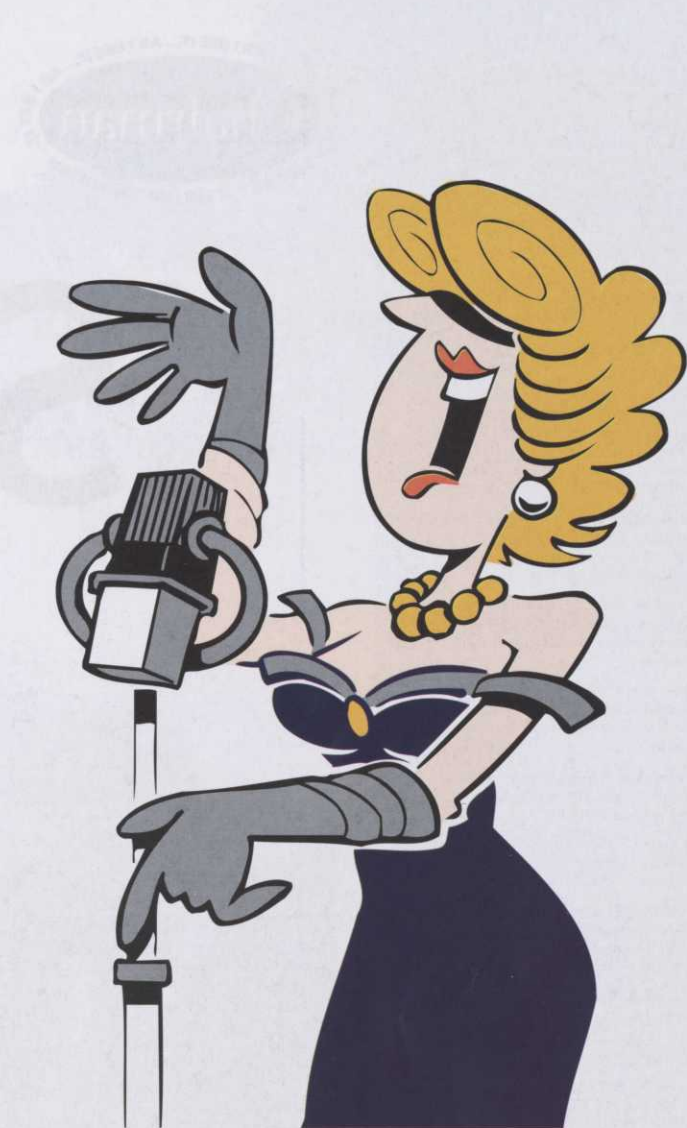
We would then be utterly amazed at how many of the hotels senior citizens would actually get out of their wheel chairs and dance the night away with seemingly boundless energy.

It was while listening to I believe a rendition of "The last waltz" which they chose to sing without quite the same vocal force as deployed by Englebert Humperdinck, that I realised we were metaphorically speaking, a little further away than the 2,000 miles that separated us from the golf clubs of Britain.

The service at this hotel was on a totally different level. If we required refreshment, I did not have to go to the bar and spend ten minutes or so trying to draw the attention of the barman while he moans about the house committee to some wearied member. I did not have to ring a bell and wait for some acne ridden gormless teenager to materialise from the recesses of a darkened kitchen and produce an unintelligible grunting noise. None of your twenty minutes of pugilism here that are required to purchase a half-pint of lager following the June medal back home. No, the technique needed to get served at Hotel Los Gigantes was to glance around and raise a digit for about one second before an immaculately dressed head barman would glide over, smiling to the other guests as he went and produce a note book ready to take your order. He would then pass this to one of the many barmen that were omnipresent yet inconspicuous and within the minute they would reappear with your drinks, complete with paper doilies and a sparkler in the wife's cocktail.

Now to my recollection, I have never once visited a British golf clubs clubhouse and received the same level of service that we received in this, a very pleasant but otherwise unexceptional hotel in Tenerife. Is it a question of economics, or is it a case of tradition being the immovable obstruction to progress on this front.

As "Blackjack" embarked on a medley of poignant 80's arias, starting with Ottawa's "Hands up", a song that unbeknown to me had an entire dance routine associated with it, I reflected on the quality of the headwaiter at Hotel Los Gigantes. In fact as we watched all the septuagenarians going through the routine of raising and lowering their arms in expert synchronisation as the Swedish Duo



sang "Gimme your heart, gimme, gimme", I could not help but notice how the maitre d'hote greeted many of his more regular female guests with a kiss on the cheek.

Was it the holiday atmosphere that had them swooning as he did so, or was it his polished Latino charm that enabled him to carry it off with such elegance? As I further observed the headwaiter's skills, I began to notice the little secrets that he had at his disposal. One of them was to never choose the pretty or younger females as the focus of his attention. They were the ones that did not need the boost to their confidence that came with his smiles of affection. More astutely it was the less attractive, slightly older women that became the subject of his charm treatment and I could see they loved every second of it, as they convinced themselves that his affection towards them was genuine. But the question I asked of myself was, could his technique with the ladies be imported to our shores? Certainly the thought of some of our nations club stewards slobbering all over their Lady Captain as she comes in for her toasted tea cake, did conjure up visions of knee being firmly dispatched to groin area, but maybe my lack of confidence in their natural allure is misplaced.

"Blackjack" were now completing their medley by trying to do justice to the profound lyrics of the Russ Abbot's timeless classic "Atmosphere" and as

they did so I asked myself, would the day arrive when we could walk off the 18th green on a summers evening, sit down and a waiter would immediately hand us a menu and enquire whether we requested any drinks. Would that menu ever include something a little more imaginative than sausage, egg and chips? Would the salad garnish that comes with the breaded plaice ever differ from lettuce, tomato and cucumber? Would the teatime gateaux selection ever extend beyond fruitcake and scones? I have seen it done in Japan, on the Continent of Europe and in the States, in fact in these places such service is the norm but in this country, I fear it has passed us by. Of course I realise that such advanced catering methods would be of little value in some of the cheaper traditional members clubs that we have dotted about this land of ours. In fact I would even venture to say, a great deal of their charm lies in their antiquated ways. But could it not happen in some of the more select clubs, the more progressively thinking establishments, those proprietary owned places that are looking to provide that little bit extra that will set them apart from the masses. Could it happen here, or is it just I and the rest of the World, that have missed the point entirely.

Sandy McDivot: Head Greenkeeper, Sludgecombe Pay and Play.

Feature listing from April '99

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

June '99; Thorpeness GC, Millennium Bug Busting, Irrigation, Scotts profile, Company adaptability

July '99; Carnoustie, Golf Course Furniture, Spike Research, Toro profile, BIGGA Silent Auction

August '99; Viscount Whitelaw tribute; Open review; Merrist Wood; Saltex preview; Turf; Trees; Grass Cutting; BIGGA Golf Day review; Redexim profile

September '99; Slaley Hall; Tyres; Spotlight on Thatch; Elmwood College Awards; National Championship preview

October '99; The Manor House, Castle Combe; Aeration; Saltex review; Mycorrhizas; Toro Award review

November '99; Sir Michael Bonallack interview; The Pines GC; Oil; Bunkers; National Championship review

December '99; Agronomy; Security; Environment Competition Winner; Toro Award Winners

January 2000; Greens Construction; Awkward Jobs; Sandy McDivot; Agronomy; Toro Award review

February 2000; BTME2000 review; Committed to Green interview; Rookery Park GC; Engines; Chairman's profile; Environmental Management

March 2000; Cleobury Mortimer GC; Course Furniture; R&A Conference Report; Cutting heights; Avoncrop profile; Valderrama report; Westurf preview

April 2000; Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC; Utility Vehicles; Irrigation; Seed breeding; Gem Professional profile.

May 2000; Ross-on-Wye GC; Top Dressing; Course Mapping; Compact Tractors

June 2000; National Championship preview; Spraying; World Education Conference review; Environmental Management; Mowers

July 2000; Open Championship Preview; Dougal Duguid Court Case Report; Pest Control; Aventus profile; Course Conditioning

August 2000; Open Championship review; Water Features; Saltex preview; Charcoal; Malone GC; Royal County Down; Grand Tour Scholarship

September 2000; Blowers and Sweepers; Berkshire College Academy; National Championship roundup; Gordon McKillop interview; Winter health checks

October 2000; Toro Awards Preview; Ronald Fream; Irrigation; Saltex Review; Pest Control; Woburn GC

November 2000; Grass Cutting Machinery; Clandeboye GC; Drainage; National Championship review; Leatherjacket management

December 2000; Toro Awards; Making the most of your Dealer; Budget Boosters; BTME2001 preview; BIGGA/Bernhards CGSA delegation preview

January 2001; Communication; Tyres; Turf diseases; Kingsbarns Golf Links; Environment Competition Winner - Dyke GC; Talking Heads - Pest Control

February 2001; BTME2001 review; Winter Mowing; Irrigation; Broadstone GC; Hedges; Security

March 2001; York GC; Greens Maintenance; Meland GC, Norway; Greens Mowers; BIGGA Essay Winner; Grass Science profile



Shaken not stirred



Last month I reported from Dallas and the GCSAA Conference and Show where the presence of the Association was much appreciated by all and many new contacts were made. I'd like to thank everyone, particularly the GCSAA staff and officials who did so much to make the visit enjoyable.

From Dallas I moved north to Vancouver and the Canadian equivalent where I delivered a paper on Winter Greens and the preparation of them.

To summarise, I said that if all the money that was spent preparing temporary or alternative greens was spent on the main greens you wouldn't need the alternatives. If the weather was so bad that the greens were unplayable the course shouldn't be open. I think the paper was well received, particularly when I moved on to talk about the history of Walton Heath and James Baird.

I thoroughly enjoyed the CGSA Show, everyone was extremely friendly and the Show so well organised with a real buzz about it. It was also good to see Ray Day, part of the successful Bernard & Co-sponsored BIGGA delegation, carrying the Union Flag before the Banquet. They were terrific ambas-

sadors for the Association during their time in Canada.

On the last day we were caught up in the earthquake which had its centre in Seattle, less than 100 miles away.

I was in our hotel room at the time and being typically British I went and looked out of the window, only to see the office workers in the building opposite all rapidly moving away from the windows and down the stairs.

Last month I talked about my new career as a columnist. Well I've now become a TV celebrity as well ... not once but twice. We got outside the hotel after the earthquake only for me to be grabbed by a local news crew and interviewed about what had happened. Buildings were moving about a foot up and down and it really was quite frightening. It had measured 6.8 at its epicentre in Seattle.

Arriving back home I had my second television appearance. Neil and I were interviewed for Sky Sports about BIGGA and greenkeeping matters generally. A great deal was left on the cutting room floor but I was pleased to have had the chance to make the point that nowadays the constant striving for pace on the greens is, in my opinion, not good for the greens or the greenkeeper. They inserted old black and white footage of a golfer from a previous generation putting on a green to highlight the point. It is good to see the Association gaining in credibility and recognition and appearing on television can only be positive for us.

Ironically the first picture they showed was of the wheels of my car being washed down with disinfectant

because of the Foot and Mouth outbreak. Walton Heath has been affected by Foot and Mouth as we are on common land. We had an enforced closure for a week and, as I write, have restrictions on access to the course.

The annual South East Region's Gentleman's Dinner was also a victim, the first time in living memory - 30 years - it has been postponed. I was hoping to have had the chance to thank the club for its support of the Dinner and the Association generally and also thank my staff for all the work they have done over the years to prepare the course for the arrival of so many greenkeepers and their guests. Hopefully it can be rearranged for later in the year.

Other cancellations included the GCSAI Conference I was due to attend in Ireland, and Westurf, and my thoughts go out to those, including Paula in the South West and South Wales, who had put so much work into these events only to see them fall victim to this horrendous disease.

Coming on the back of the flooding which caused course closures, the Foot and Mouth outbreak is another body blow to so many people, and we can only hope that it is halted soon and they can work towards getting back to some sort of normality.

On a positive note I was delighted to arrive home after my travels to discover that the team had already vertidraind the greens saving me a lot of grief as we all know it's never a popular operation in the eyes of the golfer.

Sometimes being away for a period has its advantages!

Clive Osgood
Chairman



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